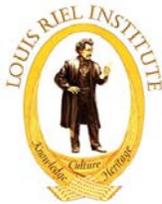


Gabriel's Crossing:

In 1871, Gabriel Dumont settled on a farm on the east bank of the South Saskatchewan River at another Carlton Trail river crossing about six miles upstream from Batoche. This site is about half a mile south of the present day Gabriel's Bridge. Over the years he built a small store/tavern/pool hall and developed a farm of about twenty planted acres. He also raised horses that he used as leader of the buffalo hunts. In 1872, Dumont replaced the Hudson's Bay scow moored at this crossing with a regular ferry and entered into competition with the Batoche ferry. He posted an advertising sign on the Carlton Trail where it divides near the present day community of Humboldt. The sign listed his rates and was written in English, French and Cree. Dumont's ferry was 22 feet long by twelve feet wide, held by rope and moved by oars. In 1877, the Northwest Territories began to regulate ferry services and Gabriel had to apply for a license to operate.



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