

## David Spence, M.L.A. (1824-1885)

David Spence was a Scottish Half Breed born on September 5, 1824, in St. John's parish, the son of James Spence<sup>1</sup> and his second wife Jane Morwick, both Métis. His mother was grandmother to Manitoba's first Premier John Norquay.

David married Catherine Hallett on February 15, 1844 at St. John's. She was the daughter of Henry Hallett and Catherine Parenteau. David represented St. Anne's Parish at the Convention of Forty. In 1877, the family moved to lot # 62 at Poplar Point. He was elected as the first MLA from Poplar Point on December 27, 1870. He represented Poplar Point from 1870 to 1874 in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. He was also a Justice of the Peace for Poplar Point and Marquette. Métis scrip was issued to David and Catherine on October 2, 1876. She died in 1880 at age

55. David was accidentally shot in his own home by a neighbour who thought that the rifle was unloaded. He subsequently died of his wound on September 16, 1885.

Children of David Spence and Catherine Hallett:

- John "Jake" Spence, born August 14, 1848, he married Ellen McNab.
- Ellen Anderson Spence, born January 1, 1853, she married George Brown.
- Charles David Spence, born February 9, 1857, he married "Eliza" Foulds.
- Jane Spence, born May 26, 1859, she married William Folster.
- Mary Ann Spence, born August 8, 1861, she married Ernest Riggs.
- Harriet Spence, born June 17, 1863, she married Peter Henry Wishart.
- William Spence, born July 13, 1866, he married Martha McNab.



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

---

<sup>1</sup> James Spence, Métis, was born circa 1777, the son of Nestichio Batt and Orkneyman James Spence Sr. (1754-1824)