

## History of the Charette Family of Manitoba and Saskatchewan

### Jean-Baptiste Charette (1775 - 1852)

In 1794 – Jean-Baptiste was a voyageur for the HBC, St. Boniface & West and a carpenter for the North West Company Red River Settlement. He was born on 29 January 1775 in Sainte-Geneviève, Montréal, Québec, Canada, the son of Joseph-Moïse Charette and Marie-Catherine Legault.

He married Charlotte Sansregret in 1802 in Rupert's Land. Jean-Baptiste died on 25 Feb 1852 in the Red River Settlement. Charlotte Sansregret dite Paul was born about 1785 on the Qu'Appelle River, the daughter of Ambroise Sansregret and a Saulteaux woman. First she married Jean-Baptiste Lachevrotière, then married Jean-Baptiste Charette in 1802.

#### Children:

- Marie-Anne, born circa 1804 at Lac Qu'Appelle. She married Pierre Venne.
- Marguerite, born circa 1808 at Red River. She married Jean-Simon Belgarde.
- Jean Baptiste, born circa 1810. He married Angélique Petit, then married Josephte Monet dite Belhuhumeur.

Scrip affidavit for Charette, Baptiste & claim of Eliza Charette; father: Joseph Charette (Métis); Father of Eliza Charette: Wm. Dease (Métis); claim no.: 1787; scrip no.: 10684; date of issue: Sept. 20, 1876; amount: \$160 N.W.1/4 22, S 1/2, N.E. 1/4 31, Tp. 9, R.2, E to Eliza Charette.

Scrip affidavit #2576, for Charette, Alexandre; born: Oct. 4, 1841; father: Baptiste Charette (Métis); mother: Angélique Petit (Métis).

- Joseph William, born August 6, 1816. He married Marie Gosselin.  
Scrip affidavit for Charrette, Marie; wife of Joseph Charrette; born: July, 1820; father: Michel Gosselin (French Canadian); mother: Marguerite (Indian); claim no.: 1786; scrip no.: 10683; date of issue: Sept. 20, 1876; amount: \$160.
- Catherine, born circa 1820 at Lachapelle. She married Pierre Laverdure.

By 1811, the Pembina Trail leading south from The Forks along the west bank of the Red River to Fort Daer was well known and well used. Former North West Company [NWC] carpenter, Jean-Baptiste Charette and his wife Charlotte Sansregret, built a “sturdy oak storey-and-a-half cabin” at Rivière Sale as a stopping house for travellers — the first commercial venture at the location. A few Métis families, engaged in the seasonal pursuits of freighting, farming, and the buffalo hunt, followed the Charette's lead and settled nearby — and lent aid to under-supplied Selkirk Settlers in 1812.

Jean Baptiste Charette

J. Baptiste Charette was employed by the North West Company from 1811 to 1821. His wage from 1812-1814 was 450 livres per annum, 400 livres in 1815, approximately 233 livres in 1816 and 300 livres per annum from 1817-1821. (F.4/32 fo. 197) In 1820 he served in the Red River/Lake Winnipeg area. (F.4/22 p.9)



From 1821-1823 J. Baptiste Charette served "up Red River" for the Hudson's Bay Company for a wage of 600 livres per annum. (B.239/g/1 fo. 41, B.239/g/2 fo. 37, B.239/g/3 fo. 40) He retired in 1824 (B.239/g/4 fo. 58, B.239/g/64 fo. 58) but appears to have maintained an account with the Company until 1830. (B.239/g/5 fo. 58, B.239/g/6 fo. 57, B.239/g/7 fo. 54, B.239/g/8 fo. 56, B.239/g/9 fo. 65) No reference to him has been traced after 1830.



CHARETTE CABIN BUILT 1812

To Fort Garry unquestionably goes the honour of the site of the first private house in the province. Along the Trail, just north of the Sale River, also known as the Stinking River because of its salt springs and alkali waters, there stood a sturdy oak storey-and-a-half cabin believed to have been built in 1811-12. This was the home of Baptiste Charette, a carpenter with the North West Company. The cabin was demolished in 1953.

Photo: Winnipeg Tribune

Parc Charette Park now commemorates the homestead the Charette family established at that site in the early 1800s that served as a halfway point between the Red River Settlement and the

Morris River (formerly Scratching River) and a resting place for travellers making their way to the settlement. The original half-log home was built by Baptiste Charette, the family's patriarch and a carpenter with the North West Company, using glass imported from England and metal hardware brought by ox cart from St. Paul, Minn.

The house was considered to be the earliest home built in the Red River Settlement area. The home was condemned following the flood in 1952. The home was also used as a small store carrying goods from the Hudson Bay Company and at one point was a meeting place for Joseph Charette and a group of Métis who were opposed to Louis Riel's agenda.

Winnipeg historian Philippe Mailhot said the Charette family predated the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers and the naming of the park recognizes St. Norbert's rich Métis history.

“A lot of people don't realize that there was a significant Métis population in the area before 1812,” Mailhot said. “It's a recognition of the Métis history of the Red River Settlement and St. Norbert in particular and one of the old time Métis families.”

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:**

### **Jean-Baptiste Charette (b. 1810)**

Jean-Baptiste Charette, born circa 1810, the son of Jean-Baptiste Charette and Charlotte Sansregret who was the Métis daughter of Ambroise Sansregret dit Paul. He married Angélique Petit, the daughter of Thomas Petit and Marguerite Daunais circa 1839. He then married Josephte Monet dit Belhumeur, the daughter of Michel Monet dit Belhumeur and Josephte (Saulteaux). Their home was a well-known stopping place on the trail south to Pembina, North Dakota.

Baptiste Charette appears in the Red River Censuses of 1838, 1840 and 1843. He was listed as a Native (ie. born in Rupert's Land) and a Catholic. In 1838 he was unmarried and living with J. Simon Belgarde. Also living with J. Belgarde was a Joseph Charette. (Native, Catholic, unmarried). In 1840 & 1843 Baptiste Charette was listed as married with one daughter under fifteen years of age. He owned 2 acres of cultivated land. In 1840 Joseph Charette was married with one son under sixteen, one daughter under fifteen and he owned 3 acres of cultivated land. (E.5/9 fos. 7d-8, E.5/10 fos. 7d-8, E.5/11 fos. 4d-5)

Their home was on the Sale River in St. Norbert, it was demolished in 1952.



J.-B. Charette Home, St. Norbert, circa 1925. PAM, Still Images Section.  
St. Norbert Collection. -- Homes. Item Number 3.



Joseph N. Charette and farm buildings, St. Norbert, circa 1890. PAM

**François Joseph Charette.** (1849 - 1926)

Frank was born on 27 March 1849 in St. Boniface, the son of Joseph William Charette Sr. and Marie Genevieve Gosselin. He married Marguerite Mary McLeod (b. 1851), the daughter of Neil McLeod and Louise Dease on January 9, 1872 at St. Boniface. François died on 7 December 1926 in St. Norbert. Margaret died in 1904 at St. Norbert.

Frank was a man of average size, dark skin, and long curly black hair. François was born in St. Boniface and moved to St. Norbert. In 1908 he purchased land in Morris, Manitoba. He was known as a hard-working man who enjoyed a drink. Stories say he drove his horse and cart into Winnipeg to enjoy the pubs, a day or two later the horses would be back without François and the family would go and pick him up.

In 1869, François was present at the Resistance at Hudson Bay Co. at Lower Fort Garry. François and an Indian companion hid in empty sugar barrels till they could escape.

Scrip affidavit for Charette, Joseph; born: Aug. 6, 1816; father: Baptiste Charette (French Canadian); mother: Charette (French Métis); claim no.: 1785; scrip no.: 10682; date of issue: Sept. 20, 1876; amount: \$160.

Scrip affidavit #817 for Charette, François; born: 27 March 1849; father: Joseph Charette; mother: Marie Gosselin.

Scrip affidavit #816 for Charrette, Marguerite; wife of François Charrette; born: 25 November 1851; father: Nathaniel McLeod Scot; mother: Louise Dess [sic].

Scrip affidavit for Charette, Pierre; born: 4 May 1848; father: Joseph Charette; mother: Marie Gosselin.

Scrip affidavit #3800, for Charette, Solomon; born: 1 January 1854; father: Joseph Charette; mother: Marie Gosselin.

Scrip affidavit #817, for Charette, François; born: 27 March 1849; father: Joseph Charette; mother: Marie Gosselin.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:**

**Daniel Charette Sr.** (b. 1840)

Daniel was the son of was the son of Joseph Charette Sr. (b. 1816) and Marie-Ann Gosselin, the daughter of Michel Gosselin and his Assiniboine wife, Marguerite Duroleaux.

Daniel was born at St. Norbert on July 6, 1840. He married Marie-Anne Belanger, the daughter of Abraham Belanger and Marie Anne Versailles in 1861 at St. Norbert. The couple had five children. They subsequently moved to St. Isidore de Bellevue where they lived near his

father-in-law, Abraham Belanger, also a Resistance activist.<sup>1</sup> Daniel was a member of Captain Antoine Lafontaine's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. His younger brother Joseph Charette was also active in the Resistance. Daniel appears as "David Charette", #189 on Philippe Garnot's list. His oldest son Daniel (1865-1942), also living at St. Isidore de Bellevue, was involved in the Resistance. Daniel Sr. died circa 1924 in Midnight Lake, Saskatchewan.

Children:

- Marie-Anne, born December 23, 1861 at St. Norbert. She married Elie Nault.
- Daniel, born December 5, 1865 at St. Norbert. He married Marie alexandrine Parenteau.
- Elenore, born November 21, 1867 at Sty. Norbert. She married Frederick Paul.
- Marie Rose, born circa 1871, died March 1873.
- Alphonsine, born May 13, 1873 at St. Norbert. She married Edouard Ambroise fisher.

Scrip affidavit for Charette, Daniel; born: July 6, 1841; father: Joseph Charrette (Métis); mother: Marie Gosselin (Métis); claim no.: 1783; scrip no.: 10680; date of issue: Sept. 20, 1876; amount: \$160.

Scrip affidavit for Charrette, Marie Anne; wife of Daniel Charrette; born: Apr. 6, 1841; father: Abraham Belanger (Métis); mother: Marie Anne Versaille (Métis); claim no.: 1784; scrip no.: 10681; date of issue: Sept. 20, 1876; amount: \$160.

**Joseph Charette. (1841-1890)**

Joseph Charette was the son of Joseph Charette Sr. (b. 1816) and Marie Ann Gosselin, the daughter of Michel Gosselin and his Assiniboine wife, Marguerite Duroleaux.

Joseph was born at St. Norbert on December 22, 1841. He married Rosalie Collin, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Collin and Elizabeth Henry in 1864. Jean Baptiste Collin and his wife Elizabeth were on the Pembina annuity roll for Little Shell's band of Chippewa Indians in 1867 (#195). A hunting family, they lived at St. Norbert, the Cypress Hills, Wood Mountain, and Duck Lake. The couple had eleven children. Joseph died in March 1890 at Duck Lake. His son Joseph died the following November and was also buried at Duck Lake. Both were active in the 1885 Resistance. His older brother Daniel Charette (b. 1840) was a member of Captain Antoine Lafontaine's company, one of the 19 *dizaines* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance.

Before noon the 24 April, Joseph Charette was sent with another scout in the morning on the north side of the river. He had not wanted to take his gun but he had brought his binoculars. Arriving at Rochelot's place he heard the first discharge from the coulee. His associate refused to advance and watch the battle. They spent the day there. During the battle, he is on the opposite bank behind a mound and in such a position so he could see. He stays near the ridge. From there he observes some of the soldiers coming on his side, on the

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<sup>1</sup> Abraham was a Captain of one of the Dizaines and is shown on Philippe Garnot's list of Resistance participants as # 185.

same bank. He changes places and sees both sides. Those on the south bank make a detour to attack the Métis in the coulee. Those on the north bank see them, fail to recognize them, and fire on them. Before the signal of recognition was given, those on the south were inflicted with several shots, which happily did not result in anything.<sup>2</sup>

Scrip affidavit for Charette Jr., Joseph; born: Dec. 22, 1841; father: Joseph Charette Sr., (Métis); mother: Marie Gosselin Joseph Charette Sr., deponent in the case of Joseph Charette Jr., his son.

Scrip affidavit # 2771, for Charette, Rosalie; wife of Joseph Charette Jr.; born: 1842; father: Baptiste Collin (Métis); mother: Bethsy Honore (Métis).

Charette, Rosalie (née Collin) mother of Frederick Charette deceased - Scrip number A 1219 - Amount 40.00\$ - Certificate number D 446.

Charette (née Collin), Rosalie (Mother and one of the heirs of Marie Celina Charette) - Scrip number A 25167 - Amount 40.00\$ - Certificate number D 458.

Scrip affidavit for Charrette, Marie; wife of Joseph Charrette; born: July, 1820; father: Michel Gosselin (French Canadian); mother: Marguerite (Indian); claim no.: 1786; scrip no.: 10683; date of issue: Sept. 20, 1876; amount: \$160.

Scrip affidavit for Charette, Joseph; concerning the claims of his children; name: Marguerite Charette; born: 25 December 1857; father: Joseph Charette; mother: Marie Gosselin; name: Celina Charette; born: 13 December 1859; name: Alexandre Charette; born: 8 May 1862; name: Patrice Charette; born: 30 November 1865; name: Norbert Charette; born: 21 March 1887.

Charette, Daniel; address: File Hills; claim no. 612; born: July, 1874 at Cypress Hills; father: Joseph Charette (Métis); mother: Rosalie Colin (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 460.

Charette, Leonide; address: File Hills; claim no. 610; born: 1882 at Wood Mountain; father: Joseph Charette (Métis); mother: Rosalie Colin (Métis); scrip cert.: form C, no. 340.

### **Jean-Baptiste Charette. (b. 1843)**

Jean-Baptiste Charette was the son of Jean Baptiste Charette Sr. (b. 1810) and Angélique Petit of St. Norbert. He married Marie-Anne Laverdure the daughter of Joseph Laverdure and Therese Villebrun before 1867. He then married Marie Beauchamp, the daughter of Jerome Beauchamp and Geneviève Parisien in 1877 at Lebrét. On September 7, 1876, Jean-Baptiste and the Métis at Fort Walsh submitted a petition, on behalf of the Métis of the four districts of

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<sup>2</sup> Cloutier, *op cit* Vol. 2, pp. 3-4.

Assiniboia to join Treaty 4. He also signed petition for a Métis reserve in Montana, sent by Louis Riel to General Nelson A. Miles, August 6, 1880.

Children with Marie Anne Laverdure:

- Joseph, born January 9, 1867 at St. Joseph. He married Rose Doney.
- Marie, born September 1869, married Gabriel Wilkie.
- Clémence, born June 24, 1870, married André Azure.
- Simon, born August 9, 1872, married Marie Morin.

Children with Marie Beauchamp:

- François, born April 21, 1878, married Marguerite Rosalie Bruneau.
- Jerome, born August 1880, in Fergus County, Montana.
- Jean Louis, born May 1882 and died June 21, 1948 at Lewistown, Montana.
- Thomas, born February 1886 at Fergus County Montana and died December 8, 1934 at Lewistown, Montana.
- Pauline, born August 1887 at Lewistown, Montana, married John Swan.
- John, born August 1888 at Fergus County, Montana.
- Mary F., born June 1991.



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