

Isidore Boyer.¹ (1829-1885)
Hero of the 1885 Northwest Resistance

Isidore was born on December 28, 1829 at St. François-Xavier. He was the son of Pierre Boyer and Marguerite Bonneau. A resident of St. Louis de Langevin he was married to Marguerite Allery *dit* Henry. On November 19, 1883 he had signed a petition protesting the 1883 Order in Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company.

Isidore was a member of Captain James Short's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Metis Resistance. Isidore fought and died during last day of fighting at Batoche, May 12, 1885. He is buried at St. Antoine de Padoue Cemetery, Batoche.

When out of reach of the soldiers, the Metis went toward Emmanuel Champagne's, the Tourond's had gone down toward Batoche but had stayed too much in the open. Pierre Henry went his own way at a slow pace. He ran into Isidore Boyer who had already been wounded in the hand. They continued on still going in the same direction. Isidore Boyer then gets a bullet in the loins.

"I heard the bullet burst in his back", says Pierre Henry.

"I then told him: 'This time, I think they've killed you.'"

"Yes, I think so too," replied Isidore.

Nevertheless, by supporting him, Pierre Henry managed to get him to a tent by the banks of the river.

"I'm thirsty," said Boyer. Henry looked for water but could not find any. But being thirsty himself, he went all the way down to the river. He never saw Boyer again.²

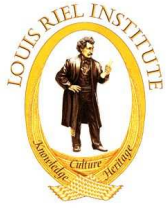
Middleton's troops buried Boyer, Cloutier (Vol. 2, p. 48) reports:

Les soldats de Middleton ont enterré Isidore Boyer et Michel Trottier, blessés emmenés au camp et mort; Jean Caron les déterre; il les trouve nus, et tout graffignés (i.e. égratignés) - Et pourtant Isidore Boyer n'avait que le bras cassé - Environ 1 pd. de terre par-dessus des cadavres couchés l'un sur l'autre.

Isidor's wife, Marguerite (1829-1885), was the daughter of Michel Allery and Marie Paquin. Their son Gregoire Boyer was killed at age 18, fighting at Batoche

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 SHM, p. 65.



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