

Louis Forcier, St Paul Church Founder

Louis Forcier was born in Canada. He said he was born in 1799 or 1801 when he filled out his Oregon Donation Land Claim (ODLC) Settler's Affidavit. A search in the Drouin Collection, an online collection of Quebec church records, yields no results for him. Papers in his ODL file indicate he returned to Canada in the early 1860s.¹

Louis had two Indian wives and at least seven children. Only one daughter married and had children; her descendants left the Prairie.

Louis is one of eighteen French Prairie settlers (fifteen of whom were former Hudson's Bay Company employees) who felt the need to have their marriages blessed and their children baptized by Catholic priests. Because of their efforts, the St. Paul Church was established.

Fur Trade

In 1828, Louis entered service with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) as a middleman (the middle person in the canoe). He was at Fort Colville at Kettle Falls on the Columbia River from 1828 to 1829.²

He may have been with John Work and twenty men on a 33-mile trip from Fort Colville to Okanagan that Work described in his journal.³

“[May, 1828.]

“Tuesday May 20th. Between 3 or [and] 4 o'clock in the afternoon left Colville with six boats for Okanagan and encamped in the evening one pipe [from] the grand rapid. [Thompson's Rapids] We were detained some time at the rapid, repairing two of the boats that were broken. The cargo got wet; all the other boats were lightened and half the cargo carried, and the boats ran down at two trips.

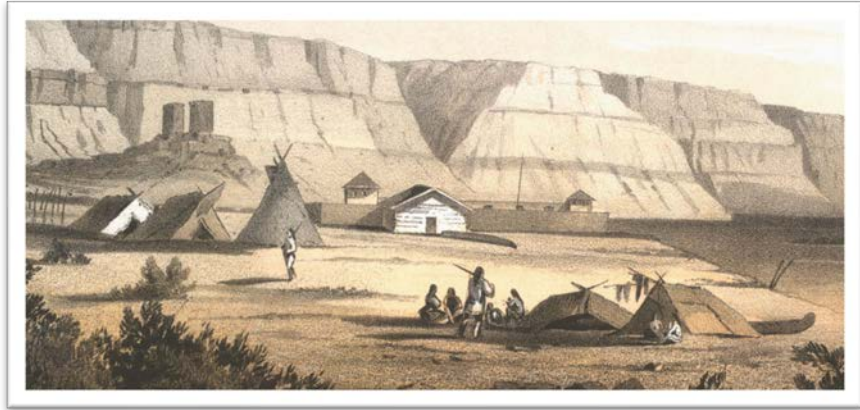
We have only twenty men for the six boats, four men each for two of the boats, and three each for the other four, which certainly weak crews for such a dangerous part of the river, but instead of paddles the people use oars by which they do more work with less labor. Our lading consists of 70 packs of furs, 2 kegs [castoreum], 12 bales of leather, 8 bales of [barley meal from the crop of 1827] 2 do [corn meal] 10 do saddles, 1 cage 3 young pigs for N [new] Calidonia, 1 do cask [cage] for Nez Perces, 6 Indian lodges, provisions for the voyage, and which with the other baggage makes 24 pieces per boat, and myself and La Bontes wife, & two children passengers. Everything was ready to start at an early hour, but Chateaux's boat, which was not finished gumming, till the afternoon. Cloudy mild weather.”

“May 21. Embarked at daylight this morning, and continued our route without any delay whatever, except a short [stop] for breakfast, till a little before sunset, when we encamped below the big [stone] a little above the little Dalls, [Makhim Rapids on the Columbia River, upriver from Grand Coulee] which is a [good] days work for so few men. The current is very strong, and sent us along at a rapid rate, but the water is not so high as last year; it is now in a good state, and none of the rapids dangerous. Notwithstanding the (long) time that were taken gumming the boats, some of them are leaky, and two of them had to be gummed. Yesterday evening some of the people were employ[ed at that.]”

“May 22nd. Cloudy cool weather in the morning, very warm afterwards. Resumed our route at daylight, and arrived at Okanage [Fort Okanogan] before breakfast, and found some of the people still not up. The Dalls were found good, and the boats shot down them

without stopping. Received and examined the cargos, all in good order, and had them stand by and as the men had worked hard, gave them the remainder of the day, to rest, previous to commencing gumming the boats.”

Louis was also at Fort Nez Perces (Fort Walla Walla).



The fort in 1818.⁴

On 5 October 1829, Dr. John McLoughlin, Fort Vancouver Chief Factor, wrote to Samuel Black at Fort Nez Perces,

“PS You will please send down Mr. Ogdens two men [**Louis**] **Forciver and Rocque** Brune to Mr. [James] Birnie immediately.”⁵ [Birnie was operating a temporary trading station at The Dalles.]⁶

By 7 June 1830, Louis may have been back at Fort Nez Perces when Dr. McLoughlin wrote to Samuel Black,

“Joe Gray is the Bearer of this and takes up to you the Horses left at the Dalles by **Louis Forcier.**”⁷

Louis was at Fort Vancouver until around 1831⁸. The trappers working at Fort Vancouver had from two to five slaves. 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 care for camp. ⁹.

French Prairie

Louis retired from the HBC and settled on French Prairie in 1835. He continued to supply the HBC with furs and grain.¹⁰

John McLoughlin, HBC Chief Factor, kept company employees who retired to farm on French Prairie on the books as employees, but no service was expected of them. This provided a testing period. During that time, if an ex-employee caused trouble, they could be formally discharged and transported out of the country. McLoughlin also provided seed grain, a two-wheeled cart, a plow, two cows, and two steers. He sold additional farm implements at a discount.¹¹

In November of 1835, William Slacum of the U.S. Navy received a commission from the President of the United States,

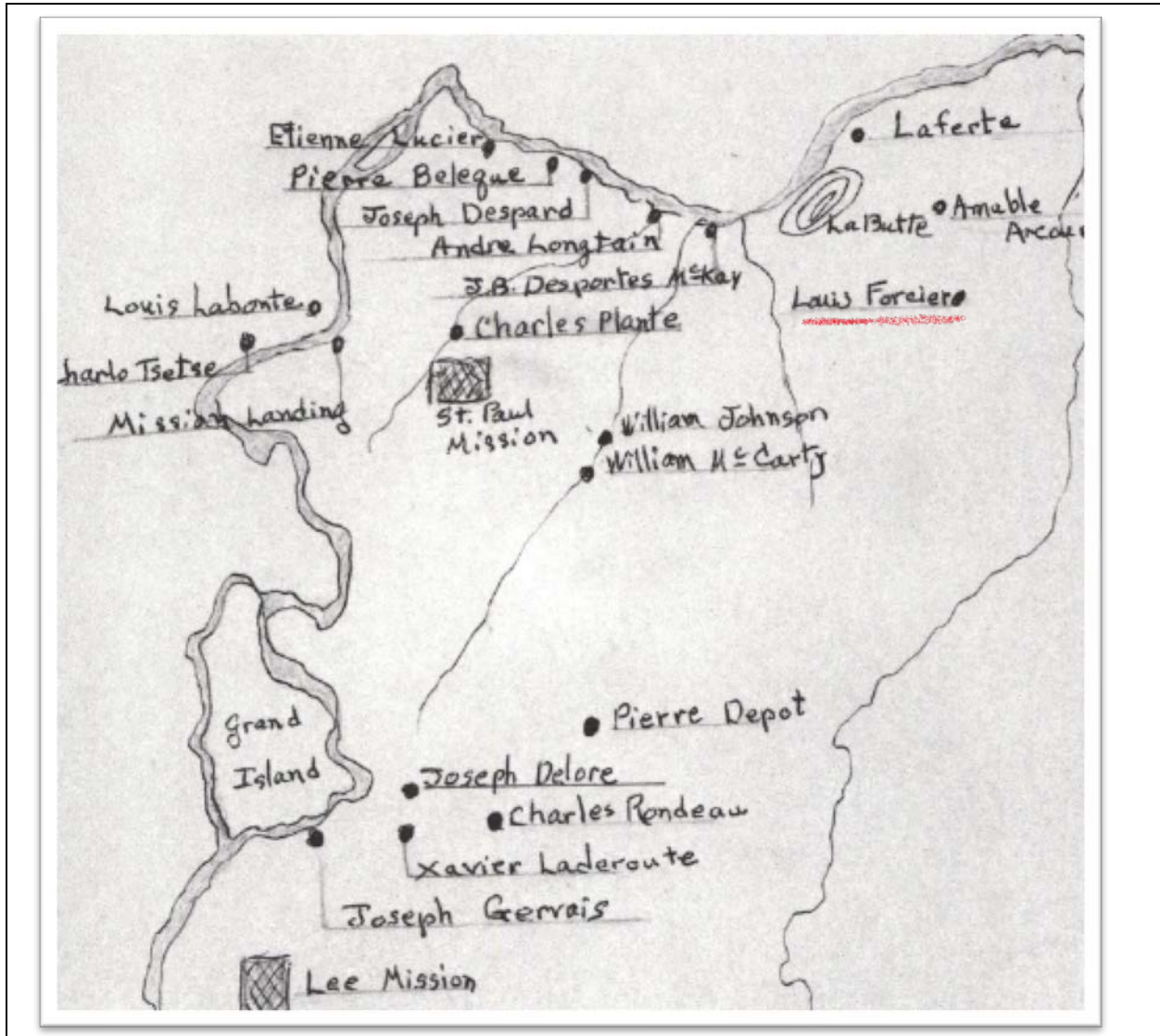
“To obtain some specific and authentic information in regard to the inhabitants of the country in the neighborhood of the Oregon, or Columbia river; and, generally, endeavour

to obtain all such information, political, physical, statistical, and geographical as may prove useful or interesting to this Government.”

After several months of travel that started in the summer of 1836, he reached the Columbia River at the end of December 1836.¹²

In early 1837, Slacum created a list of French Prairie settlers. Slacum reported that Louis started his farm in 1835. He had one house in good condition. He had enclosed and plowed 34 acres. He harvested 540 bushels of wheat. He had nine horses and ten hogs.¹³

This hand-drawn map by Harriet Munnick shows the location of Louis’s farm.¹⁴



Religion

On 5 July 1834, the French Prairie settlers 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. Joseph Gervais welcomed them and allowed the first services to be held in his home.

In the spring of 1836, the settlers sent a reminder letter to the Bishop of Juliopolis. Louis Forcier signed with his mark and indicated he had three children.¹⁵

A number of the French Prairie families joined Jason Lee's Methodist Mission. On 13 November 1837, Olive Forcier, Louis's daughter, was baptized at the mission.¹⁶ Louis joined Lee's Oregon Temperance Society, an organization formed to persuade Ewing Young to stop "manufacturing ardent sprits to be sold in this vicinity."¹⁷

The priests arrive

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 then from 13 May to 10 June 1839. Sacraments from those masses were recorded in the Vancouver register. Father Blanchet returned to St. Paul on 12 October 1839 and took up residence.

On 28 January 1839, Rev. F. N. Blanchet performed the marriage of Louis and his wife, Catherine at St Paul.¹⁸ This record gave her "nation" as Canaman, but other church entries give her nation as Chinook.

"This 28 January, 1839, in view of the dispensation of 2 bans of marriage granted by us Vicar General, and the publication of the third between **Louis Forcier** of Saint Hyacinthe, in Canada, and farmer of this place, on the one part, and of **Catherine, Canaman** by nation, 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 Joseph Gervais and of Amable Arcouët, witnesses before whom the said groom has recognized as legitimate the following children **Louis** aged 7 years, **Olive** aged 5 years, and **Dominique**, whom he has had with another another [*sic*] woman now dead. The said spouses and the witnesses have not known how to sign."

After performing Louis and Catherine's marriage, Father Blanchet baptized Louis's three children by his previous wife.

"This 31 January, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Louis aged 7 years, legitimate child of **Louis Forcier**, farmer of this place, and of a woman now dead. Godfather Hyacinthe Lavigneur who has not known how to sign."¹⁹

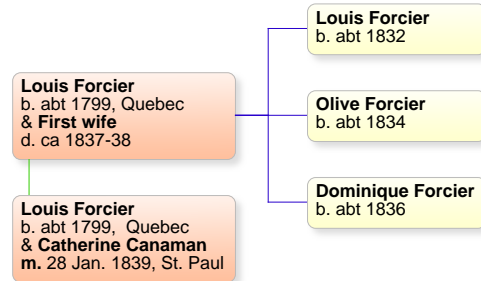
"This 31 January, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Olive aged 5 years, legitimate child of **Louis Forcier**, farmer of this place, and of a woman now dead. Godfather Hyacinthe Lavigneur who has not known how to sign."²⁰

"This 31 January, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Dominique, aged 3 years, legitimate child of **Louis Forcier**, farmer of this place, and of a woman now dead. Godfather Hyacinthe Lavigneur who has not known how to sign."²¹

Nothing is known about this first wife. She was alive in about 1836 when Dominique was born. She was dead in January of 1839 when Louis married Catherine. Given that men needed a wife to take care of the children, it can be conjectured that she died about 1837 to 1838.

The chart to the right shows the make-up of the Forcier family in 1839.

Louis's children may have been born at Fort Vancouver. His first wife likely died on French Prairie; he was known to have three children in 1836 when he signed the petition for the priests.



Ewing Young, a former American fur trader, built a water-powered sawmill on Chehalem Creek.²² Louis purchased lumber from the mill. On 25 May 1839, he bought 2000 feet of boards and planks for \$30.00. He paid for this in six sums of \$5.00 each.²³ This is a lot of boards and planks. Louis may have purchased it for the St. Paul Church. In August 1839, Louis received credit for \$12.00 for one hog; this was to be “paid in sawed lumber.”²⁴

In December 1839, Louis Forcier purchased two coffins for \$4.00 from the Methodist Mission Store.²⁵ The burials were not in the St. Paul Cemetery. The December 1839 burials for St. Paul were for nine-year-old Catherine Kalapoya, who died on 1 December 1839 at the home of Joseph Delard, and fourteen-year-old Joseph McKarty, son of William McKarty on 21 December 1839.²⁶ Neither McKarty nor Delard lived near the Forcier home. The coffins were likely for unbaptized Indians, perhaps slaves, living at the Forcier home.

Louis and Catherine's first child was born on 1 April 1840 and baptized at the St. Paul Church.

“This 19 April, 1840, we priest undersigned have supplied the ceremonies of baptism to **Rose**, born the 1st and baptized privately the 3rd of January last by us undersigned, of the legitimate marriage of **Louis Forcier, farmer of this place, and of Catherine Tchinouk**. Godfather Joseph Gervais, godmother Julie Gervais who as well as the father have not known how to sign.”²⁷

Name	When Settled	Hectares Enclosed	Hectares Cultivated	Crop of Wheat Hectoliter:	Horses	Houses	Mills
In 1841, Eugene Dufлот De Mofras, a French naturalist and explorer, made a list of the “Principal French-Canadian Settlers on the Willamette.” ²⁸ Louis was on this list.							
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. Louis’s 17 hectares would be the equivalent of 42 acres. One hectoliter is equivalent to 2.3 bushels. Louis’s 115 hectoliters would be 265 bushels. His wheat crop was less than his 1837 crop. However, he had more horses in 1842 than in 1837.

In February 1841, Ewing Young died intestate and without known heirs -- leaving extensive property and a large herd of cattle for which the HBC’s government offered no probate process acceptable to the nearly-arrived Americans. Settlers already held one general meeting to discuss the problem of marauding wolves. Now they had another public need. They had to legally and fairly dispose of Young’s property. The actions led to the establishment of a provisional government in 1843, but that is getting ahead of our story.

On 26 May 1841, Louis attended an auction held to dispose of Young’s belongings. He purchased the following items,

- 1 cow & calf at Quantiles house, 30.00.
- Three bushels of salt and 1 barrel for \$3.75.²⁹

Another child was born to Louis and Catherine and baptized in 1842.

“This 23 [February?], 1842, we priest undersigned have baptized **Alexis** born day before yesterday of the legitimate marriage of **Louis Forcier farmer of this place, and of Catherine Tchinouk**. Godfather, Alexis Aubichon, godmother Marie Anne Tchinouk, who have not known how to sign.”³⁰ [Marie Anne Tchinouk was the wife of Alexis Aubichon.]³¹

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. The Forcier household is on the list.³²

Stams of heads of Families	No. of Males over 18 years old	No. of fe- males over 18 y. old	No. of ch- ildren under 18 y. old	Acres under cultivation	Amth of wheat in 1842	Amth of Coarse grain	Nt. of Horses	No. of neat stock	Sheep	Hogs
L. Forcia	1	1	5	100	124	135	40	12		4
A. Arquette	1	1	4	120	44	143	25	101	12	12
J. Delain	2	1	3	55	406	270	41	35		25

The family had five children. One hundred acres were under cultivation. They had harvested 124 bushels of wheat and 135 bushels of coarse grain. They had 40 horses, 12 neat stock, and 4 hogs. Given that the children who would be of age to help on the farm were ten-year-old Louis and eight-year-old Olive, it is safe to say that Louis had farm help – likely slaves.

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 1843.³³ These newcomers outnumbered the French Canadians and foreshadowed changes that would come to French Prairie.

On 2 May 1843, the settlers voted at Champoeg to establish a provisional government as a preliminary step to aligning with the United States. The vote was 52 to 50 votes.³⁴ Louis 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. Rather, 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.³⁵

Louis paid a tax of \$1.15 for horses valued at \$180, cattle valued at \$255, and hogs valued at \$110.³⁶ Jean Gingras paid a \$1.25 tax on horses valued at \$400, cattle valued at \$240, and hogs valued at \$125.³⁷

Back to the St. Paul register.

“The 23 February, 1844, we priest undersigned have baptized **Gedeon** aged 15 days, legitimate male child of **Louis Forcier, farmer, and of Catherine** of this parish. Godfather Amable Arquoit, godmother Marguerite Arquoit who have not known how to sign.”³⁸

“The 28 July, 1845, in view of the publication of one ban and the dispensation of the second and of the third, between **Jean Gingras** widower of Louise Okinakan on the one part and **Olive Forcier, daughter of Louis Forcier** on the other part, nor having discovered any impediment, we have received their mutual consent and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of Alexis Aubichon and of Thomas Moisan who as well as the spouses could not sign.”³⁹

“The 15 September, 1845, we the undersigned priest have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of a woman privately baptized in danger of death by an inhabitant of this place, and deceased at the house of **Louis Forcier**. Present Antoine Cloutier and Louis Lucier who have signed with us.”⁴⁰

The 17 August, 1846, we the undersigned priest have baptized Charlotte, Okanagan, aged about 70 years; godfather Jean Gingras, godmother **Olive Forcier** who could not sign.⁴¹

The 25 July, 1847, we the undersigned priest have baptized Pierre, aged 10 days, child of infidel Kalapoyas. Godfather **Louis Forcier**, godmother, wife of Caille, who could not sign.⁴²

Land

The early French Prairie settlers, mostly retired Hudson’s Bay Company retirees, selected prairie land that didn’t encroach on their neighbors. The land was under the oversight of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and there does not appear to be a formal registration process.

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 male could claim 640 acres, and within six months of recording their claim, they were to build a home.⁴³ Louis Forcier made two claims.⁴⁴ The town of Oxford is mentioned in the claims. That was an early name for the town of Butteville.

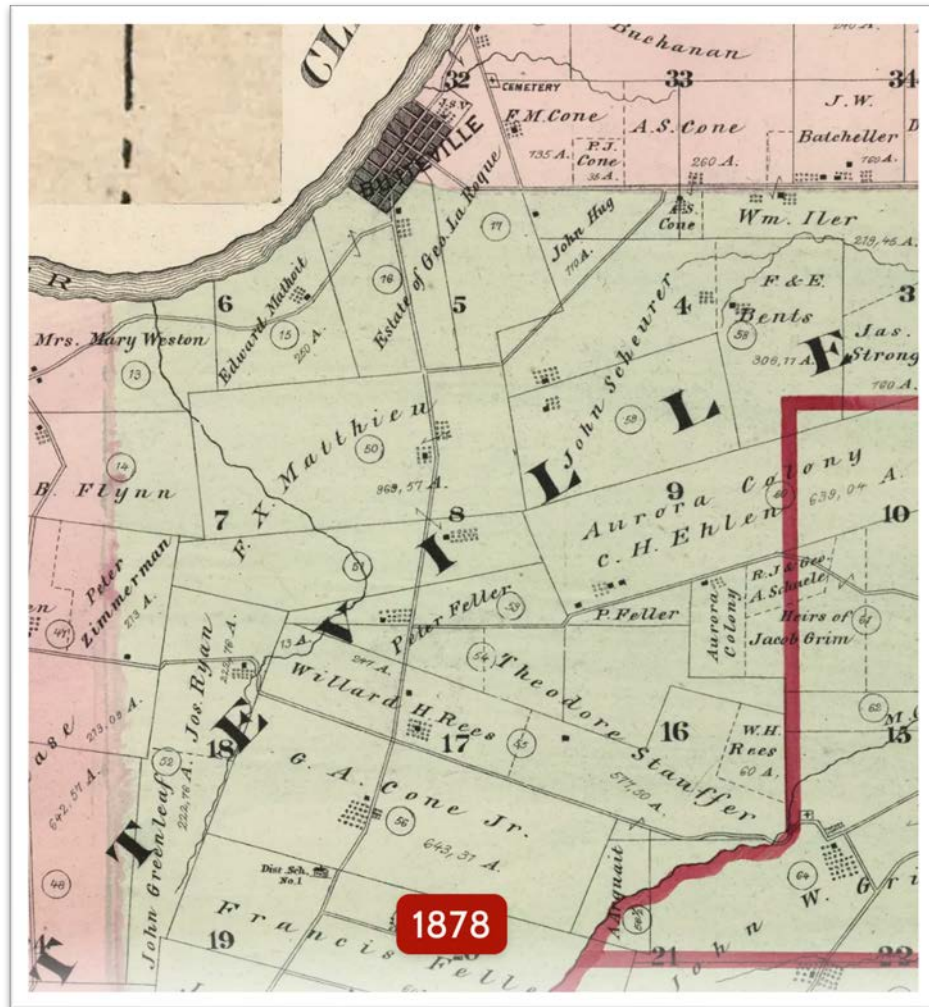
FORCIER, Louis, Champoick County. 640a. Gutman on W; Bourgeau on S; Pellitier on I. Personal occupancy, 19 Dec 1845. Void by recording in Book No. 4, 4 May 1847. I I p84

FORCIER, Louis, Champoig Co, 640a. 3 mi S of Town of Oxford; adjs claims of Hall, Smith, Corbly, Rees and Thomas. Holds by personal occupancy, 4 May 1847. Abandoned by personal request of claimant in favor of George C. Lauton, 3 June 1849. V 4 p 282

Five men, James A. Hunt, O. S. Thomas, George D. Smith, A. N. Pillitiers, and Willard Rees, claimed Louis as a neighbor when they made their land claims.⁴⁶

This map from 1878 shows Willard Rees's land claim.⁴⁶

His application read,
"Rees, Willard and Thomas, O.S., as partners, Champoig Co, 1280 a. Abt 2 mi S of Town of Oxford; neighbors are Doctr. Bailey, L. Forcis, J. C. Geer, a. Enquait, Stephen Peltier originally had claim on N. They hold by personal occupancy, 4 May 1847. V 4 p 281."⁴⁷



Back to the St. Paul register

Measles was epidemic in 1847 and 1848.⁴⁸ The indigenous population had no immunity to the disease, and entire families were decimated. Three members of the Forcier family died in January 1848 –perhaps from measles.

St. Louis Church Register - On 4 January 1848, six-day-old **Francois, son of Louis Forcier** and Catherine Tchinoock died and was buried in the St. Louis Cemetery. Witnesses Jean Gingras and William Goulder.⁴⁹ [Note: additional Forcier events are listed in the St. Louis Church register – always with Jean Gingras as a witness. He was the husband of Olive Forcier. The Forcier family members were probably living with Olive and Jean.]

St Paul Church Register - “12 January 1848, I have buried the **wife of Forcier.**”⁵⁰

St. Paul Church Register - “31 January. 1848, I have buried a **little girl of 2 years of Forcier.**”⁵¹

“The 14 February [May] 1849, we the undersigned parish priest of St. Paul, after the publication of one ban made at the sermon of the parish Mass of this church the 13th of this month, the parties having obtained the dispensation of the publication of the two other bans, without having found any impediment, have received their mutual consent to marriage of **Louis Forssier, widower of Catherine,** living in this parish, and of **Philomene Tsikane,** Indian of the Grand Dalles, living also in this parish, in the presence of Olivier Daubin and of Pierre Pepin called Lachance, of this parish.”⁵²

Louis was not enumerated in the 1850 Marion County, Oregon Territory, census, but his daughter Olive was.⁵³

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in in the County of *Marion* State
of Oregon Territory enumerated by me, on the *23rd* day of *Jan* 1850. *W. H. Pees* Assn. Marshal. 100

1	2	3	Description.			7	8	9	10 11 12			13
			Age.	Sex.	Value of Real Estate owned.				Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
		<i>Joseph Choin</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>U.S.</i>				
		<i>Jean Gingras</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>Canada</i>				
		<i>Olive</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>U.S.</i>				
		<i>Jean Gingras</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>"</i>				
		<i>Livette</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>"</i>				
		<i>Louis</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>"</i>				

The provisional claims became null and void when 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, and proof of marriage had to be submitted.

Louis had a donation land claim, #5278, Oregon City Land Office, that contains information on why he wasn't enumerated in the 1850 census.

According to the following affidavit in his donation claim, Louis participated in the California gold rush in 1849 and 1850 and 1851.

Louis Forcier of Marion County, in the Territory of Oregon, being first duly sworn, says that he is a white male settler on public lands in Oregon, that he arrived in said Territory on the year 1825 day of 18; ~~that he was a resident thereof between the 27th day of September, and the 1st day of December, 1850;~~ and will be above the age of 21 years on the 1st day of December, 1855; - that he was absent two years in California in 1849 and 1850 into 1851 - that he is a naturalized citizen of the United States - his Certificate of admission to a citizen being filed in the Surveyor General's Office with his former Notification of a land claim (which is a conflict with Pascal Biscoune ^{was relinquished} in 7. 4. 5. R. 2 west.)

and that he was born in Canada in the year 1801, that he has personally resided upon and cultivated that part of the public lands in Oregon particularly described in Notification No. , hereunto annexed, continuously from the 1st day of September 1854, to the 5th day of 5th March 1855. And he further says that he is ~~is~~ ~~inter~~ ~~married~~ ~~with~~ ~~his~~ ~~wife~~, and that he was legally married to her on the ~~not now a married man~~ day of 18, in

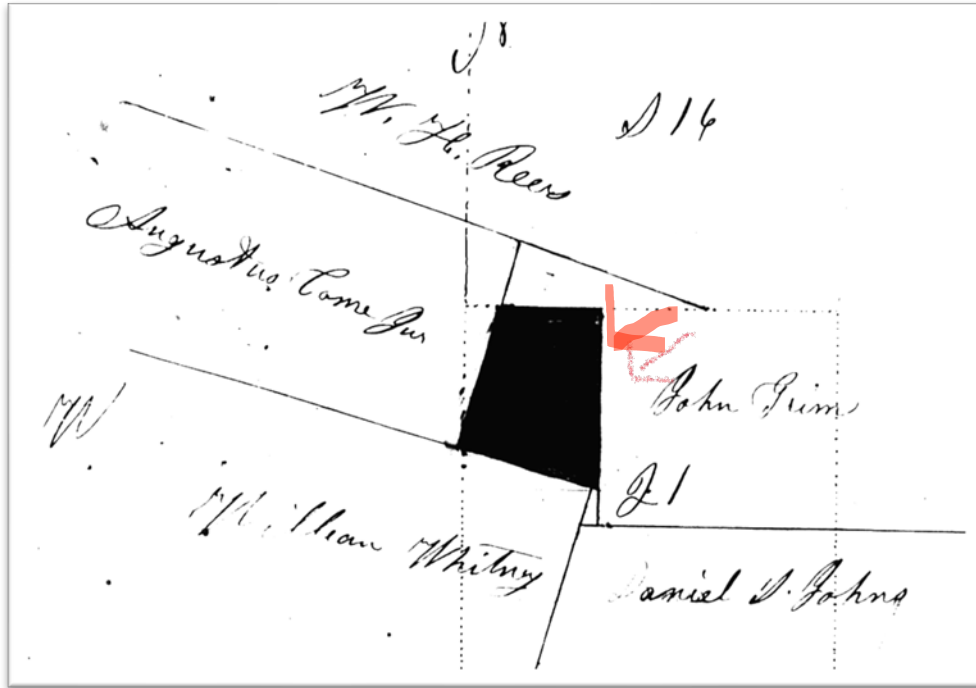
Subscribed and sworn before me, this 5th day of March 1855, at Salem, O. T. } Louis Forcier
mark

C. R. Cardner
Surv. Gen. of Oregon

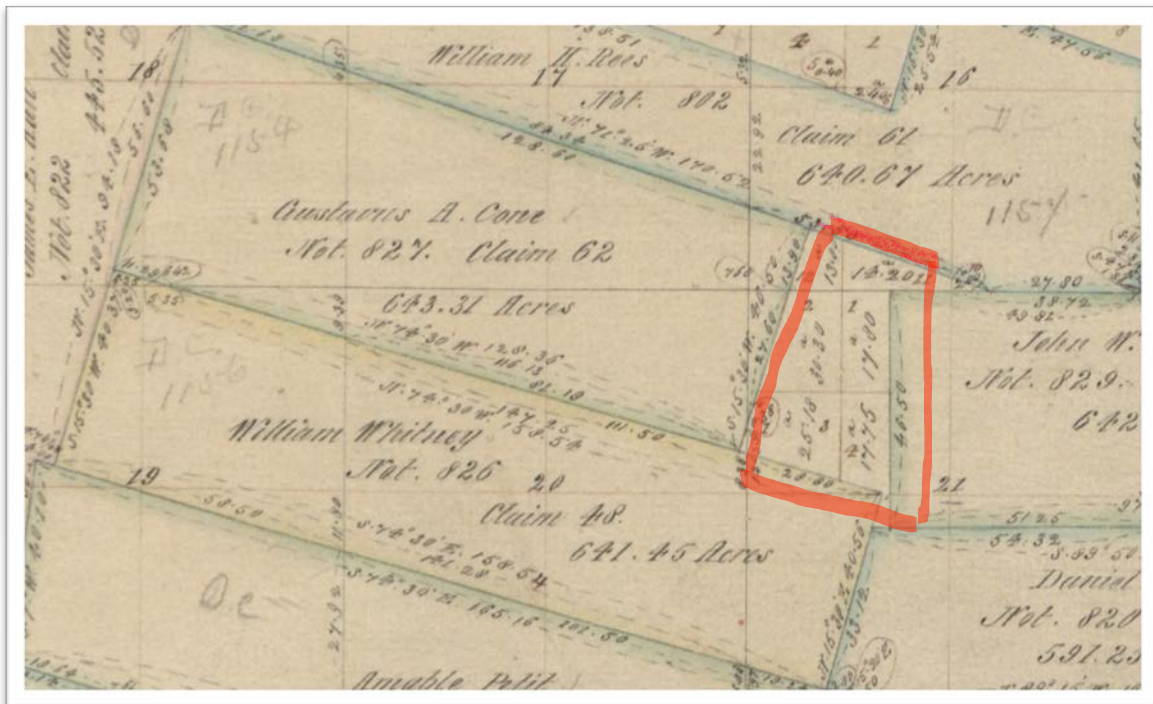
While Louis was in California, his daughter Rose died and was buried in the St. Louis Church Cemetery. Jean Gingras was one of the witnesses. Again, it is likely that Rose was living at the Gingras home in the St. Louis parish.

The 19 February, 1850, we priest undersigned have buried **Rose Forcier** daughter of **Louis Forcier** and of Catherine Coultitz, deceased yesterday aged 11 years. Witnesses Jean Gingras and Pierre Laroc.⁵⁴

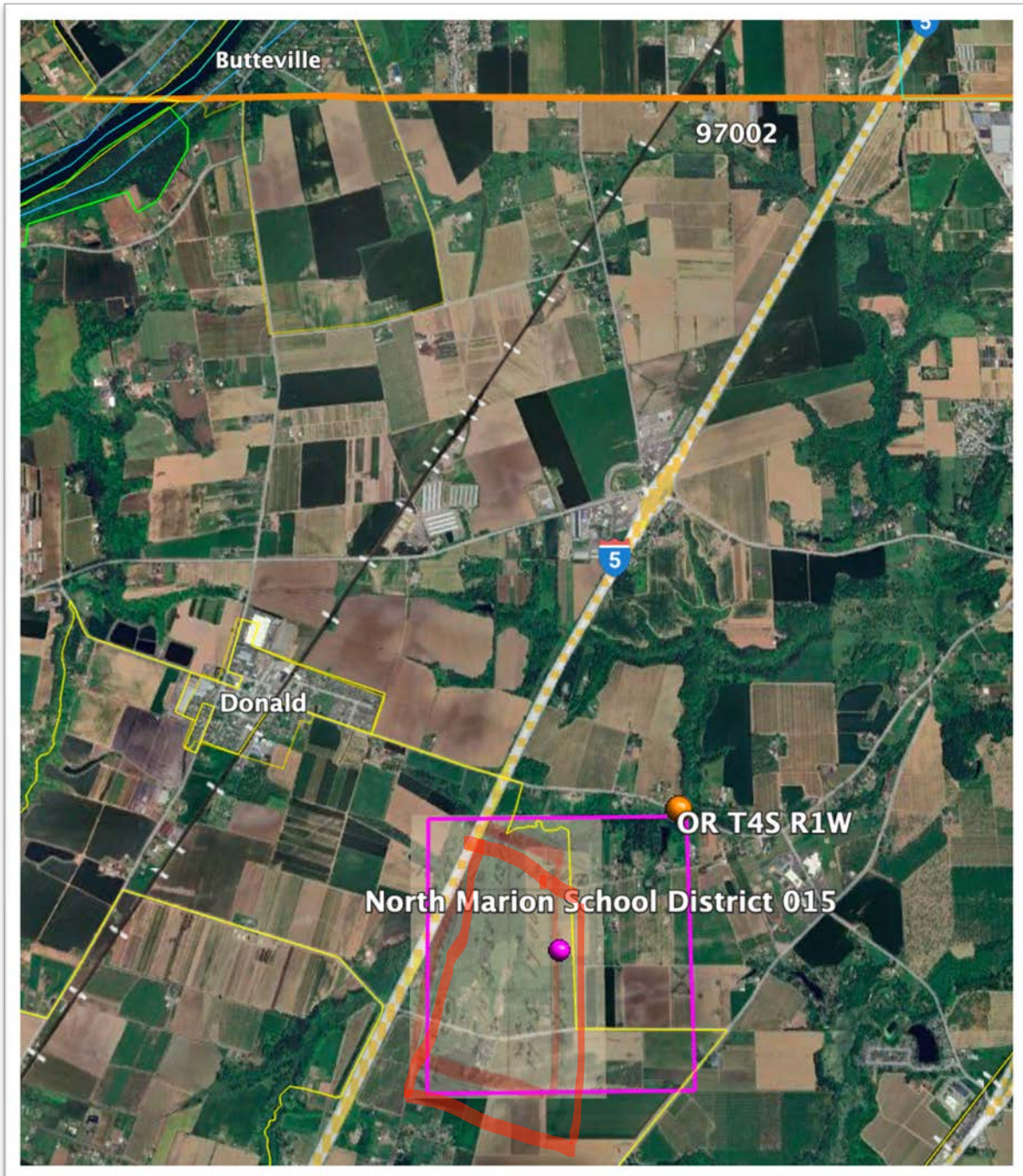
Louis's claim file contains a sketch of his land. The only person mentioned in the provisional land claims is W. H. Rees. All the others were more recent arrivals.



This 1861 General Land Office survey shows Louis's claim.



Louis's land claim is superimposed on the following Google Earth map.



Back to the St. Paul register.

“The 25 July, 1853, we undersigned parish priest of St. Paul have baptized Louis born the day before of the legitimate marriage of Francois Xavier Leclair, and of Rachel Halsey of this parish. Godfather **Louis Forcier**, godmother Sophie Dubreuil who could not sign.”⁵⁵.

“The 19 October, 1860, we parish priest undersigned, have received the mutual consent to marriage [of] Matthew Murphy of-age son of John Murphy and Mary Murphy, living in Ireland, on the one part; and of Sarah Ellen Grim, minor daughter of Jacob Grim. The groom having obtained dispensation of banns and of disparity of cult the same day. The spouses have signed with us. The bride consenting to let the children be raised in the Catholic religion. **Louis Forcier**, witness”⁵⁶

Two of his children were confirmed on 21 October 1860 at St. Paul. Confirmation, 21 Oct 1860; Gedeon Forcier and Alexie Forcier.⁵⁷

On 27 November 1860, Louis signed a Power of Attorney to allow Abraham Rabie of Clark County, Washington, to receive the patent on his claim. On the same day, he sold his claim to Rabie for \$600.00. Rabie sold the land to Margaret Arquette on 28 November 1861 for \$300.00.⁵⁸

On 13 November 1861, Louis sold 320 acres, being the east half of the Jean Jeangras DLC to Green C. Davidson for \$1,000.⁵⁹

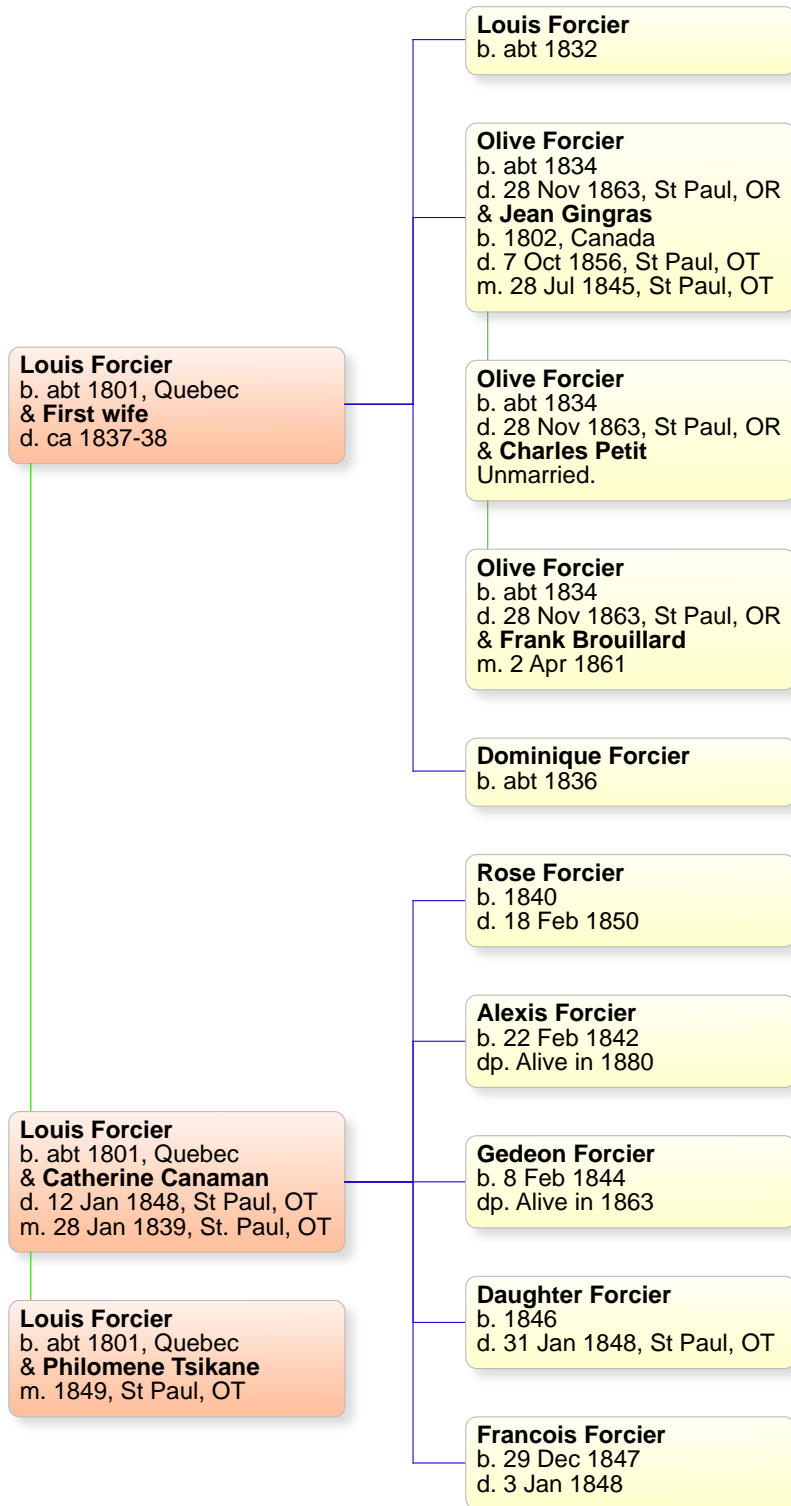
The last entry in the St. Paul register for Louis Forcier was on 2 April 1861.

“The 2 April, 1861, we parish priest undersigned have received without any solemn ceremony (because of previous proceedings taken before a justice of the peace) the consent to marriage of Francois Dubreuil, minor son of the late JBte Dubreuil and Marguerite, on the one part; and of Marie Bourgeau, minor daughter of Sylvain Bourgeau and of . . . [Josephte Sok, Chinook] of this parish on the other part. Witness **Louis Forcier** who could not sign.”⁶⁰

Gedeon was the last Forcier child to be named in the St. Paul register when he was named as a godfather.

“The 9 August, 1863, we parish priest undersigned have baptized Catherine born the 16 July last of the legitimate marriage of Michel Placie and of Angelique Placie of this parish. Godfather, **Gedeon Forcier**, Godmother Marie Othawa.”⁶¹

Louis Forcier's wives and children.



End Notes

- ¹ Oregon Donation Land Claim, *Oregon City Land Office*, claim no. 5278 for Louis Forcier; citing National Archives microfilm publication M815; images obtained from Genealogical Forum of Oregon (<https://gfo.org/>).
- ² 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), 386 – 7.
- ³ “Journal Of A Trip From Fort Colville To Fort Vancouver And Return In 1828,” *John Work’s Journals*; From *Washington Historical Quarterly*, XI, 1920; <http://www.mtmen.org/mtman/html/jwork/work06.html>
- ⁴ Fort Nez Perces; *Wikipedia*; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Nez_Perce.
- ⁵ Burt Brown Barker, *Letters of Dr. John McLoughlin* (Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1948), 57-8.
- ⁶ John A. Hussey, *Hudson’s Bay Company Fur Brigade in the Columbia Department*, p. 253. <https://npshistory.com/publications/fova/columbia-dept-fur-brigades.pdf>.
- ⁷ Burt Brown Barker, *Letters of Dr. John McLoughlin*, 106.
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