

Jacob Beads. (1837-1896)

Jacob was born in Manitoba, the son of John and Margaret Beads. He married Charlotte Adhemar and they had six children. His siblings were John Beads (married to Catherine Robillard then Mary Bird), Charles Beads, Anne Beads, Catherine Beads, Elizabeth (McIvor), Mary (Whitford), Maria Beads, and Thomas Beads (married to Henriette Wills). Three of the Beads brothers were employees of the Hudson's Bay Company. Jacob joined when he was 15. His first posting was to Moose Factory as an apprentice carpenter. He was also assigned to accompany Dr. Rae on one of his Arctic expeditions while at Moose Factory. His next posting was at Fort Pelly. In 1855 he traveled to Red River and on April 12, 1855 married Charlotte Flett the 20-year-old daughter of Patrick Flett (L'ademah). In 1859, his HBC contract was finished and he returned to Red River.

Jacob Beads was a Metis carpenter of great skill. He was a master of the woodworking craft. He worked as a wheelwright, built York Boats, scows and bridges. He also made snowshoes, Red River carts and dogsleds. In 1862 he was rehired by HBC and sent to build Fort Ellice: a job that did not finish until 1867. He also was called upon to work at Fort Qu'Appelle and Fort Pelly because of his skills.

By 1870, Jacob and his family (James 12, William 10, Elizabeth 8, and Marguerite 6) were living at St. James. The next year they moved to the White Mud River Settlement and settled next door to his brother Thomas Beads. In 1876, the HBC again had need for his skills and he left for Fort Ellice, after first selling his land at the White Mud Settlement to his brother-in-law Alan McIvor. He eventually retired to Fort Pelly where he died.



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