

Introduction

In 1829, at twenty-seven (born about 1802), Amable Petit entered service with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) from the parish of Berthier as a middleman, the middle person in a canoe.¹ The only Amable Petit from Bertherville is Charles Amable Petit, born and baptized on 3 May 1802 at the Parish of Ste-Genevieve-de-Berthier, son of Augustin Petit-Bruneau and Catherine Marcotte.²

When Amable Petit died on 16 July 1867 at St. Paul, Oregon, the parish priest recorded his age as about 70 – born about 1797. His position was given as “verger” for the St. Paul Church.³

Fort Colville

Amable first served at Fort Colville, a newly constructed fur trading fort on the Columbia River in Northeastern Washington. The number of furs that passed through Fort Colville was almost the same as Fort Vancouver's. In addition to furs, Fort Colville had a thriving farm that produced wheat for export.⁴



Fort Colville⁵

Fort Vancouver

By 1837, Amable Petit was stationed at Fort Vancouver, where he worked until he retired in 1842.⁶

Fort Vancouver, the primary fur trading post in the HBC's Columbia District, was built in 1824 on the north bank of the Columbia River, near where the Willamette River flows into the Columbia River. While the HBC was a British company, the company employees were diverse. George Simpson described this diversity on a trip down the Columbia River.

“Our crew of ten men contained Iroquois who spoke their own tongue; a Cree half breed of French origin, who appeared to have borrowed his dialect from both his parents; a North Briton who understood only the Gaelic of his native hills; Canadians who, of course, knew French, and Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islanders, who jabbered a medley of chinook and their own vernacular jargon. Add to all this that the passengers were natives of England, Scotland, Russia, Canada, and the Hudson Bay Territories.”⁷

Amable Petit married Susanne Tawaka, daughter of Thomas Tawaka and a Chinook woman. Thomas, (aka Tawatcon, Tawacon, Tawakon”, was an Iroquois Indian who signed on with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1813 from the Iroquois parish Sault St. Louis. He served in the

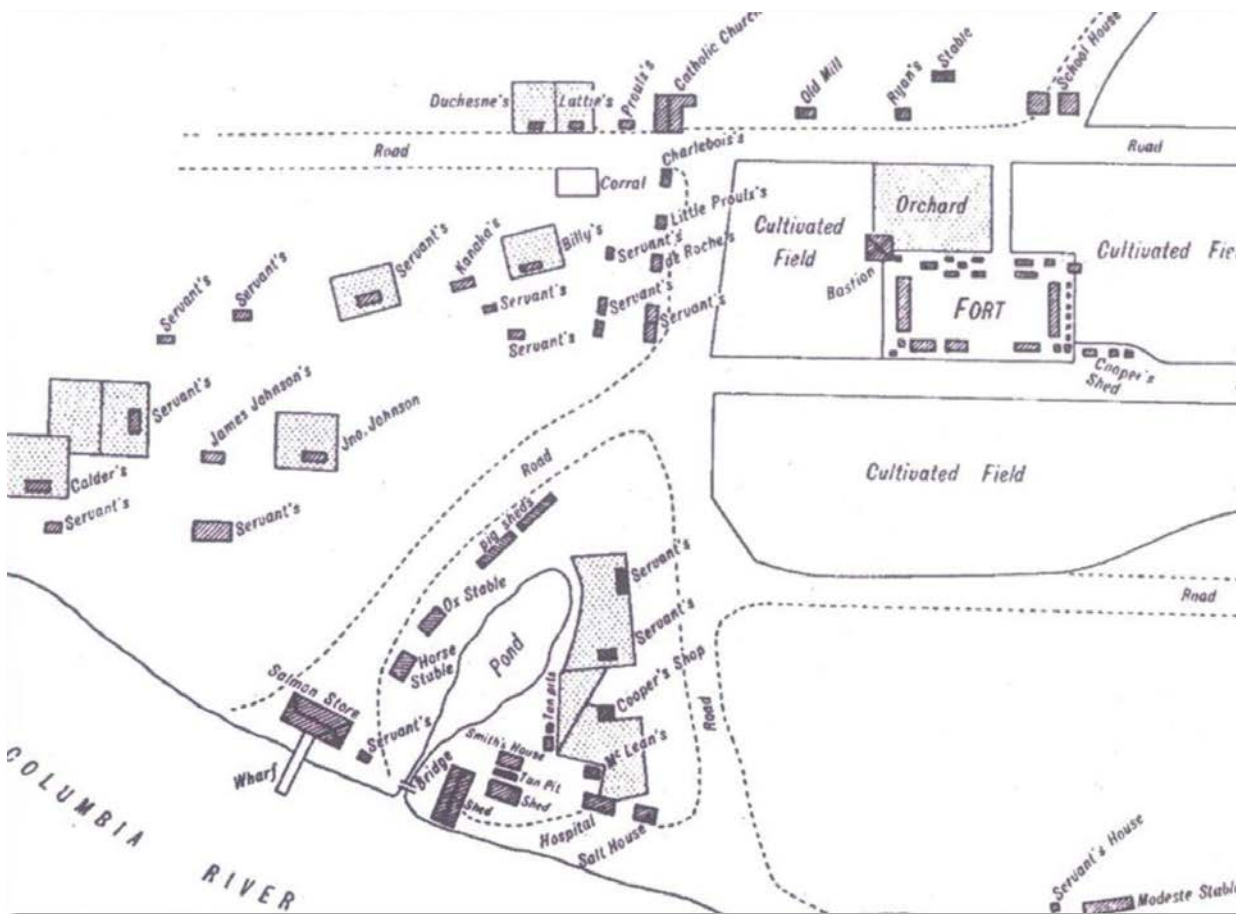
Amable Petit, St Paul Verger, and Suzanne Tawaka, Iroquois Indian, and their family,
by Connie Lenzen, for the St Paul Mission Historical Society

Columbia District as a Canadian servant, steersman, freeman, middleman, trapper, and route (combination bowsman and steersman) until 1844.⁸

Amable and Susanne were married twice. The first marriage was on 27 March 1837 at Fort Vancouver. Rev. Herbert Beaver was the officiant. The witnesses were John F. Robinson and Jane Beaver.⁹

When Catholic priests arrived at Fort Vancouver in the winter of 1838-39, they baptized the children born of the French-Canadian's "Indian custom" marriages and then married the parents in the Catholic religion. Susanne Tawaka, age 18, named as the daughter of Thomas Tawaka and a woman of the country, was baptized on 27 December 1838¹⁰. Amable Petit, HBC, engagé, and Susanne Tawawka were married on the same day. Henri, aged about 17 months, was recognized as their legitimate child, but the record does not show whether he was baptized.¹¹

Note: the word engage indicates an employee of the HBC. The "engagés" were also called servants. The following map of Fort Vancouver shows where the servants lived.



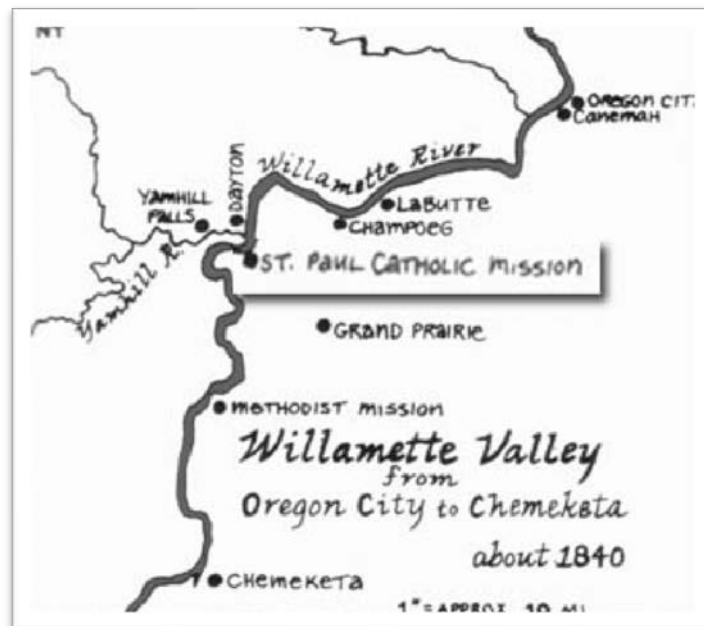
Map based on 1846 map of Fort Vancouver.¹²

French Prairie

French Prairie in Oregon's Willamette Valley was settled in the early 1830s by retired HBC employees. These men had Indian wives and half-Canadian, half-Indian children. The French Prairie towns include St. Paul, St. Louis, Gervais, Champoeg, and Butteville.

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Map of French Prairie, about 1840¹⁴



John McLoughlin kept HBC employees who retired to farm on French Prairie on the books as employees, but no service was expected. This provided a testing period. During that time, if the ex-employee caused trouble, they could be discharged and transported out of the country. McLoughlin also provided seed grain, a two-wheeled cart, a plow, two cows, and two steers. The men could purchase farm implements at a discount.¹⁵ Amable officially retired in 1842, but he was on the Prairie in January 1840 when his children, Marie and Charles, were baptized at the St. Paul Church.

This 9 January, 1840, we priest undersigned have baptized Marie born day before yesterday of the legitimate marriage of Amable Petit engagé of the Company of the Bay of Hudson, and of Susanne Tawakon. Godmother Marie, wife of Charles Tse-te, who has not known how to sign. F. N. Blanchet, priest, V.G.

This 9 January, 1840, we priest undersigned have baptized under condition Charles aged 3 years, legitimate son of Amable Petit, engage of the Company of the Bay of Hudson, and of Susanne Tawakon. Godfather Charles Tse- te, Iroquois, who has not known how to sign.¹⁶

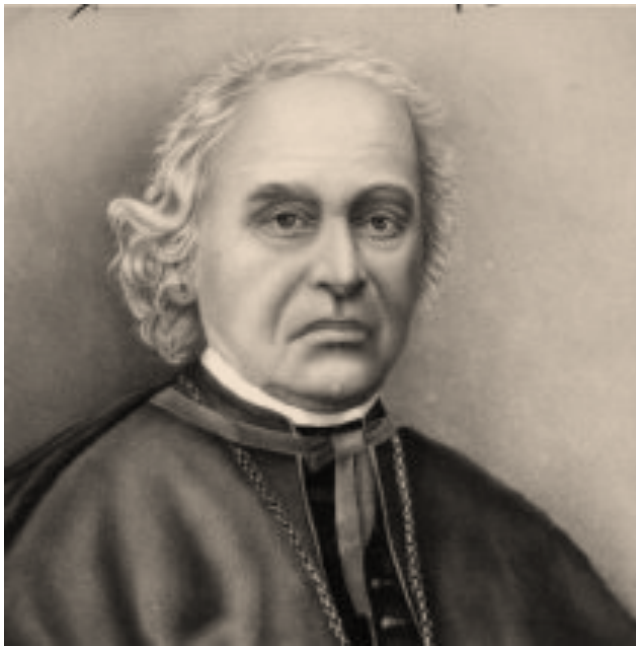
The Amable Petit household was enumerated in the 1850 Marion County census.¹⁷ Charles was not listed in the household, but Henry, aged 13, was recorded. In 1851, Charles and Marie Petit were confirmed.¹⁸ In 1857, Celeste Petit was confirmed.¹⁹ There is no confirmation or death recorded for Henry in the St Paul registers. Charles and Henry are likely the same person.

In September 1840, Fr. F. N. Blanchet wrote to Fr. Modeste DeMers in Vancouver about Suzanne (Tawakan) Petit. Blanchet complained about the "obstinate nature of Suzanne Tawakon," the wife of Willamette Mission verger Amable Petit. Apparently, she wanted a greater say in the running of domestic arrangements at the mission. As a result of this dispute, Tawakon and Petit moved back to Fort Vancouver for a time. In addition, Blanchet wrote that

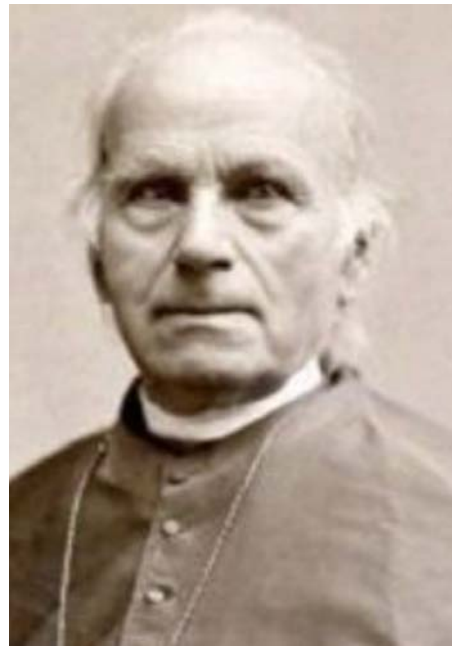
“Tawakon “debauched” Amable Petit, pressuring him to turn his back on the mission at that time.”²⁰

A month later, Amable Petit appeared in the Vancouver church register – showing the family had moved from St. Paul.

This 6 October, 1840, we priest undersigned have buried in the Catholic cemetery of Vancouver the body of Louise, Tchihélis by nation, deceased the day before, wife of Jean Baptiste Bouchard. Present at the burial André Lachapelle and Amable Petit who have not known how to sign. Mod. Demers, priest.²¹



Rev. Francis Norbert Blanchet²²



Rev. Modeste Demers²³

In 1842, Amable again appeared in the St. Paul register. Rev. Blanchet was still there!

The 11 September, 1842, we priest undersigned have baptized Celeste born 3 weeks ago of the legitimate marriage of Amable Petit, employed at the mission, and of Susanne Tawakon. Godfather Augustin Rochon, godmother Celeste Jeaudoin who as well as the father have not known how to sign.²⁴

From then on, Amable appeared in the St Paul church register as a person present at burials, as a godfather, and as a verger. Susanne often appeared as a godmother.

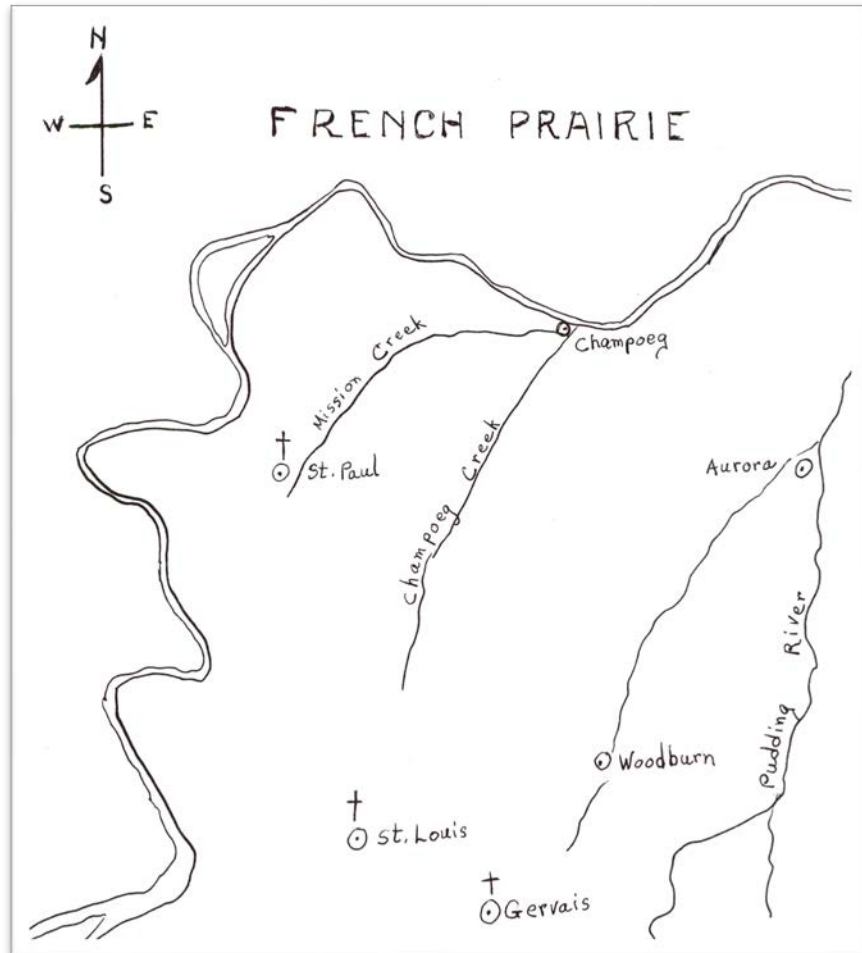
Oregon Territory

In 1843, wagons filled with settlers arrived in the Oregon Territory. William E Hill’s trail statistics estimates 125 settlers arrived in Oregon in 1842, and 875 settlers arrived in Oregon in 1843.²⁵ These newcomers outnumbered the French-Canadians, foreshadowing changes that would come for the Petit family and their neighbors. Up to this time, the Territory was under joint control of Britain and the United States, and the HBC was the de facto government.

A vote was taken by the settlers in May 1843 to decide if a Provisional Government should be established. This was a preliminary step for aligning with the United States. By a 52 to 50 vote, the Provisional Government won.²⁶

Other Petits

Two marriages in St. Louis introduce another Amable Petit and a Hubert Petit. St. Louis, as shown on this map, is in French Prairie.²⁷ The distance between St. Paul and St. Louis is around ten miles.



The 27 January, 1845, I undersigned, missionary of the Company of Jesus, after having published the first bann of marriage with the dispensation of the second and third, have received the mutual consent of **Amable Petit, son of Aimable [sic] Petit and of Marianne Boudrie**, on the one part: and of Emilie Obichon daughter of Alexis Obichon and of Marianne Tchinouk by nation, on the other part, residents of the Wallamette, and have given them the nuptial benediction, in the presence of Joseph Jervet and Louis Forcier, who could not sign as witnesses.²⁸

The 19 February, 1849, after the publication of two banns of marriage between **Hubert Petit, of-age son and legitimate of Amable Petit and of Marianne Beaudry living at Masca [Maska] in Canada on the one part**; and Emerance Gagnon minor daughter of Luc Gagnon and of Julie Gregoire, on the other part;

the dispensation of the third ban being obtained and not having discovered any impediment, we undersigned, parish priest of St. Louis, have received their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Joseph Laferte, Xavier Mathieu and Joseph Petrin.²⁹

Several historians have concluded this Amable Petit, the husband of Marianne Beaudry, was Amable Petit, the St. Paul verger. This is disproved in “The other Amable Petit – or the name’s the same” section at the end of this paper.

Back to Amable Petit and Susanne Tawaka

This 5 February, 1845, we the undersigned priest have baptized Pierre, aged 10 days, born of the legitimate marriage of Amable Petit and of Susanne Tawakon. Godfather Pierre GrosLouis, undersigned, godmother Henriette Vivet, who could not sign.³⁰

This 10 January 1846 entry in the St Paul register shows Amable's son Charles had a child outside of marriage.

Agreement between Chs. Petit, natural father, and Frs. Brouillard foster-father of Félicité, daughter of the late Olive Forcier, wife of the said Frs. Brouillard done at the house of the Pastor J. F. I. Malo, priest.

It is understood: First that the child will be put [to live] at the house of Amable Petit, grandfather of the child, as the charge of Chs. Petit, father of the child, Second that if the child is not well treated with regard to nourishment, clothing and education Frs. Brouillard foster-father of the child will have the right to take her back with the condition that he raise her well in his turn.³¹

Provisional land claims

Oregon's provisional government permitted inhabitants to stake out claims and survey them by the metes and bounds method. A constitution created by a legislative committee included rules for land claims. Any white male could claim 640 acres. Within six months of recording their claim, they were required to build a home³²

The following table shows the Amable Petit land claims during the Provisional period.³³ The information comes from the published transcription of the original documents. The originals at the Oregon State Archives in Salem, Oregon, contain no additional information.

Blanchett, Frans. N. and Bodue, Baptiste, partners, Champoig Co, 1280 acres. M. Alcott on west, **Petite** and Lavegeur on north, Lebrun and St. Martin on east, Pichet, Raymond and Sauve on south. Personal occupancy, 28 Jan 1847. Void by recording another claim, 4 May 1848.

[Amable Petit was employed by the church. Susanne's sister Catherine married Andre St. Martin. Suzanne's step-mother married Laurent Sauvie after her second husband, Paul Gilbough died.]

Petitt, A., Champoig Co, 340 acres. Dubruile on northwest, Paul Gilbou on south, other neighbors are Blanchett and Bolduc. Holds without personal occupancy, 28 Jan 1847. Abandoned by request of claimant in favor of J. B. A. Brouillet, 18 Nov 1848.

[Paul Gilbough married Suzanne Petit's father Thomas Tawaka's second wife, after Thomas died.]

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**Petit, Amaible, Champoeg Co, 640 acres. Cuthbert Lambert, Robilland on east;
adjoins Willamette River. Occupancy 11 November 1848.**

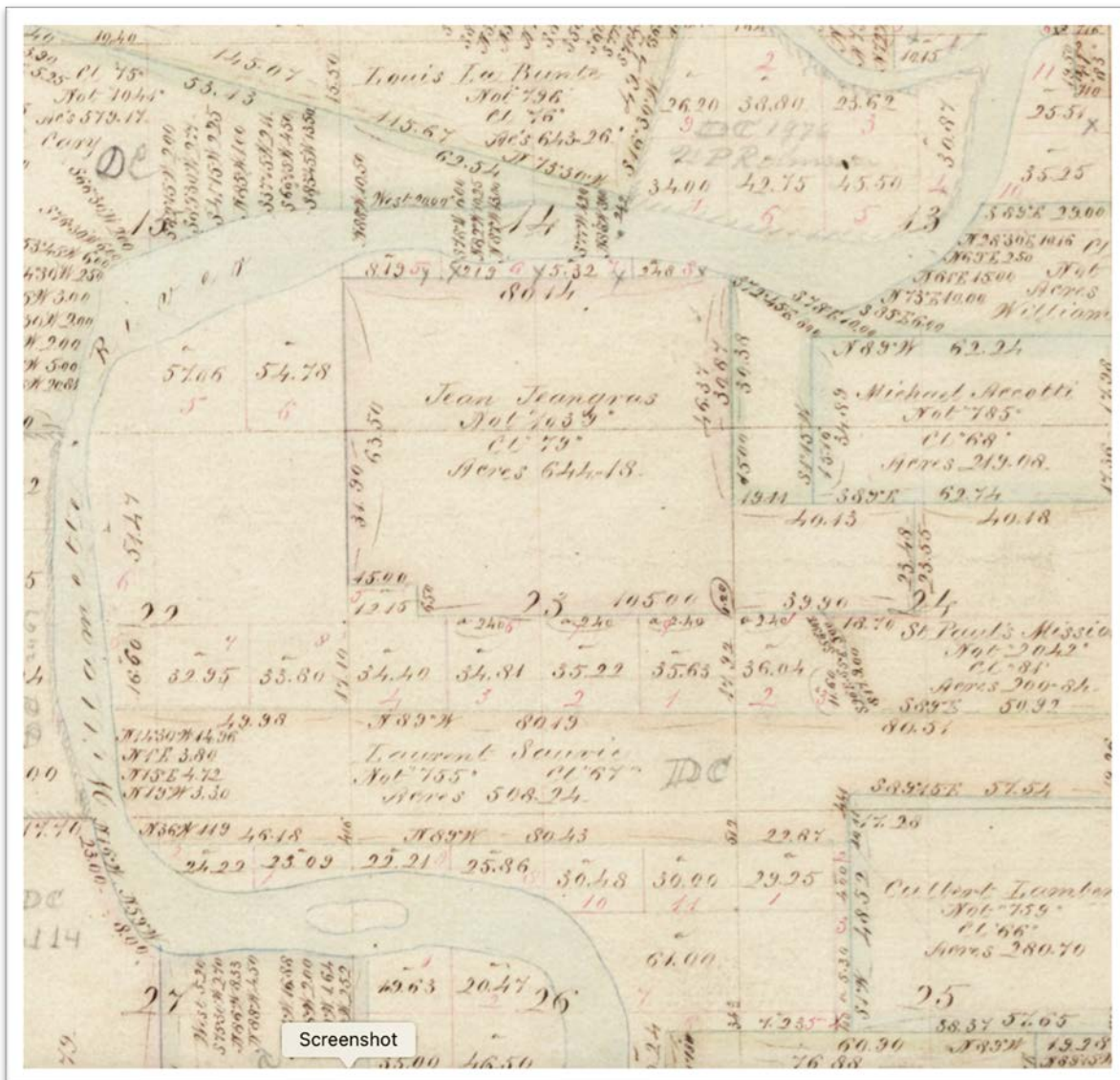
[Cuthbert Lambert was an 1850 census neighbor to the Amable Petit family.]

These claims were made null and void when the Oregon Donation Claim Act of 1850 was put in place. Amable Petit did not apply for a Donation Claim.

No maps were made of the provisional claims, but the following General Land Office maps of the St Paul Mission provide some clue where Amable's claim was located. The Catholic Mission was located in two sections – Township 4S, Range 2W and Township 4S, Range 3W

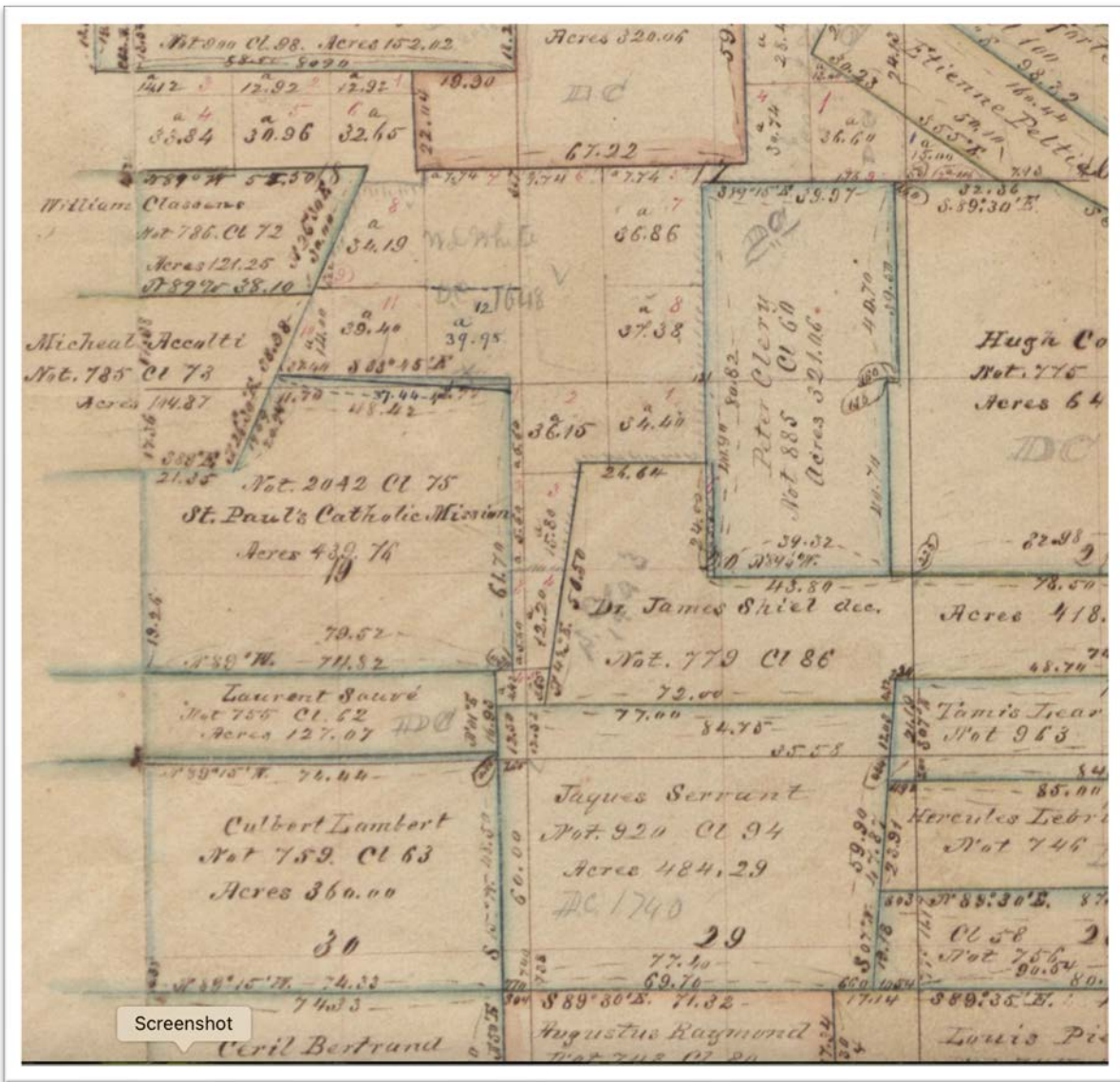
Survey map, Township 4S, Range 3W³⁴

In the map below, notice the location of Laurent Sauvie's Donation Claim, Cuthbert Lambert's Donation Claim, and the Willamette River. Presumably, the Petit family was living in this area.



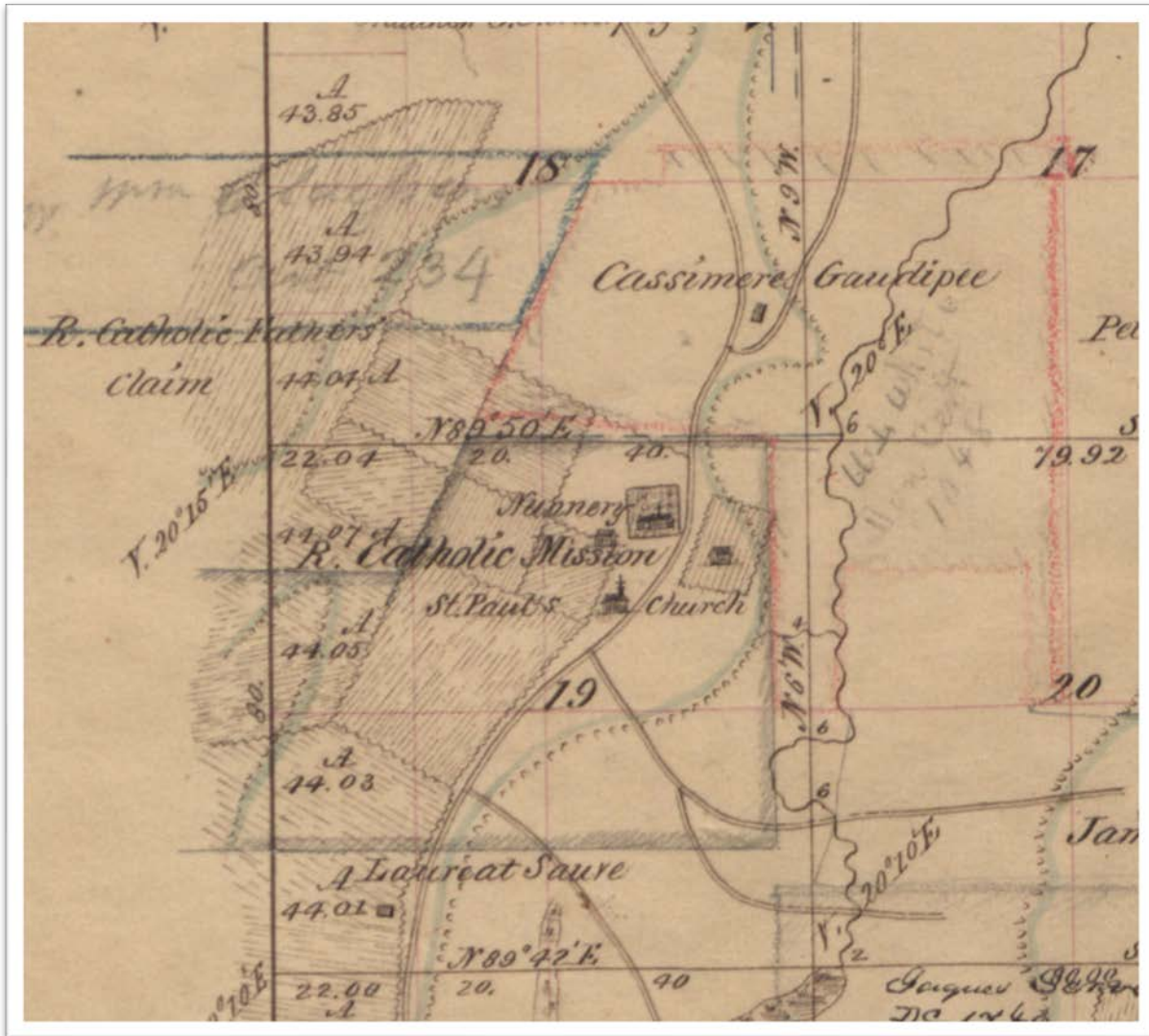
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1864 survey, Township 4S, Range 2.³⁵



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This 1852 survey of Twp. 4 S, Range 2W, focusing on section 19, shows the layout of the Catholic Mission.³⁶



In 1848, the United States government passed the Organic Act that established the Oregon Territory. The HBC had departed, but the French Canadians retirees and their families were still living on French Prairie.

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The Amable Petit household was enumerated in the 1850 Marion County census.³⁷ A piece of tape obscures the names of three children. However, by looking at the last two letters of the names, it is clear the names are Henry, Marie, and Celeste.

18356	Amable Petit	50	Mr			Canada
	Suzanne	36	f			O.S.
	[redacted]	13	Mr			"
	[redacted]	11	f			"
	[redacted]	9	"			"

	Pierre Petit	6	f			O.S.
	Catherine	3	f			

Amable had no real estate or personal estate in this 1850 census or in the 1860 census – indicating he owned no land.

Another Amable Petit was in the 1850 Marion County census.³⁸ He was aged 28 and born in Canada. [ca. 1822] He had real estate valued at \$1,000 – likely his Donation Land Claim.

24	15 13	Amable Petit	28		Farming	1000	Canada
25		Emilie	19	f			O.S.
26		Hubert	1	Mr			

Petit family in the 1860 Marion County census.³⁹

2662206	S. Pettit	52	Mr				Canada
	J	35	f	Ind.			Oregon
	Chas	21	Mr				Wash Territory
	Hans	30	f				Oregon
	J. Piccard	25	Mr			800 75	"
	Peter Pettit	14	"				"
	Francis	10	"				"
	Thelmon	5	f				"
	Theresa	3	"				"
	Julia	2	"				"
	Andres Piccard	12	"				"
2627220	John F. Hale	30	Mr		P. G. Clergyman		Canada
	[redacted]	3	"		G		"

Amable was enumerated as a farmer with no real estate. Regis Picard had \$800 worth of real estate and \$75.00 worth of personal estate.

Rev. John F. Malo, Roman Catholic clergyman, was the next census neighbor – indicating the Petit family lived near the church.

The St. Paul church register documents changes to the Petit family structure during the 1850s.

<p>The 4 October, 1850, we priest undersigned have baptized Francois born today of the legitimate marriage of Amable Petite and of Susanne Tawakon. Godfather Francois Roland, godmother Françoise Sauve who could not sign.⁴⁰</p>
<p>The 14 January, 1853, by us priest undersigned has been baptized Louise born the day before of the legitimate marriage of Amable Petite and of Suzanne. Godfather Louis Pichette; godmother Marie Petite, who have not undersigned.⁴¹</p>
<p>The 7th day of February, 1855, we the undersigned missionary priest, now at St. Paul, Oregon Territory, have baptized Louisa Philomena, born the 6th instant the legitimate daughter of Amable Petit and Susanna Wacko - (Sponsors) Charles Prévost and Maria Lambert.⁴²</p>
<p>The 2 January, 1858, we undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of Celeste deceased day before yesterday, aged about 14 years, daughter of Amable Petit and of Susanne Thomas. Witness, Amable Petit.⁴³</p>
<p>The 3 January, 1859, we undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of Catherine, deceased yesterday, aged 11 years, daughter of Amable Petit and of Susanne Thomas. Witnesses, Amable Petit, Charles Prévost, Baptiste Goyet⁴⁴</p>
<p>The 25 February, 1860, we parish priest undersigned have baptized Isadore born the 19th of the same month of the legitimate marriage of Regis Picard and of Marie Petit, of this parish. Godfather Culbert Lambert [godmother] Marie Okinagan, who could not sign. The father absent.⁴⁵</p>
<p>The 25 July, 1860, we parish priest undersigned have received the mutual consent of marriage Charles Petit on the one part and of Sophie Gendron on the other part, who had contracted marriage six months previously, before a Protestant minister. Witnesses, Amable Petit, father of the groom, and myself, priest undersigned.⁴⁶</p>

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Ages were not always reported accurately on censuses for a variety of reasons including lack of birth records and fuzzy memories. An example of this is shown by comparing the 1860 St Paul census and the dates provided by church records.

1860 census	Dates from church records
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amable was aged 52 (born ca. 1808). In the 1850 census, he was aged 50 – born ca. 18 • Suzanne was aged 35 (born ca. 1825) • Charles was aged 22 (born ca. 1838) • Mary was aged 20 (born ca. 1840) • R. Picaour was aged 25 (born ca. 1845) (This would be Regis Picard, Marie Adele Petit’s husband.) • Peter Petit was aged 14 (born ca. 1846) • Francis Petit was aged 10 (born ca. 1850) • Philomena was aged 5 (born ca. 1855) • Flavia was aged 3 (born ca 1857) <p>Julia was aged 4 (born ca. 1856) (It is unknown who Julia was.) Isador Picaour was aged 1 month.</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Charles Petite (1837 - 20 Jun 1873) & Olive Forcier </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Charles Petite (1837 - 20 Jun 1873) & Sophie Gendron (abt 1842 - Oct 1877) m. 25 Jul 1860, St Paul, OR </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Henri Petite (Perhaps Charles) (1837 -). </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Marie Adele Petite (8 Jan 1840 - 13 Jun 1873). & Regis Picard (1836 -) m. 24 Jul 1854, St Paul, OR </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Celeste Petite (Aug 1842 - 2 Jan 1859). </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Peter Petite (Jan 1845 - 24 Sep 1902). & Mary Ann Jandron. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Peter Petite (Jan 1845 - 24 Sep 1902). & Rosa Tom (1855 - 3 Jul 1923) m. abt 1876 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Catherine Petite (abt 1848 - 2 Jan 1859). </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Francois Petite (4 Oct 1850 -). </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Louise Petite (14 Jan 1853 - 8 Aug 1855). </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Louisa Philomena Petite (6 Feb 1855 - 3 Sep 1911). & Anton Adamople m. 27 Aug 1875, St Paul, OR </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Flavie Petite (18 May 1857 - 23 Sep 1878). </div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; width: 80%; text-align: center;"> Amable Petite (abt 1797 - 16 Jul 1867). & Susanne Tawatcon (abt 1820 - 22 Nov 1878) m. 27 Dec 1838, Vancouver, WA </div>

The Petit family continued to change in the 1860s.

The 12 January, 1862, we parish priest undersigned have baptized Georges born the 31 December preceding of the legitimate marriage of Regis Picard and of **Marie Petit** of this parish. Godfather James Coutoir, Godmother Anasthasie Laframboise, who could not sign. ⁴⁷

Amable Petit, St Paul Verger, and Suzanne Tawaka, Iroquois Indian, and their family,
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. . May, 1862, we parish priest undersigned have baptized Christine born the same day of the legitimate marriage of **Charles Petit** and of Sophie Jandron [Gendron] of this parish. Godfather Charles Prévost, Godmother Marie Picard.⁴⁸

The 17 July, 1864, we parish priest undersigned have baptized Elisabeth legitimate child of **Charles Petit** and Sophie Gendron, born the 26 July. Godparents, Amable Petit and Susanne Tamasawokon [?] not knowing how to sign.⁴⁹

The 1st of October, 1865, we priest undersigned have baptized Henri born the 7 August of the legitimate marriage of **Pierre Petit** and Marianne Gendron of this parish. Godfather Amable Petit, Sr., Godmother Susanne Petit who have not known how to sign,⁵⁰

The 15 May [sic], 1866, we priest undersigned have baptized Louis born the 10 of this month, of the legitimate marriage of Régis Picard and of **Marie Petit** of this parish. Godfather Ls. Bernier, Godmother Joste [Josephthe] Lavigueur.⁵¹

The 18 July, 1867, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this place the body of **Amable Petit**, verger, deceased 2 days ago, aged about 70 years, husband of Suzane Towacon. Witnesses, Regis Picard, Pierre Charles Petit.⁵²

The 18 July, 1869, we Priest undersigned have baptized Prosper born the 12th of this month of the legitimate marriage of Regis Picard and of **Marie Petit** of this parish. Godfather Abraham Guilbeault, godmother Julienne Bergevin.⁵³

In the 1870 Marion County census, Susan Pette [sic] and three children lived next to A. J. Glorieux, St Paul parish priest. Neither Susan nor her children had real estate or personal estate.⁵⁴

Pette, Susan, age 50

Peter, age 26

Charles, age 25

Philomena, age 15

Flavia Pette, age 14, was living with the A. Lambert family in the next census dwelling. She was attending school⁵⁵ – likely St Paul Academy.

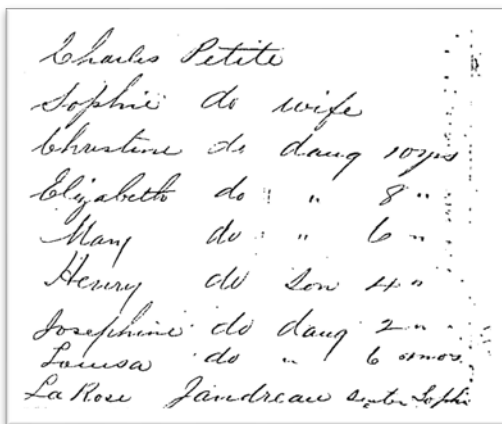
On the 8 January, 1872, after the publication of three bans of marriage between Louis Chalifoux of this parish, son of age of the late Andre Chalifoux and Catherine Russy, of the first part; and Julienne Picard, daughter under age of Regis Picard and of **Mary Petit** of the same place, of the consent of whom it proceeds, of the second part; no impediment being found, we, the undersigned, pastor of the parish of St. Paul, have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Regis Picard, father of the bride; Augustin Lambert, Henri Picard and Julien Prevot.⁵⁶

On the 21 July, 1872, we the undersigned, pastor of the parish of St. Paul, have baptized Charles, born on the 18th instant of the lawful marriage of Regis Picard and **Mary Petit** of this place. Sponsors, Paul Guilbeau and Flavie Petit.⁵⁷

On June 15, 1873, we the undersigned, pastor of the parish of St. Paul, have buried Mary Petit, wife of Regis Picard of this place, deceased on the day before yesterday, being then about thirty five years of age. Witnesses, Jean Brentano and Narcisse Gingras.⁵⁸ [Note Jean Brentano is likely Dr. John F. J. Brentano, the St. Paul doctor. His son, John F. T. B. Brentano was the Grand Ronde Indian Agent from 1893 to 1895.]

On June 21, 1873, we the undersigned, pastor of the parish of St. Paul, have buried **Charles Petit**, son of the late Amable Petit and of Susan Thomas, deceased on the day before, at the age of 39 years. Witnesses, Narcisse Gingras and Regis Picard.⁵⁹

[Even though Charles was buried from the St. Paul Church, he and his family were enumerated in the 1872 Grand Ronde Reservation census.]



Charles Petite
Sophie do wife
Christine do daug 10 yrs
Elizabeth do " 8 "
Mary do " 6 "
Henry do son 14 "
Josephine do daug 2 "
Luisa do " 6 mos.
La Rose Jandreau s. b. Sophie

On October 14, 1873, after the publication of one ban of marriage between Callyxte Gingras, son of the late John Gingras & Olive Forcier, for the first part; and Josette Picard of the same parish, daughter underage of Regis Picard, of the consent of whom it proceeds, and of the late **Mary Petit**, for the second part; the dispensation of the other two bans having been by us granted and no impediment being found, we the undersigned, pastor of the parish of St. Paul, have received their mutual consent of marriage and given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Regis Picard, father of the bride, Louis Chalifoux, Vincent Guilbeau, Philomene Petit.⁶⁰

On August 27, 1875, after having granted the dispensation of three bans and no impediment being found, we, the undersigned, pastor of the parish of St. Paul and Vicar general have received the mutual consent of marriage of Anton A. Deniople or Adamapple of the County of Clatsop in Oregon, son of age of the late George Deniople or Adamapple and Helen Constantin still living of the first part; and **Philomene Petit** of the parish of St. Paul, daughter of the late Amable Petit and

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Suzan Petit, yet living, of the second part; and having bestowed on them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Leon Deloney, Suzan Petit and Flavie Petit. Leon Delauney Anton X. Deniople Flavie Petit Philomene Petit ⁶¹

On November 17, 1877, we, the undersigned, have buried a lawful child of Anton Denoipl and **Philomene Petit**, deceased on the 15th instant, after being privately baptized by us. Witnesses, Louis Labonte and Henry Ernst.⁶²

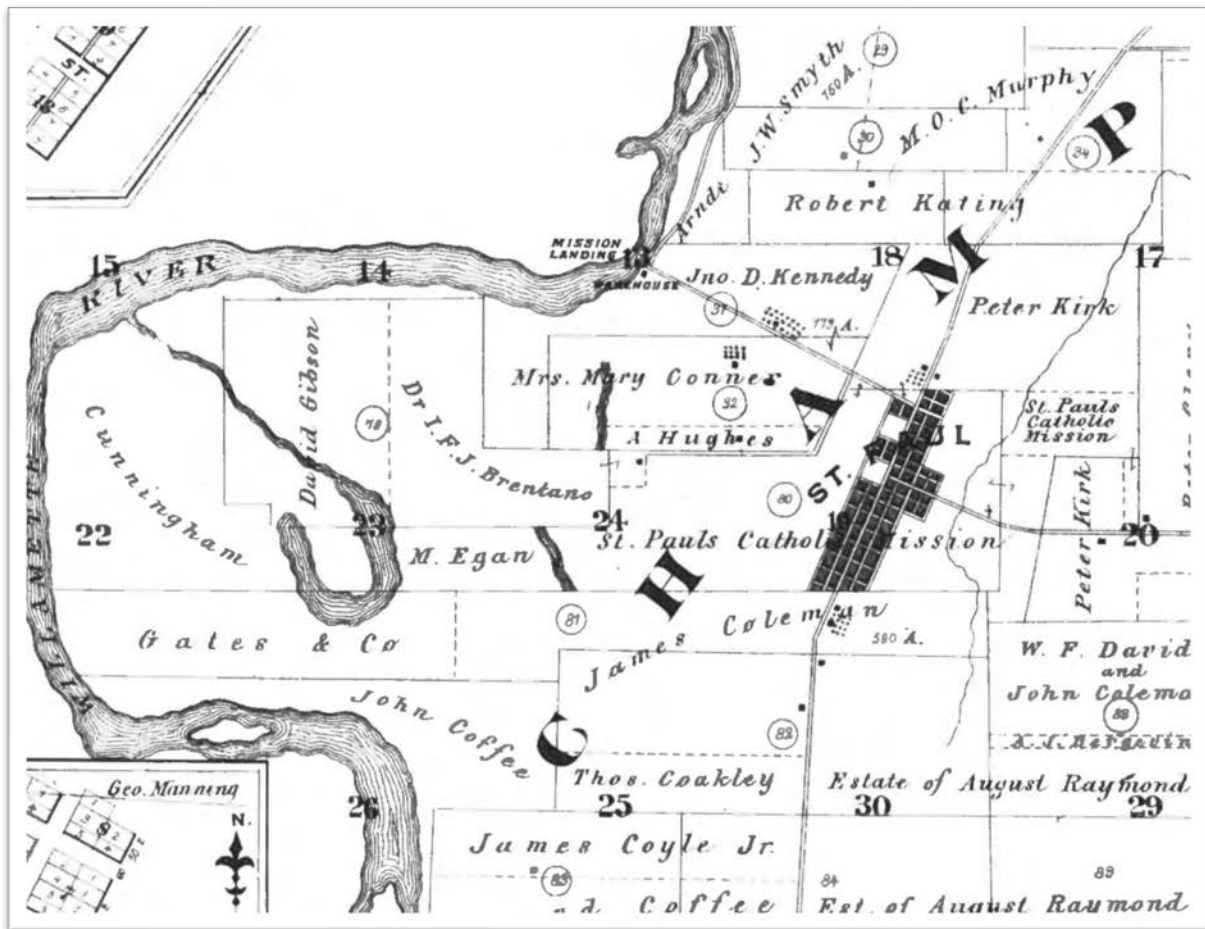
On November 25, 1877, we the undersigned, pastor of St. Paul, have baptized Helen, born on the 23rd instant of the lawful marriage of Anton Denoipl and **Philomene Petit** of this place. Sponsors, George Picard and Flavie Petit.⁶³

On September 25, 1878, we the undersigned, pastor of St. Paul, have buried **Flavie Petit**, deceased the day before yesterday, aged about 25 years. Witnesses, Louis Chalifoux and Henry Ernst.⁶⁴

On November 26, 1878, we the undersigned, pastor of St. Paul, have buried **Susan**, widow of the late Amable Petit, deceased on the 22nd instant. Witnesses, J. B. Piette and Henry Ernst.⁶⁵

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By 1878, as shown in the following map, the landowners around the St. Paul Mission were people who arrived on wagon trains from the States. Augustine Raymond's heirs were the exception.⁶⁶



Where happened to the Petit family members?

Suzanne was survived by two children, Peter Petit and Louise Philomena (Petit) Adamapple.

- Louise moved to Clatsop County, Oregon.
- Charles and Sophie (Gendron) Petit's children moved to the Grand Ronde Reservation.
- Marie and Regis Picard's children moved to the Colville Reservation.
- Peter Petit and Rosa Tom's children moved to the Grand Ronde Reservation.

More than 800 Grand Ronde enrollees are Amable Petit and Suzanne Tawaka's descendants.

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Grand Ronde Reservation, ca. 1890⁶⁷



From 1893 to 1895, the Grand Ronde Indian Agent was John F. T. B. Brentano (1849 – 1925). One wonders what sort of interactions Brentano had with the Petit family members who were living at the reservation.

The other Amable Petit – or the name's the same

The Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique (PRDH) at the University of Montreal has all of Quebec's Catholic baptisms and all of Quebec's marriages for 1621-1849.

The only Amable Petit from Bertherville, Canada, in that collection is Charles Amable Petit, born and baptized on 3 May 1802 at the Parish of Ste-Genevieve-de-Berthier, son of Augustin Petit-Bruneau and Catherine Marcotte.⁶⁸

Hubert Petit and Amable Petit appear in the St. Louis, Oregon, church register when they were married. Both were the sons of Amable Petit and Marianne Beaudry who were "still living at Masca in Canada."

Several historians have linked these two men to Amable Petit, the St. Paul verger. This would mean that Amable was married to Marianne Beaudry before he signed on with the Hudson's Bay Company and settled in Oregon.

The 27 January, 1845, I undersigned, missionary of the Company of Jesus, after having published the first bann of marriage with the dispensation of the second and third, have received the mutual consent of **Amable Petit, son of Aimable [sic] Petit and of Marianne Boudrie**, on the one part: and of Emilie Obichon daughter of Alexis Obichon and of Marianne Tchinouk by nation, on the other part, residents of the Wallamette, and have given them the nuptial benediction, in the presence of Joseph Jervet and Louis Forcier, who could not sign as witnesses.⁶⁹

The 19 February, 1849, after the publication of two banns of marriage between **Hubert Petit, of-age son and legitimate of Amable Petit and of Marianne Beaudry living at Masca [Maska] in Canada on the one part; and Emerance Gagnon minor daughter** of Luc Gagnon and of Julie Gregoire, on the other part; the dispensation of the third ban being obtained and not having discovered any impediment, we undersigned, parish priest of St. Louis, have received their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Joseph Laferte, Xavier Mathieu and Joseph Petrin.⁷⁰

The marriage for Amable Petit and Marianne Beaudry took place on 7 February 1809.⁷¹ Even if "our" Amable Petit was born in the earliest year found for him, 1797, he would have been a child. Since the Amable Petit who married Marianne Beaudry had a first marriage to Marie Anne Marchand in 1800, it is clear that he is too old to be "our" Amable Petit. This is a case where "the name's the same; therefore the men are the same," does not work.

Connie Lenzen; 25 April 2023.

End Notes

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- 11 Munnick and Warner, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Vancouver*, Vol. 1, p. 20, M-17.
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