

Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin. (1863-1952)

In 1914, Marie Louise, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band became Washington College of Law's first Native American (Metis) student to graduate. Marie Louise was the daughter of Jean Baptiste Bottineau, enrolled Turtle Mountain Band member and lawyer for the band. Her mother was Marguerite Renville (b. Jan. 13, 1842 at Pembina), the daughter of François Renville and Marguerite Dumas Belgarde. They married on November 17, 1862 at St. Joseph. The family was issued Half Breed Scrip under the amendments of the 1864 Old Crossing Treaty. The children listed are Marie Louise born 1863, Lillian born 1867 and Alvina Clementa born 1868.

Marie Louise Bottineau-Baldwin was the first woman of color to graduate from the Washington College Law School. The WCL student organization raises funds to support the Marie Bottineau Baldwin Scholarship, which honors her achievement. Marie Louise went on to become a prominent advocate of Native American Indian causes in the Office of Indian Affairs. Her appointment to a position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs was approved by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904. She was an accountant in the Education Division of the Bureau and Treasurer of the Society of American Indians. Marie Louise was admitted to the bar in 1914, having completed the three years of courses during two years of attending evening classes. She also graduated with highest distinction. *The Quarterly Journal of American Indians* noted that "Mrs. Baldwin, who is Treasurer of the Society of American Indians, has offered herself to the War Department for services overseas. She speaks French as fluently as English, and her skill as an accountant will make her valuable to the accounting staff."

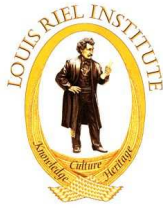
WHITE HOUSE, February 27, 1904.

Mrs. Marie L. Baldwin, whose name appears upon the Minnesota clerk register, may be certified for appointment as clerk at \$900 in the Office of Indian Affairs without regard to the provisions of Civil-Service Rule VII.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.



Her great grandfather, Charles [Joseph] Bottineau Sr. was with the Lewis and Clark expedition [1803-1806]. Her paternal grandparents were Genevieve “Jennie” Larence, born 1818 in the North West Territories, and Pierre Bottineau, son of Charles Bottineau and Marguerite Machequayzaince Son-gabo-kiche-te (Clear Sky). Pierre was born January 1, 1817, at Bear Point, Turtle River. Her grandparents were married on December 1, 1836 at Red River Settlement.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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