Henry Fidler. (1831-1908)

Henry was born in St. Clement's Parish, Red River in 1831. His parents were Nancy Hallett (born 1795-1800) and Thomas Fidler (born 1795). Henry married Nancy (Ann) Pruden (born 1838) at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in St. Andrew's, Red River in 1853. They had twelve children together.

Henry was a member of the Franklin Expedition to the Arctic. On February 19, 1853 he agreed to join Dr. Rae's Arctic expedition as a middleman and a labourer. Henry accompanied Rae as far as Chesterfield Inlet and was then sent back to York Factory to make arrangements to winter at Repulse Bay. Henry Fidler and his half-brother, John Fidler, are both known to have participated in two of the Expeditions that were sent to determine the fate of Sir John Franklin. Governor George Simpson of the HBC sent Chief Factor James Anderson and James Green Stewart on their journey down the Back (Great Fish) River to investigate the Inuit reports Rae had used in his search for Franklin. Henry accompanied James Anderson and James Green Stewart as a middleman on their expedition down Back (Great Fish) River in 1855. (Contributed by Heather Hallett.)



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research Louis Riel Institute