

Amable Arquette

Introduction

Amable Arcouet, son of Michel Arcouet dit LaJeunesse Ancouet, a roofer, and Louise Gaudry Boubonniere, was born on 1 September 1797 in Montreal, Canada. His baptism was held the same day at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal church. Charles Leon Arcouet, his younger brother, was born on 11 June 1806 and was baptized at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.¹ As adults, both men joined the Hudson's Bay Company, a major British fur-trading company.

The watercolor to the right shows the Notre-Dame-de-Montréal church as it looked in 1790.²

Variations of the family surname are Arquette, Arquett, Arquotte, and Arcouet. For this narrative, the surname is spelled as it is found in documents.



Hudson's Bay Company

In 1825, Amable Arquette signed on as a mason with the Hudson's Bay Company at York Factory. By 1826, he was at Fort Vancouver as a Mason and a Middleman (the middle person in a canoe).³

Amable Arquette left Ft. Vancouver on 27 June 1827 as a member of the group to establish Ft. Langley on the Fraser River in British Columbia.⁴ According to the Fort Langley journals, twenty-five men were selected for this expedition. James MacMillan was in charge, and Amable was employed as a clerk.⁵ Clerks made lists – suggesting Amable was literate.

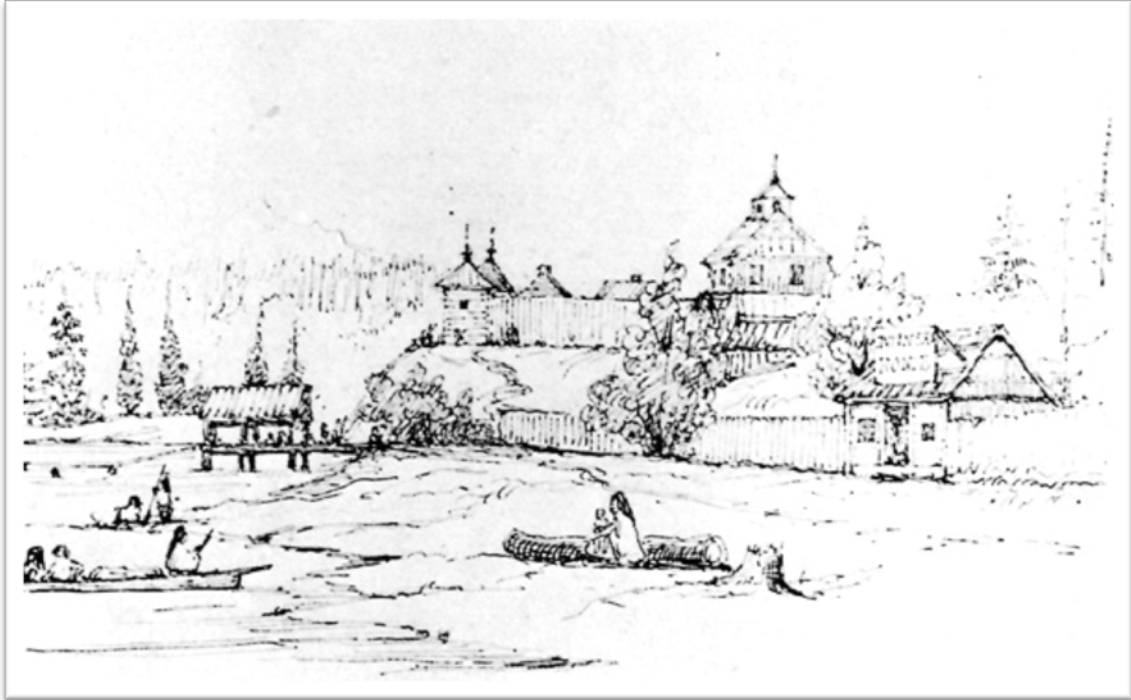
The men were first employed in building bastions and palisades as protection for the fort. The following passages from the journal describe Amable's work on the bastions and pickets and then as a mason. If he worked as a clerk, that information is not included in the journals.

“Monday 27th [August 1827]. Operations going forward the same as on Saturday last, and the Sick list as it then was. Bouchard, Ettue, Antoine Pierrault and another are the men employed in getting up the second Bastion. Tarihonga, Dubois, Cornoyer, and **Arquoitte** are preparing Pickets, Jackques Pierrault Cartin & Como & Peopeoh at the Saw.”⁶

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“Friday 31st [August 1827]. The second Bastion is up and roofed in, and it only remains now to finish the flooring to complete it. Faniant, with Cornoyer, Dubois, and **Arquette** began to erect Pickets on the side of the Fort facing the River.”⁷

The fortress was necessary to protect the trading post. The fort was rectangular in shape with a bastion at each corner. This sketch from 1858 shows some of the detail.⁸



“Saturday 1st [September 1827]. ... An Indian this morning stole a Crow Bar, which had been left out by the men while they were at Breakfast. Every exertion was made to recover it, but without success. All natives were in consequence prohibited from landing for the remainder of the day in order to evince to them our disapprobation of so knavish a behaviour.”⁹

Wednesday 24th [October 1827] Faniant and his men erecting a Gallery at the North West corner of the Fort. Baker, **Arquette** and two others drying, rubbing & dusting Beaver Skins, which have become mouldy by remaining in the Store.”¹⁰

Monday 19th [November 1827]. Peopeoh, **Arquette**, Baker, and Dubois putting up a chimney in Mr. Annance’s House.”¹¹

Tuesday 4th [March 1828] Showers of rain all day. **Arquette** and four men making a new Chimney in the Kitchen.¹²

Tuesday 8th [July 1828] **Arquette** and 3 men began to make Chimnies [chimneys] in the new House.¹³

Monday 9th [March 1829]. Four men with our large Canoe made a trip 5 or 6 miles up the river for Stones to build Chimneys with, as the Clay will not answer.”¹⁴

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Wednesday 25th [March 1829] Got home our last haul of Stones, having now a sufficiency for our Chimneys and an Oven.¹⁵

The chimneys and ovens were made with stones. The original Fort Langley chimneys do not exist, but this photo of stone chimneys from Rocky Mountain House shows the type of chimney that could have been at Fort Langley.¹⁶



The following entry indicates that some men had their wives with them.

Thursday 12th [March 1829] At a few minutes past midnight a Girl was born to Plemendon, and precisely at 2 a.m. our party was under weigh [way] – They have near upon 100 Skins in Trading Goods, in Case the Indians of the Sound may Come to them *Empassant* with Beaver, that would be desirable to have out of their hands before the Coasters have time to Come along, as our own Vessel now is not likely to be here in a hurry – they will return from whatever part of the Portage they meet with a trusty Indian to Carry the Packet to Fort Vancouver – Until their return I shall be here with but Six men – namely the Cook – Gate .-Keeper – one that will assist to Speak a little with Indians – the **Chimney builder [Arquette]**, who can always work inside – and the two Iroquois, one of them unwell.”¹⁷

“Saturday 13th. [June 1829] We got more potatoes planted yesterday. **Arquette** & a man yesterday Commenced building kitchen Chimneys and an Oven adjoining.”¹⁸

John McLoughlin, in his 17 June 1829 letter to Archibald McDonald, Chief Trader at Fort Langley, requested that McDonald send Arquette back to Fort Vancouver.¹⁹

French Prairie

It wasn't long after Amable returned to Fort Vancouver that he retired from service and received three months wages to 1 September 1833.²⁰ John McLoughlin, HBC Chief Factor, 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.²¹ Amable was listed on the company books from 1835–1842.²²

During the 1834 HBC outfit year, Amable received an eight-pound gratuity for rebuilding Fort Vancouver's brick and stone powder magazine. Archaeological studies show the twenty- by twenty-foot foundation walls were two feet thick. The foundation was built of stones mortared with lime from Hawaiian coral. The bricks were British bricks, likely brought to Ft Vancouver as ship ballast.²³

In November of 1835, the U.S. Navy's William Slacum received a commission from the United States president, "To obtain some specific and authentic information in regard to the inhabitants of the country in the neighborhood of the Oregon, or Columbia river; and, generally, endeavour to obtain all such information, political, physical, statistical, and geographical as may prove useful or interesting to this Government." Slacum reached the Columbia River at the end of December 1836.²⁴

Slacum took a census of the thirteen French Canadian farms on the Prairie. The Arquette farm had two houses in good condition. Eighty acres were enclosed, and fifty acres were cultivated. Six hundred bushels of wheat had been harvested. (Wheat was important. With paper money and coins in short supply, wheat was accepted as currency.²⁵) The stock included five horses, and thirty-one hogs.²⁶

Neither the family nor the other families owned cattle. The Hudson's Bay Company controlled the entire area economy – including the cattle. The company would lease two cattle to settlers, but they would not sell the cattle. William Slacum offered to take the settlers to California on his ship, the *Loriot*, where they could buy cattle and then drive them overland to Oregon. Amable signed on to go under Ewing Young's leadership. In addition, he contributed \$189.54 towards the group expenses and cattle purchase. Pierre Depau [Depot. See "The Gagnons of French Prairie, Oregon" for additional Depot family information], the other French-Canadian in the eleven-man party, contributed \$210.25.²⁷ The Willamette Cattle Company enterprise was successful, and 630 cattle were brought back to the valley.

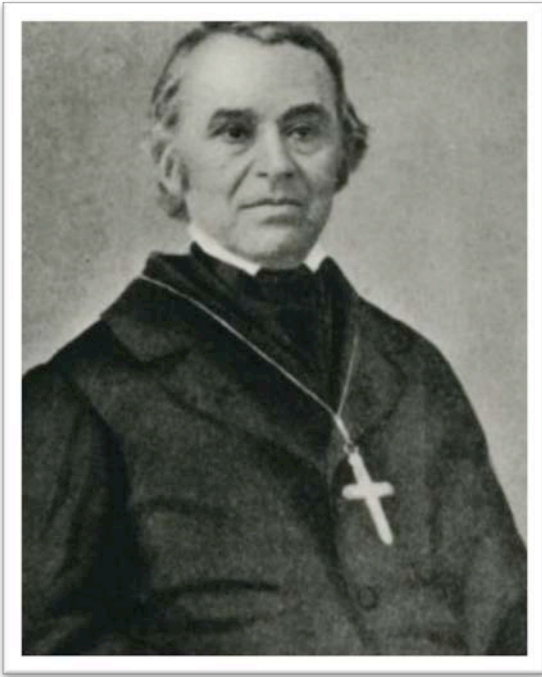
Ewing Young owned a sawmill. In December of 1838, Amable purchased "14 Boards 12 feet Long 9 Inches wide and 400 feet of plank 1 ½ inches thick." On the 8th of August 1839, Amable purchased "1152 feet of Inch ½ Flooring at \$16 m" for \$18.29 and weatherboards for \$3.00. ²⁸ [*Weatherboards are horizontal boards that overlap each other and are used for house siding.*]

Petitions for a priest

In 1835, the French Canadians on French Prairie were establishing farms and families, and they felt the need to have their marriages blessed and their children baptized. They sent a letter to the Bishop of Juliopolis [at Red River, now Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada] and asked for a priest. In the spring of 1836, they sent a second letter as a reminder. A year later, they sent a third letter.

In the 22 March 1836 letter, Amable signed as the father of three children. He also signed the 8 March 1837 petition.²⁹ In November of 1838, Fathers Francois Norbert Blanchet and Modeste Demers arrived at the wooden church the settlers had built for them at St. Paul.

At Fort Vancouver, the priests proceeded to baptise the children and marry the parents.



Rev. F. N. Blanchet



Replica of the 1836 church

On 28 January 1839, Marguerite Arcout “aged 25 years, born of infidel parents, Tchinouke,” was baptised as was Amable Arcouet, “aged 8 years, natural child of Amable Arcouet, farmer of this place, and of Marguerite Tchinouke.”³⁰ After these baptisms took place, Rev. F. N. Blanchet married “Amable Arcouet of the Faubourg Saint Laurent, Montreal, in Canada, and farmer of this place on the one part, and Marguerite, Tchinouk by Nation.” [Faubourg Saint-Laurent is a neighborhood in Montreal in the borough of Ville-Marie. The Notre Dame Church was in this borough.]

As shown by the following baptism and burial records, Amable’s household consisted of his immediate family and “others.”

“This 20 February, 1840, we priest undersigned have baptized at the house of Amable Arcouet, in danger of death, Pierre, aged 50 years, Tchinouk by nation. Godfather Amable Arcouet who has not known how to sign.

“This 21 February, 1840, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this mission the body of Pierre, baptized and deceased yesterday, aged 50 years, Tchinouk by nation. Present Amable Arcouet who has not known how to sign.”³¹

Rev. F. N. Blanchet, in a report to his authorities, provides the “back story” for this event.

“An old Native in service to Amable Arquette had come once to the mission; he refused to return, and even to listen to the instruction that his relative, the Canadian’s wife [Marguerite Chinook], gave with the aid of the échelle historique [the Catholic Ladder] to the people of the house. Eh bien! Sickness took him; he saw himself going when he asked what one sees upon dying; the response made him shiver. He wanted to be buried with the French; he asked the priest to baptize him. He received it after preliminary instruction. His faith made him say that he was no longer a Savage, that he had rejected everything, that he was French...It was at four o’clock in the afternoon that he died in good spirits.”³²

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In September 1842, Dr. Elijah White, the first Oregon Indian Agent, arrived in the Willamette Valley with a wagon train of settlers. This was a return home for him. In 1836, the Methodist Church appointed him as a physician to the Willamette Valley mission. In 1841, due to differences with Jason Lee over mission policies, White resigned and returned to the States.

Methodist
Mission
sketch.³³



White took a census of settlers in the Oregon Territory. He intended to show that it was possible to farm the Territory and that the British had a foothold. Unless American settlers moved in, the Canadians (British) would be in the majority. The Territory was under a “joint occupancy” agreement, but an overwhelming number of British settlers could tip the balance of power, and Oregon could become an English possession. His census included the numbers of men, women, and children and a summary of their crops for the 1841–1842 year.³⁴

White recorded that Amable’s family consisted of one male over 18 and one female over 18, along with four children. He had 120 acres under cultivation. He harvested 44 bushels of wheat and 143 bushels of grain. He had 25 horses, 101 neat stock, 12 sheep, and 12 hogs.”

White recorded four children, but there were actually five children in the household.

- Amable, born about 1831 and baptized on 28 January 1839 at Vancouver.³⁵
- Michel, born about 1834 and baptized on 6 January 1839 at Vancouver.³⁶
- Lisette, born about 1836 and baptized on 6 January 1839 at Vancouver.³⁷
- Jean, born 11 June 1839 and baptized the same day at St Paul.³⁸
- Leon, born 12 January 1842 and baptized the same day at St Paul.³⁹

Leon Arquette, Amable’s brother

Leon Arcouet entered service with the HBC in 1840 as a middleman and was stationed at Ft. Vancouver.⁴⁰

The following extract from letter from Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor to the Governor and Committee the Hudson’s Bay Company in London, dated [Fort] Vancouver 2nd August 1843, provides information about Leon’s death.

“Since I last wrote you, the Brigade has been to this place, and in going up, one of the Boats, I am sorry to say, was swamped in a whirlpool [at the Dalles of the Columbia], most of the property in her

lost, and one of the men, named [Leon] Arcouet, drowned --- and another, Swanson, his setting pole slipped, he fell out of the boat into the water, and never appeared again". (A.11/70, fo. 33)"⁴¹

The Rev. F. N. Blanchet recorded the following item in the St. Paul Church register.

The 3 October, 1843, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this place the body of Leon Arquate, drowned by accident at the Grand Dalles of the Columbia, at the beginning of last July, in the service of the Company of the Bay of Hudson, identified and brought up by his brother Amable Arquaite; at the age of about . . . years. Present Amable Arquaite, Jean Baptiste Dubreuil who have not known how to sign.⁴²

The Grand Dalles (aka the Long Narrows) was a stretch of the Columbia River where the river was forced into long, narrow channels filled with treacherous rapids and whirlpools.

This excerpt from the Lewis and Clark Journals (25 October 1805) describes the challenge.

"We walked down with several of the Indians to view the part of the narrows [Five Mile Rapids ("The Long Narrows")] which they represented as most dangerous: we found it very difficult, but, as with our large canoes the portage was impracticable, we concluded on carrying our most valuable articles by land, and then hazarding the passage. We therefore returned to the village, and after sending some of the party with our best stores to make a portage, and fixed others on the rock to assist with ropes the canoes that might meet with any difficulty, we began the descent, in the presence of great numbers of Indians who had collected to witness this exploit. The channel for three miles is worn through a hard rough black rock from fifty to one hundred yards wide in which the water swells and boils in a tremendous manner."⁴³

Provisional Government

In 1843, wagons filled with settlers arrived in the Oregon Territory. [Note: William E Hill's trail statistics estimates 125 settlers arrived in Oregon in 1842, and 875 settlers arrived in Oregon in 1843.]⁴⁴ These newcomers outnumbered the French-Canadians, and foreshadowed changes that would come for the Arquet 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 defacto government.

A vote was taken by the settlers in May of 1843 to decide if Provisional Government should be established as a preliminary step for aligning with the United States. By a 52 to 50 vote, the Provisional Government won.⁴⁵ Amable was one of the fifty settlers to vote against establishing Provisional Government.⁴⁶



Oregon provisional government seal⁴⁷

The Amabe Arquoitte household was enumerated in the 1845 Champoic County census.⁴⁸ [*Champoege County, sometimes written Champoic, established in 1843, was one of the original Oregon Territory counties. It was renamed Marion County, in 1849.*] The census only named the head of household – with the rest of the household indicated by numbers. The tabulation appears to miss two children – perhaps a counting error, or the children could have been in different households.

Column	Child
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Males under 12 (2)	Isaac, born in September 1843 Leon, born on 12 January 1842 Jean, born 11 June 1839
Females under age 12 (1)	Lisette, born about 1836
Males aged 12 – 18 (1)	Michel, born about 1833 Amable, born about 1831
Males aged 18 – 45 (1)	Amable
Females aged 18 – 45 (1)	Marguerite

Oregon's provisional government permitted inhabitants to stake out claims and survey them by the metes and bounds method. A legislative committee created a constitution that included rules for the land claims. Any white male could claim 640 acres, and within six months of recording their claim, they were to build a home.⁴⁹ Amable was a settler who claimed land.

The following table shows the location of Amable's land claims during the Provisional period.⁵⁰ The information comes from the published transcription of the original documents. The originals, located at the Oregon State Archives in Salem, Oregon, contain no additional information.

Amable's neighbors were mostly French Canadians. This would change as more Americans came into the Prairie.

1846.12.19	Arquiot, Amable , Champoic Co. 640 a. F. X. Matthiew and Biscounia have adjoining claims. Personal occupancy, 17 July 1846. Void by recording of another place, 19 Dec 1847. Bk 2, p. 89.
1847.05.05	Biscounia, Pascal, Champoig Co, 640 a. In Bute prairie; Amable Erquoit on E; Matheny and S. Peltier on S; W. J. Bailey on W; F. X. Mathew on N, Personal occupancy, 5 May 1847, V 4 p 285.
1847.12.06	Whitney, John, Champoeg Co, 640 a. "On a creek emptying into Pudding River" Arquits on W and Lason on S. Holds by occupancy, 6 Dec 1847, Void by claimant recording another claim, 8 Mar 1848. V 7 p 16.
1847.12.19	Daprai, Francis, Champoeg Co, 640 1. Neighbors are Amiable Erquoit , Kee, and Thomas. Occupancy, 19 Dec 1847. V 7 p 60.
1848.07.17	Lartie, Fabrins, Champoeg Co, 640 a. On a Creek emptying into Pudding River; Arquit on W. Occupancy 17 July 1848. B 5 p 72.
1847.12.19	Erquoit, Amable , Champoeg Co, 640 a. Etienne Peltier on N; Pascal Biscounia [Pascal Biscornet] on W. Occupancy, 19 Dec 1847. V 7 p 59.

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Arquette was listed as a voter in 1844.⁵¹ He signed a petition for a railroad around Willamette Falls.⁵²

Willamette Valley settlers depended upon the Willamette River to get their produce to market. The falls at present-day Oregon City stopped all river traffic.



Willamette Falls looking upstream.⁵³

Goods were off-loaded at Canemah and portaged down to Oregon City. The return trip involved portage between Oregon City and Canemah. The train, constructed in 1846, was horse-drawn and ran on wooden tracks.⁵⁴

The original wooden St. Paul Catholic Church was replaced in 1846 with a brick structure. The bricks were made on site.⁵⁵

The chronicles are silent about who actually laid the bricks, but it is possible Amable was one of the masons.



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Some of the original bricks are in the custody of the St. Paul Mission Historical Society – along with this hand-printed explanation.



A photo of one of the bricks is to the right.



Oregon Territory

In 1848, the federal government passed the Organic Act that established the Oregon Territory.

Sickness and death were two spectres that hung over the early French Prairie settlement. It wasn't until 1863 that the first medical doctor, Dr. J. F. J. Brentano, came to the community. In the absence of a medical doctor, native herbs and plants were used as cures. Sometimes they didn't work, and a burial would be noted in the church register. In 1848, burials of three people living at the Arquet home were recorded in the St Paul register.

- On 3 January 1848, "I have baptized Marie (Indian) wife of Wagui employed at Arquet."⁵⁶
- On 8 January 1848, "I have buried Marie (Indian) living at the house of Arquet."⁵⁷
- On 21 January 1848, "I have buried the little daughter of Arquet."⁵⁸
- On 3 February 1848, "At the house of [*a word crossed out*] I have buried an Indian (*female*) of the household of Arquet privately baptized the day before by him."⁵⁹

In May of 1849, St Paul, St Louis, and Vancouver parishioners travelled to the California gold mines. Father Delorme, the St Louis Church pastor, accompanied them as chaplain. He kept track of baptisms, marriages, and burials. Most baptisms were for toddlers, showing that entire families were on the trip.⁶⁰ A fever ran through the group with forty people dying – twenty of them were fathers of families.⁶¹ Amable stayed for three months⁶² while his family remained on the farm.⁶³

When the 1849 Apportionment Census, a census of males over 21 years, was taken, neither Amable nor any of the other known French-Canadians who were living in Marion County were listed.⁶⁴ The reason is not known. The census could have been taken when the St Paul French-Canadians were in California, but it is likely the omission was a sign of "them" and "us."

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The Arcouet family was enumerated on the 1850 Marion County, Oregon, census.⁶⁵ Amable, age 46, was a Canadian-born farmer, with real estate valued at \$10,000. Margarite, age 30, was born in Oregon – neither could read nor write English. Michel, age 19, John, age 11, and Isaac, age 6, were in the household, along with Margerite, age 5. Family relationships were not provided on the 1850 census, but church records show Margerite was Amable’s wife, and the others were their children. All children could read and write.

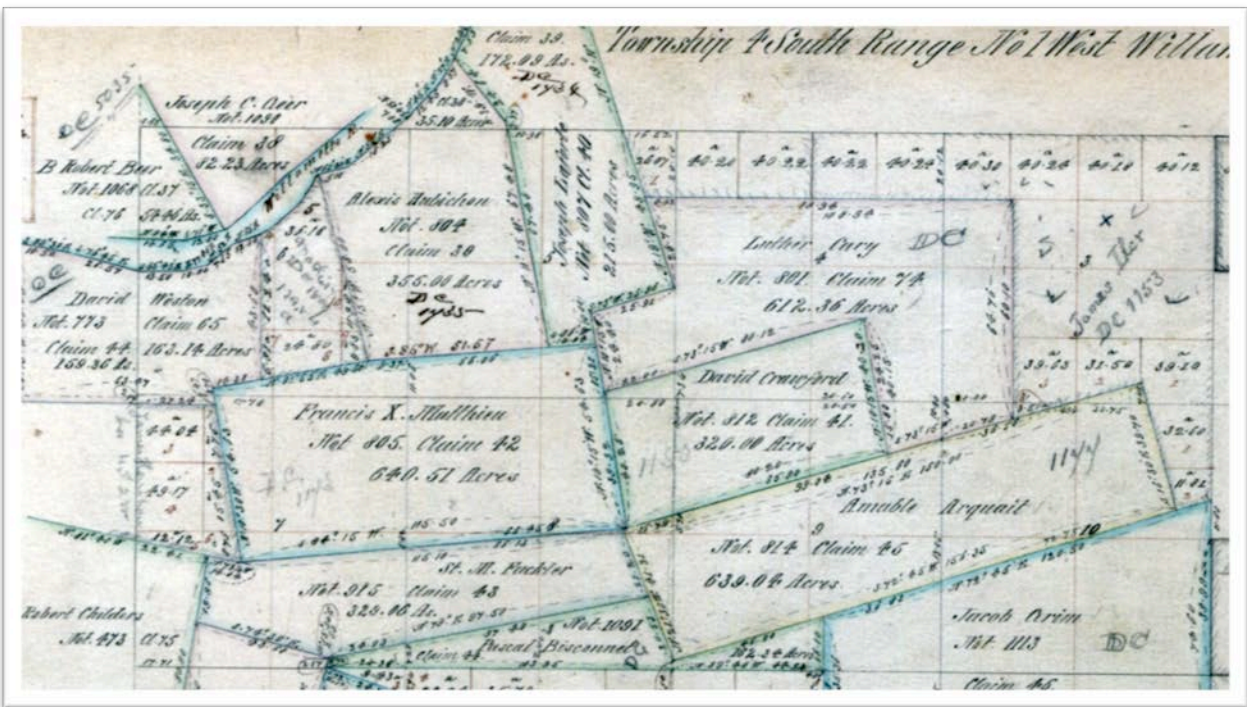
Amable Arcouet [Jr], age 25, was enumerated in the household as an Oregon-born farmer. He had no real estate. His household consisted of 20-year-old Mariann and eleven-month-old Cecile.

Amable’s real estate, valued at \$10,000, was worth more than his census neighbors. F. X. Mathieu had real estate valued at \$5,000, Paschal Biscornet’s real estate was valued at \$300, and Jessee Hoffman’s real estate was valued at \$6,000.

The provisional claims became null and void when Congress passed the Donation Act of 1850. That act, effective 1 December 1850, gave 320 acres to every white [American male] settler or American half-breed [male] Indian who was over eighteen-years of age and who filed a claim. For married men, their wives received 320 acres in their own right. The claimant had to be a United States citizen or have made a declaration of intent to become a citizen. Amable filed for naturalization on 9 September 1850.

The Arquett, claim, Donation 1177, filed at the Oregon City Land Office, was for 639 acres in Township 4 South, Range No. 1 West, Willamette Meridian. Margaret was to receive the west half, and Amable was to receive the east half.⁶⁶

The following survey map shows the outline of their claim and the adjoining neighbors.⁶⁷



Harriet Duncan Munnick, in the appendix to her St Paul Register book, wrote, “While at work in helping blast a mill canal around the Falls in Oregon City he [Arquett] was permanently blinded.”⁶⁸ Her source of information isn’t known, but Dr. John McLoughlin did pay “\$500 for canal making and \$330 for materials,” by January 1st, 1851. In addition, McLoughlin paid \$1,000 for blasting the new canal.⁶⁹

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Oregon statehood

Oregon became a state on 14 February 1859. The Hudson’s Bay Company had retreated to Canada. Federal agents had negotiated treaties with the Indians to remove them from their lands and to move them on to reservations.⁷⁰

The Arquette family was enumerated in the 1860 Marion County census – in the Butteville Post Office area.⁷¹

Their real estate was valued at \$3,500, and their personal estate was valued at \$350. The reason for the drop in value isn’t clear. The Marion County deed indexes at the Marion County courthouses have been read – no Arquette land sales between 1850 and 1860.

Amable Arquette	18	m		50	3500	350	Canada	✓			✓
M	37	f	can				Canada	×			✓
A	34	m		50				✓			✓
M	35	f		50				✓			✓
John	19	m		50				✓			✓

Isaac Arquette	14	m					Oregon	✓			✓
M	13	f						✓			✓
J Biscornet	24	m	can		500	700		×			✓

The Biscornet family were census neighbors, but the other neighbors were newcomers, -- born in the United States or Germany. Amable, his wife, and the two eldest children, were marked as not being able to read or write. Isaac, the fourteen-year-old, and “M,” the thirteen-year-old female, had both attended school within the year. Amable Junior was not in the 1869 household. On 21 August 1859, the St Louis parish priest baptised John Arcouet, son of Amable Arcouet and Marie Anne Nordouest “of this place.”⁷²

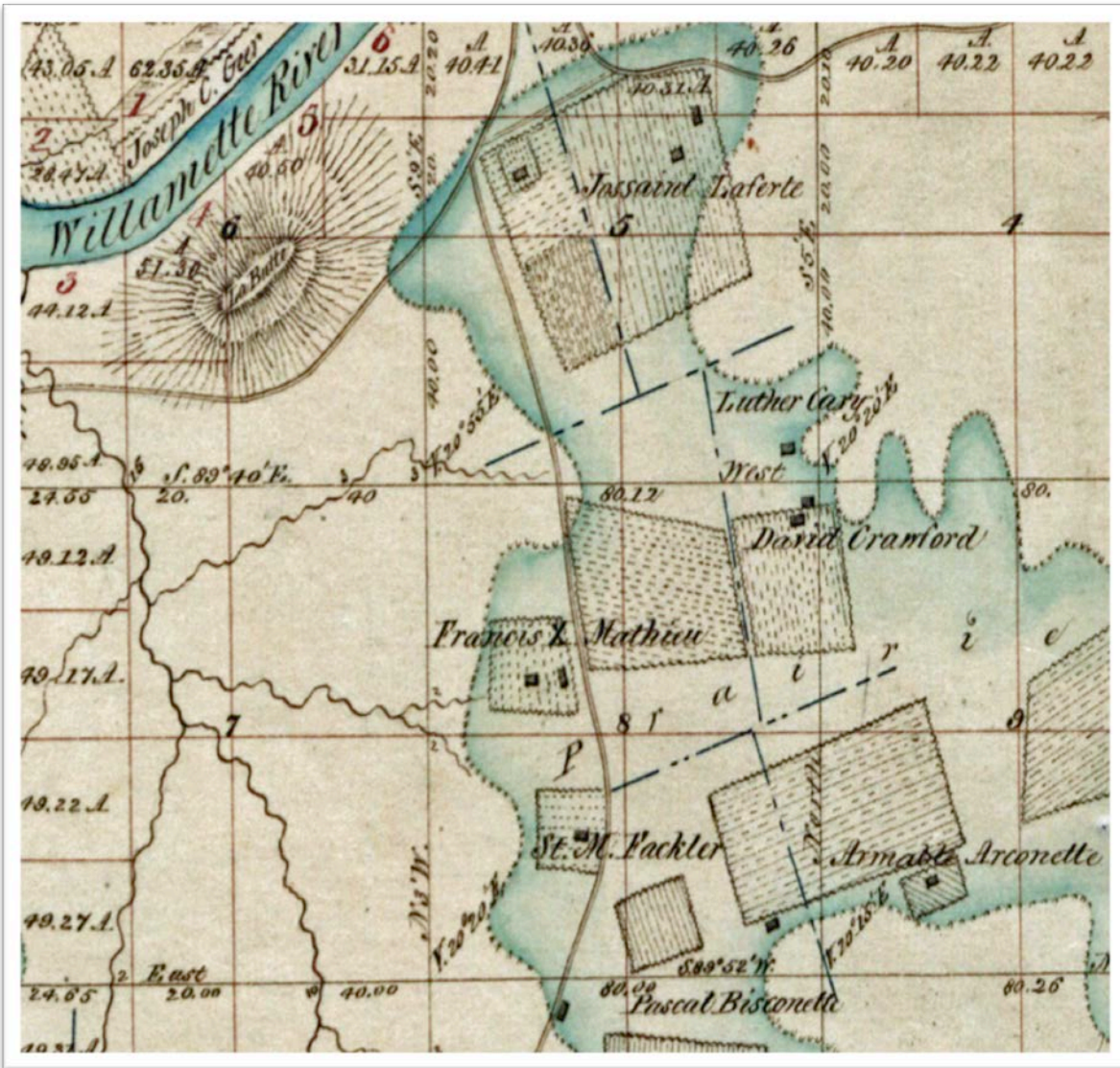
The Arquette farm was near Butteville, a small village on the Willamette River, It was on the eastern side of “La Buttes” and on the northern side of Toussant Laferte’s land claim.

Alexis Aubichon was one of the Arquette’s neighbors. This 1851 sketch of the Aubichon claim shows the steep landing and the Willamette River.⁷³



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The map below shows the Arcouette land claim at the map's bottom.⁷⁴ The small black square indicates the house location. The hash-marked area above Amable's home indicates his cultivated land.⁷⁵



Amable's neighbors on either side on the above map are F. X. Mattheiux and Pascal Biscornet – two of the same neighbors that he had in the 1840s. The trail going through Francis Mathieu's land is the Butteville Road.

On 25 February 1862, Amable and Marquerite Arquet quitclaimed their 639-acre donation claim to F. W. Geer for \$1,000.⁷⁶

The 1870s

The 1870 census shows how the neighborhood had changed. Amable's immediate neighbors were born in Iowa, Ohio, Switzerland, Bavaria, and Hanover.⁷⁷ The people living in the Arquette house included Amable and his wife Margaret, and their sons Michael, John, and Isaac. John was married to Christine, and they had three children.

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Amable had real estate valued at \$500 and personal estate valued at \$400. Personal estate usually consisted of farm equipment.

Daughter Margaret, her husband Isadore St Martin, and their children were in the adjoining household. Isadore had no real estate, suggesting the family was living in a separate dwelling on Amable's property.

The census taker indicated Amable, his son Michel, and Margaret and Isadore St Martin could read and write, but the other adults could not.

5	Arquette Amable	74	M	ii	Farmer	500	400	Canada
	" Margaret	57	F	ii	Reefes house			Oregon
	" Michel	36	M	ii	Saboree			"
	" John	29	u	"	"			"
	" Isaac	25	u	"				"
	" Christine	23	F	"				"
	" Rose	5	u	"				"
	" Pauline	3	u	"				"
	" Joseph	1	M	ii				"
6	St Martin E.	26	u	"	Saboree		150	"
	" Margaret	24	F	"	Reefes house			"
	" Virginia	5	u	"				"
	" Royal	3	M	ii				"
	" Isadore	5	F	"				"

Isidore St Martin was baptised on 11 April 1870 "at Butteville" by Rev. A. J. Glorieux of St Paul church. The child, born on 19 March 1870, was the son of Isidore St Martin and Marguerite Arquette.⁷⁸

On the same day, Rev. A. J. Glorieux baptised Francois August St. Martin, Isidore St Martin and Marguerite Arquette's son. The child, born on 16 October 1860, was "in danger of death." The child died three days later on 14 April 1870 and was buried "in the grave yard."⁷⁹

Marguerite Waponte, Amable Arquette's wife, died on 3 October 1870 and was buried two days later in the St. Paul cemetery.⁸⁰

1880

The Arquette family was enumerated in the 1880 Butteville census. Amable's occupation was given as "Trapper," an interesting occupation for a 78-year-old blind man. His sons, Michel and John, and their families were living with him.⁸¹

The 1880 census information was recorded on 16 June 1880. Amable died and was buried in the St. Paul cemetery on 8 July 1880.⁸²

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Afterwards

When Amable died in 1880, the culture of the prairie had changed. No longer were the retired Hudson's Bay trappers in the majority. Rather, American settlers had taken their place. Indian tribes had ceded their territory to the United States in the mid-1850s and were moved off their land and onto reservations. For the Indians, and the French-Canadians with Indian wives, the nearest reservation was Grand Ronde. Descendants of Amable and Margaret's granddaughter, Elizabeth (Arquette) McKay, are members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Amable's financial worth had decreased. In 1850, Amable had real estate valued at \$10,000 – a considerable sum for the times. In 1870, his real estate was valued at \$500. His personal estate was valued at \$400. By the 1900 census, none of his children were living on the prairie.

Child List

1. Amable, born about 1831 and baptized on 28 January 1839 at Vancouver.⁸³ He died on 15 January 1911 near Toppenish, Yakima County, Washington.⁸⁴
2. Michel, born about 1834 and baptised on 6 January 1839 at Vancouver.⁸⁵ He died on 29 January 1915 in Colton, Clackamas County, Oregon
3. Lisette, born about 1836 and baptised on 6 January 1839 at Vancouver.⁸⁶ She died on 21 January 1848 and was buried in the St Paul Catholic Cemetery.⁸⁷
4. Jean [John], born on 11 June 1839 and baptised the same day at St Paul.⁸⁸ Jean Arquette died on 2 March 1913 in Portland, Oregon.⁸⁹
5. Leon, born on 12 January 1842 and baptised the same day at St Paul.⁹⁰
6. Isaac, born in September 1843 and baptised on 15 October 1843 at St Paul.⁹¹ He died on 10 October 1915 in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, and was buried at the Reservation Cemetery.⁹²
7. Margaret Arquette, born on 29 April 1846 and baptised on 10 May 1846 in St. Paul.⁹³ She died on 16 February 1933 in Skamania County, Washington.⁹⁴

End notes

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- ¹⁸ Maclachlan, *Fort Langley Journals*, p 116.
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- ²⁰ Amable Arquette Biographical Sheet.
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- ²² Amable Arquette Biographical Sheet.
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Amable Arquette, St Paul mason and farmer, by Connie Lenzen for the St Paul Mission Historical Society;

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