

Gravelle, Domitilde (Dumont) (1835-1912). Spouse, Jean “Petit” Dumont, (1833-1899).

Domitilde was the daughter of Michel Gravelle and Nancy Kipling dite Keplin.¹ Domitilde’s father was killed by the Blackfoot in the fall of 1835 while trapping along the Milk River. Domitilde’s stepfather, Alexis Labombarde, had been a Sioux interpreter for Father Andre and was a Resistance participant. She married Jean “Petit” Dumont and they had twelve children. Jean “Petit” Dumont was born at St. Boniface, the son of Jean Baptiste Dumont and Marguerite Laframboise. They moved to the Duck Lake, St. Laurent area from St. François Xavier in the early 1870s. Her son Alexis was also a Resistance participant. Domitilde was the woman who offered to go with Marguerite Caron to check on the men trapped during the fighting at Tourond’s Coulee.

In Marguerite Caron’s account: Caron’s wife had heard the shooting like the others. Her husband and her sons were at the coulée. She came to the houses to get the news, and when they arrived ‘How come you are here?’ She asks of Riel. ‘Do you have news?’ – ‘No news—Are you going to get some?—They aren’t all dead since we can hear them firing. Aren’t you going to see!’ Another soldier arrived, Maxime Poitras—‘Where are your people? Are they coming? Oh no! They are surrounded like that in the coulee (making a circle with her thumb and index finger) ‘What are you picking up here?—Ammunition?’ She said to Riel: ‘Why aren’t you going to see? Who will bring them ammunition? Not just one young man. What are you all doing here?— A gang who passes their time looking around. Go find them. You would do better to go yelling on the other side—you would get strength.’ Riel said—‘Do not get angry without reason; you would do better to pray for them—go up to the chapel and pray.’ She answered: ‘I don’t want to pray the way I am now, I’m too angry.’ The people from the Council were there—she said to them, ‘Get dressed to go help them. You were more ready to charge ahead and loot stores than going to help our people that are in risk there. If you don’t want to go, tell me, I will go to see if they are alive, yes or no.’ Jean Dumont’s wife (Domitilde Gravelle) offered her wagon to Jean Caron’s wife and also offered to accompany her.

Old Pierre Parenteau said: ‘Go home—I will go see, me.’ ... and many went to the rescue of those surrounded in the coulée.

Alexis was the son of Jean-Baptiste “Petit” Dumont and Domitilde Gravelle. Their family moved to the Duck Lake, St. Laurent area in the early 1870s. He was married to Betsy Kinawis and then married Sarah Morin. Sarah Morin was the daughter of Jean Baptiste Morin (b. 1848) and Marie Desjarlais. Sarah was born on December 18, 1875 and baptized on January 20, 1876 at Lebret.

Domitilde’s son Alexis was a member of Captain Bernard Paul’s company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. Alexis went to Gabriel Dumont’s father’s house to get bannocks for Gabriel to take on his escape to Montana. He also took the message that Gabriel was leaving to Madeleine Dumont.

¹ Nancy Kipling’s father Jack “Rem” Kipling was killed at Fort Union in 1835 by the Dechamps family.

After the defeat at Batoche Jean 'Petit' and Domitilde accompany, Baptiste Parenteau, Isidore Parenteau, Patrice Joseph Fleury and Edouard Dumont to Montana where they all joined the Spring Creek Métis Band in the Judith Basin of Montana. The family returned to Saskatchewan and Domitilde died in 1912 at Batoche.

Domitilde-GRAVELLE GRAVEL b: October 1835 in St Francois Xavier Parish District, Red River Settlement (Manitoba) m: 1859 in St Francois Xavier Parish Church, Red River Settlement (Manitoba) d: 1912 in Batoche District, Saskatchewan
Father: Michel-GRAVELLE GRAVEL Mother: Nancy-KIPPLING KIPLING.



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Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute