

## Arcand, Joseph. (b. 1833)

Joseph was born at St. François Xavier March 15, 1833, the son of Joseph Arcand and Marie Vestro dite Gesson. He was employed with the HBC as a Middleman from 1855 to 1859 and is shown as a Freeman at Red River in 1859.<sup>1</sup> He married Josephite McKay in 1861; they were enumerated at White Horse Plain in the 1870 census and then settled at St. Laurent on the South Saskatchewan in 1882. He fought for the Métis in the 1885 Resistance. His name appears as #255 on Philippe Garnot's list of Resistance participants.

Cloutier's journal notes that Joseph was present at Duck Lake stationed along the road.<sup>2</sup> During the fighting at Tourond's Coulee Joseph Arcand is one of the first Métis to reach the group that had been surrounded all day by Middleton's troops. Isidore Dumas reports:

Around six o'clock we hear two rifle shots from near Batoche—our people say—those are our people, others say—no. Right after we see three of our riders. When the three riders arrived, they recognized Moïse Ouellette, Edouard Dumont, and the third probably Joseph Arcand, plus a brigade while yelling Hourrah! We get out of the coulée.

[Isidore Dumas reported] The first ones to come to the rescue at the battle of Fish Creek were Joseph Arcand riding Napoleon Nault's little gray mare; Moïse Ouellette; Edouard Dumont; and Daniel Ross.<sup>3</sup>

Joseph was arrested on May 19, 1885, tried for treason-felony and sentenced to a jail term of one year with hard labour on August 14, 1885. In his testimony of August 13, 1885 at the Regina trial Father Alexis Andre says:

Joseph Arcand is a poor, harmless kind of individual, about fifty years of age, with a wife and six children living. He was plunged in misfortune at the time of the rebellion. He lost two children by death during that time, and was almost in despair. He took no part in any fight, and was sent away to protect the prisoners in Poundmaker's camp, where his conduct was kind and considerate. The poor man is still keenly suffering from the sad loss of his children, and is an object of pity more than vengeance. (CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, p. 384)

On the same date Father L. Cochin testified: "Joseph Arcand was one of the most ardent of the Half-Breeds in protecting the prisoners from being killed, maltreated or robbed by the savages." (*Op. cit.*)

Before sentencing, Robert Jefferson gave a statement on Joseph Arcand's behalf:

Arcand and Cadieux, above mentioned, were at Battleford during the latter part of the rebellion for the purpose of standing between the Indians on one side and the half-breeds and teamsters and other white people on the other, and they did nothing else during their stay in the camp. (Sworn August 11, 1885)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> HBCA, B.239/g/95-96/97-98/99.

<sup>2</sup> Gabriel Cloutier, P.A., V.G. *Journal de l'abbé Cloutier, Vols. 1 and 2*, 1885. Archives de l'Archevêché de Saint-Boniface (AASB), Vol. 1, p. 77.

<sup>3</sup> Société historique métisse fonds (SHM) Boite 1346, Chemise 066: p. 41.

<sup>4</sup> CSP, 1886, Vol. 13, No. 52, 399.



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