

## André Jerome

André Jerome was the grandson of Pierre Jerome and a Chippewa Cree woman by the name of Virginia. Pierre was a Cree interpreter for the North West Company at Fort Carlton, he died there in November 28, 1821. André Jerome's father, Martin Jerome dit St. Matthe or l' P'chi St. Matthe born in 1799, was also a company interpreter. After his father's death he moved to the Red river Settlement and married there.

André Jerome was born on December 14, 1829 in St. Boniface, Manitoba, the son of Martin Jerome and Angelique Letendré. His father later remarried in 1831 to Elizabeth Wilkie the daughter of Alexandre Wilkie. Andre was baptized on 15 Dec 1829 in St. Boniface, Manitoba. Andre married Marguerite Gosselin, the daughter of Antoine Gosselin and Marie Roy and they had nine children. The family appeared on both the 1850 and 1860 census in Pembina. He participated in O'Donoghue's "Fenian Raid" in October of 1871, at the Hudson's Bay post north of Pembina. He was arrested in November 1871 and was imprisoned in the Stone Fort (Lower Fort Garry).



He was subsequently acquitted of "feloniously and unlawfully levying war against Her Majesty," in the spring of 1872 in Winnipeg. He moved in 1872 to Kittson County, Minnesota. *He was recognized as the first settler in Kittson County.* He appeared in the census of both June 1880 and 1900 in Township 162, Kittson County, Minnesota. He appeared in the census in Apr 1910 in Hill Township, Kittson County.

The following article was published in the *Centennial Edition of the Kittson County Enterprise* in Hallock, Minnesota, on 29 June 1983.

**Andre Jerome First Settler in the County  
Was Picturesque Figure Of Mixed Blood and Hardy Stock  
Suffered At Hands Of British For Activity As Aid Of Louis Riel  
- Rob't Thomson Second To Settle.**

The country's history materially enriched by the story of Andre Jerome, it's first settler, mainly because his career contacts different phases of early history. In the first place, Jerome was a French-Cree mixed blood one of the Metis of the border country in the fur-trading period. Since he was the accused of participation in the first Riel rebellion his activities are woven into other chapters of the pioneer record. Andre Jerome, one of seven sturdy brothers of the Red river country, was born near Fort Garry in 1821. He traced his history back to the French Huguenots, his paternal grandfather having migrated from France early in the 19th century. The seven sons were endowed with the intelligence and courage of their French forbears and from their mother's people inherited splendid physiques, and the hardlihood and skill and cunning of the Redman. Early they became coureurs de bois and voyageurs, performing the tasks which gave the great forests of the north a glamour that still envelopes it. The lives of these brothers were intriguingly typical of the fur-trade era in the Red River valley; their antecedents, their activities and their manner of living were true to type.

Of Andrew Jerome, Mr. J. E. Bouvette wrote in the silver anniversary edition of the *Enterprise* in 1906 (the noted pioneer was still living then):

From this hardy and nomadic parents our subject inherited the characteristics which made him one of the most noted scouts and voyageurs of his time. Though well up in years he is a man of able proportions and physique, is straight as the pathways he marked through the wilderness, has keen, expressive blue eyes which commonly hold a kindly sense of humor and good fellowship, but in anger are cold, stern and penetrating. The earlier part of his life he spent amid the influences of the forest and trail, and was for many years interested in scouting, carrying messages and path finding for the Hudson Bay Company, Captain Hugh S. Donaldson and General H. H. Sibley, when the latter was agent for the American Fur company. When the Indian outbreak occurred in 1862 he proved of great value to the government, aiding in the suppression of the revolt.

### **Was Riel Aide**

"He took an active part against the British government in the Riel rebellion and O'Donahue Fenian raid of 1869-70, and was imprisoned at Stony Mountain penitentiary in Manitoba, and was put through a sweat process by being bridled like a horse and obliged to break stone day and night to cause him to disclose the secret operations of his leaders, but his word was bond never to be broken and he stood his hardships and cruelties until finally liberated.

"He is as familiar with the leading Indian languages of this region as he is with the paths of the forest. The vast Northwest lay like a map before him and he knows every trail. It is doubtful if there is a human being who has passed through as many thrilling scenes and events of pioneer life as did Andre Jerome. He is an interesting conversationalist and can tell of some interesting buffalo hunts in the early days. Mr. Jerome settled on his present homestead (this county) 33 years ago last May. He married early a Miss Margaret Goslin and has a family of nine children, all of whom are living and are prominent farmers in this county."



Andre and Marguerite Jerome

OBITUARY - Kittson County Enterprise, May 1st, 1914

Mrs. Andrew Jerome who died at her home in North Red River township, March 31st, 1914, was a native of this part of the country, and was born in Manitoba, October 16th, 1832. She came to this country with her husband who survives her, May 3rd, 1872, and settled on the homestead upon which her late home is located at the junction of the Red and Two Rivers. The nearest settlement at that time was Pembina, 22 miles north of this place, and outside of that, all was a wilderness, inhabited only by savage Indians. Often, a year at a time would pass without seeing a white person, when the monotony of frontier life in those days was disturbed only by the occasional crack of the red man's rifle. In this

way, amid the influences of forest and trail. deceased spent the younger part of her life, until along in the early eighties, when settlers began to arrive, and it was at this time that this good woman made herself so useful among them that the name of the Jeromes soon became a household word in the home of every early settler in the county, Mrs. Jerome was a woman who had faced and gone through all the hardships and adversities incident to pioneer life, and no one knew better than she, the privation of the voyageur and traveler, so her home was always open to them- it was always at the disposal of the strangers, who even tho a begger, never failed to find food and shelter at her hands. She was a woman of generous impulses, at home, at the bedside of the sick and always delighted in all kinds of neighborly offices. How much this community owes her, and such as she, it is impossible to estimate, tho it would be a grateful task to trace her good deeds thru some of the more direct channels, to hold her up in her various characters of wife and mother, of friend and neighbor, to speak of the large family of sons and daughters she reared to perpetuate her good deeds and virtues. But it comes not within the scope of this brief article to do so, suffice to say, she lived nobly and died peacefully at the advanced age of 82 years, and today another name is stricken from the ever lessening roll of our old settlers.

To mourn her departure she leaves an aged husband in the sunset of life, seven sons and two daughters, all grown up, who have the sympathy of the entire community in the bereavement.

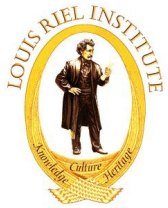
**Pioneer Settler of Kittson Co., gone**  
Obituary - Kittson County Enterprise.

Andrew Jerome died at his home in the Town of Red River on Monday, July 10th at the age of 88 years and 6 months his death having been caused from old age and illness from which he suffered since last winter.

Deceased was the first actual settler in Kittson county, having located on his late homestead at the junction of the Red and Two Rivers 45 years ago. He was a native of the Red River Valley, having been born near Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, December 24th, 1828.

The early part of his life was spent amid the influences of the forest and trail, and was for many years interested in scouting and carry messages for the U.S. Government and in path finding for the Hudson Bay Company and the American Fur Company. He was as familiar with all the Indian languages of those days, as he was with the paths of the plains and trails of the Northwest which lay before him like a map, for he knew every trail and haunt of the red man. His services were always sought after by the government. When the Indian outbreak occurred in 1863 he proved of great value to this government and state, aiding in the suppression of the Sioux. He took an active part against the British Government in the Riel rebellion and O'Donohue Fenian raid of 69-70. It is doubtful if there is another man living who has passed through as many thrilling scenes and events of Pioneer life as did Andrew Jerome. He was an interesting conversationalist and could tell of some interesting buffalo hunts and Indian raids in the early days. Surviving, he leaves nine children, many of them prominent farmers of this county. The

funeral was conducted from the Catholic Church last Wednesday afternoon and internment was made in the family lot at Greenwood.



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