

GABRIEL DUMONT

One of Cavalier county's early residents was once a rebel leader — not in Europe or in Central or South America, but up in Canada. The late Gabriel Dumont of the Olga neighborhood left there in 1885 to aid Louis Riel in the Second Riel Rebellion in western Canada. An early account lists Gabriel Dumont as the second in command. Research indicates this was the Olga man.

However, no opprobrium is attached to this record, even by the Canadian and British governments, against whom Riel's forces revolted. It is conceded that they fought for what they

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Gabriel Dumont taken in Olga by his brother-in-law, Gregoire Monette, where he was living.

considered their rights. Anyway, a number of mixed bloods in this section strongly endorsed Riel's stand and many of them went over to help him.

In 1885 disquietude among the mixed bloods and Indians of Saskatchewan and Alberta, due to objections to governmental restrictions, suddenly flared into open warfare. The leader, Riel, had headed a previous uprising in 1869-70.

Riel, himself a Manitoba mixed blood, was hailed as a sort of messiah by his followers but the uprising was short-lived. The early account says:

"Riel was captured and placed on trial for his life. He made a strong plea but refused to plead insanity and, instead sought to convince the court of the justice of his stand. He was sentenced to death and was executed at Regina a short time later. His chief aide this time, Gabriel Dumont, escaped.

While the world in general has branded Riel as a rebel against orderly society, lacking heroic qualities and undeserving of credit for his views, there are some who cherish his memory. At St. Boniface, a city that ranks as a suburb of Winnipeg and where the residents are mostly of French blood, there are mixed bloods who believe Riel was a martyr. While the Indians were numerous in Manitoba and the areas to the west at the time of the Riel rebellions, they did not figure in them extensively as a group.

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well under the Hudson's Bay company i
apparently found it preferable to the m
regulations of the government. So Riel, a
ambitious agitator, rallied his fellow M
move against the new order.

The conflict centered about the Fc
settlement, where Winnipeg is now locate
the rebels were successful and for a tim
control at Winnipeg. But arrival of troops
ended his short period of triumph.

Riel and many of his followers fled to
and the leader was teaching school in Can
summoned to lead the second revol
sometimes rated as a man with a N
complex, a sort of mystic, but no one has
far to champion the cause of his pec
historical study, novel or play.

Dumont returned to the Olga commu
the second revolt was suppressed."

Mr. Dumont was born in 1838 at Assinil
is now southern Manitoba.

THOMAS AND MARY DUNNIGAN