

Charles Pratt (1816-1898)

Charles Pratt, a man of Métis, Ojibwa, Nakoda and Plains Cree ancestry served as an interpreter for Treaty 4, and also signed as a witness (signed on September 15, 1874)

Charles Pratt (1816-1888), an Anglican Catechist, was also known as Askenootow (Worker of the Earth). Pratt was born in 1816 among the Young Dogs band of Cree/Assiniboines, part of the Nehiyaw Pwat confederacy, at the fish weir between Mission and Echo Lakes in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Educated at Red River, Pratt was employed as an interpreter for Treaty 4.

His mother was Cree and Nakota and his father was a Métis buffalo hunter, Zacharia Floremond. Pratt was a cousin of Chief Piapot. In 1841, he married Catherine Sinclair (Métis, b. 1826) of Norway House, the daughter of Peter Sinclair and Mary Fidler. They had twelve children. Widowed in 1869, he married Elizabeth Harriett (b. 1853), the daughter of Kashepuyas in 1874. Charles Pratt took treaty with his lifelong friend Kaneonuskatew (George Gordon) in 1874.

He is remembered as an Anglican lay reader, catechist and schoolteacher (1851–84), interpreter for Treaty 4 at Fort Qu'Appelle (1874), and the first First Nations person from the Canadian plains to receive a western education. Between 1820-1823, he was train as an Anglican lay minister at Touchwood Hills. In 1823-24 he was educated at the Anglican Church Missionary Society's (CMS) Red River Indian Mission School (est. 1820). The condition under which he was sent was that he be returned to assist his people once he had learned how to read and write. Pratt rejoined his buffalo hunting people in 1832, and between 1835 and 1848 he worked for the Hudson's Bay Company as a middleman and steersman with the HBC 1835-1845 and as a hunter in 1848-49 at Lake Manitoba. In 1850 he returned to the CMS as an interpreter and schoolteacher.

Over the course of his career, Pratt established five inland missions at Fort Pelly, Qu'Appelle Lakes, Round Lake, and Little and Big Touchwood Hills. Charles Pratt died on May 27, 1898.

Family Métis Scrip:

Pratt, Henry George (Son of Charles Pratt) - Scrip number 3325 - Amount 240.00\$.

Pratt, Henry George (Son of Charles Pratt) - Scrip number 3325 - Amount 240.00\$ - Certificate number NWT.

Pratt, Anne; address: Touchwood Hills; born: 1841 at Fort Pelly; father: Charles Pratt (Métis); mother: Catherine Sinclair (Métis); married: 1860 at Touchwood Hills to Andrew McNabb; children living: William, Alfred James, Sarah Ellen, Margaret Jane, Patrick, Edwin, Eliza and Rachel; children deceased: Flor, Samuel, Nathan and Catherine Amelia; scrip for \$160.00; claim no. 1317.

N.W.H.B. Child Parents: Charles Pratt and Catherine Sinclair. Born 1857. Money Scrip \$240.00. RG15-D-II-3. Volume/box number: 182. File number: HB 1650.



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