Makadeshib Chief "Black Duck" (b.c. 1790)

The chiefs Waub-ish-ash (the Marten), of Chippewa River, Shin-goob (Balsam), and Nug-aun-ub (Sitting-ahead), of Fond du Lake, were the principal men of the Chippewa Marten clan. The celebrated Ke-che-waub-ish-ash, of Sandy Lake, Sha-wa-ke-shig, of Leech Lake, and Muk-ud-a-shib (or Black Duck), of Red River, were members of this family. Black Duck was also reported to reside at Stump Lake to the south-east of Man-e-to Sah-gi-e-gun (Spirit Lake), called Devil’s Lake by the English. He was also resident at what was called “Indian Gardens” along the Assiniboine River. In their days these Chiefs conducted many battles with the Dakotas, driving them westward. All three died on battle-fields—the first at Elk River fight, the second at Rum River massacre, and the third, Black Duck, fell fighting on the western prairies against immense odds; but one out of forty, who fought with him, escaped death.

Michael K. Keplin of Turtle Mountain reports that Black Duck had distinguished himself in warfare against Dakota Chief Wa-nah-ta at Red Lake. His daughter Okimahkwe “Great Woman” (Makadeshib) was born 1824. He notes that she was one of the wives of Little Shell III and was ten years older. She died before Aug 01, 1889 in the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, Dakota Territory.

On April 25, 1816 the trader at Brandon House record noted that:

Capt. Grant and Black Duck came here with a quantity of furs Traded part with them & they took notes for 27 skins to be paid them at the Forks where they are going to next month they went away [I gave] them 2 gal mixed rum and a little wheat, Barley and potatoes for seed as they have houses and gardens half way to Portage la Prairie. (HBCA B/22/a/19)

The Plains Ojibway also resided in villages along the Assiniboine River from White Horse Plains to Brandon House. This group was intermarried with the Metis along Red River and the Assiniboine to Baie St. Paul (Saulteaux Village), St. Francois Xavier and Fort Ellice. These Ojibway were in fact all part of the White Horse Plain Buffalo hunt and entered the high plains to hunt together with the Half-Breeds. Thus, while Cuthbert Grant was using the young men among the Metis for his challenges to the Hudson’s Bay Company, he was also drawing in young warriors from among the Portage Bands.

In 1823, Chief Makadeshib sent tobacco asking all the Ojibway to join him in battle against the Dakota Sioux. He summoned those of Rainy River and north of that country toward Albany, those along the shores of Lakes Winnipeg, Winnipegosis and Manitoba. James Settee remembered the Indians passing through Red River, day after day as they traveled south to meet with Makadeshib. Chief Peguis from Rivière aux Morts also went

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2 The Ojibway and Metis women cultivated gardens including the ones at the Half Way Bank summer village on the Assiniboine River.
with a bodyguard of 100 men. The HBC detained him to persuade him not to go; he then promised to go no further than fifty miles south of Pembina.

In 1824, Black Duck told the gathered troops, who included his Metis relatives, that he had a prophecy that they would encounter the Sioux at Gods Lake, called Man-e-to Sah-gi-e-gun (Spirit Lake) by the Ojibway, called Mni Wakan (Spirit Lake) by the Dakota and Devil’s Lake by the English. On the third day they came to the lake but saw no Dakota. On the fourth day Chief Peguis, lacking confidence in Black Duck’s prophecy, turned back citing his promise to the HBC. The following evening they found a Sioux camp of about 300 lodges. On the fifth day they attacked this camp almost wiping them out, but some escaped to the larger Sioux camp nearby and the Ojibwa were attacked by a thousand warriors on horseback. At the second attack Black Duck was felled by a bullet to his knee but fought on, killing 20 more, but at 11:00 o’clock he was killed by a bullet to the head.³

Archbishop Langevin of St. Boniface interviewed François Gosselin who spoke about Black Duck on August 1, 1901. – This translation from the French is by Emilie Pigeon:

Account from Old Gosselin, born 1818, his father from the Île of Orléans, his mother Assiniboine.⁴

Canard Noir: The Black Duck. [born circa 1790]

He speaks Cree, Saulteux, Assiniboine, Sioux, French. The Black Duck, Chief of the Turtle Mountain, adv. of the Métis. He sent tobacco to Red Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Rainy River, Lake of the Woods, River of the Dead [Peguis’s group at Netley Creek]. [This is an account of a battle in 1824 when Black Duck was killed]

He who smokes tobacco must be armed.

They waited somewhere in from of the mountain. Departure towards the land of the Sioux. Fear of allies. Coming to remember [they wanted to] save [accumulate] the scalps. Discovery of a small camp. Hesitation of the warriors. Black Duck laughed and made some cries.⁵

Sioux warriors saw them. They were camped near a lake far from the larger camp that waited the agents of the American government. More hesitations. The Sioux left their lodges. We killed two women that were hidden (and we) removed their scalps. More hesitations. Enough. No, said Black Duck. Then, the fog lifted, and

⁴ François Gosselin was married to Suzanne Lafournaise. He was the son of Michel Gosselin and Marguerite Duroleaux (Assiniboine).
⁵ (Source: p. 25 SHSB01_211_p115.)
we could see the large camp. Black Duck ?? (illegible) - No, said his son, too late, if we die, it is your fault. An Assiniboine came to tell them to run away. Black Duck did not respond. I believe they are brethren of the Assiniboine. The Sioux were as numerous as the grass. They will annihilate you. Useless. So they went away. And the Sioux surrounded them like ??.

Three women killed, 37 men killed in one hour. Three Saulteux ran away. One ran away on foot, chased by warriors on horseback – entered a lake- walked on water. The Sioux came forward trampling in and returned. Another, enflamed, one… received an injury to the cheek (spear) to the arm and to the back. He threatened us with his unloaded weapon, accosting a young chief who jumped from his horse, jumped onto this horse, the best, chased by two cavaliers. One trips and falls.

He was threatened with an unloaded weapon. The Sioux escaped, but the Saulteux took his horse. 50 Sioux injured, 10 killed.6

**Black Duck** married unknown native woman before 1815. They had the following children:

- Makadeshib II, born circa 1815. He was also called “Louison Lerat.”
- Okimahkwe (Great Woman) She died before August 1, 1889.
- Pitowewkiizhik "Francois Norbert" Lerat (Makadeshib) was born in the Red River Settlement Manitoba. He died Dec 28, 1887 in Dakota Territory on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation.
- Pieskanahapit “Pierre Lerat”.

**Louison Lerat** married LaLouise Herman before 1836. LaLouise was born before 1820. They had the following children:

Louison Lerat was born 1830 in the Red River Settlement. In 1870 he was living in St. Peter’s parish, Manitoba. Louison married Harriet Takkokweyan before 1858. Harriet was born between 1835 and 1838 in the Red River Settlement.She died in the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation in Dakota Territory. They had the following children: Anne Lerat, born 1858; Joseph Lerat, born in 1860; Louison Lerat, born in 1868.

Harry "Dzendzengandy" Lerat, born 1836 in Portage la Loche, Saskatchewan. Dzendzengandy married Catherine Herman the daughter of ??? Herman and Sophie (Chipewyan). Catherine was born 1836 in Portage La Prairie. They had the following children: Pierre Lerat, born in 1858 in Saskatchewan; a son (unknown) Lerat; he married a Marie McKay.

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6 Source: p. 26 SHSB01_211_p116.
Josephine Lerat was born 1846. Josephine married Joseph Montgrand. Joseph was born 1839. Julie then married Louison Montgrand.

**Okimahkwe "Great Woman"** (Makadeshib) was born 1824. She married Little Shell III. She died before Aug 01 1889 in the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, Dakota Territory.

Band Census:
- No. 1/Indian Name: Esens/English Name: Little Shell/Relationship: Father/Sex M/Age 52.
- No. 3/Indian Name: Oskinighkwe/ English Name: Young Woman/Relationship: Wife/Age 27.
- No. 4/Indian Name: Kanawapan/English Name: Facing/Relationship: Daughter/ Sex: F/Age: 3.
- No. 5/Indian Name: Kyikaemikeket/English Name: Reading the Day/Relationship: son/Sex: M/Age: 1

Enumerated on September 6, 1887 Census by Ernest Wm. Bremmner Chief Farmer: Census 1887/Full-Blood Chipewas, Turtle Mountain Band/ Devil's Lake Agency Dakakota, John W.Cremssie U.S. Indian Agent.

The family of Essens as of June 1887.

No. 22/Indian name: Essens/ English Name: Little Shell/Relationship: Father/Age: 55.
No. 23/Indian name: Okimahkwe/ English Name: Great Woman/Relationship: Wife/age 62.
No. 24/Indian name: Oskinigahkwe/ English Name: Young Woman/Relationship: Wife/Age 28.
No. 25/Indian name: Kannawapiw/ English Name: Facing/Relationship: Daughter/Age: 5.
No. 26/Indian name: Joseph/ English Name: -/Relationship: Son/Age: 3.
No. 27/Indian name: Chipatakoenn/ English Name: Green Man/Stepson/Age: 15.

Great Woman married Essens “Little Shell III”. Little Shell III was born Bet. 1825-1830. He died Bet 1900-1901 in the Turtle Mountain Chipewa Reservation in Rolette County, Belcourt, North Dakota and was buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery, on the Turtle Mountain Chipewa Reservation, Rolette County in rural Belcourt, North Dakota.

Es-en-ce or Little Shell; in 1896 gave his name as Ayabe-way-we-tung “He Who Rests On His Way.” (1829-1900). He was Chief of Pembina Ojibway at the Red Lake/Pembina Bands Treaty of October 2, 1863. The signer was Little Shell No. 3 or Ayabe-way-we-tung. In 1874 at Washington he stated that his Father and Grandfather were Chiefs of the same band before him.

Great Woman and Little Shell III had one child: Chipatakoenn “The Green Man”. He was born about 1872. He was related to his father by adoption and to his mother by birth.
Pitowewkiizhik "Francois "Norbert" Lerat" (Makadeshib) was born about 1825 in the Red River Settlement Manitoba. He died Dec 28 1887 in Dakota Territory on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation.

Francois "Norbert" Lerat married (1) Rosalie Comtois, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Comtois and Angelique Vallee, on Sep 25 1853 in St. François Xavier. Rosalie was born between 1820 and 1835 in the Red River Settlement. She died after 1906 in the Cowessess First Nation Reserve, Saskatchewan.

They had the following children:

- Francoise Lerat was born circa November, 1854. She died April 6, 1855 in St. Francois Xavier.

- Zacharie Lerat was born between 1858-1862 and died 1928 in the Cowessess First Nation Reserve. Zacharie married Marie Landry, the daughter of Pierre Landry and Madeleine Chadron, before 1884. Marie was born between 1858 and 1862. She died in 1948 on Cowessess First Nation Reserve, Saskatchewan. They had the following children: Virginia Lerat, born about 1884; Virginia married Theodore Delorme the son of Ambrose Delorme and Philomene Desjarlais, he was born in 1887; Josephine Lerat, born about 1885; Ellen Lerat born about 1887; Marie Lerat born about 1886; Vitaline Lerat born about 1892; Vitaline married Antoine Lavalle; Solomon Lerat born about 1894 in the Cowessess First Nation Reserve, Saskatchewan. He died in 1936 at Cowessess First Nation Reserve, Solomon married Mariah Pelletier, daughter of Gustave Pelletier and Annie Two Voice Kanusweywieton; Joseph Norbert Lerat born about 1896 at the Cowessess First Nation Reserve, Saskatchewan, Canada. He died Sep 29 1980; Joseph Lerat was born between 1858-1862. Joseph married (1) H. Kakiwakiweni and then had relationships with (2) Hilda Pelletier and (3) Virginie Lavalle; Rachel Lerat, born about 1898; Louison Roussin Lerat born about 1898 at the Cowessess First Nation, Louison married (1) Rosalie Delorme and had a relationship with (2) Adele Aisaican; Veronica Lerat born about 1901 at the Cowessess First Nation, Veronica married Pierrish Delorme; Joseph Lerat born about 1902 at the Cowessess First Nation; Adele Lerat. Adele married Joseph Pelletier.

- Joseph Lerat dit “Sooze” was born between 1858 and 1862. He died at the Cowessess First Nation Reserve, Sooze married Madeleine Lemire on July 1886 in Qu'Appelle, Madeleine was born June 10, 1869 in Qu'Appelle, they had the following children: Francois Lerat born about 1889 at the Cowessess First Nation; Theodore Lerat born about 1893 at the Cowessess First Nation; Flora Lerat born about 1894 at the Cowessess First Nation; Gabriel Lerat born about 1896 at the

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7 Reference: RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-c, Volume 1355, Reel C-14984, Access code: 90
File Title: Lemire, Madelaine; address: Qu'Appelle; claim no. 1196; born: 10 June, 1869 at Qu'Appelle; father: Joseph Lemire (Métis); mother: Clemente Boyer (Métis); married: July, 1886 at Qu'Appelle to Joseph LeRat; scrip for $240.00.
Cowessess First Nation; Leon Lerat born about 1898 at the Cowessess First Nation; Mary Ann Lerat born about 1900 at the Cowessess First Nation; Ellen Lerat born 1902 at the Cowessess First Nation; Ellen Lerat born 1902 at the Cowessess First Nation.

- Frances Lerat was born about 1864 and died after 1892. She died after 1892 on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, Belcourt, North Dakota. Frances married Norbert Landry the son of Pierre Landry and Madeleine Chadron, about 1889 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, Norbert was born about 1866. They had the following children: Patrice Landry born about 1890 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, Belcourt, he died before 1892;

- Lizette Lerat was born about 1875. Lizette married Rodrique Flammand.

- Marie Helen Lerat was born between 1877 and 1880. Marie married (1) Louis Flammand about 1893 in the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, Louis was born Aug 14 1875 in Crooked Lake, Saskatchewan. They a son, George Flammand. Marie also married (2) Louison Laferte after 1900 in the region of Belcourt, North Dakota. Louison was born about 1875.

François "Norbert" Lerat also married Emilie Desjarlais "Siïnpiïns", the daughter of Joseph Desjarlais and LaLouise Josephite Richard, before 1868. Siïnpiïns was born in July 1851 in St. François Xavier. She died on June 13, 1943 in the family home on Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota and was buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery, on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, Belcourt, North Dakota.

Children of François and Emilie:

- Pierre "Pikiwakisik" Lerat was born about 1868/1871. He died at Cowessess First Nation Reserve. Pikiwakisik married Cecile Desjarlais before 1892 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation. Cecile was born June 1878 at Wood Mountain. She died in the Cowessess First Nation. They had the following children: Gabriel Lerat born Mar 1893 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation; Joseph Lerat born February 1896 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation; Margaret Lerat born 1898 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation; Angus Lerat born 1901 at the Cowessess First Nation Reserve; Daniel Lerat born 1902 at

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8 Joseph "Okitshta" Desjarlais. Born in 1806 in Lac La Biche, NWT, Joseph was the son of Jean Baptiste “Nesche-kapow” Desjarlais and Lizette Cardinal. In 1830 when Joseph “Okitshta” was 24, he married La Louise “Josephite” Richard, daughter of Joseph Richard and Isabelle Saulteaux, in Baie St. Paul, Manitoba.

9 Reference: RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-c, Volume 1356, Reel C-14984, Access code: 90
File Title: LeRat, Cecile; address: Crooked Lake; claim no. 802; born: June, 1878 at Wood Mountain; father: Pierre Desjarlais (Métis); mother: Sara Houle (Métis).
the Cowessess First Nation Reserve; Daniel married Ettouice Marguerite Marie Lavallee; Alexander Lerat born January 28, 1904 at the Cowessess First Nation Reserve, he died in 1970 and was buried in the St. Mary's Cemetery, Cowessess; Alexander married (1) Lillian Louison Alexander and also married (2) Yvonne Sparvier; Alfred Lerat "Fred", born 1906 at Cowessess, Fred married Martha Kaye, she was born in 1915; Henry George Lerat born 1908 at Cowessess, he died 1971, Henry married Annie Delorme; Peter Lerat born at Cowessess, Peter married Irene Agecoutay; Emily Lerat. Emily married Allan Taypotat., Allan was born between 1900-1910 at the Kahkewistahaw First Nations Reserve.

- Susan Lerat was born May 3, 1872 and died Aug 23 1947 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation. Susan was born on May 3, 1872 between Wood Mountain and Cypress Hills. Susan married Joseph Nadeau “Setawe or Brawcoupi”, son of Joseph Nadeau and Margeurite Montreuil. Setawe or Brawcoupii was born April 10, 1861 in the Pembina Hills (Hair Hills) area of Dakota Territory. He died April 18, 1950 at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation.

- Ambrose Lerat was born March 4, 1876.

- Genevieve Lerat was born December 3, 1877 in Lebret, Saskatchewan. Genevieve married (1) Peter Favel, son of Alexandre Favel and Madeleine Gladu. Peter was born 1878 in Qu'Appelle. Genevieve also married (2) Jean Baptiste Sparvier. Jean was born about 1860 at Scobie, Montana, the son of “The Last Feather”.

- Emmanuel Lerat was born about 1877.
- Marguerite Lerat was born in 1881 in Lebret, Saskatchewan.
- Alexandre Lerat was born Feb 13 1883 in Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan.
- Norbert Lerat was born about 1885.
- Anonyme Lerat was born 1887.

Subsequent to Francois’ death in 1887, Emilie married Louis Lafontaine, son of Jean Baptiste Lafontaine and Francoise Martin, before 1890. She and Louis Lafontaine were enumerated in the census in July 1890 Turtle Mountain, Dakota Territory. Also in the family were Agenore Lafontaine, Marie-Rose Lallemont dit Lafontaine, Louis Lafontaine, Marie Anne Lafontaine, Marie Philomene Lafontaine, Virginie Lafontaine, and Eliza Lafontaine.

1890 Census : #663-671; Louis Lafontaine, M, father, 49; Emily, F, mother, 40; Eugene, M, son, 19; Marie Rose, F, dau, 15; Louis, M, son, 14; Marian, F, dau, 12; Philomene, F, dau, 11; Virginie, F, dau, 9; Eliza, F, dau, 5 months. (1890-TMC) (1890-TMC, #663-671.).

She and Louis Lafontaine were enumerated in the census on 1 October 1892 Turtle Mountain Reservation, Belcourt, Rolette County, North Dakota. Also in the family: Marie Philomene Lafontaine, Louis Lafontaine, Marie Anne Lafontaine, Virginie Lafontaine, Eliza Lafontaine, and Agenore Lafontaine. Family 145; #610, Louis
Lafontaine, male, father, age 49, mixed bloods on reservation; #611, Emily, female, wife, age 39; #612, Mary Philomene, female, daughter, age 13; #613, Louis, male, son, age 17; #614, Mary Ann, female, daughter, age 11; #615, Virginie, female, daughter, age 11; #616, Eliza, female, daughter, age 1-1/2; #617, Isanor, male, son, age 19 (1892C-TMC, Family 145, #610-617.).

She and Louis Lafontaine were enumerated in the census on 1 June 1900 Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation, Rolette County, North Dakota. Also in the family: Louis Lafontaine, Marie Philomene Lafontaine, Virginie Lafontaine, Eliza Lafontaine, Daniel Lafontaine, and Robert Lafontaine. Louis Lafontaine, Head, Indian, Male, June 1845, Canada, 54, married +, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2; Emilie, wife, Indian, Female, October 1855, North Dakota, 44, married +, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2. Louis, son, Indian, Male, May 1880, North Dakota, 20, single, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2; Mary Philome, daughter, Indian, Female, August 1884, North Dakota, 16, single, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2; Virginie, daughter, Indian, Female, September 1888, North Dakota, 12, single, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2; Eliza, daughter, Indian, Female, February 1891, North Dakota, single, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2; Daniel, son, Indian, Male, July 1894, North Dakota, 6, single, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2; Robert, son, Indian, Male, April 1897, North Dakota, 3, single, Chippewa, Chippewa, Chippewa, 1/2. (House 314, page 309A) (1900C-TMC, House 314, page 309A.).

She and Louis Lafontaine were enumerated in the census on 28 January 1938 Turtle Mountain Reservation, Belcourt, North Dakota. Louis Lafontain Sr., husband, 1842; Emily Lafontain, (Larat, Desjarlais), wife, 1852.

Pieskanahapit “Pierre Lerat” (Makadeshib)\(^{10}\) was born about 1827 in the Red River Settlement. He died in the Cowessess First Nation Reserve, Saskatchewan. Pierre Lerat married Genevieve Richard, the daughter of Michel Richard and Isabelle-Elizabeth Collin, before 1855. Genevieve was born 1833 in the Red River Settlement.

They had the following children:

Pierre Lerat dit Wijika was born about 1855. He died on May 22, 1859 in St. François Xavier Red River Settlement.

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\(^{10}\) Reference: RG15, Interior, Series D-II-1, Volume 604, Reel T-13852
File: 212343, Access code: 90,
File Title: POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM PIERRE LE RAT TO DRAW HIS HALFBREED SCRIP.
Finding Aid number: 15-5 15
Reference: RG15, Interior, Series D-II-1, Volume 604, Reel T-13852
File: 212535, Access code: 90,
File Title: POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM PIERRE LE RAT, HEIR OF HIS SONS PIERRE LE RAT AND ETIENNE WEDGE-KA
Finding Aid number: 15-5 15-6
Etienne Lerat dit Wijika was born about 1864. Etienne married Marie Rose Lavallee, the daughter of Francois Xavier Lavallee and Genevieve Morand, in 1882 in Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. Marie was born on March 5, 1866 in St. Francois Xavier.  

Pierre Lerat Jr. was born 1867.

Reference: RG15, Interior, Series D-II-8-c, Volume 1355, Reel C-14982, Access code: 90  
File Title: Lavallee, Marie Rose; address: Broadview; claim no. 1275; born: 1866 at St. Francois Xavier; father: Xavier Lavallee (Métis); mother: Genevieve Moran (Métis); married: 1882 at Qu'Appelle to Etienne LeRat & in 1884 at Crooked Lakes to Alexander James Gaddy; children deceased: 1; scrip for $240.00