

'Charles Rondeau, St. Paul Church Founder

Charles Rondeau was born about in Canada between 1792 and 93. He died on 21 August 1855 and was buried in the St. Louis Cemetery in St. Louis, Oregon.

Charles Rondeau had four known wives and six known children. His first wife was Lizette Bellaire. They had three children. After her death, he married a daughter of "Old Portneuf." They had no children. His third wife was Agathe Dupate (McKay). They had three children. On 23 July 1849, he married Elizabeth, a native living at the house of Baptiste Aubichon.¹ Descendants through his daughters still live on French Prairie.

St. Paul Church founder. In the 1830s, eighteen French Prairie settlers including Charles Rondeau (fifteen were former Hudson's Bay Company employees) felt the need to have their marriages blessed and their children baptized by Catholic priests. Because of these efforts, the St. Paul Catholic Church was established.

Fur Trade

Charles entered service with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) in 1815 as a middleman in the Athabasca District in Alberta. He was a middleman in the Ile-a-la-Crosse District in Saskatchewan from 1817 to 1822. From 1822 to 1825, he was a middleman in the Columbia District. From 1827 to 1833, he was a trapper in the Snake Country Expeditions. By 1837, he was a Willamette Valley farmer.²



Forts of Île-à-la-Crosse by George Back in 1820³

The Snake Country expeditions trapped all the beavers that could be found so that competing American fur companies would find nothing – stopping them from moving into HBC territory. The expeditions included parts of Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Northern California. Charles is named in John Work's 1832 California journal.

"Saturday 1 September 1832. Delivered the people their horses. The boy N. Finlay nearly bled to death at the nose and mouth. Another of the men **C. Rondeau** taken ill with the fever. J.

Toupin who had recovered a little relapsed & is very ill. Two of our horses strayed & have not been found.”⁴

[In 1830, a sailor on the American Brig *Owhyee* brought malaria to Fort Vancouver.⁵ The disease spread into the HBC territory. This is likely the fever mentioned above.]

“Saturday 8 Sept 1832. Stormy yet warm weather. Did not raise camp so that the sick men might have a little repose. **Rondeau**, Champaigne and J. Favel are a good deal better these three days past. But C. Plante has fallen ill. The Bindach [hermaphrodite] gave the men permission to kill two marons [wild horses] which he says belongs to some of his relatives.”⁶

“Saturday 20 October 1832. Sharp frost in the morning. Continued our journey up a small creek to near the foot of a small mountain which we have to cross.” [Crooked Creek near present-day Chandler State Park near Lakeview, Oregon] “The hunters were out again today but without success, though they saw both some Blacktail Deer & grey sheep, but they are very shy. Some of them found some plums of a pretty good sort, the bushes on which they grow are very small. [Prunus subcordata kelloggii.] This is the first fruit of this kind I have seen in the Indn. country. **C. Rondeau**, L. Rondeau, J. LaRocque & J. Rocquebin killed each a horse to eat. These men have been very imprudent & did not husband their provisions with sufficient economy or they would not have had to kill horses yet.”⁷

“Tuesday 30 October 1832. Cloudy raw weather. Did not raise camp. The men out with the traps, 15 beaver taken. Took three men, T. Tevatcon, **C. Rondeau** & J. Cornoyer with me to examine the fork which falls in from the Eastward, we proceeded about 20 miles up the valley to near its head, it is a swamp all the way two forks fall in from the N.E. but as the mountains are near they are probably not long. These and the river which they form are for a small distance pretty well wooded with willows and apparently adapted for beaver, but we could not get across the swamp to examine them. It is too small to take the camp so far out of the way.”⁸

French Prairie

When Charles retired from the HBC, he selected land in what was known as French Prairie due to the growing settlement of retired French Canadian fur trade employees. Due to the joint occupancy agreement between the United States and Britain, there was no government where land claims could be reported. People “squatted” on land that didn’t conflict with their neighbors. John McLoughlin, HBC Chief Factor, kept retired HBC employees 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 provided the new farmers with seed grain, a two-wheeled cart, a plow, two cows, and two steers. Farm implements could be purchased at a discount.⁹

Lt. William A. Slacum of the US Navy was charged by the U.S. 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.” He arrived on the Columbia on 22 December 1836. His reports provide information about the area living situations.

Slacum described the land and concluded that the “Willhamette” was the finest grazing country in the world. In 1818, the Hudson Bay Company had one bull and two cows. In 1836, they had upwards of 1,000 head of neat cattle. Slacum felt that a large cargo of wheat could be obtained from the Willhamett settlers and sold in the Sandwich Islands [Hawaii], the Russian settlements at Norfolk sound [Alaska], or in Peru.

Slacum reported that slavery was a part of life for Northwest Indians. Slaves could be captured during war parties, traded, or sold. The price for a slave was eight to fifteen blankets. Slaves were expected to cut wood, hunt, fish, and do whatever else they were asked to do. Each man in a trapping party had two or three slaves to help hunt and take care of camp.¹⁰ The trappers working at Fort Vancouver had from two to five slaves.¹¹ Nothing was said about the number of slaves the French Prairie settlers had, but it was likely similar to the Fort Vancouver trappers.

Slacum created a census of who was farming, and Charles was included.¹² The year 1836 was the year given for Charles and his family to settle on the prairie. Still, other evidence shows the family was on the prairie by 1834. In any case, enclosing and cultivating 24 acres and harvesting 200 bushels of wheat; was more than one person could do in just a couple of years – suggesting Charles had slaves.

Settler	When begun	Acres enclosed	Acres cultivated	Bushels of wheat	Horses	Hogs	Houses
Jane Baptiste McRoy	1831	69	35	556	33	22	3
Andre Longre	1835	45	24	400	3	33	2
Charles Plante	1835	60	60	800	12	14	2
Charles Rondeau	1836	24	24	200	9	10	1

Religion

The French Canadians on French Prairie wanted their marriages blessed and their children baptized. On 5 July 1834, they sent a letter to the Bishop of Juliopolis [at Red River, now Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada] and asked for a priest.

In the fall of 1834, Jason Lee and his fellow Methodist missionaries arrived on the prairie. The first Methodist services were held in Joseph Gervais's home.¹³

In the spring of 1836, the French-Canadian settlers sent another letter to the Bishop of Juliopolis.¹⁴ Charles Rondo, father of three children, was one of the signers. From later St. Paul Church registers, the children were Angelique, born about 1827, Jean Baptist, born about 1828, and George, born about 1833.

One year later, on 8 March 1837, the “Willammeth Settlers” sent another letter to the bishop.” Charles Rondo was again one of the letter signers.¹⁵

Without other options, some French Canadian families, including the Rondeaus, attended Jason Lee's Methodist Mission at Willamette Station near present-day Salem, Oregon.

Charles joined Lee's Temperance Society. Ewing Young, an American trapper, and his partner, Lawrence Carmichael, were planning to build a distillery to produce alcohol. Jason Lee's Temperance Society opposed this. On 2 January 1837, they drafted a petition that began,

“Gentlemen: Whereas we, the members of the Oregon Temperance Society, have learned with no common interest, and with feelings of deep regret, that you are now preparing a distillery for the purpose of manufacturing ardent spirits to be sold in this vicinity; and whereas we are most fully convinced that the vending of spirituous liquors will more effectually paralyze our efforts for the promotion of temperance than any other, or all other obstacles that can be thrown in our way; and whereas we do feel a lively and intense interest in the success of the temperance cause, believing, as we do, that the prosperity and interests of this rising and infant settlement will be materially affected by it, both as respects their temporal and spiritual welfare; and that the poor Indian, whose case is even now indescribably wretched, will be made for more so by the use of ardent

spirits; and whereas, gentlemen, you are not ignorant that the laws of the United States prohibit American citizens from selling ardent spirits to Indians, under the penalty of a heavy fine...”

They promised payment to Young and Carmichael if they didn't build the distillery. Charles Rondeau signed the petition but did not pledge payment.¹⁶

Liset Rondeau was baptized at the mission on 2 July 1837.¹⁷ This is likely Charles's wife, Lizette Belaire. She was the mother of children born between 1827 and 1835. She died before January 1839 when Charles's marriage to Agathe Depati was celebrated in St. Paul.

Charles traded at the Mission store.

On 6 July 1838, he was credited with \$4.50 for 6 and a half days of labor and \$1.10 as a credit for potatoes. On the same day, \$13.65 was transferred from his account to the HBC for purchases made there.¹⁸

In November 1838, Fathers Francois Norbert Blanchet and Modeste Demers arrived at the St Paul wooden church the settlers had built for them.

After visiting the local French-Canadian settlements, the first St. Paul mass was held on 6 January 1839. Subsequent masses were held until 3 February 1839 and from 13 May to 10 June 1839. These sacraments were recorded in the Vancouver register.



--Replica of the first St Paul Church

The Rondeau marriage took place during this time.

“This 21 January, 1839, in view of the dispensation of 2 bans of marriage granted by us Vicar General, and the publication of the third between **Charles Rondeau**, of Sorel, in Canada, and farmer of this place, and **Agathe Dupati**, daughter of Jean Baptiste Dupati on the other part, nor any impediment being discovered, we priest undersigned missionary, have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in presence of Jean Baptiste Dupati and of Pierre Stanislas Jacquet, witnesses before whom the said groom has recognized as his legitimate children with **another woman, Angelique** aged 10 years, **George** aged 6 years, and **Genevieve** aged 4 years. The said spouses as well as the witnesses have not known how to sign”¹⁹

This was followed by the baptism of George and Genevieve.

“This 28 January, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized George aged 6 years, legitimate child of **Charles Rondeau**, farmer, and of a woman now dead. Godfather Joseph Gervais who has not known how to sign.”²⁰

“This 28 January, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Genevieve, aged 4 years, legitimate child of **Charles Rondeau** farmer of this place, and of a woman now dead. Godfather Joseph Gervais who has not known how to sign.”²¹

Charles was named in several church entries as a godfather and witness to events. Some events were for the Rondeau family. Some of these were events for his wife's Depati family. Several were for Indians living with the Rondeau family who could be slaves.

“This 17 January, 1840, we priest undersigned missionary have baptized at home in a state of sickness, Jean Baptiste, aged about 12 years, legitimate son of Charles Plante and of . . . of the mission of St. Paul. Godfather **Charles Rondeau** who has not known how to sign.”²²

“This 3 February, 1840, seeing the dispensation of two bans of marriage granted by us missionary undersigned and the publication of the third between Antoine Masta, farmer of this place, formerly of the parish of St. Esprit in Canada, on the one part, and Sophie Tchinouk by nation on the other part, nor any impediment appearing, we priest undersigned missionary have received their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in presence of Amable Petit and of **Charles Rondeau** who as well as the spouses have not known how to sign.”²³

“This 6 July, 1840, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this mission the body of Jean Baptiste, natural child of Jean Baptiste Depati, farmer of this place and of . . . , deceased yesterday aged 16 months. Present **Charles Rondeau** and Pierre Depot who have not known how to sign.”²⁴

“This 24 November, 1830 [September, 1840] we priest undersigned have baptized at the house of **Charles Rondeau** Paul dit Captain, aged 20 years, sick with consumption, born of infidel parents of Kalapoyas nation. Godfather **Charles Rondeau** who has not known how to sign.”²⁵

“This 1st October, 1840, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of Paul dit Captain Kalapoya by nation, deceased yesterday aged about 20 years. Present **Charles Rondeau** and Augustin Rochon who have not known how to sign.”²⁶

“This 19 February, 1841, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this mission the body of Charlotte, privately baptized at home by **Charles** in danger of death and deceased the same day, day before yesterday, aged about 16 years, daughter of infidel parents Kahous by nation. Witnesses **Charles Rondeau** and Joseph GrosLouis.”²⁷

In 1841, Eugene Dufлот De Mofras, a French naturalist and explorer, made a list of “Principal French-Canadian Settlers on the Willamette.”²⁸ Charles was on this list. J. B. Desportes is Jean Baptiste Depati, Charles’s father-in-law.

Name	When Settled	Hectares Enclosed	Hectares Cultivated	Crop of Wheat Hectoliter:	Horses	Houses	Mills
Mich. Laframboise	1831	40	20	170	200	2	1
*J. B. Desportes.....	1831	35	20	170	100	3	1
*Joseph Gervais	1832	60	30	225	50	3	1
*J. B. Perrault.....	1832	40	30	225	10	3	
*Jh. Delor	1832	15	15	100	15	2	
*Etienne Luciat	1832	35	30	230	35	4	1
Xavier Lacoste	1832	20	12	95	14	1	
*P. Billique	1833	30	25	195	20	2	
*Jh. Deloze	1833	30	20	175	14	2	
J. Arguette	1833	40	25	185	15	2	
*Xavier Dudevant	1834	17	17	160	18	2	
Andre Longpre	1835	22	12	90	10	2	
Louis Fourrier	1835	17	16	115	20	1	
Charles Plants	1835	30	30	225	40	2	
Charles Rondeau	1836	12	12	90	15	1	

One hectare is equivalent to 2.47 acres. Charles’s 12 hectares would be the equivalent of 30 acres, One hectoliter is equivalent to 2.3 bushels. Charles’s 90 hectoliters would be 138 bushels.

Back to the St. Paul register.

“This 10 January, 1842, in view of the dispensation of two bans of marriage granted by us priest undersigned and the publication of the third between Antoine Bonenfant, farmer of this place, of-age son of Antoine Bonenfant and of Marie Anne Pepin of the Grand Maska in Canada, on one part, and Françoise Depati, natural daughter of Jean Baptiste Depati and of a Kalipouya woman, on the other part, nor any impediment being discovered, we priest undersigned have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in presence of **Charles Rondeau**, of Pierre Depot, and of Jean Baptiste Depati, witnesses, in presence of whom the said Antoine Bonenfant has recognized as legitimate Antoine aged 11 years, and Martin aged 8 years whom he has had of another woman.”²⁹

“This 3 April, 1842, we priest undersigned have baptized **Jean Baptiste**, born the 20 March last, of the legitimate marriage of **Charles Rondo**, farmer of this place, and of Agathe Depati. Godfather Charles Plante, godmother Francois Depati.”³⁰

“The 3 October, 1842, seeing the dispensation of two bans of marriage granted by the Reverend Messire F. N. Blanchet Vicar General, and seeing the publication of the third at the sermon of our parish Mass, between Louis Rondeau, engage of the Company of the Bay of Hudson, of-age son of Joseph Rondeau and of Agathe Dalcour of the parish of Berthier of Montreal on one part, and Henriette, of-age girl, of the Yogalta nation on the other part; nor any impediment being discovered, we undersigned missionary priest have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in presence of **Charles Rondeau friend of the groom** and of Marguerite, godmother of the bride, who all have declared not knowing how to sign.”³¹

“The 11 November, 1842, we priest undersigned have baptized Adelaide born the same day of the legitimate marriage of Pierre Depoe farmer and of Marguerite Tlamak of this parish. Godfather **Charles Rondeau**, godmother Marie Anne . . . of this parish who have not known how to sign.”³²

In 1842, Elijah White, the newly appointed Indian Agent, created a list of “Settlers west of the Rockies” that he sent to the Office of Indian Affairs.³³ J. B. Deporte, **Charles Rondo**, and Antoine Bonefaw were neighbors.

Names of Heads of Families	No of Males over 18	No of Females over 18	No of Children of both Sexes	Acres under Cultivation	Amount of Wheat in 1842	Amount of Corn Grain	No of Horses	No of Cattle	No of Sheep	No of Hogs
Antoine Bonefaw	1	1	2	45	200	10	10	3		6
Charles Rondo	1	1	4	00	500	110	12	9		10
J B Deporte	1	1	3	60	500	190	50	20		13
Pierre Laroque	2	2	6	70	300	100	6			5
George Davis	1			30			3	3		2

The Rondo family consisted of one male over 18, one female over 18, and four children.

Provisional and Territorial Government

In 1843, wagons filled with resettlers arrived in the Willamette Valley. An estimated 125 people arrived in Oregon in 1842, and 875 people arrived in Oregon in 1843.³⁴ These newcomers outnumbered the French Canadians and foreshadowed changes that would come to French Prairie.

On 2 May 1843, the settlers met at Champoege to decide if a provisional government should be established as a preliminary step for aligning with the United States. By a 52 to 50 vote, the measure won.³⁵ Charles was one of the 50 votes against the government.

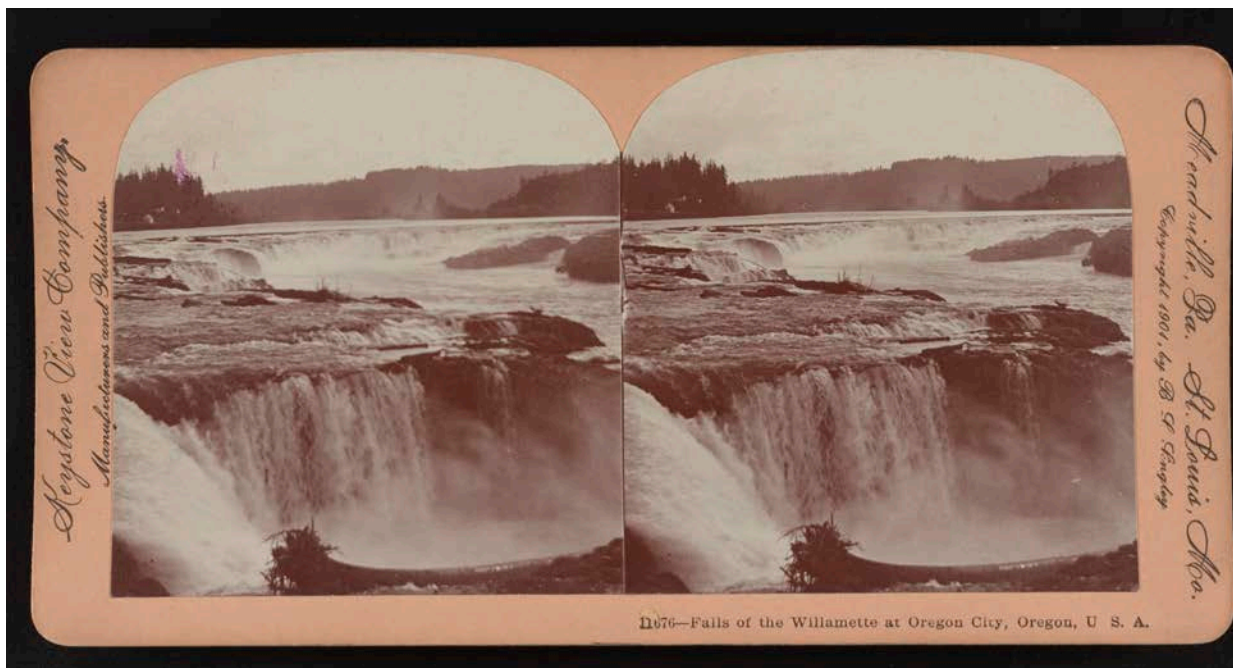
Taxation was an issue at the meeting, and a resolution was adopted that there would be no taxes. Instead, there would be a voluntary subscription. Unfortunately, that subscription did not bring in enough money to run the government. In 1844, the legislature passed a voluntary tax. There was a “catch” to the voluntary part. If a person did not pay the tax, he would not be allowed to vote or to defend his rights in court. The rights included land ownership and debts.³⁶

Charles paid a tax of \$1.22 for horses valued at \$300 and cattle valued at \$270.³⁷

The U.S. Congress created the Oregon Territory in 1848. In March 1849, Joseph Lane arrived in Oregon as the first territorial governor.

Charles signed several petitions during the provisional and territorial days.

- Signer of petition for pardon of William Riley, no date.³⁸
- Signer of petition for railroad round Willamette Falls, nd.³⁹ This was the portage railway between Oregon City and Canemah. Willamette Valley settlers depended upon the Willamette River to get their produce to market. Canemah was the landing place for boats travelling down the Willamette River. Goods were off-loaded 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.⁴⁰ The following 1885 stereograph shows the falls.⁴¹



- Signer of petition for construction of a canal, no date.⁴² The possibility of building canals around Willamette Falls was discussed in the Oregon Spectator newspaper in 1848.
- Signer of petition against road through Keizur's farm, 1852.⁴³

Back to the St. Paul register

“The 12 November, 1843, we priest undersigned have baptized under condition, **Angelique Marguerite** aged about 16 years, natural child of **Charles Rondeau** farmer and of . . . of this parish. Godfather Pierre Lacourse, godmother Archange Tihelis who have not known how to sign.”⁴⁴

“The 13 November, 1843, we priest undersigned have after the publication of one ban of marriage made at the sermon of our parish mass and the dispensation of two other bans granted by Messire Blanchet V.G. between Jean Baptiste Depati farmer domiciled in this parish, of-age son of the late Jean Baptiste Depati and of an infidel woman, of Temiscaming, on one part, and of Eugenie, of-age daughter of the late Wanakske, infidel, as well as his wife, on the other part, nor any impediment appearing and the said Jean Baptiste Depati being certain of the death of a woman with whom he had been married in Canada; that woman called Catherine Ochikapawissa, we, I say, priest undersigned and authorized to ad hoc have received their mutual consent of marriage in presence of **Charles Rondeau, son-in-law**, and of Francois Rivet who have not known how to sign, of Francois Bilodeau and of Francois Xavier Mathieu, undersigned, friends of the said groom [“of whom only one has signed” crossed out] who has not known how to sign.”⁴⁵

“The 26 May, 1844, we priest undersigned have baptized under condition **Charles** aged 2 days, legitimate child of **Charles Rondeau** farmer, and of Agathe Depati of this parish. Godfather Louis Laroc, godmother Marie Toussaint.”⁴⁶

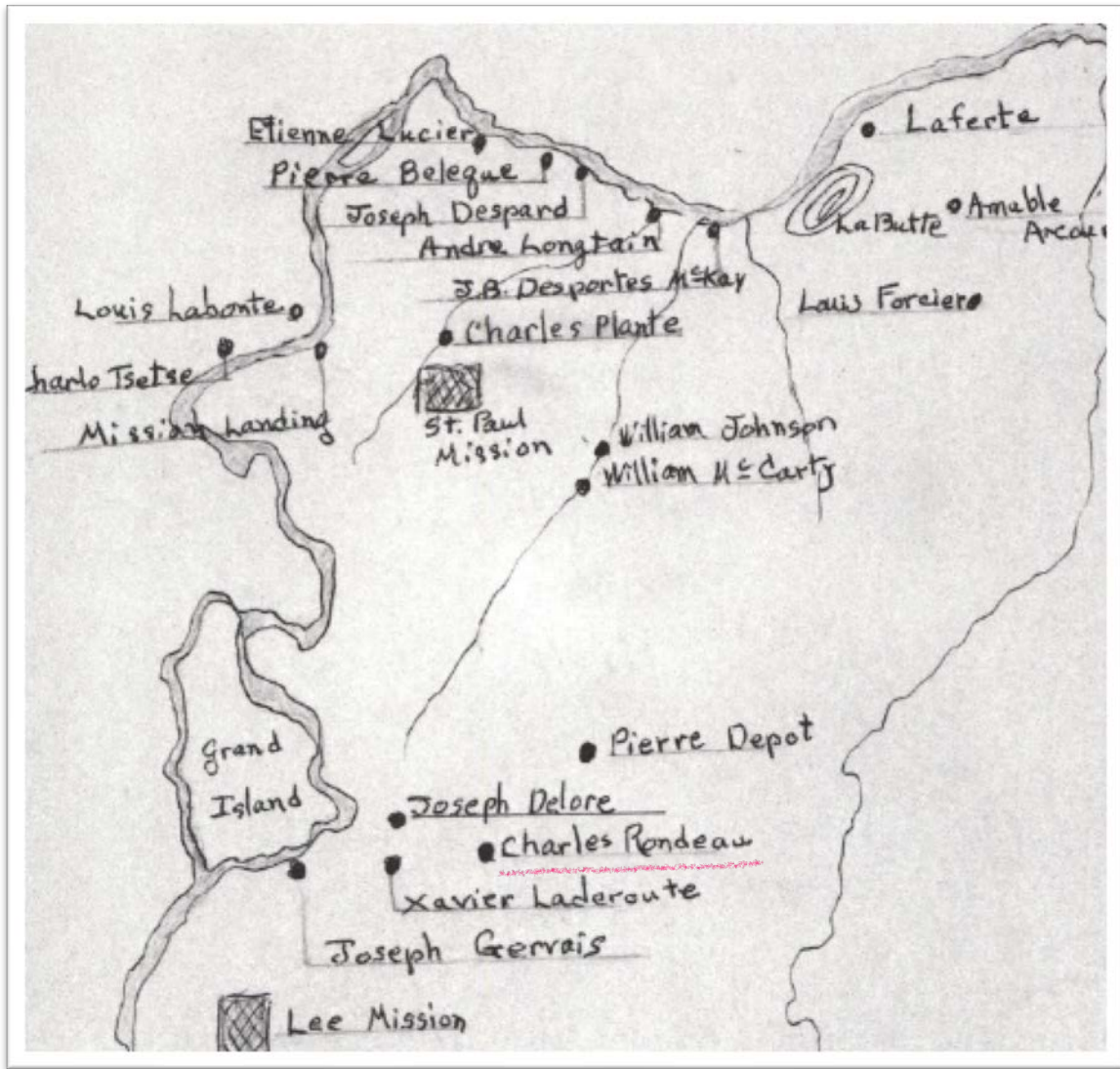
Oregon's provisional government authorized the sheriff to take a census after the first Monday in March 1845. Charles Rondeau was enumerated in Champoeg County with one male under 12 years, one female under 12 years, one male between 12 and 18 years, one female between 18 and 45 years, and one male over 45 years.⁴⁷

The provisional government permitted inhabitants to stake out claims and survey them. Any male could claim 640 acres, and within six months of recording their claim, they were to build a home.⁴⁸ Jean Baptist DePevite McKay and Charles Rondeau, his son-in-law, filed a joint claim. Jean Baptist had been on the claim since 1837.⁴⁹

MC KAY, DePevite and ROENDO, Chas., partnership, Champoeg Co, 1280a. "Said McKay having resided on same for last nine years, holds by joint partners and by personal occupancy." Filed 13 Aug, recorded 17 Aug 1846. V 3 p 46

Charles was named as a neighbor to Pierre Raymond, Charles Bonenfant, Pierre Bonnet, Joseph LaRocque, Pierre Laroque, Thomas Montour, Michael Dockerty, Pierre Lacourse, and John Poujade.⁵⁰

This hand-drawn map by Harriet Munnick shows where the Rondeau claim was located.⁵¹



Back to the St. Paul register.

“The 20 April, 1846, after the publication of 2 bans of marriage, and the dispensation of the third [inserted above the line], between Etienne Bemise, French, on the one part, and **Angelique**, minor daughter of **Charles Rondeau** and of **Louise Belaire** (some words scratched out) on the other part, nor having discovered any impediment, we the undersigned priest have received their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Pierre Bellique and Louis Vendal, who could not sign as well as the spouses.”⁵²

“10 April 1847. Baptism of Thomas, child of **C. Rondeau** and of Catherine Depati, born the 4 April. Godfather Thomas Moisan, godmother Henriette Lonetain. Father present.”⁵³

“The 30 January, 1854, we priest undersigned have baptized Bibiane born the 26 of this month, of the legitimate marriage of Charles Lafantaisie farmer of this place and of **Genevieve**

Rondeau. Godfather Jean Francois Guerin, undersigned, godmother Isabelle McKay who as well as the father could not sign.”⁵⁴

“The 12 March, 1855, we undersigned have supplied the ceremonies of baptism to Baptiste born the 6 March of the legitimate marriage of Charles La Phantasie and **Genevieve Rondeau**, of this mission, privately baptized at home in danger of death by us undersigned. Godfather Justin de L’or [Augustin Delard] godmother Nancie Empreville [Humpherville] who could not sign.”⁵⁵

A new church was established at St. Louis in 1845.

In an 1846 letter to a friend in Belgium, Father Louis Vercruysse, S.J., related the story of the founding of the St. Louis Parish.

“For the past four or five years the [Hudson's Bay] Company has allowed them to settle in the Willamette [Valley], where they marry Indians or mixed bloods These families number now 150 Having neither seen nor heard of a priest during the entire term of their service, they live in utter disregard of their religious duties Mgr Blanchet lately began to make them the object of his particular attention By agreement with Father De Smet, he has given me [1844] charge of a group of these people who occupy a tract seven or eight leagues in length by four or five in width called La Grande Prairie They were without a church I was told I should never succeed in this project, I answered that with God's help one may succeed in anything”



“Up to this these poor people have been coming, in winter as well as summer, to Mr. Blanchet's church, now our Cathedral, situated a half-league from Lake Ignace This famous cathedral, 40 feet long, 30 broad and 22 high, open to every wind, is as miserable a looking shed as I ever saw Now these good people find their way to church from a distance of two, three and even five miles around, mounted on horseback and with their wives and children riding behind Rain, hail or snow, it makes no difference, they remain camping under the trees until Vespers The sight has more than once moved me to pity, but then what a consolation to behold such fervor in men once utterly abandoned One Sunday afternoon about half-past three o'clock I had them come together and discussed with them the question of a site for a new church They all began to speak at once, each one wishing it near his own house Realizing that I had not proceeded in the right way. I commanded silence and then told them they had best abide by my decision To this they unanimously agreed The following Sunday I pointed out to them the place I had chosen Then I selected two Canadians, sensible men, who had considerable influence over the others, and

mounting out horses we succeeded in two or three days in making the rounds of the Grande Prairie We were given a pleasant and honorable reception on all sides and people eagerly agreed to the levy of timber and other things which I proposed. Here then are the means at my disposal for building the church, which will be the largest and finest in the Willamette”⁵⁶

The first entries in the new St. Louis Church register were made in January 1845, and members of the Rondeau family were early participants in the sacraments.

St Louis sacramental events for the Rondeau family

“The 15 April, 1845, we undersigned missionary of the Company of Jesus have baptized Joseph Umpqua aged 12 years, godfather **Charles Rondeau**, godmother Agathe Depaty.”⁵⁷

“The 3 April, 1847, we undersigned missionary of the Company of Jesus have supplied the Ceremonies of Baptism to Charles born the 28 of the legitimate marriage of Antoine Bonenfant and Françoise Agathe Depaty. Godfather **Charles Rondeau**, Godmother Agathe Depaty.”⁵⁸

“The 25 November, 1847, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis have, in supplying the ceremonies of Baptism, baptized conditionally Etienne, born the day before of the legitimate marriage of Etienne Biernes and of **Angelique Rondeau**. Godfather J B Depaty, godmother Jenny Wanaske.”⁵⁹

“The 10 January, 1848, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis have buried Etienne, son of Etienne Biernes and of **Angelique Rondeau**, died the day before aged 2 months. Witnesses Etienne Biernes, William Goulder.”⁶⁰

“The 27 August, 1848, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis have buried Agathe Depathy, deceased the day before aged about 28 years, at the house of **Charles Rondeau** her husband. Witnesses Louis Aussan, Joseph Klyne.”⁶¹

“20 Sept 1848, Confirmation; **Georges Rondeau, Angelique Rondeau, and Genevieve Rondeau**.”⁶²

“The 23 July, 1849, in view of the dispensation of one bann of marriage and the publication of two others made at the sermon of our parish Masses between **Charles Rondeau**, widower of Agathe Depaty and Elizabeth, Indian, living at the house of Bapt. Aubichon; we priest undersigned have received their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Antoine Bonenfant and Baptiste Aubichon.”⁶³

“The 23 September, 1849, we priest undersigned have baptized Angelique born day before yesterday of the legitimate marriage of Etienne Biernes and of **Angelique Rondeau**. Godfather Georges Rondeau. Godmother Catherine Depaty.”⁶⁴

“The 8 May, 1850, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis have buried **Angelique Rondeau** wife of Etienne Biernes, deceased the day before aged 23 years. Witnesses Michael Dogherty, **Charles Rondeau**.”⁶⁵

The Charles Rondo family was enumerated in the 1850 Marion County, Oregon Territory, census⁶⁶ – next to the Depati family. Other census neighbors were William Larkin, John Poujade, Octave Martel, and William Parker.

Dwell No.	Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Race
271	271	Charles Rondeau	31	Mr	
		George	21	Mr	
		Guicarra	15	Fr	
		Baptiste	11	Mr	
		Charles	6	Mr	
		Thomas	11	Mr	
		Lizette	25	Fr	
		Etienne Bernaise	36	Mr	
		Angelique	1	Fr	

Notice Lizette, age 25. This is Elizabeth who married Charles on 23 July 1849.

Etienne Bernaise was the widower of Angelique Rondeau. One-year-old Angelique Bernaise was their daughter.

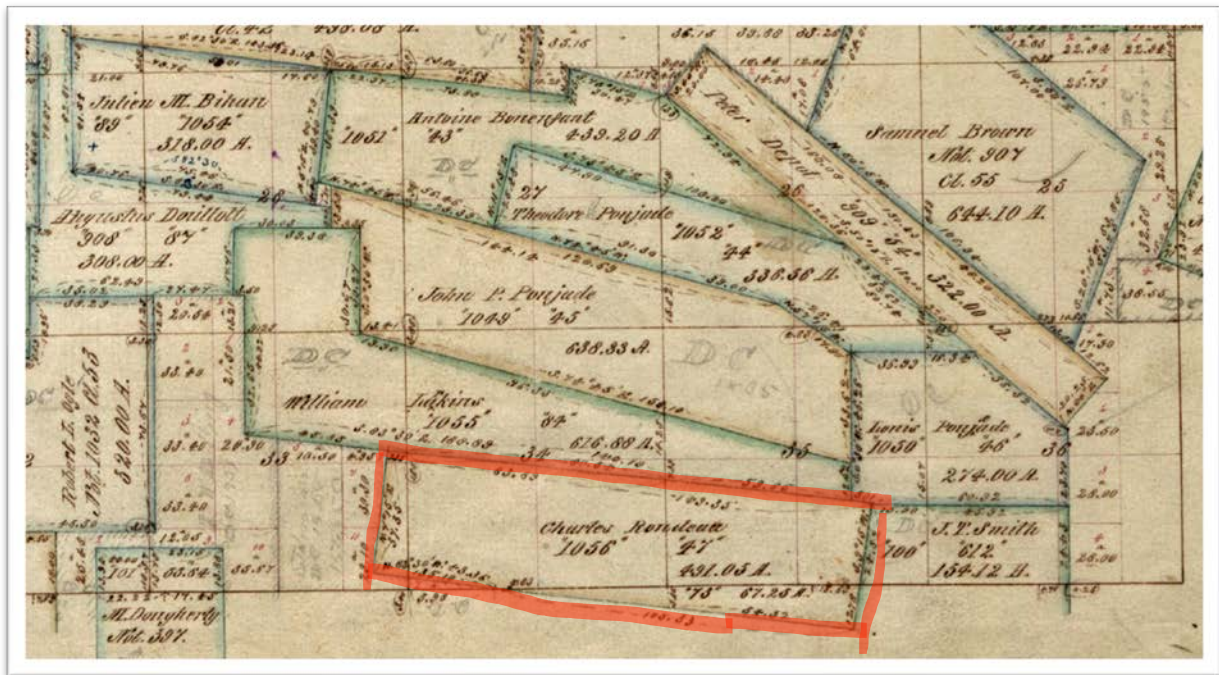
Charles Rondo owned \$4,000 worth of real estate, would be the value of his Oregon Donation Land Claim,⁶⁷

Donation Land Claims

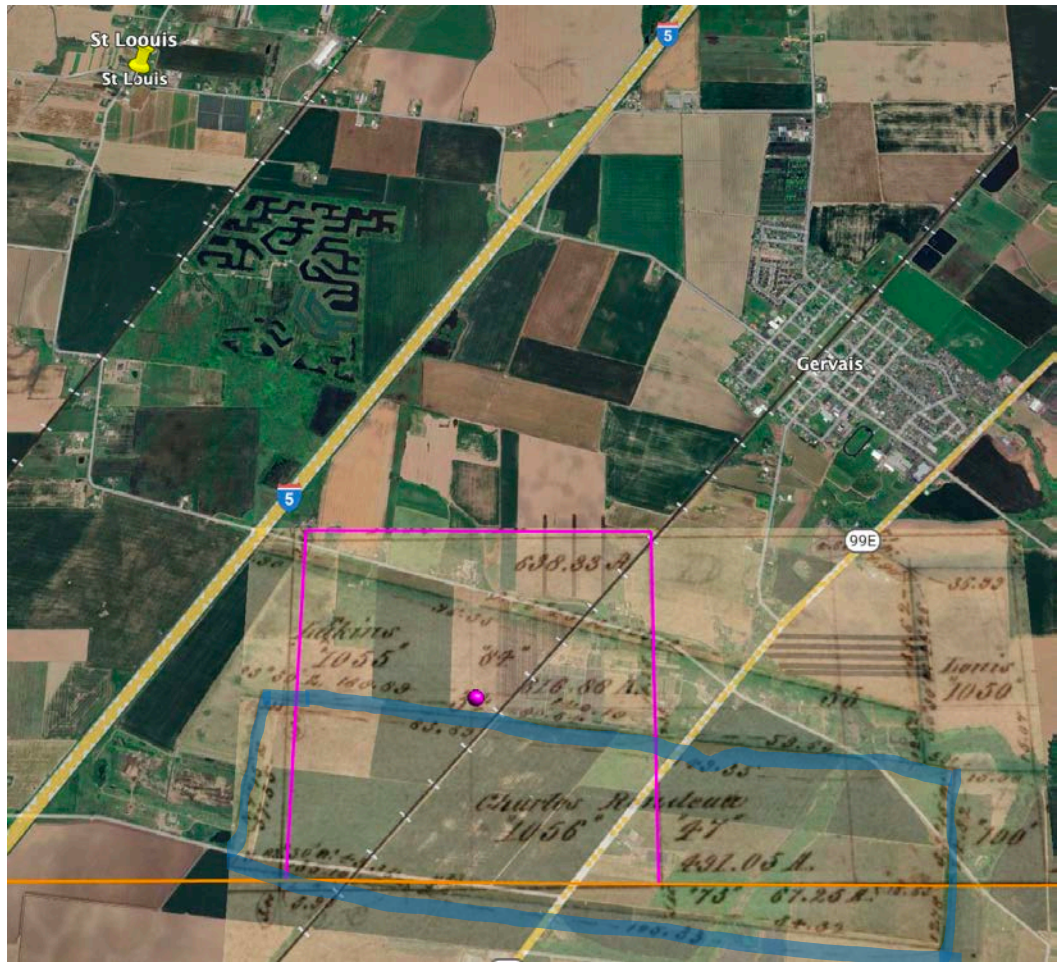
The provisional claims became null and void when the U.S. Congress passed the Donation Act of 1850. That act, effective on 1 December 1850, gave 320 acres to every white settler or American half-breed Indian who was over eighteen years of age and who filed a claim. For married men, their wives received 320 acres in their own right.

Charles Rondeau took out donation claim #1911. The 554 acres were in sections 2, 3, and 4 of Twp 6S, R 2W and sections 33, 34, and 35 in Twp 5S, R 2 W.⁶⁸

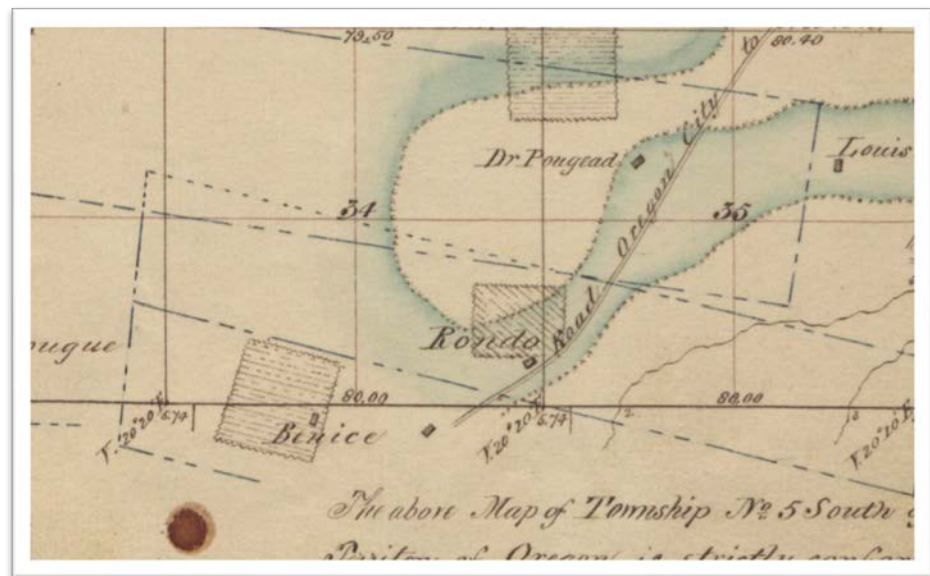
This 1852 General Land Office survey shows the outline of his claim.



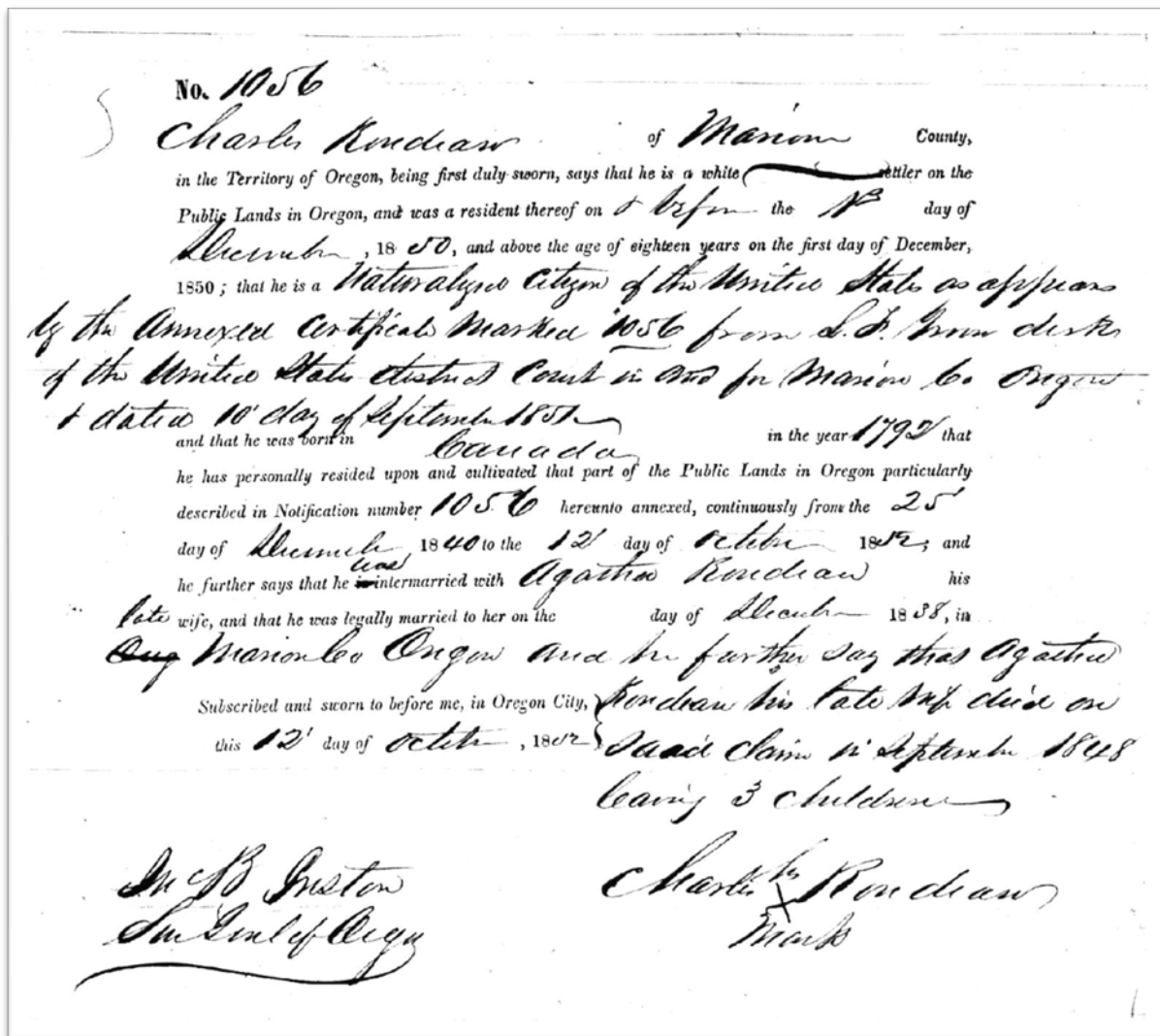
An image of the Rondeau claim superimposed on Google Earth. Section 34 is outlined in pink. The town of St Louis is northwest of the claim.



This other 1852 GLO survey shows the claims, roads, and water courses. Shapes with hash marks indicate where the farms were plowed. The small dark rectangles indicate where the houses were located. The Road to Oregon City is present-day Hwy 99E.



An affidavit in Charles's DLC file provides information about him and provides proof of marriage to Agatha.⁶⁹



Back to the St. Louis register

“The 10 June, 1851, we undersigned have buried in the cemetery Suzanne Kalapouya deceased the day before aged about 14 years. Witnesses **Charles Rondeau**, J B Depaty.”⁷⁰

“The 21 July, 1851, we undersigned priest have buried the body of Jenny Wanaske legitimate wife of Jean Baptiste Despati; deceased the day before, witnesses **Charles Rondeau** and Georges Montour.”⁷¹

“The 20 September 1851, **Elizabeth Rondeau** confirmed.

“The 4 October, 1852, in view of the publication of one bann of marriage made at the sermon of our parish mass between Etienne Biernes, inhabitant of this parish, widower of **Angelique Rondeau** on the one part; and Marie Laroc, minor daughter of Joseph Seb. Laroc and of Marianne Cayouse of this parish on the other part; the dispensation of two other banns being

obtained of Monsigneur the Archbishop of Oregon City, 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 Seb Laroc father of the bride, Charles Rondeau, Martin Bonenfant and **Genevieve Rondeau** who could not sign.”⁷²

“The 6 April, 1853, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis have buried Jean Baptiste Deputy of this parish, deceased 2 days ago in the evening, aged about 60 years. Witnesses **Charles Rondeau, Georges Rondeau.**”⁷³

“The 3 May, 1853, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis, after having published one bann of marriage at the sermon of our parish masses of St. Louis and of St. Paul between Charles Lafantaisie of the parish of St. Paul, widower of Isabelle Humpherville on the one part; and **Genevieve Rondeau minor daughter of Charles Rondeau** by the consent of whom it proceeds, inhabitant of the parish of St. Louis and of the late **Lisette Belair** on the other part, after having further obtained the dispensation of the two other banns and not having discovered any impediment, have given them the nuptial benediction after having received their mutual benediction after having received their mutual consent to marriage in the presence of **Charles Rondeau** father of the bride, David Mongrin, Antoine Bonenfant, who could not sign”.⁷⁴

“The 13 June, 1853, after the publication of one bann of marriage made at the sermon of our parish mass between **George Rondeau**, of-age son of **Charles Rondeau**, inhabitant of the parish of St. Louis of the Willamette and of the late **Lisette Belair** on the one part; and Marguerite Dumont, minor daughter of Alexandre Dumont and of Josette Finly, residents of the Umpquas and with the consent of whom it proceeds, on the other part, the dispensation of two other banns being obtained and not having encountered 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 **Charles Rondeau**, father of the groom and of Alexandre Dumont, father of the bride, and of Pierre Depot, Pierre Goin and Francois Moray who could not sign.”⁷⁵

“The 16 August, 1854, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis have buried Charles Plante deceased the day before at the house of **Charles Rondeau**, aged about 70 years, in the presence of Georges Rondeau, Antoine Bonenfant who could not sign.”⁷⁶

Charles dies

“The 22 August, 1855, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis have **buried Charles Rondeau inhabitant of this parish**, deceased the day before aged 68 years. Present Joseph Gervais, Georges Rondeau and Joseph Dellart.”⁷⁷

George Rondeau, Charles’s oldest son, was the administrator of Charles’s probate.⁷⁸

Charles’s donation claim continued as “Charles Rondeau and Heirs.” The heirs were Charles’s wife Lisette and her children. This meant that George Rondeau did not inherit part of the donation claim.

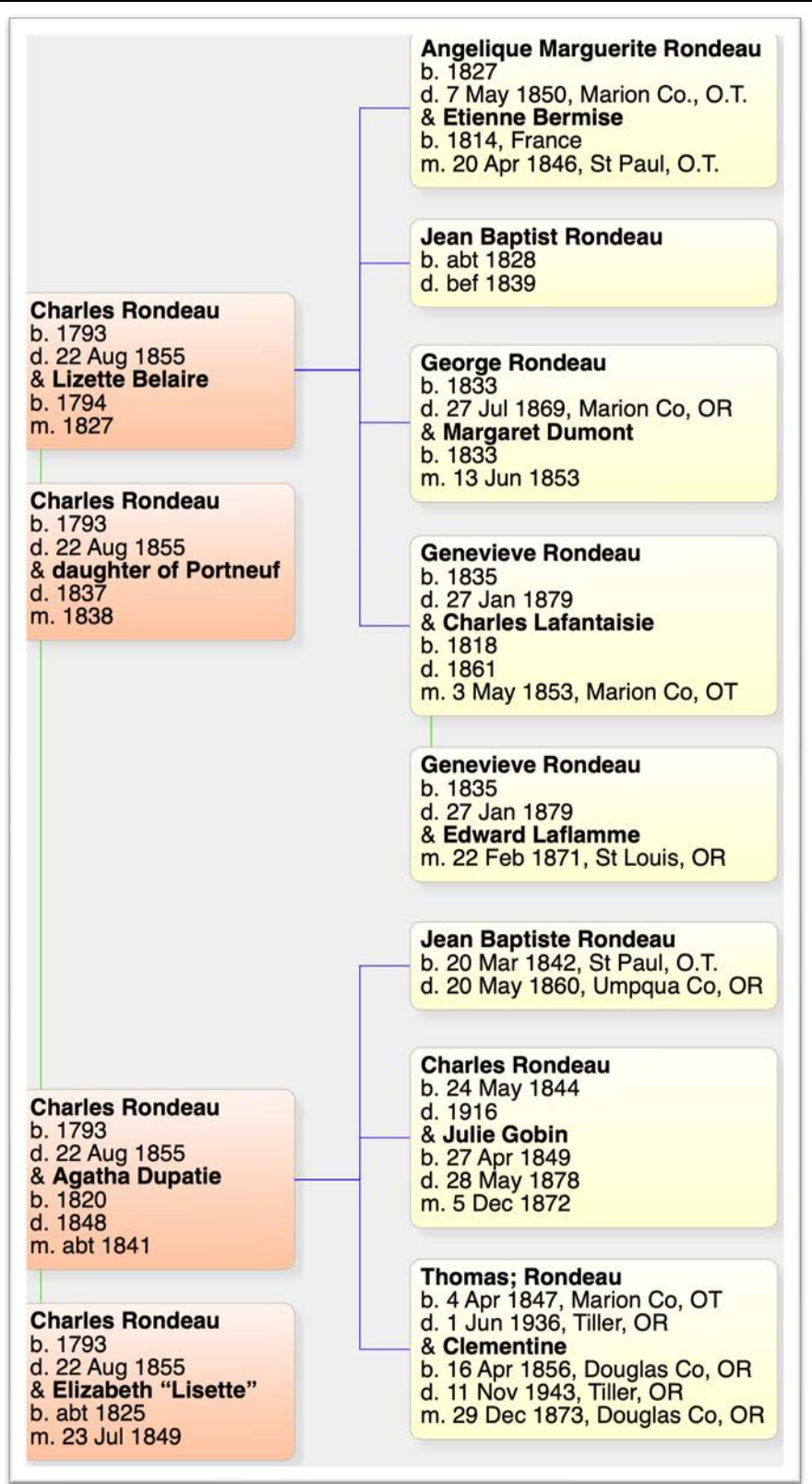
Heirs of first wife not entitled to same
the worth half to second wife to
J. Register

On 5 September 1855, Lisette, Charles's widow, sold 150 acres of her portion of the Rondeau donation claim to John Baptiste, Charles, and Thomas Rondeau, her sons. The purchase price of \$10.00 was paid by George Rondeau.⁷⁹

Widow Lisette married Jonathon Depaty on 23 September 1856.

“The 23 September, 1856, we undersigned parish priest of St. Louis, in view of the publication of one bann of marriage made at the sermon of our parish mass between Jonathon Depaty, of-age son of J B Depaty, and of Marguerite both deceased in the parish of St. Louis, on the one part; and **Lisette, widow of Charles Rondeau** also of the parish of St. Louis on the other part; in view also of the dispensation of two other banns granted by us, have received their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Antoine Bonenfant, and Pierre Depot who could not sign.”⁸⁰

The chart to the right shows Charles Rondeau, his wives, and his children.



End Notes

- ¹ Bruce McIntyre Watson, *Lives Lived West of the Divide A Biographical Dictionary of Fur Traders Working West of the Rockies 1793 – 1858* (Kelowna, B.C. : Centre for Social, Spatial and Economic Justice, University of British Columbia Okanagan, 2010), 831.
- ² Hudson's Bay Company, Charles Rondeau Biographical Sheet; https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/docs/hbca/biographical/r/rondeau_charles.pdf
- ³ [George Back](#) - Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1994-254-1.40R; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%8Ele-%C3%A0-la-Crosse#/media/File:Fort_de_l%C3%8Ele-%C3%A0-la-Crosse_en_1820.jpg.
- ⁴ Maloney, Alice Bay, and John Work. "Fur Brigade to the Bonaventura: John Work's California Expedition of 1832-33 for the Hudson's Bay Company." *California Historical Society Quarterly* 22, no. 3 (1943), 196; <https://doi.org/10.2307/25155793C>
- ⁵ David A. Bainbridge, "The Hudson's Bay Company Brigades of 1832 – 33 and "Malaria Epidemic in California; Chapter 3" from *The Fur War in the West: Ecological and Cultural Consequences* (San Diego, CA; Redondo Press).
- ⁶ Maloney and Work, "Fur Brigade to the Bonaventure," p. 198.
- ⁷ Maloney and Work, "Fur Brigade to the Bonaventure," 205.
- ⁸ Maloney and Work, "Fur Brigade to the Bonaventure," 206.
- ⁹ John A. Hussey, *Champoeg: Place of Transition* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967), 51, 52.
- ¹⁰ *Memorial of William A. Slacum Praying Compensation for his services in obtaining information in relation to the settlements on the Oregon river December 18, 1837* (Fairfield, Washington: Ye Galleon Press, 1972), 10
- ¹¹ Slacum, *Memorial*, 6.
- ¹² Slacum, *Memorial*, 22.
- ¹³ Jason Lee, "Diary of Reverend Jason Lee—III." *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society* 17, no. 4 (1916): 397–430; *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20610056>.
- ¹⁴ Letters to the Bishop of Juliopolis, Red River from the Willamette Settlement, March 22, 1836 and March 8, 1837, Mss 83, Catholic Church in Oregon; located at Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.
- ¹⁵ Letters to the Bishop of Juliopolis, Red River, from the Willamette Settlement, March 22, 1836 and March 8, 1837," Mss 83, Catholic Church in Oregon; Originals at Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.
- ¹⁶ Slacum, *Memorial*, 23.
- ¹⁷ Mission Record Book, Methodist Episcopal Church, Willamette Station, Oregon Territory, North America, commenced 1834," Mss 1224, Methodist Missions; located at Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.
- ¹⁸ Methodist Mission Store Collection," University of Oregon Special Collections, Eugene, Oregon.
- ¹⁹ Harriet Duncan Munnick and Mikell DeLores Wormell Warner, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Vancouver, Volume 1* (St Paul, Oregon: French Prairie Press, 1972), p. 28, M-16.
- ²⁰ Munnick and Warner, *Vancouver*, p. 32, B-71.
- ²¹ Munnick and Warner, *Vancouver*, p. 32, B-72.
- ²² Harriet Duncan Munnick, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest: St. Paul, Oregon 1839–1898* (Portland, OR: Binford & Mort, 1979), Vol. 1, p.4, B-10.
- ²³ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 5, M-2.
- ²⁴ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 13, S-9.
- ²⁵ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 17, B-278.
- ²⁶ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 17, S-10.
- ²⁷ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 21, B-312.

- ²⁸ Nellie Bowden Pipes. "Extract from Exploration of the Oregon Territory, the Californias, and the Gulf of California, Undertaken during the Years 1840, 1841 and 1842 by Eugene Duflet de Mofras." *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society* 26, no. 2 (1925): 151–90, *JStor*; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20610311>.
- ²⁹ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 41, M-10.
- ³⁰ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 46, B-1.
- ³¹ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 16, M-12.
- ³² Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 63, B-86.
- ³³ "Lists of settlers west of Rockies, 1842 by Elijah White, Indian Agent," FamilySearch DGS 8276177, image 118; citing List of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1842 – 1880, Oregon Superintendency, NARA M234, reel 607, image 113.
- ³⁴ William E. Hill, *The Oregon Trail, Yesterday and Today* (Caldwell, ID: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1989), xxv
- ³⁵ Charles Henry Carey, *History of Oregon*, Vol. I (Chicago: The Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, 1922), 379.
- ³⁶ Leslie M. Scott, "First Taxes in Oregon, 1844." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 31, no. 1 (1930): 3, 4, 5, 6; *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2061051>.
- ³⁷ Leslie M. Scott, "First Taxpayers in Oregon, 1844." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 31, no. 1 (1930): 21, *JStor*; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20610516>.
- ³⁸ Territorial Government Documents, Doc. No. 11788 ; located at the Oregon Historical Society
- ³⁹ Territorial Government Documents, Doc. No. 42; located at the Oregon Historical Society.
- ⁴⁰ "Railroad History of Portland, OR; online *PortlandRailroadhistory* (<http://www.sps700.org/gallery/essays/portlandrailroadhistory.shtml> : accessed 26 March 2021).
- ⁴¹ "Falls of the Willamette at Oregon City, Oregon, U.S.A." (Library of Congress; Stereograph 11676, 1901) (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pny/pp.print>) located at Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA.
- ⁴² Territorial Government Documents, Doc. No. 47; located at the Oregon Historical Society.
- ⁴³ Territorial Government Documents, Doc. No. 4532; located at the Oregon Historical Society.
- ⁴⁴ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 85, B-58.
- ⁴⁵ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 86, M-6.
- ⁴⁶ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 97, B-17.
- ⁴⁷ Julie Kidd, *1845 Census of the Territory South of the Columbia and West of the Cascade Mountains* (Portland, Oregon; Oregon Territorial Press, 1997), 4.
- ⁴⁸ Lottie Gurley, comp. Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims, Abstracted; Volumes I-III, 1845-1849 (Portland: The Genealogical Forum of Portland, 1982), foreword.
- ⁴⁹ Gurley, *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, 49.
- ⁵⁰ Gurley, *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, 19, 85, 115, 225 and 226.
- ⁵¹ Harriet D. Munnick, *Priest's Progress* (Portland: Binford & Mort, 1989), 67.
- ⁵² Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 135, M-20.
- ⁵³ Munnick, *St. Paul*, p. 153, B-15.
- ⁵⁴ Munnick, *St. Paul*, Vol. II, p. 60, B-3.
- ⁵⁵ Munnick, *St. Paul*, Vol. II, p. 70, B-6.
- ⁵⁶ Jesuit Archives & Research Center, <https://jesuitarchives.org/>"Chapter XXV, The Oregon Missions", 369-70; <https://jesuitarchives.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/chap25.pdf>.

- ⁵⁷ Harriet Duncan Munnick, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest: St Louis Register, Vol 1 (1845-1868), St. Louis Register, Vol. II (1869 – 1900)* (Portland, OR; Binford & Mort, 1982), p. 2, B-8.
- ⁵⁸ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 3, B-11.
- ⁵⁹ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 5, B-34.
- ⁶⁰ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 7, S-6.
- ⁶¹ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 12, S-22.
- ⁶² Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 31.
- ⁶³ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 16, S-5.
- ⁶⁴ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 17, B-28.
- ⁶⁵ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 23, S-15.
- ⁶⁶ 1850 Marion County, Oregon, census, p 101 (stamped), dwelling 421, family 421, Charles Rondo; *Ancestry*.
- ⁶⁷ 1850 Marion County, Oregon, census, p 101 (stamped), dwelling 421, family 421, Charles Rondo; *Ancestry*.
- ⁶⁸ Oregon Donation Land Claim, Oregon City Land Office, claim no. 1911 for Charles Rondeau; citing National Archives microfilm publication M815, roll 40; images obtained from Genealogical Forum of Oregon; <https://gfo.org/>.
- ⁶⁹ Charles Rondeau's DLC.
- ⁷⁰ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 28, S-5.
- ⁷¹ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 29, S-7.
- ⁷² Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 42, M-4.
- ⁷³ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 47, S-5.
- ⁷⁴ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 47, M-4.
- ⁷⁵ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 52, M-8.
- ⁷⁶ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 67, S-17.
- ⁷⁷ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 79, S-12.
- ⁷⁸ Daraleen Phillips Wade, *Genealogical Abstracts of the first 2500 Probate Records in Marion County, Oregon, Vol. 3* (Salem, Oregon; Willamette Valley Genealogical Society 1985), 217.
- ⁷⁹ Marion County, Oregon Deeds, Vol. I, p. 134.
- ⁸⁰ Munnick, *St. Louis*, p. 93, M-12.