

Heroines of the Resistance : Marie Pélagie Dumont Parenteau (1835-1892). Spouse, Jean Baptiste Parenteau (b. 1832).

Pélagie was the daughter of Isidore dit Ecapow (Ay-sa-pow) Dumont and Louise Laframboise. She was Gabriel Dumont's sister. Pélagie married Jean Baptiste Parenteau (b. 1832) on August 4, 1832 at St. Norbert. She was one of the heroines of Batoche.

Jean Baptiste and his brother Abraham received Half Breed Scrip pursuant to the 1864 Treaty with the Red Lake and Pembina Bands of Chippewa Indians. In 1875 they received scrip stubs for 160 acres, Scrip # 442 for Abraham and #443 for Jean Baptiste.

This was a plains buffalo hunting family who in subsequent years wintered near Tourond's Coulee with the other Metis traders and hunters. Each spring they would take furs to sell in Winnipeg and return to Tourond's Coulee in the fall. The family settled in St. Laurent (River Lot 30) in 1872. Baptiste was one of Gabriel Dumont's closest friends. Cloutier's journal notes that Johny was one of the fighters at Duck Lake (Vol. 1, p. 77).

Jean Baptiste was a member of Riel's Exovedate and fought at Batoche. He was a member of Captain Baptiste Boucher's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. He was wounded during battle. He was not tried for these activities as the family escaped to Montana. The Parenteau family along with those of Baptiste Parenteau, Isidore Parenteau, Patrice Joseph Fleury, Edouard Dumont and Jean Dumont joined the Spring Creek Metis Band in Montana. Jean Baptiste is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery.

Pélagie's husband was wounded in the fighting. Her son, Jean-Baptiste Jr. (b. 1858) was wounded during battle. Before the fighting began Pélagie told Father Fourmond:

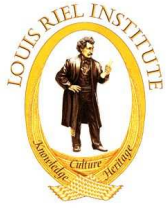
If the police come I will spear them, me. I will treat them like the buffalo of the prairie, spear, and put the meat in thin slices to dry.¹

Three of Pélagie's daughters were married to Resistance fighters;

Lucie married Abraham Montour,
Marie Pélagie married Damase Carrière, and
Rosalie married Philippe Gariepy.

Pélagie died on January 20, 1892 at 56 years of age. She is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.

¹ Journal of Abbé Cloutier typescript , Vol. 2, page 3, translation by Rose-Marie Carey, Parks Canada, Batoche Historic Site.



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