

NAME:L'Hirondelle Family

PARISH:

ENTERED SERVICE:

DATES:

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:

Position:

Post:

District:

HBCA Reference:

**An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May*



Jacques L'Hirondelle (senior)

According to an entry in the index to E. Coues' New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest (New York, 1897.), Jacques L'Hirondelle was a voyageur in Athabasca for the North West Company in 1804. There are so few records of the North West Company in the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company that we are unable either to confirm or deny this statement.

The North West Company's Ledger (H.B.C. Arch. F.4/32) covering the period 1811-21 is in our archives, and on page 524 there is an account under the name "Jacques L'Hirondelle". Since the account opens in 1811 with a balance of 1219 North West Livres carried forward from a previous ledger (not in our archives), it is clear that L'Hirondelle had been employed by the North West Company previous to 1811. Wages were credited for the years 1812-1818, after which time the remark "Free" was entered in pencil. So far we have been able to trace he was not employed by the Hudson's Bay Company at any time under contract.

In his Le Métis Canadian (Paris, 1945.), p.1012, Professor Marcel Giraud remarks:

"LA CLASSE DES HOMMES LIBRES.

...Certains Secteurs, bien fournis de ressources alimentaires, devinrent alors des points de concentration des hommes libres. Ils le sont restés aujourd'hui. Ca fut le cas du district du Petit lac des Esclaves, du Lac la Biche, de la rivière Castor (Beaver river), des plaines de la Saskatchewan et de la rivière la Paix. De bonne heure on y relève, sur les listes des 'hommes libres', les noms des familles métisses qui figurent aujourd'hui dans la population de ces régions lointaines, les Bellecourt, Gladu, L'hyrondelle..."

The Hudson's Bay Company document to which Professor Giraud refers is in the York Factory Miscellaneous Papers for 1838 (H.B.C. Arch. B.239/z/10)* and is entitled: "Indian Population of Sundry Districts". It includes the "List of Population (Canadian Freeman & Descendants Half Breeds) belonging to the Hble Hudsons Bay Company's Post of Lesser Slave Lake. Saskatchewan Dist. Outfit 1837/38" from which the following extract has been taken:



“No	Hunters Names	Relationship Connections &c.	
34	L’Hyrondele Jacque Senr.	Head of a Family a wife 2 daughters	4 total
35	L’Hyrondele Jacque Junr.	Eldest Son of 34	1 total
36	L’Hyrondele Joseph	3 rd do. do. 34	1 total
37	L’Hyrondele Baptiste	4 th do. do. 34	1 total
38	L’Hyrondele Ignace	5 th do. do. 34	1 total
39	L’Hyrondele Pierre	6 th do. do. 34	1 total”

(fo. 18d.)

Jacques L’Hirondelle (junior)

All we know about this man is that he joined the service of Hudson’s Bay Company as middleman at Edmonton House on May 21, 1832. His contract was for two years and in the Northern Department Engagement Register (H.B.C. Arch. B.239/u/1, No.1132), he was recorded as being a native of Lesser Slave Lake , twenty-five years of age at the time of his engagement. He went “Free Inland” at the expiry of his contract.

Joseph L’Hirondelle

All we have discovered about Joseph L’Hirondelle is that he was a native of the Company’s Saskatchewan District. He was engaged as a fisherman at Edmonton House on May 7, 1855, and became free on June 1, 1857, at the expiry of his contract.

Baptiste L’Hirondelle

Baptiste L’Hirondelle first joined the service of the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1841 when he was twenty-three years of age. He was described as a native of Lesser Slave Lake and entered into a contract for three years as a middleman. His contract was renewed from time to time and in 1855 he left the Company’s service. The following extracts which mention Baptiste L’Hirondelle have been taken from the Edmonton House Journal for 1856-58 (H.B.C. Arch. B.60/a/29b):

1856

- October 16 "...Jno: Cunningham arrived to day from Lac Ste.Anne,..."
 Three freemen (Sowand, Marto L'Hyronnelle & Paulet Gladieu) came in with Jno: Cummingham..."
- October 17 "...John Cunningham & the freeman left this morning for Lac Ste. Anne..."
- December 31 "...Kinnenawis & family arrived this evening from Fort Assiniboine..."
- 1857
- January 7 "...Kinnenawis & his man (Bap. Hyronnelle) went off this morning to the plains..."
- January 26 "...Kinnenawis & family with his man (L'Hyronnelle)
 took their departure this morning for Fort Assiniboine..."



As we have no Fort Assiniboine journals for this period we have been unable to follow the movement of Kinnenawis and L'Hirondelle any further.

Baptiste L'Hirondelle appears to have re-joined the Company's service as a steersman in 1857 and to have continued in that capacity or as a fisherman until he finally retired in 1870.

We have not found any information concerning the other sons of Jacques L'Hirondelle, senior, nor have we found any references to his two daughters.

For Further details see HBCA Vertical file L'Hirondelle, Jacques (Senior)