



Artwork by George Gingras

## X is for Xavier

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## X si poor Exavier

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François-Xavier Letendre **dit** Batoche was the founder of Batoche. He was born in 1841 in **St. Boniface** and died in Batoche in 1901. The local Métis knew him as “Monsieur Batoche.” He moved to the area around Batoche (present-day central Saskatchewan) in 1871. Letendre soon started a ferry service where the **Carlton Trail** meets the South Saskatchewan River. More Métis from Manitoba came to the area throughout the 1870s. Letendre soon built a store and one of the largest houses in Western Canada. Letendre ran one of the most commercially successful stores in the West. The settlement soon grew and became known as “Batoche” after Letendre. By 1885, there were 500 people living in the village of Batoche. Most of the residents were Métis. When the community became the focus of the **1885 Resistance**, Letendre did not support the resistance. Regardless, soldiers still broke into his home and store. They stole many things. In 1900, Letendre worked to build a monument for those Métis and **First Nations** who were killed during the 1885 Resistance. He continued to lead the Métis community until his death.

### Other Resources:

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