

Vandal, Jean-Baptiste.¹ (1830-1888)

Baptiste was born at Edmonton, the son of Pierre Vandal² and Charlotte Hughes. He married Marie Primeau, the daughter of Joseph Primeau and Marguerite Stevenson. They lived at Saint-Boniface and St. Norbert before they moved to Tourond's Coulee in 1873. In 1877 he 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 *dizianes* 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 Pierre Vandal. He appears on Garnot's list of Resistance participants as #55. His sons, William and Pierre Modeste were Resistance participants.

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

Baptiste Vandal is the near neighbour of Poitras, and I can say the same about him that I do of Poitras. He resisted for a long time before he could be forced to join Riel, and did so only from fear and compulsion. He has a large family of a wife and eight children, and is a very poor man, and is an old man of about fifty (sic) years of age. Riel wanted to name him a Captain but he refused positively to act, and he was appointed one of the guards over the prisoners, and they all agree that he was most kind to them, and gave them any little comfort in his power, such as tobacco. (CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, p. 385)



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¹ A signator of Gabriel Dumont's petition (dated St. Antoine de Padoue, 4th September, 1882) to the Prime Minister for a survey and land grants.

² Pierre Vandal had HBC lot 313 at Red River.