

By Janice Patoile MacDonald, November, 2012

Peter Patwell (Pierre Patoille) was born in Rochester, New York in 1841. He was the son of Pierre Patoille and Joseph Laporte dit St-Georges, both were from Quebec, Canada. Peter's father Pierre had several siblings, one of whom was Francois Patoille (Francis Patwell) who was killed in the uprising and has a story all his own. Another sibling of Peter was Frederick, who escaped in 1862, along with Peter. This is Peter's story of survival in the 1862 Sioux Uprising. Peter's father, Pierre Patoile was also the first Drayman in St. Paul, MN. He is in the book called "Pen Pictures of St. Paul" and is on Pig's Eye Parrant's notepad.

Peter (Pierre-Francois¹) Patoile, lived a very eventful life and is best known for being an *1862 Sioux Uprising Survivor*. Peter narrowly escaped death at the age of 21, when he and his Uncle Francois Patoille, became involved in the conflict near New Ulm, MN. Francois was murdered, but Peter made an historical escape and luckily, there were witnesses to the events that occurred, including one of the girls his uncle Francois had carried in his wagon: Mary Schwandt.

In two separate stories, Francois was shot attempting to rescue three teenage girls (Mary Schwandt and two others), who were guests of the Reynolds family home near the Upper Sioux Agency. Francois was brutally murdered by the Indians (see Francois' complete story).

Peter, his nephew, was just 21 years old on August 18, 1862 when the Indians attacked the trading post that Peter was managing for his uncle who was en route to deliver supplies to the post when he was killed. Peter was shot through the back and the bullet went through his lung and came out of his chest; they left him for dead on the ground and gasping blood. The Indians proceeded to pillage the store. Eyewitnesses describe how Peter, drifting in and out of consciousness from loss of blood, managed to roll into the bushes near the store and wait until it was dark. Being that he knew the area so well, he was able to find his way after dark to a place where he could cross the Minnesota River where it

would not be too deep; being wounded, swimming was not an option. The Yellow Medicine River is really just a stream where it flows into the Minnesota River and the trading post was near the Yellow Medicine River. (See: Upper Sioux Agency). (Wayne Burlingame, also a descendant of Peter, and Janice went to the location a few years ago and stood gazing upon the site where their great grandfather made his escape; it was quite a spiritual experience to actually stand at the spot).

Wittingly he sort of floated himself down the stream to where it meets the river; it's only about 3 feet deep thanks to the silt accumulation from the stream. He was met by some friendly, helpful Indians on the other side, one of who was Joseph La Framboise. They gave him animal tripe, raw corn and crackers and sent him on his way across the untracked prairie. He wandered aimlessly northbound and eventually eastbound, until he wandered into Little Falls, MN. He had walked 200 miles in 13 days with the wound.

The townspeople were set to hang him and thought he was an Indian, since they did not believe the story. However, after considering his speech, they acknowledged the fact that he was a white man and he was sent him to a St. Cloud hospital. After a few days, he was sent back to St. Paul in stagecoach and just one year later in 1863, he volunteered for Sibley's expedition in the Missouri region. He was a Minnesota Mounted Ranger. When the conflict was over, he married Bertha Johnson, a nice Norwegian woman and they had 8 children. The youngest, Ray Patoile, worked for many years at the Schmidt Brewing Co. in St. Paul, where his wife's father was the Brew Master, John Aubele.

I, Janice Patoile MacDonald, recently discovered that Peter, being a descendant of Joseph Laporte dit St-George, is a descendant of the well known 17th century explorer, interpreter and fur trader, Nicolas Perrot (Perrault). So, any of Peter's siblings, including Frederick and his descendants, the descendants of Francois who was murdered, etc. and all of their blood lines are descended of this fine man and his wife Madeleine Raclot (Raclos). She was one of the 800 women selected by King Louis the IV to help populate the New France. They were known as "Filles du Roi," Daughters of the King. Obviously, they were not his actual daughters, but they were given money and clothing, etc. to travel to Quebec and marry the men

who were in severe need of wives. They turned a few hundred in population into some 6000 over the course of just a few years. . There is quite a bit on the Internet on this subject.

Much is written about Nicolas Perrot and his 35 years of living with Indians around the Green Bay area. The best account was written by a fellow explorer, author and close friend: *La Potherie "The Adventures of Nicolas Perrot."* It is a detailed account of Perrot's adventures in New France in the mid 1600s. Other information is on the Internet if you are interested in learning more about the travel routes of some of your ancestors, since Perrot is responsible for setting up several forts along the Mississippi, etc. There are also a few websites. If you are interested in this family and/or your ancestors were French Canadian, you may want to explore this further. If you simply Google this: images for Nicolas Perrot. Then click on the many pictures that will take you to some of the websites. A good one is: NicolasPerrot.org and many others.

¹ Francois was Peter's middle name according to one of the Patwell Genealogy documents I have a copy of. It is not listed on his death certificate, but well may have been listed as his middle name on his birth certificate since he may have been named after his uncle and grandfather, both named Francois.

Pierre and Francois have a story all their own: *History of Anoka County/The first house in Anoka county/describes Pierre and Francois Patoile's* experience as traders on the Rum River and as some of the first white inhabitants in Anoka County. They rebuilt the first house that Joseph Belanger built on the Rum River.

***You may not use this without written permission 2012 Copyright Jan MacDonald**