

Lavallée, John Joseph. (b. 1933)

John Lavallée was born in Hodgson, Manitoba on May 26, 1933, the son of Alexandre Lavallée and Emma Monkman. He is a veteran of the Korean War. He joined the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) on February 10, 1953 and took training at Camp Aldershot in Nova Scotia, advanced training at Camp Wainwright in Alberta, then shipped to Korea on the USS Marine Lynx. After his return to Canada 11 months later, John served at Camp Aldershot, Camp Borden and Camp Gagetown in New Brunswick. He was discharged from the forces on February 10, 1956. He received the UN Korean Medal, UN Volunteer Medal & UN Service Medal.

John's father, Alexandre Lavallée and two uncles Alfred and Adrian served in WWII. Adrian was wounded twice.

John's family farmed a quarter section, near Ericdale and Bird Lake, this was a cattle operation. Although this family originates at St. François Xavier, his grandparent's Marie Justine Jannot and Pierre Martin Lavallée lived at Starbuck, Manitoba. Pierre was born on January 3, 1854. He married Marie Jannot, the daughter of Alexandre Jannot¹ and Marguerite Page on March 1, 1881 at St. François Xavier. Pierre was the son of Pierre Martin Lavallée Sr. (b. 1829) and Elise Deslauriers, the daughter of Antoine Deslauriers and Genevieve Gelinis dite Lacourse.

John remembers his grandmother singing Pierre Falcon's songs in French. Marie Jannot would also tell him stories of the last buffalo hunt of 1885, when the St. François Xavier hunters were down along the Souris River near Minot, North Dakota. She told him that the buffalo would create shallow depressions in the ground for sleeping at night.

Source: Interview with John Lavallée, Winnipeg: May 14, 2018.



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¹ Alexandre Jannot was the son of François Jannot and Madeleine Falcon and the grandson of Pierre Falcon and Marie Grant.