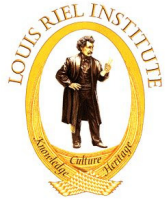


Sandy Bay: Metis Withdrawal from Treaty



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

On April 26, 1886, Francois Desmerais, on behalf of the Half Breeds at Sandy Bay who have left treaty, writes to the Prime Minister, to ask that the Reserve be opened for settlement. They state that there are no Indians left living on the Reserve. See the actual petition appended below.

The men who signed the April 26, 1886 Petition are:

Beaulieu, Alexandre	Lacouette, Jean Baptiste	
Beaulieu, Antoine	Lacouette, John	Richard, William Sr.
Beaulieu, Baptiste	Lacouette, Louison	Roulette, Ambroise
Beaulieu, Jean Baptiste	Lacouette, Napoleon	Roulette, Louison
Beaulieu, Michel	Lepasseur, Alexandre	Roulette, Michel Jr.
Beaulieu, Pascal	Lepasseur, Augustin	Roulette, Michel Sr.
Boulette, Francois	Lepasseur, John	Roulette, Pierre
Desjarlais, Francois	Lepasseur, Joseph	Spence, Baptiste
Desjarlais, Isidore	Lepasseur, Michel	Spence, George
Desjarlais, Joseph	Mousseau, Antoine Jr.	Spence, Jean Baptiste
Desjarlais, Patrice	Mousseau, Antoine Sr.	Spence, John
Desjarlais, Pierre	Richard, Antoine	Spence, Louison
Houle, Francois	Richard, Francis	Spence, Nicholas
Houle, Joseph	Richard, John William	Spence, Samuel
Lacouette, Augustine	Richard, Joseph	Star, Stanislas
Lacouette, Baptiste	Richard, William Jr.	West, William

Subsequently, on August 6, 1886, Kakousance and Baptiste Metneyawewind 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. This letter is attached below.

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.

Copy

13939
29721
Sandy Bay on Lake Manitoba
26th April 1886.



To the
Right Honorable
Sir John MacDonalld
Ottawa, Ont.
Honorable Sir.

We the undersigned
half-breeds have the honor to
petition the Dominion Government
of Canada to throw open this Sandy
Bay Indian Reserve for settlement
as there are no Indians now left
on this Reserve, We being the
only Treaty half-breeds who com-
posed the Sandy Bay Band of Indians.

Most of us had taken up and
broken up land, built houses and
stables before this place was
surveyed and recognised as an
Indian Reserve for our own
benefit, and now that we have
withdrawn from the Indian Treaty
We humbly beg the Dominion Govern-
ment of Canada to take this our
petition under favorable consideration
and grant our request, allowing us
to keep our old homes by giving us
this land. We have the honor to be,

your most obedient servants,
Francis Desmarais ^{mark}

Indian Affairs. (RC 10, Volume 3742, file 29187)

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Copy

19939
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We humbly beg the Dominion Govern-
ment of Canada to take this our
petition under favorable consideration
and grant our request, allowing us
to keep our old homes by giving us
this land. We have the honor to be,

your most obedient servants,
J. P. Lewis Pedernales

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 3742, file 29187)

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Baptiste Spence ^{his} mark
 Augustin Sacquette ^{his} mark
 Baptiste Sacquette ^{his} mark
 Louison Sacquette ^{his} mark
 John Sacquette ^{his} mark
 Napoleon Sacquette ^{his} mark
 J. Baptiste Sacquette ^{his} mark
 Samuel Spence ^{his} mark
 John Spence ^{his} mark
 Louison Spence ^{his} mark
 J. Baptiste Spence ^{his} mark
 George Spence ^{his} mark
 Antoine Beaulieu ^{his} mark
 Michel Beaulieu ^{his} mark
 Alexandre Beaulieu ^{his} mark
 Baptiste Beaulieu ^{his} mark
 J. Baptiste Beaulieu ^{his} mark
 Pascal Beaulieu ^{his} mark
 Pierre Desgerlais ^{his} mark
 Joseph Desgerlais ^{his} mark
 Patrice Desgerlais ^{his} mark
 Francois Desgerlais ^{his} mark
 Kaidore Desgerlais ^{his} mark
 John William Richard ^{his} mark
 Francis Richard ^{his} mark
 Joseph Richard ^{his} mark
 Pierre Bonlette ^{his} mark

Indian Affairs. (RC 10, Volume 3742, file 29187)

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Ambrose Boulette his mark
 Louison Boulette his mark
 Michel Boulette Sr. his mark
 Michel Boulette Jr. his mark
 William Bochette his mark
 William Richard Sr. his mark
 William Richard Jr. his mark
 Joseph Lepasseur his mark
 John Lepasseur his mark
 Augustin Lepasseur his mark
 Michel Lepasseur his mark
 Alexandre Lepasseur his mark
 William West his mark
 Francois Haule his mark
 Joseph Haule his mark
 Stanislas Stark his mark
 Antoine Richard his mark
 (Signed) Nicholas Spruce Jr. his mark
 (Signed) Antoine Mousseau Sr. his mark
 Antoine Mousseau Jr. his mark
 Francois Boulette his mark

Copy
E. M. Coll Esqr
Insp. of Ind. Agents
Winnipeg.

Portage La Prairie
6th August 1886.

Sir,

We the undersigned Indians of the Sandy Bay Indian Reserve beg most respectfully to inform you that we have been altogether deceived and misled in order to induce us to make application for scrip and withdraw from Treaty. Our Agent Mr. Martineau informed us early in the spring that the Government passed an order in Council giving each half breed an opportunity to withdraw from Treaty and get scrip; when our agent made this statement, we with the large majority of the Band refused to leave the Treaty telling him that we did not wish to leave. The Agent then told us if we did not leave the Treaty that everyone of us who had a drop of white blood in us would loose every thing, both the Reserve treaty money and all. The Agent also said to us that you have white blood in you and you must go out of Treaty. We then asked
our

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our Agent what would become
of our old women if we left
the Treaty, and he informed us
that he did not know yet but
that in a year or two they would
get fifty dollars, and in a
week after the Agent came and
struck our names out of the
books without our consent and
without ever having asked many
of the old women whether they
were willing to go out or not.
The school teacher also said to
us that all the Indians who
would leave the Treaty would be
well off and have a good name
and if we did not go out we
would be nothing and would
not have the Reserve. During
nearly the whole time that our
Agent was speaking to us a-
bout coming out of the Treaty
he was accompanied by one
Sifton who brought goods with
him and offered to buy our
scrips if we would leave Treaty.
And I Kakausane one of the
undersigned do declare that
Mr Martineau our Agent asked
me to sign a paper binding
me to sell my scrip to Sifton
for one hundred and eleven
dollars (\$111.⁰⁰/₁₀₀) and when I re-
fused to do so he said I would
be

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be obliged as it was a secret
made by Baptiste Spence the
spokesman and those that
first agreed to come out of
Treaty. This same Sifton bought
a large number of scrips. A
day or two ago Baptiste Spence
the Chief spokesman sent me,
Kakoucaull, word that he was
very sorry at what had happen-
ed that he was led astray and
not only himself is sorry for
what was transpired but also
all my people are very much
enjoyed and grieved on account
of the way they have been deceived
for the purpose of getting them
out of the Treaty. It would be
better to try if possible and
get back again to the Reserve
as it was. Trusting that you
as our friend will make
enquiry into the matter and
do justice in the premises.

We are,
Sir,

Your obedient servant
(2nd) Kakoucaull ^{his} mark

Baptiste ^{his} X Metreayverind.
mark

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Copy

147-1314

33067

Sandy Bay
August 29th 1886.

G. M. Coll Esq^r
Inspector of Ind. Agencies.
Winnipeg.

Sir,

In reply to your letter 14-660 dated the 19th August I have to inform you that I do not believe that any of the Indians were deceived in order to make them leave the Treaty as they were informed by the Agent Mr. Martineau at the Treaty payments of 1885 that any Halfbreed now taking Treaty could withdraw therefrom and become a citizen of Canada also he would be entitled to a scrip of 160 acres or 240 acres according to age. This matter they had under consideration from July the 9th 1885 until February 1886. I also spoke to a large number of them on the subject during that time and explained the thing to them as well as I could and I believe that they fully understood what they were doing when they made their application for discharge from Treaty. I never heard Mr. Martineau say to any Indian

or

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 3742, file 29187)

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CANADA

or Halfbreed that he had white blood in him and would have to leave the Treaty or he would loose every thing, neither did I ever hear him insinuate any thing that would lead them to believe that he went so re the old women, I know nothing about them. But as to striking their names of the books without their consent I know to be a lie as I was present when a great number of them made their application for discharge and those to my knowledge were not struck of the pay sheets until their discharge was received by the Agent, as I assisted him several times in striking them off. Re the buying and selling of scrips I am aware that Moor & McDonald bought quite a few also that Sifton bought some 50 or thereabouts for which he paid satisfactorily as I never heard any complaints until after Mr Brown's visit to Sandy Bay. Re this Kakouance he told me time and again that he was more of a Halfbreed than a great many that were leaving the Treaty.

When

When he first wanted to leave (which he did as soon as he saw all the rest leaving) he could not produce proper witnesses so Mr. Martineau would not take his application so he then walked all the way to Westbourne and got one Peter Garroch to witness for him that he might get a scrip the same as the rest and not until then did Mr. Martineau accept his application. As for the Agent asking him to sign a paper binding him to sell his scrip to Sifton, I know that to be an untruth as I was present at the time he sold his scrip to W. Sifton and it was about twenty days after that he was taken before Mr. Martineau to sign his power of attorney and Halzbreed declaration. The decree business is quite unknown to me as every man has disposed of his scrip or kept it just as he chose. I do not believe that Baptiste Spence ever sent such word to Kakancauce as I have asked Baptiste several times whether he was sorry for leaving the Treaty and he told me that he was not sorry but that he

was

was glad because, said he, I am my own master now and I can go where I like. I also believe the majority of those people to be quite satisfied. Of course there are always some grumblers and this Kakouance is one of the worst in the place, of course it would be very nice for him if he could get back into Treaty now after he and his family have received some \$1100.⁰⁰ from Lipton. The other party whose name is signed to the letter I believe the cause of his grievances is that he got his discharge from Treaty before he knew that he could not receive a scrip if he had already sold any land. And I believe that he has already sold land to the amount of \$500.⁰⁰ therefore he would not be entitled to receive a scrip, this is all I know about him.

Re - Mr. Brown's letter he says there is great dissatisfaction among the natives, he is right there, it is because they are so greedy that they would like to receive Treaty and scrip both. We heard nothing about this dissatisfaction until they
 came

saw the provisions that were left
in the school house at Treaty
time. Re - the Reserve being
broken up they all understood
that if they remained in Treaty
the Reserve would not be pro-
tected but they were afraid
that if they all left the Treaty
the Government would not
allow them to retain their
land, that is what they mean
by the Reserve being broken up.
It would seem to me only
a proper thing for the Dom-
inion Government to give them
the right to homestead the land
they are on as they have quite
a lot of improvements and I
do not know of one Indian
to claim the Reserve.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Sgd) Robert Swedell.

