

## **Primeau, François. (1840-1925)**

François was born at Fort Alexandre in 1840. He was the son of Joseph Primeau and Marguerite “Betsy” Stevenson. He married Caroline Parisien, the daughter of Hyacinthe Parisien and Joseph Carrière in 1862 at St. Norbert. They had six children at Red River, St. Albert, Saddle Lake and Duck Lake. He then married Marie Larocque, the daughter of Francois Larocque and Angelique Sayis in 1876. Francois and Marie had five children. When married to Caroline he lived at St. Boniface/St. Vital, St. Albert and Saddle Lake. While married to Marie they lived at Grand Point, Duck Lake and Carlton. In his claim for Half Breed Scrip he asserted that he had fled to avoid being conscripted to fight in the Resistance. His claim was accepted and approved in July 1885. His brother Jean Baptiste (b. 1841) was a Captain of one of the 19 companies led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. His son, Francois Primeau (1840-1935) and nephew Jean Baptiste Jr. (b. 1861) also lived at Duck Lake and participated in the 1885 Resistance.

His sister Marie Primeau was married to Jean Baptiste Vandal, (1830-1888). Her husband and their sons Joseph, Pierre Modeste and William were active in the 1885 Resistance. They lived at Saint-Boniface and St. Norbert before they moved to Tourond’s Coulee in 1873. In 1877 Jean Baptiste returned to Red River to make a scrip application on which he listed himself as a plains hunter. Jean-Baptiste was one of Riel’s 12 counselors during the 1885 Resistance. He was also a Captain of one of the 19 *dizianes* led by Gabriel Dumont during the 1885 Métis Resistance. He took part in the Battle of Duck Lake. Gabriel Dumont gave Vandal his famous rifle after he was wounded in this battle. He served one year of a three year prison sentence for his participation in the 1885 Resistance. Jean Baptiste was the uncle of activist Pierre Vandal.



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