

François Demarais [Desmarais]. (b. 1858)

Francois “Pettokahan” Demarais [Desmarias]¹ was born on the Missouri Coteau near Wood Mountain in 1858. He was the son of Francois Pehtokahan Desmarais Sr. and Marie Ledoux. Marie was born in 1820 at Turtle Mountain, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Ledoux and Madeleine Wehnashk or Wehwashk. She had been first married to “Pechito” Tanner in 1836 at Turtle Mountain She apparently left Chief Pechito (1800-1872). He was established as a freighter and leader of the Saulteaux Band at Portage la Prairie. Marie then married Pehtokahan Desmarais and in 1862 married Nahweecheewaykahpow. Nahweecheewaykahpow was the chief at Sandy Bay from 1874 to 1883, he died in office. Francois “Pettokahan” Desmarias Jr. was then elected chief of Sandy Bay after his step-father died. He served from 1884 to 1886.

Francois Jr. was first married to a Saulteaux woman in 1878 at Dog Creek, then in 1883 he married Helene Desjarlais, born 1865 (Totogan) at Sandy Bay. They had a daughter, also Helene born in 1885. They both took discharge from treaty on the same ticket.

On April 26, 1886, Francois “Pettokahan” Desmerais, wrote on behalf of the Half Breeds at Sandy Bay who had left treaty, to the Prime Minister, to ask that the Reserve be opened for settlement. He states that there are no Indians left living on the Reserve. Subsequently, on August 6, 1886, Kakousance and Baptiste Metneaywewind write to Inspector E. McColl to reverse the withdrawal from treaty. They say that they were deceived by agents (Mr. Martineau) into taking Metis Scrip. They had apparently been told that any Band members who had Metis ancestors or any white blood would lose everything, thus they should take scrip.

On August 29, 1886, Robert Tweddell writes to Inspector E. McColl indicating that Kakousance was well aware of what he was doing when the April 26, 1886 petition was signed and in fact Baptiste Spence was not involved in this August 6, 1886 request and told him he was “not sorry but that he was glad (to leave) because, said he, I am my own master now and can go where I like.” Similarly others he talked to were quite satisfied. Likewise Francois “Pettokahan” Desmerais did not re-enter Treaty.

Family Metis Scrip

Desmarais, Francois; address: Sandy Bay, Westbourne; claim no. 1437; born: 1858 along the Coteau near Wood Mountain; father: O, Peh tokahan (Métis); mother: Neshotekoway (baptised Marie Ledoux, Métis); married: 1878 at Dog Creek, Lake Manitoba to an Indian woman, and 1883 at Sandy Bay to Hélène Desjarlais; children living: Hélène, born: 1885; children deceased: Angélique; scrip for \$240.00

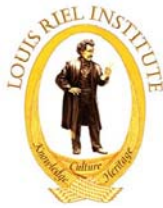
Desjarlais, Hélène; address: Sandy Bay, Westbourne; claim no. 1478; born: 1865 at Totogan; father: Baptiste Desjarlais (Métis); mother: Lizette Cardinal (Métis); married: 1883 at Sandy Bay to Francois Desmarais; children living: Hélène, born: 1885; scrip for

¹ Jordon Demarais, the great grandson of Francois informs us that the family spells Francois’ name Demarais.

\$240.00. In her statement she says she lived with her parents at Water Hen Bay in 1870, and had lived at Sandy Bay since 1883 when she married Francois.

Desmarais, Francois; for his daughter, H el ene Desmarais; claim no. 335; address: Sandy Bay; born: 2 February, 1885 at Sandy Bay; father: Francois Desmarais (M etis and deponent); mother: Helen Desjarlais (M etis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 2155

Ledoux, Marie; address: Sandy Bay, Westbourne; claim no. 1434; born: 1820 at Turtle Mountain; father: (M etis); mother: Wehwashk (Indian); married: 1836 at Turtle Mountain to Tanner Pettitoo (Joseph), then to Pettokahan and then in 1862 to Nahwahtchewekapow, deceased; children living: Alexis Tanner; Basile Tanner, Marie Tanner; Ang elique Tanner, Jean Tanner, Fran ois Desmarais or Pettokahan and Augustin Starr; children deceased: 1; scrip for \$160.00.



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