

Swain, William Sr.¹ (b. 1838)

William was the son of John (Jean) Swain (b. 1818)² and Marguerite Allery. William married Angelique Hamelin (b. 1839), the daughter of Joseph Hamelin and Therese Ducharme on November 20, 1857 at St. François Xavier. In 1870 they were living in St. Charles Parish with children John (b. 1889), William (born 1861), Baptiste (born 1864) and Mary Louise (born 1865). Later, they had David, born 1876 at Duck Lake; Philomène, born 1879 at Cypress Hills and; Pierre, born 1882 at Duck Lake.

William and other Métis buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills wrote a petition asking for a special Métis reserve of land in 1878. On November 19, 1883 William had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Métis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company. (CSP, 1886, No. 45, pp. 25-28)

During the 1885 Resistance he was a member of Captain Baptiste Primeau's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. William was wounded during the fighting at Batoche. His son William Jr. and brothers Elzéar and Thomas were also in the Resistance.



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¹ A signator to the November 19th, 1883, William Bremner petition from St. Louis de Langevin for a survey and patents to their land.

² See fn. 230.