## **Edwin Bourke, M.L.A.** (1836-1915)

Edwin was born at Red River on September 19, 1836, the son of John Palmer Bourke and Nancy Campbell. He married Isabella Hallett on March 26, 1862. They had six children. Edwin was a buffalo hunter, farmer and politician. Later he inherited the Hay Field Farm in St. James from his father. This farm was purchased by his father when it was the Hudson Bay Company's Experimental Farm also called the Colony Farm.

During the scares about possible Fenian raids in 1871, Edwin was chosen as Captain of the volunteer force formed to protect the colony however this fear came to naught. He was elected as an MLA for the riding of St. James in the Manitoba general election of 1870 and re-elected in 1874 and served until 1878. In his later years he served on the St. James Council. His brother Andrew was elected MLA for Baie St. Paul Parish on July 23, 1877.

In 1863, Edwin married Isabella Hallett, daughter of William Peter Hallett and Maria Pruden. They had six children: William Bourke, Walter Palmer Bourke (1865-1866), Edmond Bourke (1866-1958), Maria Ann Bourke (1868-1973), Florence Bourke (1870-1955), Catherine Isabella Bourke (1872-1957), and Arthur Herbert Bourke (1875-1962).

Edwin Bourke died at Ocean Park, California on 18 March 1915.



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