

strip each side of the Assiniboine River. He then returned to the settlement to find that Mr. Webb, PLS, of Brighton, had arrived.

Mr. Webb, on his journey from St. Cloud to the Red River Settlement had built a scow at Fort Abercrombie and floated down the stream to the settlement. Col. Dennis sent Mr. Webb out to help Milner Hart for two or three days during which time another party was organized for Mr. Webb to run the governing line between Townships 6 and 7 East of the Meridian over to Oak Point.

On October 4, Mr. Webb left Fort Garry and camped overnight on the South bank of the Assiniboine River, four miles from the mouth. He arrived at the Winnipeg Meridian crossing of the Assiniboine River the next day, spending the night there, and continuing South to the parallel on October 6, arriving at noon. He commenced running the parallel East from the Winnipeg Meridian after swearing in the two chainmen, Geo. N. Newcomb (who later became a DLS) and W. A. Farmer. They completed one section and Mr. Webb obtained an astronomical observation on Polaris at Eastern elongation in the early evening. The next day, after correcting his line for the observation, a total of 4½ sections were surveyed with the balance of the range being completed on October 8, reaching the Township corner about 6.30 p.m., "in spite of rain during the morning".

Mr. Webb sent a report in to Col. Dennis at the settlement with one of his chainmen, Mr. Farmer, on October 9 and, while the balance of the party sharpened tools, made and marked posts, he tested the instrument and chain and obtained an observation ("not very good").

On this same day, oblivious of the crisis that was approaching, Col. Dennis addressed a short report to The Honorable, the Minister of Public Works, that "my two parties — one under Mr. Hart, the other under Mr. Webb — are making good progress. The meridian is now run to Township 10 . . . Mr. Webb is at work on the parallel between Townships 6 and 7, and has run that line over East nearly as far as the Red River". This information was obviously based on the report delivered by Mr. Farmer.

The maps used by Col. Dennis to illustrate the proposed system of survey and in the planning of his field work, were those copied

from the records of the Hudson's Bay Company in Fort Garry. These were not correct as to the location of water bodies and were the reasons for Mr. Hart's problem in getting around Shoal Lake in his survey towards Portage la Prairie and Col. Dennis' report of Mr. Webb's survey being nearly as far as the Red River. On October 8, Mr. Webb was, in fact, nearly 5½ miles from the Red River.

<p><i>Sunday 10th Oct.</i> <i>In camp all day. Col Dennis reports wind at 5 P.M. got good obs at dark. day wind, clear night</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Monday 11th Oct.</i> <i>Start on bearing of N. 89° 55' 20" E. run 1/2 section and chained a chain half a section. When stopped by 18 Half Breeds found it impossible to proceed farther. Went into camp and sent report in and awaited Col. Dennis' orders to proceed.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Tuesday 12th Oct.</i> <i>in camp all day awaiting orders from Col. Dennis. Sunday day of rest</i></p>	<p>D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y</p>
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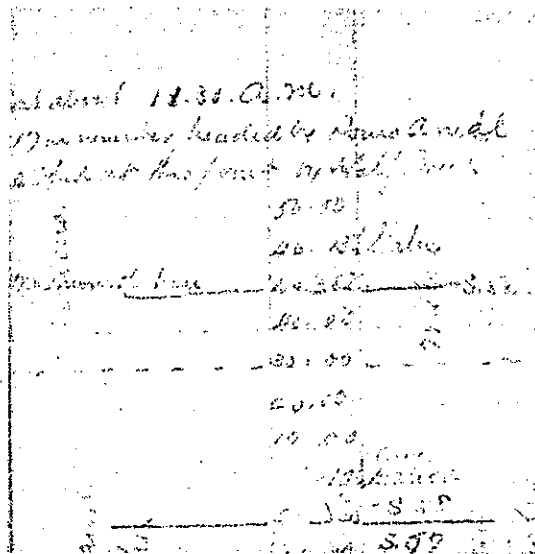
Copy from Field Book No. 771 (Diary)
A. C. Webb, D.S.

Sunday, October 10 was a day of rest for Mr. Webb's party, although Col. Dennis called into the camp about 3.00 p.m. to discuss the survey and, after he left, Mr. Webb obtained a good astronomical observation at dusk.

The party resumed their work on Monday, October 11 on a bearing of N. 89° 55' 20" E, from the Township corner. They "surveyed one section and chained half a section, when stopped by 18 Half Breeds, found it impossible to proceed farther. Went into camp and sent Report in and awaited Col. Dennis' orders to proceed."

Mr. Webb, following his normal routine, ended this day of his diary with "Changeable weather with slight fall of snow".

The actual point at which the chainmen had reached was 50 chains into the second section of Range 2 E and, above this distance in his field book, Mr. Webb had written, "stopped at this point by Half Breeds, 17 in number headed by Louis Ariel (sic) at about 11.30 a.m."



Copy from Field Book No. 770
 A. C. Webb, D.S.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Webb had erected mounds at each section and quarter-section corner of this entire line, but had recorded "no mound here" at the quarter-section corner on the north boundary of Section 58, about 5 chains West of the point at which the work was stopped. This would indicate that there was no intention of subdividing into sections, the land adjoining the Red River, which is consistent with Col. Dennis' many statements since arriving in the settlement.

The practice of all land surveyors, old or young, past or present, is to use the back leaf of their field books to scribble any pertinent facts or figures not required for the actual field notes, but to be referred to at a later moment.

Mr. Webb was no exception and in the back of his field book is written in phonetic script, the 17 names of the party, including Riel, who stopped his survey.

It would appear reasonable to assume that, following this stoppage of the survey by standing on the chain and using threats of violence if the survey was persisted in, Major Webb asked for the names of the group to amplify his report and then recorded the

spoken names, all French, as best he could. The names were probably enunciated by Riel, who spoke English.

The following is the list as recorded, with further data to locate these 17 men in the community.

"Louis Ariel" = Louis Riel (25 yrs.) Lot 16, St. Vital and Lot 51 (mother)

"de Sangrey & Son" = "do" is for ditto = Louis Sansregret (44 yrs.) Lot 5, St. Vital. His son could be any of six boys, but probably either Andre (23 yrs.) or John (20 yrs.) the oldest sons

"Batiste Tauro" = Jean Baptiste Tourond (31 yrs.) Lot 161, St. Norbert

"Francois Chauvey brought up by Normas Grandfather" = Francois Gervais (48 yrs.) son of Jean Baptiste Plouf dit Gervais (83 yrs.) owner of Lot 55, St. Vital

"Normas" = Norman Marion (18 yrs.) flagman for Mr. Webb, whose grandfather is Francois Marion, owner of Lot 56, St. Vital which lot adjoins J. B. Plouf, above.

"Edward Mauren, the owner" = Edward (Edouard) Perreault (37 yrs.) owner of Lot 13, St. Vital, who is the son of Baptiste Perreault dit Morin (68 yrs.) Mr. Webb shows this man is the owner of the land where he was stopped which is confirmed when this point is plotted accurately on a map. I cannot find any evidence to confirm that this incident occurred on Andre Nault's land, being Lot 12, St. Vital adjoining. Mr. Webb must have had a specific reason for underlining "the owner", indicating that either Louis Riel stated this fact or Norman Marion, his flagman, did. I would think the former, as "the owner" was written at the same time as the name Edward Mauren.

"Janvier Richot" = Janvier (Jean Baptiste) Ritchot (31 yrs.) Lot 29, St. Vital

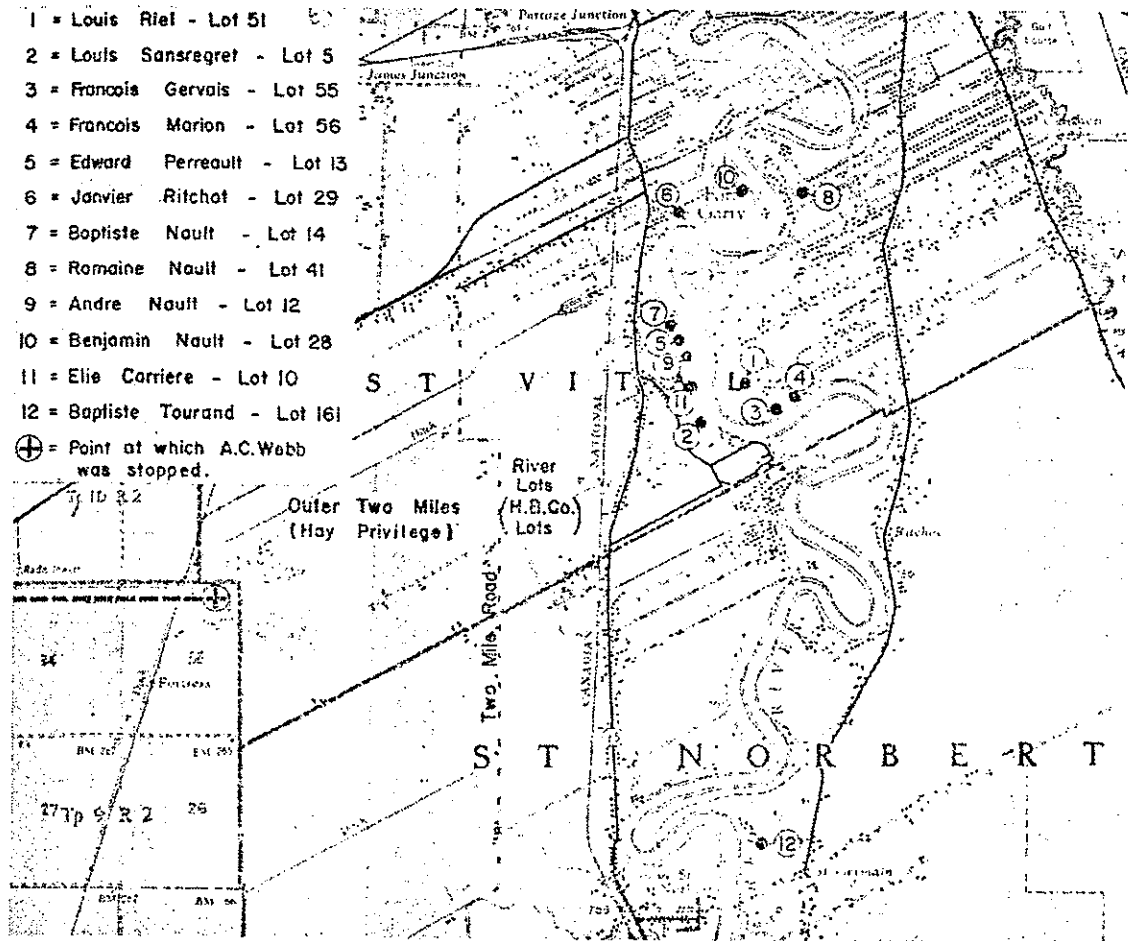
"Batiste Nou" = Baptiste Nault (42 yrs.) Lot 14, St. Vital

"Raumin Nou" = Romaine Nault (20 yrs.) Lot 41, St. Vital

"Bideau Nou" = "Bideau" is a nickname without specific application and could be either Andre (39 yrs.), Boniface (35 yrs.), Charles (29 yrs.) or Alfred (15 yrs.), all sons of Amable Nault. One of these, together with Baptiste, Romaine and Benjamin would be the "4 brothers" (most likely it was Andre).

- 1 = Louis Riel - Lot 51
- 2 = Louis Sansregret - Lot 5
- 3 = Francois Gervais - Lot 55
- 4 = Francois Marion - Lot 56
- 5 = Edward Perreault - Lot 13
- 6 = Janvier Ritchot - Lot 29
- 7 = Baptiste Nault - Lot 14
- 8 = Romaine Nault - Lot 41
- 9 = Andre Nault - Lot 12
- 10 = Benjamin Nault - Lot 28
- 11 = Elie Carriere - Lot 10
- 12 = Baptiste Tourand - Lot 161

⊕ = Point at which A.C. Webb was stopped.



"Benjamin Nou" = Benjamin Nault (37 yrs.) Lot 28, St. Vital

(Duncan Sinclair, D.S., who surveyed these lots in 1871/72 spelled Nault as "Nou")

"Alex Carrer & Son" = Alexis Carriere and son Elie Carriere (29 yrs.) who owned Lot 10, St. Vital

"Batiste Nou's 3 sons" = Louis (26 yrs.), Godfrey (19 yrs.), Andre (15 yrs.)

This shows that the 17 men who stopped Mr. Webb and his surveying party were all quite close neighbors in St. Vital, excepting Baptiste Tourand, who was a close friend of Riel, both before and after this period, and lived only a short distance to the South in St. Norbert.

It is interesting to note that, of this small group of Metis, two were members of the courtmartial of Thomas Scott. "... Janvier Ritchot moved that the death penalty be invoked. Andre Nault seconded the motion ..."

Following this interruption in his work, Mr. Webb, with his party, returned to camp and sent a report to Col. Dennis with W. A.

Farmer, his chairman. They remained quietly in camp, as previously instructed by Col. Dennis, in case of such an eventuality.

Col. Dennis received this report about 2.00 p.m. (October 11) which included a list of names rather hastily and incorrectly written out from the record in the back of the field book.

He immediately met with Dr. Cowan, the Chief Magistrate in the settlement, and presented the facts to him, suggesting at the same time that any action taken should be tempered by the "unsettled state of the land tenure ... and the peculiar irritation and sensitiveness that existed on the part of the French half-breed in view of the transfer of the Territory and the assumption of the Government by Canada".

Dr. Cowan did not want to bother Governor MacTavish because of the Governor's poor health, so he sent for another magistrate, Mr. Goulet, and consulted with him. Riel happened to come into the post at this time, so Dr. Cowan sent for him and advised him of the complaint filed by Col. Dennis.