

Toussaint Lucier. (b. 1828)

Toussaint was born June 8, 1828 at St. Boniface, the son of Pierre Toussaint Lucier and Josephite Lachevrotiere a métisse. He was married to Louise Brazeau in 1855. She was the daughter of Louis Brazeau and Louise Legarde. Together they had five sons and five daughters. In Manitoba, he held HBC lots 554 and 557. The family was enumerated at St. François Xavier in 1870 and filed a scrip application there in 1875.

Toussaint was a Riel supporter in both 1869-70 and 1885. He took part in the Metis Resistance of 1885, was captured and held at the Regina Jail. He was reputed to have been the strongest man in the Northwest.

W. G. Fonseca, reports that Lucier was manning the St. Norbert barricade on October 20th, 1869.

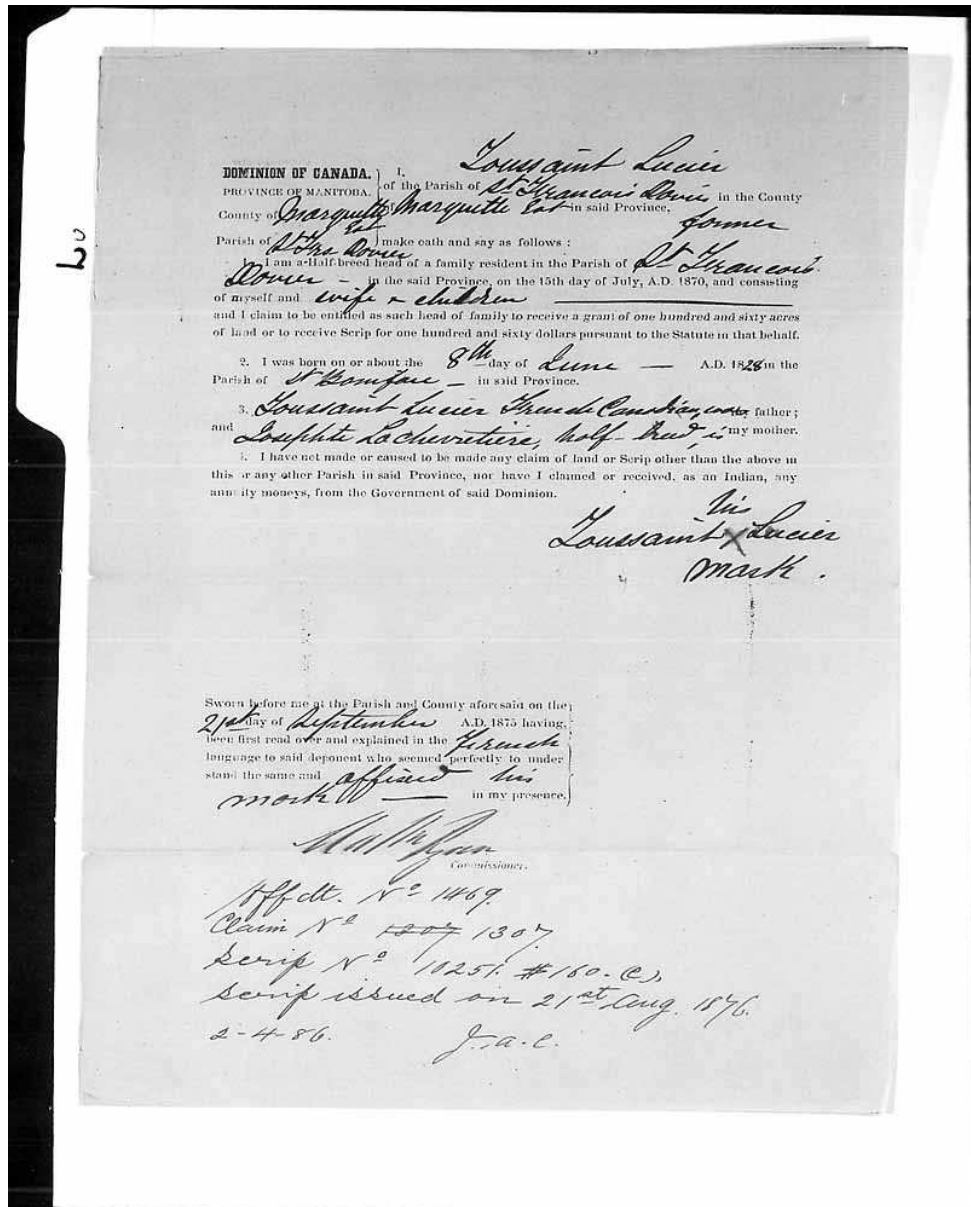
The man, Lucier, one of the guards, is a Hercules. His enormous strength is irresistible. I saw him, when on a return trip from St. Paul, place a barrel of alcohol containing forty gallons [350 lbs.] on his shoulder without assistance, cross a submerged bridge when the pathway of logs were afloat on stringers, requiring prodigious strength, and repeat the feat six times.¹

It is reported that Toussaint would perform strongman exhibitions at country fairs, lifting a pony over his head. In the 1890s he and his wife operated a hotel at Snake Plain, near present day Mont Nebo, Saskatchewan.

The bush hotel is a wooden farm-house, consisting of two rooms: the kitchen, and a dormitory above it. Toussaint Lucier, an old French Half-Breed, and his Indian wife, are the proprietors, and a fine stalwart row of tall sons and daughters, and a few grandchildren, still live under the family roof. The walls of the kitchen are adorned

¹ William G. Fonseca, "On the St. Paul Trail in the Sixties." *Manitoba Historical Society Transactions*, Series 1, No. 56, January 25, 1900.

with some Roman Catholic pictures, and it had the general appearance of a peasant's house in France; but the French-Canadians, mixed with Indian blood are a much stronger-looking, handsomer race, than any class in France; they lead a healthy outdoor life, fishing and shooting; and as timber can be had for the cutting, they need never suffer from cold indoors. The Indian wife had fallen into the French style, except that in the evening she consoled herself furtively in a corner with a pipe; and she, like all the family, spoke very good French. She was sixty-two, and had not a white hair among her thick black tresses.²



² Catherine L. Johnstone. *Winter and Summer Excursions in Canada*. London: Digby, Long & Co. 1894: 65-66.

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DOMINION OF CANADA. 1. *Louise Lucier* —
 PROVINCE OF MANITOBA. of the Parish of *St. Francois Xavier* in the County
 County of *Assiniboia* of *Assiniboia* in said Province, *wife of*
 Parish of *St. Francois Xavier* *Louisant Lucier, former*
 make oath and say as follows:

I am a Half-breed head of a family resident in the Parish of *St. Francois Xavier*
St. Francois Xavier in the said Province, on the 15th day of July, A.D. 1870, and consisting
 of myself and *husband & children*
 and I claim to be entitled as such head of family to receive a grant of one hundred and sixty acres
 of land or to receive Scrip for one hundred and sixty dollars pursuant to the Statute in that behalf.

2. I was born on or about the *28th* day of *October* A.D. *1846* in the
 Parish of *St. Boniface* — in said Province.

3. *Louis Bazeau, Creole,* was my father;
 and *Juste Leforde, half-breed,* is my mother.

4. I have not made or caused to be made any claim of land or Scrip other than the above in
 this or any other Parish in said Province, nor have I claimed or received, as an Indian, any
 annuity moneys, from the Government of said Dominion.

Louise Lucier
mark

Sworn before me at the Parish and County aforesaid on the
21st day of *September* A.D. 1875 having
 been first read over and explained in the *September*
 language to said Deponent who seemed perfectly to under-
 stand the same and *affixed her*
mark *in my presence,*

Notary
 Commissioner.
 Affdat. N^o 1468.
 Claim N^o 1308.
 Scrip N^o 10252. #166. C.
 Scrip issued on 21st Aug. 1876.
 2-4-86. J.A.C.

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DOMINION OF CANADA. I, *Louise Diguire - wife*
 PROVINCE OF MANITOBA. of *Médrie Diguire, farmer*
 County of *Marquette* of the Parish of *St. Stanislas* in
 Parish of *St. Stanislas* the County of *Marquette* in the
 Province of Manitoba, make oath and say as follows:

1. I claim to be entitled to participate in the allotment and distribution of the 1,400,000 acres of land set apart for Half-breed children, pursuant to the Statutes in that behalf.

2. I was born on or about the *twelfth* day of *December* A.D. 18*55* at the Parish of *St. Boniface* in said Province; and am now of the full age of *nineteen* years.

Toussaint Lucier, half-breed, is my father
Louise Brazeau is my mother;
 my said *father* was the half-breed head of a family resident in the Parish of *St. Stanislas* in the said Province, on the fifteenth day of July, A.D. 1870.

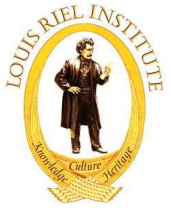
4. I was not the head of any family at the last named date and I have not made any claim other than the above in this or any other Parish, nor have I claimed or received as an Indian any annuity moneys from the Government of said Dominion.

Louise Diguire
mark

Sworn before me at the Parish and County aforesaid on the *twelfth* day of *September* A.D. 1875, having been first read and explained in the *French* language to the said deponent, who seemed perfectly to understand the same, and *affixed* her *mark* in my presence.

M. J. Gagnon
 Commissioner.

Shown above are the scrip applications of Toussaint Lucier, his wife Louise (Brazeau) and their daughter Louise.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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Louis Riel Institute

