

CHENAIL (dit) GENAILLE

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Pierre Chenail was born in Quebec in the early 1800's. As a young man he travelled West, it is rumoured, with George Deschambeault. Pierre arrived at Ile a la Crosse, Saskatchewan in 1835, where he later married a Metis girl Charlotte Gageant dit LaFleur. Together they raised thirteen children, ten of whom lived to be adults.

My great grandfather, Louison, lived to be 95 years old and raised a family of seven. He spent all his life hunting and trapping as he loved the old way of life - living off the land. His oldest brother, Antoine, lived to be 93 years old and this is his story.

Antoine was born at Ile a la Crosse in 1836. It is rumoured he had four wives, to which I have found proof of three. He led a varied and interesting life - a mail runner for 25 years, a scout/interpreter and guide for Middleton during the Riel Rebellion, worked on the York Boat Brigade from Fort Garry to Cumberland House freighting furs and supplies, Hudson Bay Post Clerk at Nut Lake, and in his last years hunting and trapping.

Antoine's mail run began at Fort Garry to Fort MacLeod to Fort Edmonton to Fort Livingston. In summer he ran on foot and in winter by snowshoe and dogsled. Most teams could only average 40 miles per day.

In days when most travelled by horses, Antoine still preferred his way "running". One story tells of a team leaving Nut Lake Reservation for Fort Livingston over 100 miles away, Antoine ran the distance as he said horses were "too slow". He was waiting at the Fort when the team arrived. It was said that it was useless for Antoine's dogs or horses to run away, as he could always run them down.

During the Riel Rebellion, Antoine was with the Canadian Forces under Major-General Middleton. It is said on one occasion he returned to the base camp holding in his intestines, as he had been knifed in the abdomen by the enemy. Later when his wound healed, the scar looked like he had been stitched up with thongs of buckskin.

In Pioneer of Vision by Dr. T. A. Patrick, he writes: "Another hernia which added to my education was that of Antoine Genaille, famed in his youth and prime as a driver of dogteams. He had been the official mail carrier when Livingston Barracks on the Swan River was the capital of the North West Territories and headquarters of the North West Mounted Police. His duty was to carry mail to and fro between Livingston Barracks and Shoal Lake, North West Territories now Shoal Lake, Manitoba. So regularly run was his schedule that by way of joke, the Commandant used to greet him on arrival by looking at his watch and asking, "Antoine! What the devil do you mean? You are fifteen minutes late"!

"When I was called to his aid, I found Antoine in one of the old military tents suffering with a hernia that he could not reduce. I hurriedly got to work, promptly reduced part of the protrusion and found difficulty with the remainder. I then tried the Indian method of suspending him by his feet from the tent pole to obtain the assistance of gravity. The old stoic never flinched when I hitched him up, nor while a further futile endeavour was being made to move the mass. I tried, and I tried, and I tried and finally told my patient I could not get it back. Then I let old Antoine down, and Antoine promptly let me down. "I have dot ting long tam", he said, "he no go back."



Antoine often told of the trip with Edgar Dewdney, lieutenant-governor of the Northwest Territories. During the trip they became short of food so Antoine shot a skunk; however, Dewdney continued to go hungry as he didn't think skunk was fit to eat. In the end he chose skunk over starvation. Also while out on the same trip, they came across some Blackfoot Indians who started to shoot at them. Dewdney jumped to the floor of the buckboard trying to protect himself, while Antoine handled the horses with one hand and fired the rifle with the other.

Antoine's knowledge of the prairie trails and river systems on the prairie was immense. His vast knowledge of wildlife and plant life was always put to use, for he relied heavily upon them for sustenance. He told of dining on all birds, all mammals, and all reptiles to which he gave account of the worst tasting - Birds, crows and magpies - Mammals, weasel and coyote - Reptiles, rattlesnake.

After the Nut Lake Post was closed in 1912, Antoine traded his two quarters of land to the new operator for the Post. He again became a shopkeeper, selling goods to the people of the area. However, he was not a shrewd businessman as he allowed patrons to buy on credit until he could no longer purchase supplies.

During this time, neighbors often saw him early in the spring, up to his chest in a nearby creek among chunks of ice, spearing fish. His only protection, long woolen underwear and his moccasins. This was when he was in his mid 70's!

After he could no longer purchase supplies for the Post he returned to hunting and trapping to make his living.

In an article by Darlene Ingram Kidd in the Western People of October 8, 1981, she writes, that at this time Cliff Lee spent two winters trapping with Antoine. He stated:

"We trapped muskrats in the creeks in the spring walking in our underwear breaking ice as we went. We changed into warm, dry underwear as soon as we got back to the tent. We never got sick."

"He was an extremely quiet man. He unfailingly left the tent before bedtime, faced East and said his rosary even in his 92nd winter."

"In 1929 Antoine was found sitting up in his bed at Nut Lake, dead. A tribute, perhaps - 93 and he didn't lie down to die."

CHENAIL, Pierre

Born: early 1800's in Quebec Married: May 26, 1845 at Ile a La Crosse, Sask.
Spouse: Charlotte Gageant dit Lafleur Born: May 18, 1825 at Ile a la Crosse.
Daughter of Pierre Gageant dit Lafleur & Charlotte Matachian.

CHILDREN OF PIERRE AND CHARLOTTE

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Antoine | Children of Antoine & Mary |
| Born: 1836 | a) Francois |
| Married: Mary Severight | Married: Rosalie Leclair |
| | b) Joseph (born 1873) |
| | Married: Mary Ann Stevenson |
| | c) Pierre (born 1875) |
| | Married: Theresa Leclair |
| Married: Marguerite Favel | Children of Antoine & Marguerite |
| | a) William (born 1876) |
| | b) Antoine (born 1876 died 1876) |

- Married: Elise Pelletier Children of Antoine & Elise
 a) Elizabeth (born 1882)
 b) Catherine (born 1883)
 c) Marie Rose (born 1885)
2. Marie
 Born: 1844
 Baptised: May 18, 1845 age 9 months Fort des Prairie Register
3. Josephte
 Born: 1845
 Baptised: June 7, 1845 Fort des Prairie Register
4. Pierre
 Married: Marie Kijikons Children of Pierre & Marie
 a) Pierre
 Married: Ellen Linklater
 b) Jean-Baptiste
- Married: Marie Brass Children of Pierre & Marie Brass
 a) Charlotte
 Married: George A. Linklater
 b) Marie (born 1879 died 1893)
 c) George (born 1884)
 d) Elizabeth (born 1882 died 1890)
 e) Sophie (born 1885)
5. Harriet
 Married: Baptiste Bourassa
 They had seven children.
6. Sophie
 Born: 1853 at Shoal River Children of Sophie & William
 Married: William Chartrand a) Virginie
 Married: Pierre Parenteau
7. Joseph
 Born: 1857 Shoal River Children of Joseph & Adelaide
 Married: Adelaide Chartrand a) Joseph (born 1878)
 b) Jean Chrysostome (born 1880)
 c) Dominique (born 1882)
 d) Virginie (born 1884)
8. David
 Born: 1857 Shoal River Children of David & Emma Brass
 Married: Angeline Kapo a) Jemima
 Married: Emma Brass b) unidentified
9. Flora
 Married: Alexis Ferland Children of Flora & Alexis
 a) Pierre (born 1881)
 b) William (born 1883)
 c) Alfred (born 1885)
10. Louison
 Born: December 16, 1866 Children of Louison & Louisa
 Married: Louisa Coldwell a) Frank married Marie Flamand
 Died: June 21, 1960 b) John (never married)
 Buried: St. Lazare c) Alexander married Julie Flamand
 d) Margaret married Joseph Boyer
 e) Charlotte married William Severite
 f) Louisa married Adolph McKenzie
 g) Bella married Albert LaPlante

Three children of Pierre Sr. and Charlotte died very young, they were Francois, Alexandre, and Christiana.

Sources:

1. Charles D. Denney Papers - Glenbow Museum, Calgary
2. Scrip Records - Public Archives, Ottawa
3. Darlene Ingram Kidd - Western People, October 8, 1981
4. Parish Registers, Fort des Prairie and Ile a la Crosse and St. Lazare
5. Pioneer of Vision - Dr. T. A. Patrick

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ST. ALBERT PEOPLE, May 1874

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Though it is not dignified with the title of CENSUS, there is in the Hardisty Papers at Glenbow Alberta Institute a list of those who must have been resident at St. Albert in May of 1874.

They are listed below:

Ward, James	L'Hyrundelle, Alex	Fyant, Paul
Bellerose, Old	L'Hyrundelle, Jos.	LaBene (?) Widow Toussaint
Bennoit, Olive	Laderoute, Oliver Sr.	St. Souveour, Pierre
Savard, Alex	Laderoute, Oliver Jr.	St. Souveour, Edwin
Supernault, Bte.	Mageau, Octave	Montaugnee, Louison
Cardincelle, Widow	Beauprit (?) Lewis	Boucher, Pierrish
Brazeau, Widow	Hodgson, Geo.	Boucher, Wiso
Plante, Michel	Courtepatte, Bte.	Boucher, Pierre
Nault, Widow	Short, Jean Bte.	Beauchamp, Pierre
Salois, Abraham	Grey, May (?)	Deschnault, Pierre
Grey, Michel	Belcourt, Joseph	Deschnault, Joseph
Courtapatte, E.	Cunningham, Samuel	Vandalle, Joseph
Campion, Old	L'Hyrundelle, Mastio (?)	Vandalle, Joseph
Chalifoux, Paul	The Ponds Brothers	Deschamp, Bapt.
Boudrie, Old	Le Bruin, Pierre	Deschamp, Bapt.
Rowland, John	Le Bruin, Louison	Deschamp, Joseph
H. B. Co.	Bourgard, Charles	Breneau, Alexis
Brienz, Widow	Ward, Peter	Breneau, Isidore
Drummond, Charles	Gallerneau, Old	Breneau, Francois
Pacquette, Joseph	Savard, Ant.	Gabriel, Felix
Munro, Felix	Noyes, Daniel	Neppisangue, L.
Papin (?) Bapt.	Tourangeau, Bte.	Tourangeau, L.
Larocque, Moyese	Hodgson, Geo.	Malette, Joe
Gabriel, St. Pierre	McDougall, John	Boucher, Edward
Delorme, Parrish(?)	Chalifoux, Joseph	Bellerose, Norbert
Delorme, Pierre	LaCroche, Bte.	Shaw, Antoine
Nippisangue, M.	Morrice(?), Ant.	Godin, Ant.
Rouselle, Louis	Paul, Rosie	L'Hyrondele, Joseph Jr.
Daigneau, Isaac	Rabasca, Old	Pacquette, Old
Barnard, Old	Vivier, Michal	Delorme, Leo
Chalifoux, Geo.	Arma (??) Michel	Supernault, Amb.
Laderoute, Jeim	Collins, Harry	

The document seems to have been signed by Bapt. Robertson.