

## **Primeau (Primot), Jean-Baptiste.** (1841- c. 1899)

Baptiste, born at St. Boniface on June 14, 1841, was the son of Joseph Primeau<sup>1</sup> and Marguerite Stevenson. He married Rosalie Smith at St. Norbert in 1859. He was a member of the Carlton community and was involved with Gabriel Dumont in 1875 in enforcing the Laws of the Hunt against a Métis party led by HBC employee Peter Ballantyne. Baptiste was a Captain of one of the 19 companies led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. His son, Jean Baptiste, brother François Primeau (1840-1935), and nephew François Primeau (b. 1864) also lived at Duck Lake and participated in the 1885 Resistance. Their claims before the Scrip Commission were reserved and later approved.

His sister Marie Primeau was married to Jean Baptiste Vandal, (1830-1888). Her husband and their sons Joseph, Pierre Modeste and William were active in the 1885 Resistance. They lived at Saint-Boniface and St. Norbert before they moved to Tourond's Coulee in 1873. In 1877 Jean-Baptiste returned to Red River to make a scrip application on which he listed himself as a plains hunter. Jean Baptiste was one of Riel's 12 counselors during the 1885 Resistance. He was also a Captain of one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. He took part in the Battle of Duck Lake. Gabriel Dumont gave Vandal his famous rifle after he was wounded in this battle. He served one year of a three year prison sentence for his participation in the 1885 Resistance. Jean Baptiste was the uncle of activist Pierre Vandal.

Baptiste Primeau married Rosalie Smith dit Cabry at St. Norbert on September 6, 1859. They lived at Grand Rapids and Portage la Loche then moved to Duck Lake and then Carlton.

### Children:

- Jean-Baptiste, born 1851, he married Eliza Lafond on February 1, 1887 at Duck Lake.
- Stephanie, born 1864 at Lake Caribou, she married Modeste Bourassa. Modeste was the son of Louis Bourassa and Marguerite Nisandaway Otchayick Lafleur. He was married to Stephanie Primeau (1883 at Duck Lake) then to Philomène Lucier (1892 at Duck Lake). He was also a member of Captain Baptiste Primeau's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance.
- Sophie, born 1867 and died in 1883 at Carlton.
- Basile, born 1868 and died 1882 at Carlton.
- Jeremie, born 1871 and died 1872 at Carlton.
- Augustin, born 1874 and died in 1883 at Carlton.

In July of 1885, Jean-Baptiste applied for Half Breed Scrip on behalf of his children Sophie and Basile. He refused to answer questions put to him as to his participation in the 1885 Resistance. As a consequence his claim was reserved because of his participation in the Resistance and later allowed on September 30, 1886.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Joseph Primeau held HBC lot 327 at Red River.

<sup>2</sup> The Deputy Minister of the Interior instructed (June 11, 1886) that all claims disallowed because of resistance activity would now be



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