

Roster of Red River Brigade Liste de nom de la Brigade de la Rivière Rouge

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ROSTER OF RED RIVER BRIGADE.

steerer, or helmsman (guide). 4. Joseph Dubois: Voyageur, steerer, or helmsman. 5. Angus McDonald: Voyageur, midman. 6. Antoine Lafrance: Voyageur, midman. 7. Pierre Bonza or Bonga: a negro.

Second Canoe.—8. Michel (Coloret) Langlois: Clerk (commis); with his wife and daughter. 9. André Lagassé, Lagacé, or La Gassers: Voyageur, conductor; with his wife. 10. Joachim Daisville, or Donville, once Rainville:

the first spelling of the name as above given. For the rest, I have simply dressed Henry's copy a little for typographical appearances, as it was in singularly bad shape to print. I believe it to be as near right as it can be made. The probable error in this case is surprisingly slight—it is nothing in comparison with what we shall have to reckon with further on. Some additional items of information concerning these men may be conveniently presented, and I will take occasion to bring together here various memoranda I have made concerning other persons of the same surnames.

No. 3. Étienne Charbonneau continued as voyageur N. W. Co. after 1804, Lake Winnipeg.—Louis Charbonneau appears, same as Étienne. One of these was with Henry, 1807–08.—Toussaint Charbonneau of the N. W. Co. wintered at Pine fort on the Assiniboine, 1793–94. This is the individual whom Lewis and Clark engaged at the Mandans, winter of 1804–05, and who figures under so many aliases in the History of their Expedition.

No. 4. There appear to have been two of this name in the N. W. Co.—Joseph Dubois is listed as voyageur, Upper Red r., and the same as voyageur, Fort des Prairies, after the fusion of 1804.—Jean Baptiste Dubois came to Sault Ste. Marie in 1803, and appears as voyageur N. W. Co., Fort des Prairies, 1804.—François Dubois, voyageur N. W. Co., 1804, Rat River country; wintered, 1804–05, at the house on or near Cranberry l., under Joseph Cartier.—Antoine Dubois, Canadian, had been killed by Indians before 1807, when his daughter Marguerite, aged 14, married Jean Joseph Roulette 3d, at Prairie du Chien.

No. 5. Angus McDonald continued with Henry for some years, as we shall find. His humble station, if not his name, distinguishes him from the many McDonalds who are preferably noticed elsewhere.

No. 6. No further information of Antoine Lafrance.—One Lafrance retired with 12,000 francs in 1791.—One Lafrance was killed in the summer of 1799.—Jean Baptiste Lafrance, N. W. Co., left Fort Espérance for the Mandans, Dec. 10th, 1793. The same appears as interpreter N. W. Co., Upper Red River dept., Sept., 1804, and as clerk at the Mandans under F. A. Larocque, 1804; name misprinted Lachance in Masson, I. p. 81. The same, of H. B. Co., left the Assiniboine, at mouth of the Souris, May, 1806, to trade with the Mandans, and was that year found among them by Lewis and Clark, Henry, and others.

No. 7. Pierre Bonza appears as interpreter N. W. Co., Lower Red r., 1804.

No. 8. Michel Langlois appears oftener as Michel Coloret, Coleret, or

Voyageur, steerer. 11. André Beauchemin: Voyageur, midman. 12. Jean Baptiste Benoit: Voyageur, midman.

Third Canoe.—13. Jean Baptiste Desmarais: Interpreter; with his wife and two children. 14. Jean Baptiste Larocque, Sen.: Voyageur, conductor. 15. Jean Baptiste Larocque, Jun.: Voyageur, steerer. 16. Étienne Roy: Voyageur, midman. 17. François Roger, Sen. (?): Voyageur, midman.

Fourth Canoe.—18. Joseph Masson, or Maceon: Voyageur, conductor. 19. Charles Bellegarde: Voyageur, steerer. 20. Joseph Hamel: Voyageur, midman. 21. Nic-

Collette; but Henry, who will have much to say of him, calls him Langlois, except in one place. The term appears to be an epithet rather than a personal name, as if L'Anglais, the Englishman.—Eustache Langlois was a voyageur N. W. Co., 1804, Rainy Lake.

No. 9. No question of identity in this case.—There is at least one other of same surname, Charles Lagassé, or Lagacé, who was with Thompson on the Upper Saskatchewan in April, 1800; went with him to the Kootenays, Oct. 5th-23d, 1800; was fitted out to winter with them, 1800-01; was with Thompson in the Rocky mts., 1808-10; deserted May 17th, 1810, on Thompson's attempting to force him to duty for which he said he was not fit; reappears with Thompson at Ilthkoyape (Kettle) falls, on the Columbia, June 22d, 1811, and went S. Aug. 29th, 1811.

No. 10. "Daisville," or "Donville," is found in no other connection, and I suspect error, though the unusual first name, Joachim, would seem to preserve identity. The connection of "Rainville" with this case is likewise dubious.—Joseph Rainville, with Henry, at Pembina, in July, 1804, accidentally killed V. St. Germain.—Various persons, of more than one generation, were named Rainville, Reinville, or Renville: for example, see Pike, ed. 1895, pp. 39, 40, 87, 99, 180, 207, 242; see also biogr. of one Joseph Rainville in Tassé, I, pp. 293-304.

No. 11. André Beauchemin was still with Henry, 1807-08.—Jean Baptiste Beauchemin, voyageur N. W. Co., Fort Chipewyan, 1799-1800, is called "cet homme sans souci;" found at forks of Peace r., summer 1803; listed English r. after fusion of 1804.

No. 12. No further record.

No. 13. Identity complete, and much said of him beyond; record goes from 1799 to 1823, when he guided Long's party from Winnipeg to Lake Superior by the Kaministiquia route, Keating, II. p. 67, and is spoken very highly of, p. 78. There were several others of this surname, which varies to Demarais.—One Desmarais was with Peter Grant at Lac la Rouge, 1789, very likely Jean Baptiste.—François Desmarais is listed as interpreter N. W. Co., Upper Red r., 1804.—Ignace Desmarais, voyageur N. W. Co., Nepigon, 1804.—Louis Desmarais, voyageur N. W. Co., Rainy l., 1804; Red r., with Henry, 1807-08.

No. 14 and No. 15. Many persons, several generations, of this notable sur-

olas Pouliot, Pouliotte, Poultiatte, or Rubiette: Voyageur, midman.

RECAPITULATION.

Bourgeois (Henry),	1
Clerk (Langlois),	1
Interpreter (Desmarais),	1
Negro (Bonza),	1
Voyageurs (names as above),	17
Women (one woman not given above),	4
Children (one child not given above),	4
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Persons,	29
Horses,	2

name, which varies to Laroche, Laroque, Le Rock, etc. (and without the definite article).—Auguste Laroche, voyageur N. W. Co., Red Lake dept., 1804.—Antoine Larocque, voyageur N. W. Co., Lower Red r., 1804; at Pembina, under Henry, 1807-08.—Charles Larocque, of N. W. Co., at Pembina, with Henry, 1807-08.—François Antoine Larocque, clerk N. W. Co., Upper Red r., 1804; led the Mandah expedition of that year, etc. His full record will be noted beyond, when Henry is at the Mandans.—Jacques Larocque, voyageur N. W. Co., Red Lake dept., 1804.—The two named Jean Baptiste Larocque, father and son, are not usually discriminated; we have records of one or both, 1800-08, Red r., English r., Saskatchewan r., etc.—Joseph Larocque, younger brother of Franç. Ant. Larocque, was clerk N. W. Co., English r., 1804; later an Astorian (full record beyond, when Henry is on the Columbia).—Pierre Larocque, voyageur N. W. Co., Fort Dauphin, Lake Winnipeg, etc., 1804.—For one A. Rocque, or Roque, without the definite article, in Minnesota, 1805-06, see Pike, ed. 1895, pp. 36, 41, 61.—Joseph Rocque was interpreter among the Sioux in Minnesota about 1786.—Pascal Rocque is listed as voyageur N. W. Co., Le Pic, 1804.

No. 16. (For many persons named Roy, see a note beyond.)

No. 17. Name wholly in question.

No. 18. Recorded on to 1804. The surname is the same as that of Senator L. R. Masson, whose Bourgeois, etc., is one of the most notable and valuable contributions ever made to the history of the subject now occupying us.

No. 19. No further record of Charles.—Another Bellegarde, first name unknown, of X. Y. Co., was near Fort Chipewyan, May 23d, 1800.

No. 20. Of Joseph Hamel, record to 180, Lower Red r.—At this time François Hamel, voyageur N. W. Co., also there.

No. 21. Record of him to 1804. "Rubiette" is a mere clerical blunder, and the name has now settled into Pouliot, borne by several well-known Canadian families.

Notwithstanding buffaloes and other animals are so numerous, we are again obliged to depend upon our hooks and lines. We take plenty of catfish and lacaishe. The Indians are too much alarmed to hunt, and I think it prudent to send my own men. At two o'clock the discovering party returned, but had seen only two or three wounded bulls, and a dead one, which must have been shot by some of us. I sent Langlois in two canoes with his baggage to camp at the entrance of Reed river, on the spot where I intended he should build. The canoes having returned, we gummed and prepared for departure to-morrow, giving one of my large canoes to the Indians to embark their families, as they supposed they would be safer all together, in one large canoe, than separated in small ones. I leave exactly one-half of my goods here, in charge of Michel Langlois.

Those who remain here are : Langlois, wife, and child ; Lagassé and wife ; Masson [wife, and two children ?] ; Hamel, Roy, Dubois, Pouliot, and the wife and two children of Desmarais ; total, 16.*

Those who go above are : myself, Desmarais, Bellegarde, Daisville, Roger [*sic*], Benoit, Larocque, sr., Larocque, jr., Beauchemin, Lafrance, Barbé, Charbonneau, McDonald, and Pierre (the negro). Thus we are 14 men, and we have not one woman or child with us.

* Compare the list on pp. 49-52. The copy before me gives "16" total. The discrepancy occurs in the case of Masson, of whose family nothing appears in the former list, but who is here credited with a representation of "4" persons.

Lacs du Placotte, a chain of lakes running about E. S. E. on the W. side of the Hair hills. Its first course is about

souri, though they are for the most part well wooded. The eastern acclivity of the range is greatest about lat. 49° N., on and near the boundary of the U. S., whence it gradually subsides into rolling prairie, both N. and S. of that parallel. It is difficult to say how long and broad these hills are, from their extreme irregularity and very gradual sloping in all directions, as well as the elasticity of the name as used by different persons; but the Hair hills or Pembina mts., more properly so called, lie nearly N. and S., mainly in the Dakotan counties of Nelson, Grand Forks, Walsh, Cavalier, and Pembina, and extend thence into the district of Lisgar in Manitoba. Pembina r. is a large stream which traverses a gorge eastward to seek the Red r., running N. first in Manitoba and then in N. Dak., and falling in close to the boundary. Scratching r. takes a similar course in Manitoba, further N., while in Dakota the principal other streams which flow eastward into Red r. from these elevations, successively from N. to S., are Park r., Salt r., Turtle r., and Goose r. Pembina r. enters Red r. in Pembina Co., N. Dak., 2 m. S. of 49° , between the town of Pembina and Fort Pembina; 4 m. above its mouth it receives Tongue r., its principal tributary, coming from the S. W. Henry traversed his Hair hills repeatedly, in various directions, and has much to say about them, during his residence at different places in the Red River dept. His use of the term is broad enough to cover not only the Pembina mts. in strictness, but all the elevated country on the W. of the Red River basin. He seldom, if ever, uses the name Pembina in any form for these hills; but consistently applies it to the river in the forms *Panbian* and *Paubian*, occasionally *Pambian* or *Pembian*, very rarely *Panbina*, etc. The word, which occurs in various other forms, as *Paubna*, etc., is clipped from the Ojibway name of a certain acid red berry, the fruit of *Viburnum opulus*. This is a caprifoliaceous plant, commonly called cranberry-tree, or high cranberry-bush; the varieties which produce the edible berries have been named *V. oxycoccus* and *V. edule*; a cultivated sterile variety is the well-known snowball-bush or guelder-rose. This plant is not related botanically to the true cranberries (*Vaccinium oxycoccus* and *V. macrocarpon*). The *b* in the name *Pembina* is intrusive, for the word is *anepeminan*, from *nepin*, summer, and *minan*, berry, or, as others say, *nipi-mina*. Tanner, who could not talk English when he was on Red r. in Henry's time, but spoke a sort of Ojibway, probably of the Court Oreille or Ottawa dialect, says, p. 80: "at this place, (since called Pembinah,) where the *Nebenninahne-sebee* enters Red River," etc.; his editor, Dr. James, translates this High Cranberry r., and renders Red r. from Miskwawgumme-wesebee. Keating's Long, II. 1824, p. 42, has: "a small stream, called by the Chippewas *Anepeminan sipi*." Larocque's Mandan journal, 1804-05, in Masson, I. 1889, has *Pain Binatat*, p. 313, and *Pimbina* elsewhere. In 1798 Thompson Englished the name as Summer Berry r. The fruit itself is still so called. The accent of the word Pembina is on the first syllable.