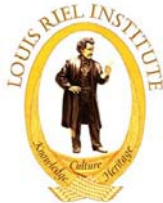


## **Peter “Be-yun-eesh” Roy. (1828-1881)**

Peter Roy was born on February 23, 1828 at Rainy Lake, the son of Vincent Roy (b. 1795) and Elizabeth Lacombe (Métis). His Indian name was Be-yun-eesh. He was educated at La Pointe, Wisconsin. At the age of twenty-one he came to the agency at Long Lake, where he served as interpreter until 1853, when he was elected to the territorial legislature. He married Philomene Chouinard on November 3, 1853, in Chippewa Agency, Little Falls, Minnesota.

Peter’s name appears on many of the treaties with the Ojibway between 1840 and 1870. He opened a farm at Belle Prairie in 1855; became a member of the state legislatures of 1860 and 1862. In 1866 he removed to Little Falls, where he resided until his death, in 1883. He was a man of large frame and of generous impulses, liberal and open-handed, even to his own pecuniary disadvantage. The US scrip applications include Roy, Peter of Little Falls, son of Vincent Roy, Sr., of Lake Superior. The 1880 census says that he was 52 at that time and that he kept a hotel at Little Falls, Minnesota.



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