

Cree, Lakota, Dakota and Saulteaux Warriors Who Fought in the 1885 Resistance

In this article we list about 100 First Nations warriors who had some connection to Gabriel Dumont or the other Metis fighting during the 1885 Resistance. During the fighting at Batoche the Lakota and Dakota warriors held the southern flank along the river. The Cree warriors held the northern flank near “Belle Prairie.” The Muskeg Lake Band under Chief Petaquaquey came down to join with Beardy and Okemasis. Chakastapaysin’s Band—that lived northwest of Batoche along the Saskatchewan River and shared their hunting territory in the Carrot River Valley with One Arrow’s Band—came to join with the other Willow Cree to assist the Metis during the Resistance. The Lakota Sioux living south of Moose Jaw in the Dirt Hills came north to join with the Dakota Sioux from White Cap’s group. Other Sioux from the Prince Albert area joined their relatives at Batoche.

A band of twelve Sioux Indians from the reserve near Moose Jaw raided Cope-land’s store at Saskatoon this morning. They demanded the arms and ammunition in the store, and on his refusing; they drew their revolvers and threatened to kill him. Word has just been brought to the General who has ordered out the scouts to bring them in.¹

After Sitting Bull returned to the United States in 1881, there were about fifty Dakota lodges in Canada. Of these about sixteen went to Dundurn (Prairie Ronde) Saskatchewan, for the winter and then to Batoche where they remained until the 1885 rebellion. Siyaka and two of his brothers, Mato Wakakesija (Tormenting Bear), Kangi Tameaheca (Lean Crow), and Lethbridge’s grandfather, Mato Luta, were with this group and took part in the battle at Batoche. Mato Wakakesija was killed, while Mato Luta and Kangi Tameaheca were taken prisoner.²

These men were often in the forefront of the fighting and performed memorable acts of bravery. These First Nations and Metis warriors were facing great odds and were ill equipped. At the Battle of Tourond’s Coulee also (also known to the English as “Fish Creek”) Dumont’s forces dwindled to only 50 to 60 men under the pressure of Middleton’s cannons and Gatling Guns. He was also hampered by a lack of horses—only half the men at Tourond’s Coulee had mounts. More serious yet were a lack of operable fire-arms and eventually the absence of ammunition. According to Gabriel Dumont, most of the Cree were armed only with sticks with rounded tops used to pound potatoes.³ Most of the Metis were armed with duck guns but some had Winchesters. Most of the Indians and Metis using powder and shot were forced to stop firing when their powder became wet.

¹ *Minnedosa Tribune*, “The Rebellion,” April 24, 1885: 2.

² Father Gontran Laviolette, *The Dakota Sioux in Canada*. Winnipeg: DLM Publications, 1991: 192-193.

³ PAM, MG 10, F1, PSHM, p. 21, cited in Diane Payment, “The Willow Cree of One Arrow First Nation and the Metis of Batoche 1870-1820”, Parks Canada, 1997: 13.

[During the fighting at Duck Lake, Okemasis reports] When I got up the ridge the bullets were coming pretty close, so I withdrew and went around by another way. The trail crossed the ridge, and I went back and heard a shout: 'They are running back!' At the place on the ridge I went to I saw the body of a man; it was my own brother lying dead. I was afraid. From there I saw people lying dead all around.⁴

Acanmachini was one of the Willow Cree warriors from One Arrow's Band fighting at Tourond's Coulee. When Isidore Dumas begins singing to allay their fear Acanmachini begins to dance. At the same time some Metis shout to him, "Your horse has been killed." "What's a horse!" Acanmachini replied; "as long as I am not wounded, there is no harm in that."⁵ His brother Kahokootayemet also participated in the Resistance.⁶

As Middleton's troops close in only the 45 Indians and Metis remained surrounded in the bluff. Shortly before noon, Petit Corbeau's son is killed.

[This story is told of Mato Wakakesija (Tormenting Bear) at Tourond's Coulee] ...The limping Indian, the one who was walking with a crutch when leaving Batoche, sings his death song. After his chant, he says: 'Courage; when we were born, they told us we were men. Courage if we are going to die, we will die today.' He advises his brother to sing with him. The lame man stands up, and makes a few little jumps – the sun is going down⁷.

[At Batoche in the heat of the fight] Edouard Dumont goes back toward Old Champagne's and stops there for a while. A Sioux was standing there and leaning on his gun. A bullet hit the hand with which he held the gun barrel and which he had positioned in front of his chest. Edouard thought he had been killed. "No," says the Indian, shaking his bloody hand about; "the bullet hit the gun barrel."⁸

During the fighting the First Nations warriors were subject to abuses not endured by the Metis. E. R. Johnson, a city editor for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* gives the following account of the behaviour of Middleton's troops at Fish Creek on April 28, 1885:

Some of our soldiers mutilated the dead Indians left on the field by cutting off scalp locks, while all the bodies of the reds were looted of bangles, bracelets, moccasins, etc.⁹

Many Metis had close family ties with the local Cree and Dakota groups. Vital Dumont dit Cayole, a Headman of One Arrow's Band, was Gabriel Dumont's cousin. Vital's sons, Louis and François (Dumont's nephews) were participants in the Resistance. Opik-ownew, a Cree, was the adopted son of Jean Dumont. Andre Nolin was a Dene

⁴ Cited in Charles Pelham Mulvaney, M.D. *The History of the North-West Rebellion of 1885*. Toronto: A. H. Hovey & Co., 1885: 314-315.

⁵ Société historique métisse fonds (SHM) Boite 1346, Chemise 066: p. 39.

⁶ Diane Payment, "The Willow Cree of One Arrow First Nation and the Metis of Batoche 1870-1820", Parks Canada: 1997 p.13.

⁷ Cloutier's Journal, *op cit* Vol. 2, p. 6.

⁸ SHM, 69-73.

⁹ Wiebe and Beal, 1985: 93-94.

(Chipewyan). Members of White Cap's Band were related to the Trottiers and Laframboises of Prairie Ronde. Okemasis's daughter was married to Charles Trottier. The Trottier and Laframboise families and were married to women from Beardy's Band. The Metis Gariépy (Gardipy) family had relatives who were band members of Beardy's Band. The Cayen *dit* Boudreau family was in the positions of Chief and Headman for Muskeg Lake Band when Treaty 6 was signed. The Flamand family belonged to Muskeg Lake Band and the Ledoux from Muskeg Lake were son-in-law and grandson to Chief Mistawasis. Baptiste Deschamps, Augustin Laframboise, Louison Favel and Basil Favel had all been of the Band list of the Carlton "Stragglers" at one time.

Cree, Lakota, Dakota and Sauteaux Warriors

Acanmachini, The Rock Used to File Bones.
One Arrow's Band

Assiyiwin (Ah-si-we-in).
Okemasis Band

Atim-wah-you, Pierced Sky or Dog Tail. (b. 1839)
Headman of One Arrow's Band

Badger, William. (b. 1820)
Headman of John Smith Band

Biting Eagle.

Bras Coupé (Cut Arm), Seekaskootch.
See the entry under Seekaskootch.

Breaking the Ice.

Cah-hree-ta-mah-hitchi, Poor Crow, Lean Crow or Little Crow.
Lakota Sioux from the Moose Jaw area. Poor Crow or Lean Crow's name is written Congee-tam-aichih in the records of the Lakota Sioux at Moose Jaw.

Cayen *dit* Boudreau, Alexandre Jr.. (1859-1886)
Muskeg Lake Band, son Chief Kitowehyaw and Marie McGillis *dit* Jerome.

Cayen (Cadiou) *dit* Boudreau, Antoine. (b.c. 1823)
Headman of Muskeg Lake Band.

Cha-kas-ta-paysin, Shadow on the Water, Mirage du Soleil, Sunshine. (b. 1829)
Chief of Chakastapaysin Band.

Cha-pi-to-la-ta:
Lakota Sioux

Cheswepew's son.

Chicicum, Boss Bull, Splashing Water.
Beardy's Band

Corbutaplank.

Crow, John L.
Dakota Sioux

Coyote (Piche), François. (b. 1847)
Bobtail Band, Chief Bobtail's son.

Curly Hair Bear, Frank Thomas.

Deschamps, Baptiste. (b. 1849)
Carlton Stragglers Band.

Dumont *dit* Cayole, François. (b. 1855) Spouse,
Monique (Bellerose)
One Arrow's Band.

Dumont *dit* Cayole, Louis. (b. 1853) Spouse, Philomene
(Roussain)
One Arrow's Band.

Dumont *dit* Cayole, Vital. (1830-1895) Spouse, Adelaide
(Gagnon)
Headman of One Arrow's Band.

Earth.

Eyayasoo, Crow.
One Arrow Band, the son of Pasescumqua (The Rump).

Favel, Louison. (b. 1842)
Carlton Stragglers in 1879. then a member of Poundmaker's Band.

Flamand, Joseph. (b. 1857)
Muskeg Lake Band, but later became a member of Muscowpetung Band.

Iron Stone.

Ja-pa-to-pa, or Cha-pi-to-la-ta. (d.1885)

Dakota Sioux from White Cap's Band, possibly his son or an adopted son.

Kahkwaytowayoo, The Repeater.

One Arrow's Band.

Kahokotayement, Trial Man or Bras Coupe.

One Arrow's Band.

Kah-pah-yak-as-to-cum, One Arrow. (1815-1886)

Chief of the One Arrow Band.

The following men who participated in the Resistance were One Arrow Band members:

Acanmachini, The Rock Used to File Bones, one of the bravest warriors at Tourond's Coulee;
Atim-wah-you, Pierced Sky or Dog Tail, a Headman of the Band, sentenced to two years jail;
Dumont *dit* Cayole, François;
Dumont *dit* Cayole, Louis;
Dumont *dit* Cayole, Vital, a Headman of the Band, escaped to Montana;
Eyayasoo, Crow, arrested and sent to Regina for trial, received a suspended sentence;
Kahkwaytowayoo, The Repeater;
Kahokotayement, Trial Man or Bras Coupe.
Kaphoo, The Man Who Crossed His Hands;
Koh-ah-mah-chee, Left Hand or The Lame Man, a Headman of the band, sentenced to three years jail;
Ledoux, Pierre;
Moonias, White Man, Larocque, a Headman of the Band, escaped to Montana;
Nahpaces, Little Man, sent to Regina for trial and sentenced to two years jail;
Pascal was a member of the Chakastaypasin Band then transferred to One Arrow;
Pasecumqua, La Croupe, The Rump; One Arrow's half-brother;
Sinnookeesick, John Sounding Sky, One Arrow's son-in-law.

Kah-ma-yis-tooways.

Beardy's Band.

Kah-nah-kas-kowat, Stopped Here. (b. 1819)

Headman of Beardy's Band

Kah mee use kom mee we in, The Spring Man.

Willow Cree

Kah-tah-twayphotoetuwaht or Tahtwahootowaht (Bird Landing on something Repeatedly)

Ahtahkakoop's Band.

Kakookeechin (Wolf *dit* Lightfoot), William.

Headman in Red Pheasant's Band.

Kamabough. (d. 1885)

Committed suicide on July 28, 1885.

Kamiscowesit, Chief Beardy. (1828-1889)

Chief of Beardy's Band.

Some of Beardy's Band members reported to be in the Resistance are:

Beardy, Helene
Kahmayistoowap
Kahnahkaskowat
Kalikkoowit (The Cariboo) Headman
Lafond, Isabelle
Mettaywaysis
Parisien, Joseph
Trottier, Madeleine
Trottier, Joseph Sr.
Wapahoo

Ka-tik-koowit, The Caribou. (b. 1814)

Headman of Beardy's Band.

Kangi Tamahecha (Lean Crow or Poor Crow). (1835-1919)

Lakota Sioux from Moose Jaw. Poor Crow or Lean Crow's name is written Congee-tam-aichih in the records of the Lakota Sioux at Moose Jaw.

Kapahoo, The Man Who Crossed His Hands, Mulligan.

One Arrow's Band.

Kee-too-way-how or Keeteewayhow (Cayen, *dit* Boudreau) Alexandre. "Sounding with Flying Wings."

Spouse, Marie (McGillis)
Former Chief at Muskeg Lake.

Kee-nick-kwah-nah-siw (Flying in a Circle Going Up to a Point)

Ahtahkakoop's Band

Kiyewakan

Dakota Sioux.

Koh-ah-mah-chee or Koma-matchew, Left Hand or The Lame Man. (b. 1829)

Headman of One Arrow's Band.

Koopekeweyin, Edward.

Chakastaypasin Band.

Ledoux, Isidore. (b. 1873)

Muskeg Lake Band

Mahvaderie (Yellow Bird).

White Cap's Band.

(The) Man They Whooped At.

Mato Luto (Red Bear): (c. 1840-1887)

Lakota Sioux from Moose Jaw.

Mato Wakakesija, Cha-pi-to-la-ta or Tormenting Bear. (d. 1885)

Lakota Sioux from Moose Jaw.

Measure.

Mettaywaysis.

Beardy's Band.

Meskeke-a-wahsis (Medicine Child) Gaudry, Gabriel.

(b. 1852) Spouse, Marie Anne (Seesakwachenin)
Strike-Him-On-The-Back's Band.

Moonias, White Man, Larocque. (b. 1849)

Headman of One Arrow's Band.

Moostoos (Buffalo).

Nahpaces, Little Man.

One Arrow Band.

Napasis (Ballentine), Fred Samuel. (d. 1928)

Poundmaker's Band

Neepaquatatous.

Neesoopahtawein.

Chakastaypasin's Band, he was Chakastaypasin's grandson.

Nipis (Water).

Nupa Kikte (Kills Twice – Big Joe Ferguson). (1868-1952)

Lakota Sioux from Moose Jaw.

Oka-doka, The Hole or White Dog.

White Cap's Dakota Band.

Okemassis, Xavier (Little Chief). (b. 1841) Spouse,

Marie Therese (Gladu)

Chief of Okemasis Band.

Oos-ka-ta-task, The Carrot.

Opikonew (Dumont), Edouard.

Opikonew was a Cree, the adopted son of Jean Dumont, Gabriel's uncle.

Otchipew (Ojibwa), Alexis.

Pascal.

Chakastaypasin Band.

Pasecumqua, La Croupe, The Rump.

One Arrow Band, a half-brother of Chief One Arrow.

Petequakey (Cayen dit Boudreau), Isidore, (1845-

1889) Spouse, Marie (Cardinal).

Chief of Muskeg Lake Band.

The following band members were active in the Resistance:

Cayen *dit* Boudreau, Antoine

Cayen *dit* Boudreau, Alexandre Jr.

Flamand, Joseph

Henry, Marie

Keetoowayhow, Alexander (Cayen *dit* Boudreau)

Laframboise, Louise (Ledoux)

Ledoux, Alexis

Ledoux, Isidore

Ledoux, Joseph

Ledoux, Marie Ann (Morrisette)

Ledoux, Semoque

Lafond, Jean Baptiste, Tchehasaso

Laframboise, Augustin

Petaquakey, Isidore (Cayen *dit* Boudreau)

Trottier, Albert

Trottier, Isabel (Cayen *dit* Boudreau)

Wolf, Isidore

Peayasis (Desjarlais), François (b. 1824)

Chief of Peayases Band at Lac la Biche.

Racette dit Pelletier, Louis. (b. 1845)

Moosomin's Band, formerly Yellow Sky's Band.

Red Blanket.

Seekaskootch, Blood from Cut Arm, Bras Coupé. (d. 1885)

Seekaskootch was Chief of the Onion Lake Band.

Sinnookeesick, John Sounding Sky, John Batoche.

One Arrow's Band, married to Natchookoneck (Spotted Calf, Calf of Many Colours), the daughter of Chief One Arrow.

Sisiapew, Sitting Duck.

Sitkadansapal, Blackbird

Blackbird was Chief White Cap's adopted son.

Siyaka (Teal Duck).

Lakota Sioux from Moose Jaw.

Takuwakan.

White Cap, Takuwakan was White Cap's brother-in-law.

Ta-Tan-Kah-Sa-Pah, Black Bull (d. 1897).

Lakota Sioux Chief living at Moose Jaw.

Tchehasaso (LaFond), Jean Baptiste. (1853-1916)

Spouse, Josette (Meutekumah)

Muskeg Lake Band.

(The) Trotter.

Trottier, Michel. (1832-1885) Spouse, Marie-Marguerite (Landry).

Beardy's Band.

Trottier, Albert. (1860)
Muskeg Lake Band.

Trottier, Charles Jr. (b. 1865)
Spouse Madeleine Okimassis.
Beardy's Band.

Trottier, Michel. (1832-1885)
Spouse Marguerite Landry.
Beardy's Band.

(The) Twin.

Underground Child.

Wah-mah-de-dota, Red Eagle.
White Cap Band, the son-in-law of Chief White Cap.

Wah-pi-ti-wa-ki-pe (Joli Corbeau or Fine Crow). (d. 1885)
Dakota Sioux.

Wah-pi-ti-wa-ki-pe's, Son.
Dakota Sioux

Wah-pah-ha-ska, White Cap. (1819-1889)
Chief of White Cap Band.

The following members of White Cap's band participated in the Resistance:

Blackbird (Sitkadansapal);
Little Crow;
Ja-pa-to-pa, or Cha-pi-to-la-ta;
Kiyewakan
Mad Bull;
Mato Luto (Red Bear);
Mato Wakakesijata or Tormenting Bear;
Mahvadehrie (Yellow Bird);
Oka-doka, The Hole or White Dog;
Siyaka, Teal Duck;
Takuwakan;
Wah-mah-de-dota, Red Eagle;
Wah-pi-ti-wa-ki-pe's, Son;
Wah-pi-ti-wa-ki-pe (Joli Corbeau or Fine Crow);
Wakaokan, Humpback
Watsas;
Wech-awe-cope-win;
Yellow Blanket.

Wahpahsos (White Skin, Chatelain).
Ahtakakoop's Band.

Wakaokan (Humpback).

Wapahoo, White Owl.
Beardy's Band

Watsas. (d. 1885)
Dakota Sioux.

Wech-awe-cope-win.
White Cap's Band.

Wolf, Isidore.
Headman of the Muskeg Lake (Petaquakey) Band.

Yellow Blanket.

Wolf, Isidore.
Headman, Muskeg Lake Band.



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