

## **The Gariépy (Guardipee, Garapee) Family in the History of the Old Northwest**

The Gariépy family were Métis buffalo hunters and traders who were among the first Métis settlers at Pembina. François Gariépy Sr. participated in the Battle of Seven Oaks. Philippe Elzéar Gariépy (1839-1900) was part of the Dumont hunting band and a member of the original 1871 St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan governing committee that was headed by Gabriel Dumont. Eight Gariépy men fought alongside Gabriel Dumont in the Northwest Resistance of 1885. The family was among the first Métis settlers in Montana in Choteau, Teton County and along the South Fork of the Teton River. Many became enrolled members of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana.

### **Gariépy at the Battle of Seven Oaks**

**François Gariépy Sr.:** (1797-1851)

François fought on the Métis side in the Battle of Seven Oaks on June 19, 1816. François was married in 1824 to Louise Gladu at Pembina (b. 1800, the daughter of Charles Gladu Sr. and Marguerite Ross). One of their sons, Pierre, was married to Cuthbert Grant's daughter Marie Rose Grant. This family lived at both Pembina and St. François Xavier.

### **Gariépy's at Pembina**

**François Gariépy.** (b. 1824)

François Gariépy, born circa 1824, was the son of François Gariépy Sr. (1797-1851) who married in 1824 to Louise Gladu at Pembina (b. 1800, the daughter of Charles Gladu Sr. and Marguerite Ross). His brother, Pierre Gariépy was married to Cuthbert Grant's daughter Marie-Rose. This family lived at both Pembina and St. François Xavier.

François married Helene Poitras, the daughter of Andre Poitras and Marguerite Grant on January 14, 1840 at St. François Xavier. Their family was enumerated in the Pembina census of 1850 as Family # 183. François, age 26 at the time gives his occupation as a hunter.

Children of François Gariépy and Helene Poitras:

- François, born October 9, 1840.
- Joseph, born January 22, 1842 at St. François Xavier, married Cecelia Wilkie.
- Caroline born November 1842, married Guillaume Lafournaise.
- Josette, born January 10, 1844, married James Grant.
- Agathe, born June 27, 1851 at Pembina, married Elzear Lafournaise.
- Sarah, born February 1, 1849, married Joseph Rolette, whose father Joseph Rolette Sr. was a member of the Minnesota Legislature.
- Norbert, born April 29, 1851 at Pembina, married Mary Agnes Desjarlais.
- Eli Bruno, born January 21, 1854 at Pembina, died in May 1855.
- Gregorie Cleophas, born June 11, 1856 at Pembina.
- Cecile, born March 4, 1858, married Martin Rolette, whose father Joseph Rolette Sr. was a member of the Minnesota Legislature.

### **Métis Petition to Join Treaty Four 1876**

On September 7, 1876, 30 Métis at Fort Walsh submitted a petition, on behalf of the Métis of the four districts of Assiniboia to join Treaty 4 as a collective. Bonaventure Gariépy was one of the men who signed this petition. The men who signed both this petition and the 1878 petition of the Cypress Hills Métis in 1878 are:

- Jean Charette (b. 1843)
- Bonaventure Gariépy (b. 1825)
- François Lafontaine (b. 1847)
- Daniel Ledoux (b. 1848)
- Joseph Léveillé (b. 1843)
- Pierre Léveillé (b. 1829)
- Joseph Parisien (b. 1835)
- Baptiste Pelletier (b. 1846)
- Alex Pelletier (b. 1854)
- John Wells (b. 1848)

### **Gariépy, Bonaventure. (1825-1890)**

Bonaventure Gariépy was born on March 2, 1825, the son of Louis Gariépy and Josephte Ducharme. He married Madeleine Larocque, the daughter of Olivier Larocque and Madeleine Piché on January 11, 1847 at St. François Xavier. Bonaventure died on April 14, 1890 at Winnipeg. The couple had thirteen children born variously at St. François Xavier, Beaver River, a tributary of the Milk River, Lebret, and Sun River, Montana.

### **Cypress Hills Métis Hunting Band Petition of 1878**

In 1878, a group of Métis at Cypress Hills had sent a petition requesting a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> each year and the granting of Métis “reserve” land. The request was for a strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north. A number of the signatories to this petition signed that 1878 petition as well. Some of the families who signed both petitions were the Charettes, Davises, Fagnants, Gariépy’s, Hamelins, Lafontaines, Laframboises, Marions, Léveillé and Ouelettes.

The Gariépy men who signed this petition were:

- Baptiste Gariépy (b. 1832)
- Bonaventure Gariépy.(1825-1890)
- Elie Gariépy (b. 1857)
- Louis Gariépy (b. 1828)
- Leonide Gariépy (b. 1852)

### **Garapee (Guardipee, Gariépy), Baptiste (b. 1832)**

Jean-Baptiste was born at Red River on July 3, 1832, the son of Louis Gariépy (b. 1771) and Josephte Ducharme (b. 1806, died 1871 on the Marias River). His father, Louis

was a voyageur first with the North West Company then after amalgamation with the Hudson's Bay Company. He retired to St. François Xavier in 1824.

Baptiste married Judith Cardinal on June 4, 1855 in St François Xavier. She was the daughter of Antoine Cardinal and Marie DeMontigny Comtois. 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.

*Garepee [sic] attended a French school at White Horse Plains, Canada, for two years, and this closed his scholastic education, although he has acquired in the school of life a practical business experience that richly compensates for the lack of the other. Until his father's death, in 1856, he remained at home industriously working on the farm, and after this he became a noted buffalo hunter in Canada, which occupation he followed until 1868, when he came to Montana and located at Fort Benton, which he made headquarters for buffalo hunting until 1882, when the American bison practically ceased to exist and his occupation was gone. But he was equal to the emergency and in that same year secured a ranch on the upper Teton River, eighteen miles from Choteau, Teton County, and for twelve years engaged in stockraising. This property he sold in 1896, and from that time he has resided with his son, Eli, who has a fine ranch on Cut Bank River, and with his daughter, Emily, the wife of Adolphus Fellers, living near Dupuyer, Teton county. Mr. Garepee, although advanced in years, is still healthy and active, and has a number of plans mapped out for hunting and trapping in the mountains. He has seven children ; Mrs, Emily Fellers; Magdaline, now of North Dakota; Johnnie, at St. Peter's mission; Charles, living on the Teton River; Mary, married and residing in Canada; Eli, owner of the ranch on the Cut Bank river, and Josephine, wife of Gabriel Selwood (Salois), now living on the Upper Dupuyer River. (From *Progressive Men of Montana* p. 1557-1558)*

1880 Montana Census shows: Guardupée Baptiste / white / male / age 48 / occupation Farmer / cannot read / cannot write / born Canada / father born Canada / mother born Canada / living at North Bank, Upper Teton River, Choteau, with wife Julia Guardupée, daughters Madaleine, Mary and Josephine Guardupée, sons John and Charles Guardupée, stepson Joseph Guardupée, stepdaughter Sarah Guardupée, grandson Eli Guardupée, granddaughter Julia Guardupée.

### **Gariépy, Bonaventure. (1825-1890)**

Bonaventure Gariépy was born on March 2, 1825, the son of Louis Gariépy and Josephte Ducharme. He married Madeleine Larocque, the daughter of Olivier Larocque and Madeleine Piché. Bonaventure died on April 14, 1890 at Winnipeg.

### **Guardupée (Gariépy), Eli "Isinamaken" (1857-1942)**

Elie Gariépy was born on May 31, 1857 at Turtle Mountain, the son of Jean-Baptiste Gariépy (b. 1832) and Judith Cardinal. Elie is a grandson of Louis Gariépy (b. 1771) and Josephte Ducharme, a St. François Xavier Métis family.<sup>1</sup> Elie married Antonia Kataitsipi-tsaki, the daughter of Matusohn and Auetsipiaki on December 5, 1885 at

---

<sup>1</sup> Louis Gariépy was a voyageur with the North West Company (1804, 1811-1820) and the Hudson's Bay Company (1821-1824). In 1824 he retired to St. François Xavier where he worked as a blacksmith.

Badger Creek Agency, St. Peter's Mission, Montana. He was subsequently married to Sadimina, "Saddie." They lived on the Pikuni Blackfoot reserve in Teton County, Montana. Eli was a tall blue-eyed Michif man. His Blackfoot name was "Takes Gun Ahead". In the 1800 Census he is shown living at North Bank, Upper Teton River, Choteau, with wife Mary Guardipee, sons John and unnamed Guardipee. In the 1904 census he is shown as: Eli L Guardipee / male / Head / age 47 / listed with wife Sadie Guardipee, sons Frank, Charles and William Joseph Guardipee, daughters Josephine, Louise and Agnes Guardipee. In the 1910 Census he is living at Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Teton County, with wife Sadie Guardipee, daughters Louisa and Agnes Guardipee, son William Guardipee.

James Willard Schultz describes Eli in his book, *My Life as an Indian*.

*The Pikunis and a few lodges of Bloods arrived soon after we completed the post, and came, too, one who was to become and always remain a close friend of mine, Eli Guardipee, named by the Pikunis Isinamakan, "Takes Gun Ahead." He was of that family for which so many places in the north are named, as, for instance, the Guardipee Crossing of Bow River. He was but a year older than I; tall, slender, very intelligent, kind of heart, brave to a fault; and the most successful hunter, the surest shot that I have ever known.*

### **Louis Riel's Petition of 1880**

On August 6, 1880, Louis Riel and the Montana Métis sent a petition for a Métis reserve in Montana to General Nelson A. Miles. A number of family patriarchs led this group, namely; Francois Amyotte Sr. (b. 1819), Pierre Berger Sr. (b. 1816), William Davis Sr. (b. 1824), Louis Gariépy (b. 1828), Salomon Hamelin (b. 1810), and Pierre Laverdure (b. 1819).

The Gariépy men who signed this petition were:

### **Gariépy, Baptiste Sr. (b. 1832)**

Jean Baptiste Gariépy was born at White Horse Plains, the son of Louis Gariépy and Josephte Ducharme. He married Judith Cardinal, the daughter of Antoine Cardinal and Marie Comptois, his brother Louis married her sister Marie Cardinal.

### **Gariépy, Jean Baptiste Jr. (b. 1861)**

Jean Gariépy Jr. was born on March 16, 1861, the son of Baptiste Gariépy and Judith Cardinal.

### **Gariépy, Elie. (b. 1857)**

Elie Gariépy was born on May 31, 1857 at St. François Xavier, the son of Jean-Baptiste Gariépy and Judith Cardinal. He married Antonia Kataitsipi-tsaki, the daughter of Matusohan and Auetsipiaki, in 1885 at Badger Creek, St. Peter's Mission, Montana.

### **Gariépy, Louis (1828-1884)**

Louis was born in 1828, the son of Louis-Marie Gariépy and Josephthe Ducharme. On January 14, 1851, he married Marie Cardinal the daughter of Antoine Cardinal and Marie Comptois. They had children born in Canada at St. François Xavier, Fort Ellice and Lebret as well as in the USA at Flat Willow Creek and Poplar River. His brother-in-law Narcisse Cardinal also signed Riel's petition. He died on January 17, 1884 at Lebret.

### **Gariépy, Leonide. (b. 1852)**

Leonide, called "Can-da-we-cam-chi," was born or christened on June 2, 1852 at St. François Xavier, the son of Louis Gariépy<sup>2</sup> and Marie Cardinal. His grandparents were Louis Gariépy Sr. and Josephthe Ducharme. He married first married Josephthe Boulette (before 1873) then married Marguerite Pelletier at Lebret on September 6, 1875 and was later married to Marie Rose Laroque "Cak-ik-ay-asee-quia" (Going-by-the-wind), born at Great Falls, Montana, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Larocque and Julie Lemire at Judith Basin, Montana in 1881. In 1878, Leonide and his father Louis were members of the group of buffalo hunters at Cypress Hills who petitioned the government for a reserve in 1878.<sup>3</sup> His younger brother Eli "Isinamaken" Guardipee (Gariépy) (1857-1942) also signed this petition. They along with their father, Louis Gariépy also signed the petition for a Métis reserve in Montana, sent by Louis Riel to General Nelson A. Miles, August 6, 1880.

Leonide is listed on the Rocky Boy Band Census of 1909 as #106, age 60, his wife Cak-ik-ay-asee-quia (Going -by-the-wind) is listed as #107, age 56. Their son Oat-chi-case (James) age 20, born in Alberta, is listed as #108, Louis, age 19 is # 114, and daughter Christine, age 17 is shown as #109. Helen "Mess-app" age 14 is #110. Charles age 10 is #111. Peter "Chat-chepp, age 7, born at Fort Hall is #112. Amelia, age 4, born at Butte, is #113. The family also appears on the Rocky Boy Band Census of 1917.

Scrip application:

Gariépy, Leonide - Concerning his claim as a child - Address, Medicine Hat - Born, 1850 at St. Francois Xavier - Father, Louis Gariépy Jr., (Métis), deceased - Mother, Marie Cardinal, (Métis) - Married, 1877 at Qu'Appelle, to Marguerite Pelletier and to Marie Rose Larocque at Missouri, USA in 1881 - Children living, two (names on declaration) - Children deceased, three - Scrip for \$240 - Claim 342

### **Gariépy Family During the 1885 Resistance**

#### **Gariépy, Auriel.**

Auriel was a member of Captain Philippe Gariépy's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance.

---

<sup>2</sup> Louis Gariépy was a voyageur with the North West Company (1804, 1811-1820) and the Hudson's Bay Company (1821-1824). In 1824, he retired to St. Francois Xavier where he worked as a blacksmith.

<sup>3</sup> Requesting a re-opening of the buffalo hunt between November 14<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> each year and the granting of Métis "reserve" land (A strip of land 150 miles long along the American border beginning where the Pembina River crosses the border. This strip was to be fifty miles from south to north.

**Gariépy, Ambroise.** (b.c. 1862)

Ambroise was the son of Philippe Gariépy and Rosalie Parenteau. He and his father were both active in the Resistance and are listed on Garnot's list as #178 and 179.

Later, in 1892 at Batoche Ambroise married Virginie LaPlante, the daughter of Jean Baptiste LaPlante and Angelique Paul.

**Gariépy, Caroline (Lafournaise)** (b. 1842).

Caroline was the daughter of François Gariépy and Helene Poitras. She married Guillaume Lafournaise before 1868. Father Cloutier reports that Caroline fed and housed Father Touze when the battle and other events at Duck Lake took place.

The Lafournaise *dit* Laboucane family lived at Moose Woods then at Duck Lake. In 1878, six brothers of the Laboucane family left White Horse Plain in Manitoba and headed west for the Battle River (Alberta). Members of the St. Germain and Poitras families accompanied them. Three Laboucane brothers, Jean-Baptiste, Gabriel and Elzéar settled on land north of the river crossing and the other three, Jerome, Pierre and Guillaume settled on the south side. During the last days of fighting at Batoche, many of the women and children from the Muskeg Lake Métis Band took refuge at Laboucane.

Guillaume played an active role in the 1885 Resistance at Batoche, as did his nephew and his brother. After 1885 they were resident at the Laboucane Settlement later to be known as the Old Duhamel Settlement.

**Gariépy, Charles Saluste "Sheesheep."** (b. 1850)

Charles, also known as Sheesheep (Duck) was the son of Pierre Gariépy and Louise Rose Marie Grant. He married Virginie Blandion. He was a member of Captain Auguste Laframboise' company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. He was wounded in battle at Duck Lake.

**Gariépy, Daniel.** (b. 1854)

Daniel was the son of Pierre Gariépy and Louise Rose Marie Grant. He married Adele Fagnant at Carlton. They lived at Lot 37 in the St. Laurent Settlement. He was a Captain of one of the 19 companies led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. Cloutier's journal notes that Daniel was one of the fighters at Duck Lake (Vol. 1, p. 77).

He was wounded in the wrist and the chest by a single bullet during the third day of fighting at Batoche.<sup>4</sup>

**Gariépy, Daniel Jr.**

Daniel was the son of Daniel Gariépy and Adele Fagnant. He lived at Tourond's Coulee then at Duck Lake. Daniel Jr. was a member of Captain A. Belanger's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance.

**Gariépy (Gurriepy), Jean Baptiste.** (b. 1835)

Baptiste was the son of François Gariépy and Louise Gladue. He and his wife were

---

<sup>4</sup> Gabriel Dumont, *Gabriel Dumont Memoirs*, Edited by Denis Combet, translated by Lise Gaboury-Diallo. Winnipeg: Les Éditions du Blé, 2006: 92.

members of the Turtle Mountain Band and took annuity payments from 1868-1870.<sup>5</sup> He married Marie Fagnant then Helene Beardy of Chief Beardy's family. He was an elected St. Laurent (South Saskatchewan) Council member in 1873.

**Gariépy, Philippe Elzéar.** (1839-1900)

Philippe was part of the original 1871 St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan governing committee that was headed by Gabriel Dumont. He was born at St. Francois Xavier on August 11, 1839, the son of François Gariépy (b. 1871) and Louise Gladue. They were all members of the Turtle Mountain Band. He married Rosalie Parenteau at Pembina and they initially lived at St. François Xavier. He was living there in 1876 when he applied for scrip, listing himself as a trader and plains hunter. Rosalie, born 1844 in St. Norbert, was the daughter of Joseph Dodet Parenteau and Angélique Godon. The couple had ten sons and three daughters. Philippe and Calixte Lafontaine went to Montana in 1884 to visit family at Lewistown and accompanied Gabriel Dumont's party part way on their journey to recruit Louis Riel.

The Gariépys moved to St. Louis de Langevin in 1882 and lived on Lots 3, 4 and 6 (T45-1-3). Philippe was involved in the 1885 Resistance at Duck Lake with Gabriel Dumont. He is credited with saving one of the wounded men that others wished to kill. He was a member of the Exovedate and a Captain of one of the 19 companies led by Gabriel Dumont. He is mentioned in Dumont's account of the fighting at Tourond's Coulee and he was part of the last stand in the graveyard trenches at Batoche with Edouard Dumont, Elzéar Parisien, the two Lavalée brothers and one Cree. Isidore Dumas says that at the battle for Batoche

*On one occasion, Philippe Gariépy and Pierre Laverdure were both seen kneeling down on the hillside and coming out in the open to shoot. When one led, the other would follow; and between them existed a sort of rivalry as far as courage was concerned. "You are going to get killed!" shouted the Métis. But they would not listen.*<sup>6</sup>

Philippe was arrested on June 1, 1885, tried for treason-felony, and on August 14, 1885 at Regina sentenced to seven years and did serve a part of this sentence.

In his testimony of August 13, 1885 at the Regina trial Father Alexis André says:

*Philip Gariépie, forty-eight years of age, I have known for twenty-five years. He has been married for twenty years, and has a large family of six children. All the settlers know this man and respect him. He is one of the most respectable and peaceable men in the whole country, kind-hearted and gentle as a woman. I am informed that he is accused with having abused a wounded man—Newitt. From my personal and intimate knowledge of this man's character and disposition, I do not hesitate to pronounce this accusation to be false and unfounded. It is repugnant to every feeling in the heart of a man like Gariépie. It is the act of a savage and brutal and wolfish nature and disposition. He is quite the contrary—kind, amiable and charitable, while*

---

<sup>5</sup> Gail Morin. *Turtle Mountain Chippewa, Pembina Band; Annuity Payments and Census*. Quinton Publications, n.d. p. 38.

<sup>6</sup> SHM, p. 61.

*his accuser, who is, if I am rightly informed, one Leveque, is totally unworthy of belief. He came to the Saskatchewan poor and miserable, and was treated kindly by Gariépy, whom he now tries to ruin. (CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, p. 384)*

Children of Philippe Gariépy and Rosalie Parenteau:

- Ambroise, born circa 1862; he married Virginie Laplante.
- William, born circa 1862, he died in March of 1870.
- Francois, born circa 1865.
- Philippe, born June 20, 1820 at St. François-Xavier, he died on October 27, 1888.
- Victor, born October 1, 1872 at fish Creek, he married Elizabeth Brabant.
- Josue, born December 2, 1874 at St. Laurent, he died in 1875.
- Isidore, born November 25, 1875 at St. Laurent.
- Francois, born 1875 at St. Laurent, he died in 1880 at fish Creek.
- Marie rose, born January 27, 1878 at St. Laurent, she died in 1884.
- Gabriel, born August 5, 1880 at St. Laurent, he married Emma Caron in 1920 at Bellevue, he died in 1935.
- Josue, born September 1881 at St. Laurent, he died in November 1882.
- Virginie, born September 1882 at St. Laurent, she died in January 1884.

Scrip Applications:

June 28, 1876: Scrip affidavit for Gariépy, Philippe; born: April 4, 1843; father: François Gariépy (Métis); mother: Louise Gladu (Métis); claim no: 2618; date of issue: April 20, 1877; amount: \$160

July 5, 1875: Scrip affidavit for Gariépy, Rosalie, wife of Philippe Gariépy; born: February 9, 1844; father: Joseph Parenteau (Métis); mother: Angélique Gordon (Métis); claim no: 2619; date of issue: April 20, 1877; amount: \$160

Gariépy, Gabriel; address: Bellevue, Sask; claim no. 535; born: 5 Aug., 1880 at St. Laurent; father: Philippe Gariépy (Métis); mother: Rosalie Parenteau (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 795 for \$240.00

**Gariépy, Pierre.** (b. 1826)

The older brother of Philippe, Pierre was the son of François Gariépy and Louise Gladue. They were all members of the Turtle Mountain Band. He married Rose Marie Grant, daughter of Cuthbert Grant and Mary McGillis. The couple was enumerated in the 1870 census at St. François Xavier. In 1872, they settled on the west side of the river at St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan. The couple had thirteen sons and three daughters.

Pierre was elected as a St. Laurent Council member in 1873. He was visiting relatives in Montana in 1884 when the Batoche delegation arrived to ask Louis Riel to return to the North West Territory. Riel had Pierre bring his important papers north as he was afraid government authorities would seize them. Gariépy was active in the 1885 Resistance and part of Riel's Exovedate. He was arrested on May 19, 1885, charged with



treason-felony and sentenced on August 14, 1885 at Regina to three years in prison because of his participation in the 1885 Resistance.

### Pierre Gariépy

In his testimony of August 13, 1885 at the Regina trial Father Alexis André says:

*Pierre Gariépie (sic) is an old man of fifty-five (sic) years of age, and has a wife and seven children and has been all his life nearly on the plains as a hunter. He has a large family, and is ignorant of the ways of political tricksters and civilized agitators. He is just one or two degrees above the Indian, but was a leader among the plain hunters. Riel made him believe there would be no trouble or violence, and when the wounded at Duck Lake were about to be brutally massacred by the Indians it was this old man in particular who saved them. (CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, p. 383)*

### **Gariépy, Romuel.** (b. 1856)

Romuel was the son of Pierre Gariépy and Louise Rose Marie Grant. He married Rose Fagnant, in 1881 at Duck Lake. She was the daughter of Resistance fighter Cuthbert Fagnant. Romuel was wounded during the fighting at Batoche.



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