

The Boundary Commission's Metis Scouts from St. Andrews



Above: 49th Rangers, back row left to right: William Hallett, William Gaddie, Gabriel La Fournaise, Francois Gosselin and Donald McDonald.

Metis Scouts: The 49th Rangers **The Metis Armed Escorts and Scouts of the British-Canadian Boundary Commission, 1872-73**

The Boundary Survey

The English Boundary Commissioner, Capt. Cameron, has engaged some thirty English and French Half-Breeds to go with the Boundary Commission, which is expected to start on the 25th inst. These men will be on horseback and under the leadership of Mr. William Hallett, who will, we are sure, prove most efficient in anything he undertakes. The party are under engagement for five months, about which time the Commission will probably be seeking its winter quarters.

The Commission will, necessarily, travel very slow, not making, in all probability, more than about 300 miles during the season.

Manitoban and Northwest Herald, May 17, 1873

The Metis from St. Andrew's who were members of the 49th Rangers.

Albert Kennedy, (1854-1922)

Albert Kennedy was born on Aug. 11, 1854 at St. Andrews, the son of Philip Kennedy and Elizabeth "Jessie" McKenzie. On Jan. 3, 1882, at St. Andrew's he married Catherine "Kate" Johnston the daughter of William Johnston and Catherine on January 3, 1882 at St. Andrews. They had 10 children.

Scrip affidavit for Kennedy, Albert; born: August 11, 1854; father: Philip Kennedy (Metis); mother: Jessie Kennedy (Metis). Scrip affidavit No. 294.

Donald McDonald, (Deputy-Commander) (b. 1832)

Donald McDonald was born in November 1832, at St. Andrews, the son of Donald "Big" McDonald and Jane Beaudry. He married Harriet Spence sometime before 1852. His younger brother Adam was also a member of the Rangers.

Scrip affidavit for McDonald Jr., Donald; born: November 1832; father: Donald McDonald Sr. (Scot); mother: Jane McDonald (Métis); claim no: 238; scrip no: 1785 to 1792; date of issue: May 1, 1876; amount: \$160


Adam McDonald, (b. 1835)

Adam McDonald was born January 10, 1835 at St. Andrew's, the son of Donald "Big" McDonald and Jane Beaudry. He married Maria McKay, the daughter of William McKay and Mary Bunn on January 8., 1863 at St. Andrews. They had five children. His older brother Donald was the Deputy Commander of the 49th Rangers. Adam died at Oak Hammock.

Scrip affidavit for McDonald, Adam; born: January 10, 1835; father: Donald McDonald (Scot); mother: Jane Beaudry (Métis); claim no: 228; scrip no: 1705 to 1712; date of issue: May 1, 1876; amount: \$160.

Edward McKay, (b. 1847)

Edward Richard McKay was born on Nov. 14, 1847, the son of John McKay and Mary England. He married Caroline Voller the daughter of James Voller and Nancy Birston on Dec. 26, 1867 at St. Andrew's. He died April 8, 1927. They had eleven children. He is the brother-in-law of Robert Taylor another member of the 49th Rangers. He was an HBC employee from 1866 to 1870; his service record is shown below.

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| NAME: McKAY, Edward | | PARISH: Native | ENTERED SERVICE: 1866 | DATES: |
| Appointments & Service | | | | |
| Outfit Year*: | Position: | Post: | District: | HBCA Reference: |
| <i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i> | | | | |
| 1866-1868 | Clerk | Pembina [1867] | Red River | B.239/u/2 p. 399; B.239/g/108; |
| 1868-1869 | Freeman | | Red River | B.239/k/3 p. 358 |
| 1869-1870 | Does not appear | | | B.239/g/109 B.239/g/110 |
| <p>According to the Northern Department Servants Engagement Register, Edward McKay made a contractual arrangement with the Company at Fort Garry on August 28, 1866 (a 3 year contract). No contract survives in the HBCA. (source: B.239/u/2 p. 399; A.32/40)</p> | | | | |
|  | | | | |

Above: Scrip affidavit for McKay, Edward R.; born: November 14, 1847; father: John McKay (Métis); mother: Mary McKay (Métis); claim no: 253; scrip no: 1897 to 1904; date of issue: May 1, 1876; amount: \$160.

William Albert Pruden, (1832)

William Albert Pruden was baptized on Oct. 31, 1832 (St. John's), son of William Pruden (c. 1804) and Nancy Ogden (Campbell). William married Maria Fidler then Matilda Gunn. His aunt, Marie Pruden, was married to the leader of the 49th Rangers, William Hallett. William Albert died Sept. 25, 1890 at St. Andrews. His son by Marie Fidler was also William Pruden born Jan. 3, 1855 at St. Andrews and married to Margaret Johnston. The commission came across the remains of a long-abandoned village and some gravesites along the banks of South Antler Creek, between the Souris River crossings which Pruden explained was where the Mandans once lived. Hallett agreed with this assessment based upon remnant villages he had observed along the Missouri River.¹

¹ Tony Rees, 2007: 192.

Scrip affidavit for Pruden, William; born: 1823; father: Wm. Pruden (Métis); mother: Nancy Campbell (Métis); claim no: 281; scrip no: 2114 to 2121; date of issue: May 1, 1876; amount: \$160.

James Ross, (1853)

James Ross was born 1853 at St. Andrews, the son of Catherine Berland and George Ross. He died October 6, 1879 at St. Andrew's.

Scrip affidavit for Ross, George; born: 1797; father and mother: Scottish; father: George Ross, an original white settler from Scotland, entered Red River Country in 1834 and died May 25, 1874; heirs of deceased father: Catherine (widow); George; John; Catherine, wife of Wm. Vincent; Malcolm; Alexander and James.

Samuel Slater, (1844-1904)

Samuel Slater was born on Mar. 11, 1844 at St. Andrew's, the son of John Slater and Elizabeth Dennet, daughter of William Dennet and Sophia Ballendine. On Jan. 11, 1877 at St. Paul, he married Sophie Ann Knight the daughter of James Knight and Elizabeth Haywood. Samuel was a farmer, his father John, was a Scotsman and his mother, Elizabeth Dennet was a Metisse. His brother Jeremiah Slater also served in the 49th Rangers. Samuel died on February 24, 1904 and is buried at St. Andrew's Anglican Church.

Slater, Samuel (Heir of Elizabeth Slater) - Scrip number 9080 - Amount 32.00\$. 1876/07/03. File. RG15-D-II-8-f. Volume/box number: 1390. Claim no. 325 St. Andrews Affidavit no. 350 00011074822.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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Appendix (below) Scouts Paylist 1873.

Schedule of Amounts paid Fees of Segnts &c by
 W. Hallett for H. M. Boundary Commission.
 Winnipeg 23rd May 1873.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | William Hallett | \$145 |
| | Pascal Parisien | 60 |
| | Charles St Amant | 60 |
| | Charles Lambert | 60 |
| | William Charrette | 60 |
| | William Gonselin | 60 |
| | Antoine Lepine | 60 |
| | John Belanger | 60 |
| | Moyse Goulet | 60 |
| | Joseph Gallinier | 60 |
| | Leonet Goulet | 60 |
| | Pierre St Germain | 60 |
| | Romain Legeminaire | 60 |
| | Alexander Sebieter | 60 |
| | Jozymiah Slater | 60 |
| | Robert Taylor | 60 |
| | Edward Taylor | 45 |
| | James Ross | 45 |
| | Edward McKay | 60 |
| | A. D. Campbell | 75 |
| | Adam McDonald | 50 |
| | Albert Kennedy | 50 |
| | Samuel Slater | 50 |
| | William Pruden | 95 |
| | William La Fontaine | 50 |
| | William Hallett Jr. | 45 |
| | George Atkinson | 45 |
| Leader | Francois Gonellan | 85 |
| Leader | Gabriel La Fontaine | 60 |
| Leader | William Gadsby | 60 |
| Dep ^t Com ^r | Ronald McDonald | 110 |
| | | <u>110</u> |
| | | <u>\$2000</u> |