

Loutit – River Lot 106,

Like many of the neighbouring river lots, this one had been granted to a former HBC employee. Lowe (Louis?) Loutit. Loutit had signed up with the HBC from his home in Stromness, Orkney at age 16 in 1835. He worked as a labourer and a blacksmith at interior forts.

When he quit the HBC in 1844, he took up land near the last set of falls on the Red River. Here he and his native wife and their children could live near good fishing and hunting grounds. Unfortunately, life was very hard, especially for women and children. John's first wife and mother of six of his children died in 1857 at age 40. His second wife bore him 4 more children, three of whom died in infancy. They were buried in St Andrews cemetery.

John's surviving children married within the area and over the past 150 years have built kinship with most of the prominent families in Selkirk, Clandeboye, Petersfield and Lockport. His son John (1841-1925) marched against Louis Riel in the winter of 1870 to free prisoners being held in Upper Fort Garry. While this counter-rebellion failed to depose Riel, the Loutits proved their courage and fortitude as some of the first settlers of the Petersfield area and as volunteers in WW1 and 2.

Various Loutits have distinguished themselves in diverse fields of professional life. One who passed away in 2009 at 100 yrs of age, was Isobel St Clair Loutit, a gifted mathematician. During WW2, she contributed to the development of anti-aircraft defense systems and later became an expert in telecommunications.

Descendants of Lowe Loutit and his wives still live along the river near their river lot in Lockport.

For more information of the Loutit family, please go to: redriverancestry.ca, or the Memorable Manitobans section of the Manitoba Historical Society website: MHS.mb.ca or the book :“Beyond the Gates of Lower Fort Garry (1981)