

Jimmie LaRocque. (1927-2009)

Master Métis fiddler Jimmie LaRocque was the son of Patrice LaRoque¹ and Mary Priscilla Enno². They farmed in the Dunsieith area. Jimmie's father and grandfather were also Michif fiddlers. He began to secretly learn to play on his father's fiddle at age five. After World War II, Jimmie was in the West Coast Grand Old Opry playing backup for Kitty Wells, Ray Price, and with Vassar Clements. He also played in San Francisco in 1997 for President Clinton. Because he didn't fly they paid his mileage out there. He asked them to bring Calvin Vollrath in to play, too."

Jimmie is featured on the album: *Wood That Sings: Indian Fiddle Music of the Americas*. Smithsonian Folkways, 1997. He plays "Road to Batoche" and "Big John McNeill"; a pair of competition-style fiddling cuts from Turtle Mountain. Jimmie LaRocque was also featured at *When They Awake* a Métis cultural festival at Helena, Montana in 1998.



Jimmie LaRocque. Photo courtesy of Nick Vrooman

See also:

"Jimmie LaRocque." *19th Annual Washington Irish Folk Festival*, Wolf Trap Farm, Vienna, Virginia: May 28, 1995: 39.

This article in the festival program profiles Michif fiddler Jimmie LaRocque, who was a featured performer at this festival. He was accompanied by guitarist/fiddler Gerry McIvor and "jigger" (step dancer) Kim Chartrand both from Winnipeg. He is from the Turtle Mountain Reservation near Belcourt, North Dakota.

Vrooman, Nicholas. "Métis Fiddle and Dance." *The 15th Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. Elko, Nevada: Western Folklife Center, January 1999: 8-10.

This gathering featured Michif fiddlers Jimmie LaRocque from Turtle Mountain North Dakota, Gerry McIvor from Dinorwic Ontario, four time Métis Red River Jig Champion Brent Potskin-Donald from Edmonton Alberta, and Métis singer songwriter Ian Tyson also from Alberta.

¹ 1877-1949, born in St. Boniface, the son of Louis LaRocque and Marie Savoyard Berthelette; he moved to North Dakota in 1900 and to Turtle Mountain in 1910.

² 1892-1976, the daughter of Antoine Henault dit Enno dit Canada (b. 1855) and Mary Celine McKay.

The Road to Batosh

england

$\text{♩} = 240$

www.abcnotation.com/tunes

The Road to Batosh

M:4/4

L:1/8

Q:240

S:Jimmy Larocque (Turtle Mountain, ND)

R:reel

K:E Dorian

E2 B,E GFEG | B=cBG EGFE | D2 A,D FE (3DEF | ABAG FEDF |

E2 B,E GFEG | B=cBG E2 (3ABc | dBcA B2 AE |1 GFD E3 F :|2 GFD E4 ||

{B}e4 e2 ef | gef^d efec | (3ABc de f2 de | fdec (3dcB AF |

EBef edef | gef^d e2 (3ABc | dBcA B2 AE | GFD E4 :||



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell

Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research

Louis Riel Institute