

Dumont (Dumond) Gabriel Iacaste: (1801-1880)¹

Gabriel “Iacaste” Dumont was the son of Jean Baptiste Dumont (b. 1760) and Josephte Sarcee (b. 1765) His father was a Montreal fur trader who worked on contract for the HBC. Gabriel died in 1880 in Battle River, Alberta. On July 14, 1842 in Battle River, Gabriel was married to Susanne Lussier (Lucier) born 1806, the daughter of Francois Lussier and Angelique, a Metis woman. She had first been married to Francis Bouvette. Susanne died October 29, 1873 at Battle River.

Gabriel’s brother Jean Baptiste “Sha-how-tow” Dumont. (1805-1884) was one of the nine Metis leaders selected to represent the Pembina Metis community in treaty negotiations with Governor Ramsey in 1851. His brother Isidore “Ekapow” Dumont (b. 1810) lead the peace negotiations with the Dakota held at Devil’s Lake in 1862.

Gabriel Dumont and his extended kin group of bison hunters established Lac St. Anne west of Edmonton. In the 1850s there were well over 200 Metis living at this location. Lac St. Anne, known as Manitou Sakahigan to the Metis and Indians, is the site of an annual Metis religious pilgrimage. The lake is located about 45 miles northwest of the city of Edmonton. In 1841, Alexis Piché Sr., a Metis who lived in the area, traveled to St. Boniface to ask that priests be sent to live among them. Even though priests were scarce bishop Provencher sent Father Jean-Baptiste Thibault who was a Cree speaker to check things out. Gabriel Dumont Sr., the uncle of Gabriel Dumont of Batoche fame, guided him to Lac St. Anne.²

R.D. Dick Garneau, gives an account of Iacaste leading a buffalo hunt in Alberta on May 19, 1874³:

May 19: The French Metis are all out after them [the bison] what hunt they will make we cannot say. They had called council among themselves about forming a government of their own. I received a letter from their President Gabriel [Iacaste] Dumont or Aespos, Lou and Alexander Beaulieu, Baptiste⁴ and Pierre Gardippis⁵, Jean and Isadore Dumont

¹ Dumont’s birthdate is sometimes given as 1795, however 1881 is the date shown in the Red River Census documents listed in this article.

² Father Thibault also reports Dumont working as a guide in 1842 when he encountered a party of Métis in the Medicine Hills, between the Battle River and Red Deer River, heading for British Columbia, Dumont was guiding this party. Dumont’s father, Jean Baptiste, had previously been employed as a guide in Alberta for David Thompson.

³ R. D. Garneau: (“Establishing a Homestead at Old Strathcona, North West Territories.”
<http://www.telusplanet.net/dgarneau/alberta5.htm>.

⁴ Baptiste Garapee (Guardipee, Gariepy) (b. 1832) Jean-Baptiste was born at Red River on July 3, 1832, the son of Louis Gariepy (b. 1771) and Josephte Ducharme (b. 1806, died 1871 on the Marias River). His father, Louis was a voyageur first with the NWC then after amalgamation with the HBC. He retired to St. François Xavier in 1824. Baptiste’s wife Julia was born in Montana in 1828. In 1878 Baptiste and his son Elie were members of the group of buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills who petitioned the government for a reserve.

⁵ Pierre Gariepy (b. 1826) Pierre Gariepy was born in 1826, the son of Francois Gariepy Sr. and Louise Josephte Gladu. On September 10, 1848 he married Marie Rose Grant at St. François Xavier. Marie Rose was the daughter of Cuthbert Grant and Mary McGillis. They were members of the Turtle Mountain Band. They had 15 children. They were enumerated in the 1870 census at St. François Xavier but in 1872 moved to St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan where they lived on the west side of the river. Pierre was elected as a St. Laurent Council member in 1873. This family was to become heavily involved with the Métis Resistance of 1885.

(brothers of Gabriel Iacaste Dumont) , Abraham Montour.⁶ Baptiste Beaulieu, and Moyse Ouillet have been elected members of the Council. They wanted their English friends as they said to join them with a friendly hand to uphold their Councils, to which we could not adhere, only in regarding the buffalo (bison) hunt that we should go together with them in this.

Children

- Francois Gabriel Dumont⁷ born 1822 in Edmonton House, NWT , Married: 26 November 1849 in Lac Ste. Anne to Nancy Anne Gladu b: 1834 in Slave Lake.⁸
- Jacques (Jacob) Elzear Dumont born 1830. Married Marie Anne Bruneau b: January 1, 1834 in Lac La Biche, NWT, on 23 July 1850 in Lac Ste. Anne, Fort des Prairie, NWT.⁹
- Jean Baptiste Dumont born 1833. Married Isabelle Gray, born about 1835, married circa 1852.¹⁰
- Angelique Dumont born 1835. Married Antoine Plante born 1830 in Pembina, North Dakota, USA, married in 1855.
- Angele DUMONT born 1837, Married first to Benjamin Vandal born about 1832 Married second to Louison dit Montagnais Bruneau b: January 1831 in Lac La Biche Mission, NWT, on 28 March 1853 in Lac St Anne, NWT.

⁶ Montour, Abraham; address: Batoche; born: 1832 at Red River; father: Bonhomme Montour (Métis); mother: Marguerite Spence (Métis); married: 1853 at Pembina River to Marie Page; children living: Abraham, Marie, Jean Baptiste, Justine, Clemence, Cecile, Daniel, Isidore and Alexandrine; children deceased: Victoire and Julienne; scrip for \$160.00; claim no. 1160.

⁷ Dumont, Francois - Concerning his claim as a head of family - Address, Edmonton P.O. [Post Office] - Born, 1825, at the Old Port of Edmonton - Father, Gabriel Dumont, (Métis) - Mother, Susanne Lucier, (Métis) - Married, 1859 at Lac Ste. Anne to Nancy Gladu - Children living, three (names on declaration) - Children deceased, nine - Scrip for \$160 - Claim 877.

⁸ Dumont, Angele - Concerning her claim as a child - Address, St. Albert P.O. [Post Office] - Born, 1851 at Lac Ste. Anne - Father, Francois Dumont, (Métis) - Mother, Nancy Gladu, (Métis) - Married, 1881 at St. Albert to Laurent Salois - Children living, two, Louison and Emilien - Children deceased, one, no name - Scrip for \$240 - Claim 1001.

⁹ Beaudry, Marianne - Louise Beaudry, concerning her deceased mother, Marianne Beaudry (née Berland) and her claim as head of family - Address, St. Albert - Born, Mountain Fort, 1844 - Father, Francois Berland, (Métis) - Mother, Thérèse, (Métis) - Married March 29, 1864 at St. Albert to Alexandre Beaudry and August 26, 1867 at St. Albert to Jacob Dumont - Children living, one, Louise Beaudry, born March 1, 1865 - Children deceased, two, names on application - Scrip for \$160 - Claim 685.

¹⁰ Dumont, Jean Baptiste - Concerning his claim as a child - Address, Calgary P.O. [Post Office] - Born, June, 1852 at Slave Lake - Father, Baptiste Dumont, (Métis) - Mother, Isabelle Gray, (Métis) - Married, spring of 1872 to Philoméne Vanasse dit Anas - Children living, five (names on declaration) - Children deceased, one - Scrip for 240 acres of land - Claim 234.

- Alexis Dumont born 1839. Married Betsy Rowland b: about 1840 Married on 9 November 1857 in Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta.¹¹
- St. Pierre Dumont¹² born January 1842 in Morleyville. Married first to Betsy Breland¹³ b: 1846, married: 1866. Married second to Nancy Anne Callihoo b: 7 January 1850. Married on 18 December 1872 in Lac Ste. Anne.
- Rosalie Dumont born December 1844. Married François Berland b: 1841.¹⁴
- Elizabeth Dumont born 1846. Married Basile Lafond.¹⁵
- Charles Felix Dumont¹⁶ born February 1848. Married Justine Nault b: 1851. Married on 28 November 1870 in St. Albert.
- Adelaide Dumont b: 1853.
- Marguerite Dumont b: about 1854. Married Xavier Belisle.
- Timothee Dumont¹⁷ b: circa 1854.

¹¹ Dumont, St. Pierre; for his deceased sisters Adelaide Dumont; claim no. 196; address: Peace Hills Agency; born: 13 April, 1870 at St. Albert; died: 13 October, 1870 at St. Albert; father: Alexis Dumont (Métis); mother: Bethsy Rowand (Métis); heirs: Matie Anne Dumont, \$11.42; Marguerite Dumont, \$11.42; Isabella Whitford, \$17.14; Philip Whitford, \$17.14; Véronique Dumont, \$11.42; Adelaide Dumont, \$11.42; Félix Dumont, \$34.28; Francois Dumont, \$34.28; St. Pierre Dumont, \$34.28; Timothe Dumont, \$11.43.

¹² Dumont, St. Pierre - Concerning his claim as a head of family - Address, Peace Hills P.O. [Post Office] - Born, 1843 near Morleyville - Father, Gabriel Dumont, (Métis) - Mother, Susanne Lucier, (Métis) - Married, 1866 to Betsy Berland and 1872 to Ann Kallion - Children living, six (names on declaration) - Children deceased, two - Scrip for \$160 - Claim 659.

¹³ Dumont, St. Pierre; heir to his deceased children; claim no. 3411; Jean Baptiste; born: 1874 near Red Deer River; died: 1 month old, on North side of Red Deer River; Betsy, born: 1870 at Duhamel; died: 1 day old at Duhamel; address: Duhamel; father: St. Pierre Dumont (Métis and deponent); mother: Betsy Breland (Métis); scrip cert.: form F. no. 1398, Jean Baptiste; scrip cert.: form F. no. 1400, Betsy.

¹⁴ Graham, Bella; for her deceased half-brother and sisters; claim no. 3143; Napoléon, born: 1871 at Battle River; died: unknown; Emerentienne, born: 1870 near Battleford; died: Autumn, 1870; address: Lac St. Anne; father: François Berland (Métis); mother: Rosalie Dumont (métis); heirs: children of Julie Anderson née Beaudry; Frank Whitford; Bella Brazeau; Phillip Whitford; Rosalie Salois; file ref. 880077 and 972992.

¹⁵ Elizabeth Dumont Application for scrip account of the late Suzanne Dumont. 1904-1909. File. RG15-D-II-1. Volume/box number: 909. File number: 863212. Copied container number: T-14520. Textual material. [Access: Open]. Government Finding aid number: 15-5.

¹⁶ Dumont, Felix - Concerning his claim as a child - Address, Edmonton - Born, 1847 - Father, Gabriel Dumont, (Métis), deceased - Mother, Suzanne Lussier, (Métis), deceased - Married, 1871 at St. Albert to Justine Nault - Children living, four (names on declaration) - Children deceased, three - Scrip for 240 acres of land - Claim 541.

- Edward Dumont¹⁸ b: 1855. Married Marguerite Sutherland dit Kapetakus b: 1855. Married on 30 November 1875.

Census records:

1835 Red River Census: #138, Iakaste Dumond, age 34, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 4 sons (-16), 2 daughters (-15), 8 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 3 horses, 3 mares, 2 oxen, 1 cow, 3 calves, 6 pigs, 3 carts, 1 canoe, 6 acres. (1835 E.5/8) page 6.

1838 Red River Census: #150, Iacaste Dumond, age 37, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 4 sons (-16), 4 daughters (-15), 10 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 2 horses, 2 mares, 1 ox, 2 cows, 5 calves, 3 pigs, 1 plough, 3 carts, 1 canoe, ½ acre. (1838 E.5/9) page 10.

1840 Red River Census: #154, Iacaste Dumond, age 39, Native, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 1 daughter (-15), 5 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 3 horses, 2 mares, 2 oxen, 2 cows, 1 calf, 4 pigs, 1 harrow, 5 carts, 1 canoe, 4 acres. (1840 E.5/10) page 10.

1843 Red River Census: #150, Iacasté Dumond, age 42, Ruperts Land, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 1 son (-16), 1 daughter (+15), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 4 horse, 2 oxen, 2 cows, 1 calf, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 4 carts, 1 canoe, 5 acres. (1843 E.5/11) page 7.



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¹⁷ Dumont, Timothée - Scrip number A 1418 and A 2924. 08/01/1901. File. RG15-D-II-8-j. Volume/box number: 1418. File number: 600897. Textual material. [Access: Open]. Government Finding aid number: 15-26. Receipt Number 12205 ; Number of Acres 240 ; Certificate number F 1094 00011246749

¹⁸ Dumont, Edouard; for his deceased children: Olive born: 1878 below forks of Red River; died 1890 at Assiniboine; Liza born: 1876 at St. Laurent; died 1884 at St. Laurent; Baptiste, born: 1883 at St. Laurent; died: 1890 at Fort Assiniboine; Rosalie, born: 1885 at St. Laurent; died: 1893 at Fort Assiniboine; address: Havre, Montana; father: Edouard Dumont (Métis and Deponent); mother: Marguerite Sutherland dit Kapetakus (Métis); file ref. 797035; claim no. 1170.