

Maxime Lepine. (b. 1836)

Maxime Lepine was born in St. Boniface, the son of Jean Baptiste Berard dit Lepine and Julia Henry (Metis). Maxime married Josephite Lavallee also of St. Boniface. They had six children who lived to adulthood.

Maxime lived at St. Francois Xavier in the 1870s and ran a freighting company that used Red River carts to transport goods as far west as Fort Carlton and Ile-a-la-Crosse, and south to Pembina and St. Paul Minnesota.



Maxime was brother-in-law and close friend of Louis riel. Both Maxime and his brother Ambroise Didyme were members of Riel's first Provisional government in 1869. Ambroise was Riel's military commander during the 1869-70 Resistance. After Manitoba entered confederation in 1870, Maxime escaped reprisals from Ontario Orangemen. He was a founding member of the Metis organization, Union Saint-Alexandre in 1871.

Maxime was elected to the Manitoba Legislature on December 23, 1874 as M.L.A. from St. Francois Xavier and served until 1878. Due to the influx of eastern settlers and the erosion of Metis rights he left the province in 1882 and moved to St. Louis de Langevin on the South Saskatchewan River. There he operated a ferry from his river lot and farmed. On November 19, 1883, he signed a petition protesting the Order-in-Council transferring the Metis lands at St. Louis to the Prince Albert Colonization Company (largely owned by Conservative politicians and their relatives).

He was active in the 1885 Metis Resistance at Batoche. He was a member of Riel's Exovedate. Along with his two sons he fought at Tourond's Coulee and Batoche. At Tourond's Lepine held a Cross in on hand and his rifle in the other, he never fired a shot

because his gun was defective. Lepine was arrested on May 19, 1885 and sentenced to seven years prison at Regina on August 14, 1885 but was released in 1886. He died in poverty at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan on 16 September 1897.



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