

## Truthwaite, Jacob. (1786-1873)

Jacob Truthwaite was born around 1786, probably at Gloucester House in the Albany district, son of a Cree woman named Elizabeth Pocatheia (b. c. 1770) and Englishman Matthew Truthwaite (1753-1793), a carpenter with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). On April 17, 1782, Matthew signed a five year contract to serve with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) as a "Joiner" (Carpenter). His salary was to be £25 per annum. That summer he set sail from England, bound for Fort Albany on James Bay. On Oct 10, 1782 Matthew arrived at Henley House. Three days later he set off for Gloucester with John Kipling, but they were forced to return to Henley on Oct 17 due to river conditions. On Nov 19, they set out once more with 6 sledges, arriving at Gloucester on December 15, 1872.

NAME: TRUTHWAITE, Matthew	PARISH: Saint Marylebone, Middlesex, ENGLAND	ENTERED SERVICE: 17 April 1782 (A.32/)	DATES: b. ca. 1753 d. 18 Feb. 1793	
Appointments & Service				
Outfit Year*	Position	Post	District	HBCA Reference
<i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i>				
1782-1792	Carpenter, Joiner	Albany	Albany	A.30/2, fo. 63; A.30/3, fo. 2, 24, 46, 69; A.30/4 fos. 2, 28, 61; A.30/5 fos. 6, 33
1792-1793	Master	Gloucester House	Albany	A.30/5, fo. 59; A.16/5 fos. 58, 106; A.16/6 fo. 60
1793, 24 January	Confined to bed after "a severe fit of sickness"			B.3/b/30 fo. 21d
1793, 18 February	Died			B.3/b/30 fos. 21d-22d

Father: John Truthwaite, administrator of the will (A.1/47 fo. 42 (misnamed Matthew); A.5/3 fo. 145; A.44/1 p. 108)  
Sister: Hannah Kipling (A.5/3; John Kipling's Will made 3 May 1793 in Stockton, Co. Durham, Search File "Kipling, John")  
Wife: Pocatheia (John Kipling's Will made 3 May 1793 in Stockton, Co. Durham, Search File "Kipling, John")  
Children: Edward ( John Kipling's Will made 3 May 1793 in Stockton, Co. Durham, Search File "Kipling, John")  
Jacob (born 1786, see Ellen Cooke, *Fur Trade Profiles: Five Ancestors of Premier John Norquay*, 1979)

### REFERENCES:

Search Files: Kipling, John (fl. 1772-1794), Gloucester House

### NOTES:

Biography subject to revision

Filename: Truthwaite, Matthew (ca. 1753-1793) (fl. 1782-1793) JHB 11/97



For the next few years Matthew worked there as a carpenter there. At that time James Sutherland (1751-1797) was Second in Command to Kipling at Gloucester House. Jacob's father died either at Albany House or Gloucester House in 1793 when Jake was only about seven years old. Thereafter his widowed mother Pocatheia raised him in the life-style and culture of the Cree. He spoke fluently in both Cree and English.

Around 1800 Jacob began to work as a carpenter for the HBC at Fort Albany, an apprentice to Shipwright James Thompson. In the years that followed he also worked as a voyageur, a canoe oarsman and laborer; eventually a steersman, frequently travelling river routes to and from inland trading posts.

NAME: TRUTHWAITE, Jacob      PARISH:      ENTERED SERVICE: 1800      DATES: b. 1790 (E.5/4-11)

Appointments & Service Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
1800	Carpenter, apprentice to James Thompson, Shipwright	Fort Albany		B.3/a/104
1800-1829	Steersman, assistant trader and interpreter		Southern Department	A.16/21, fo.75d-76
1829	Retired to the Red River Settlement			A.16/21, fo.75d-76

Father: Matthew  
Wife: Elizabeth Vincent bapt. & nmarried 12 March 1830 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 75d; E.4/1b, fo.227)  
Children: Elizabeth bapt. 12 March 1830 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 75d )  
Isabella bapt. 12 March 1830 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 75d)  
Jane bapt. 12 March 1830 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 75d)  
Mary bapt. 12 March 1830 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 75d)  
Thomas bapt. 12 March 1830 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 75d)  
Harriet bapt. 31 January 1831 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 82)  
Sarah bapt. 20 Dec. 1833 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 106)  
Ann bapt. 26 Feb. 1839 (HBC Archives E.4/1a fo. 129d)



Filename: Truthwaite, Jacob (b. 1790) (fl. 1800-1829); CO 2002 September; rev. JHB 2002/10

Jacob married Elizabeth Vincent (Métis) “according to the custom of the country” sometime before 1816. She was the daughter of Thomas Vincent, HBC Chief Factor at Albany, and Jane Reston. Around 1815 during an inland voyage, Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter Jane at Brandon House. Jacob would spend the rest of his HBC career as an Interpreter and Assistant Trader in the Southern Department. Daughter Isabella was born in 1818 and a son Tom was born in 1820 at Albany.

#### Children:

- Jane, born c. 1816, at Brandon House, she married James Anderson the son of James Anderson and Mary (Saulteaux) on February 23, 1832 at St. John’s.
- Isabel, born circa 1818, she married John Norquay, the son of Oman Norquay and Jane Morwick on February 21, 1832 at St. John’s.
- Thomas, born March 18, 1820 at Fort Albany, he married Catherine McDermott, the daughter of Andrew McDermott and Sarah McNab.
- Elizabeth, born c. 1825, she married James Richards, the son of Jean Baptiste Richards and his wife Margaret.
- Mary, born March 1830, she married Thomas Mowat, the son of Edward Mowat and Margaret Stewart.
- Sarah, born November 22, 1835 at St. Andrew’s, she married William Pruden, the son of Peter Pruden and Joseph Jolicoeur on March 29, 1854.
- Ann (Nancy), born January 17, 1839, she married Andrew McDermott, the son of Andrew McDermott and Sarah McNab.

Jacob retired around 1829. By that time he was about 43 years old; Elizabeth about 27 years old. They had five children by then, Jane (age 13), Isabella (age 11), Thomas (age 9), Mary (age 6) and Elizabeth (age 4). For his Hudson’s Bay Company service, he was granted a river lot in the Red River Settlement. The family journeyed south from Albany by canoe, travelling west along

the Albany River, English River and Winnipeg River to Lake Winnipeg; from there up the Red River to their new farm site at what was known as “The Grand Rapids” in the Parish of St. Andrews. On November 4, 1830 Jake acquired a river lot of 100 acres with a frontage of 6 chains (Lot 46). This later became Lot 104 in St Andrews Parish (1870). This is just south of present day Stevens Avenue and the Lockport Bridge. In 1831 Rev William Cockran established the first (log) Anglican Church referred to as “The Rapids Church”. Jacob Truthwaite, an experienced carpenter, was instrumental in the construction of this church.

In 1835 Jacob was recorded on Lot 96 in St Andrews. There were six people in his household. He had 14 cattle, two farm implements and a cart. He had nine acres under cultivation.

On Jan 8, 1873, Jacob Truthwaite died in St Andrews; his wife Elizabeth died in 1875.

Source: <http://www.redriverancestry.ca/TRUTHWAITE-JACOB-1786.php>

Scrip:

Scrip affidavit for Truthwaite, Jacob; born: 1790; died: Jan. 8, 1873; father: Matthew Truthwaite (English); mother: Elizabeth Truthwaite (Métis); heirs: his wife & children Elizabeth (died before scrip issued); Thomas (deponent); Sarah, wife of Wm. Pruden; and Ann, wife of Andrew McDermot Jr.; claim No; 374; scrip no: 9094 to 9096; date of issue: July 3, 1876; amount: \$160.

Scrip affidavit for Truthwaite, Elizabeth; born: 1802; died: July 6, 1875; father: Thomas Vincents (English); mother: Jean Vincents (Métis); heirs: her children Thomas (deponent); Sarah, wife of Wm. Pruden; and Ann, wife of Andrew McDermot Jr.; claim no: 373; scrip no: 9091 to 9093; date of issue: July 3, 1876; amount: \$160.

### **The Truthwaite House**, Lockport, in “Early Red River Homes” by Lillian Gibbons

*MHS Transactions*, Series 3, 1945-46 season

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/transactions/3/redriverhomes.shtml>

Five generations of Truthwaites have lived in this house. The three now within the stone walls carefully preserve a faded piece of paper that declares Jacob Truthwaite to be the owner of one hundred acres of land on Red River. The faded brown inked document, dated 1831, is in the handwriting of Sir George Simpson, governor-in-chief of Rupert’s Land.

Mrs. H. M. Ross, Mrs. William H. Hart and Dorothea Hart combined to tell the story of the document. “See, the place is described as two miles below the Rev. William Cochrane’s, so he was the best known person along the river.” Jacob purchased seventy-five acres from his employers, the HBC, at seven shillings and sixpence an acre - \$140, and was given twenty-five more acres free of charge.

The first house was replaced about 1878 by the present one. Much of the material was used again, the doors, for instance, and stock locks, the white painted kitchen cupboards and table, all in use well over a hundred years now.

There's a grandfather clock that has been in the family over two hundred years and has crossed the ocean twice as it was left to a new owner. There are McDermot relics, too, because Grandmother Ross's mother, Mrs. Thomas Truthwaite, was Catherine, third daughter of Andrew McDermot. Her McDermot teapot, a squat old silver one with four curved legs, and her chair, with an adjustable back, are shown to visitors. The armchair has grooves worn in the arms "where great grandma sat and cracked nuts," said Dorothea. Andrew McDermot's writing case, a heavy wooden affair, doubtless saw the composition of some of the first letters to leave Red River for the outside world. Now the Truthwaite house is the post office for the district, despatching letters in a fraction of the time.

The red plush family album, that looks like a box, was taken from the chilly splendour of the parlour with its stuffed furniture and whatnot, to the comfortable dining room with its heater.

The McDermot silver teapot was brought out, and "Miss Truthwaite's" wine-and-gold-rimmed white china cups. Over the tea, the family album was turned, page by page. Here was Andrew McDermot, his wife, his daughter Catherine. Here was Mrs. Ross when she was little Harriet in her first polonaise, standing very erect beside a tufted horsehair chair. This was Alex Logan, a mayor of Winnipeg; there were Norquays and Lillies. This was A.G.B. Bannatyne and his wife, who was Annie McDermot. Archbishop Machray and Lady Dufferin, though not relatives, were included in the family album because they were as familiar as the family. The home-made bread and butter, the tea, the fine cups, the polished pot, and the history, all combined to make a pleasant house-story on a wintry afternoon.



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