

Old Fort Garry, 1870

about those times, to which suggestion Gouteau replied with a knowing head-shake that there were men living in Manitoba today who would rather not let their memories be taxed concerning it.

From an acquaintanceship of many years with Gouteau, the writer was cognizant of the fact that he was a man upon whose information the greatest reliance might be placed; neither did he appear to be reticent in relating that which he could speak of with authority.

"As I said," he continued, "Wolseley came along. He crossed the river near the place where the Grey Nuns' Hospital is in St. Boniface now. There was a ferry there in those days, and he, with his soldiers, walked into the Fort. There were—it's no use disguising the fact—a bad lot of people around: two parties with a kind of king over them. If you belonged to one party or the other, you were a rebel anyway."

The writer interrupted with the question as to what the trouble was about. Gouteau claimed it to be a contention as to which of the two kings, as he expressed himself, should be in command of the colony—the country was then known by that name.

"Some people wanted no interference from the Old Country. It does not matter what some men might say today, they know it is a fact though," he continued—statements which McMurtre expressed as absolutely correct.

"There was quarreling—lots of it," continued Gouteau. "Quite a number of men on both sides were shot and afterwards thrown into the river. The one party considered that if a certain man who did not agree with them could be got rid off there would be a better chance to do things as they wanted. Of course, this was earlier in the year—March. Wolseley didn't come until August."

Enquiry from the writer relative to whom Gouteau had reference, at once elicited the information that if the questioner walked along Princess street he would see a large brick building erected to his memory.

"Scott," at once answered the writer. "Yes, Scott," Gouteau replied. "He was trying to keep order in the Fort, and the rebels gave him a mock trial for something they said he had done. They never allowed him to say a word to defend himself, so they brought him outside one of the buildings and shot him. I saw him fall, for I was there at the time, and, what's more, I know the men who fetched him out to be shot, but—"

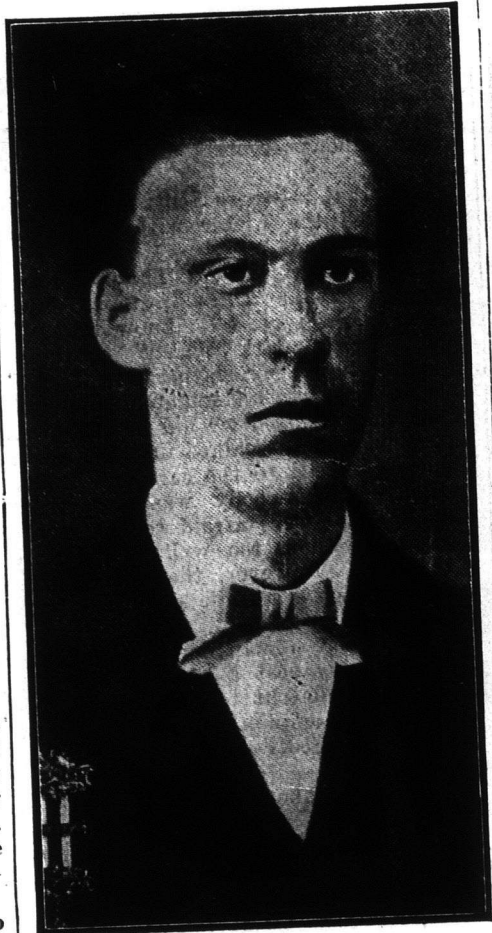
Gouteau paused for a few seconds; then, with a voice which spoke of certainty in its tones, said: "I know who shot him also."

The writer now made the observation that few people nowadays appeared to have any information as to the identity of the assassin, which remark at once produced from Gouteau the reply that persons would not believe who did it even if they were told.

"Some matters are better left buried," said he. "It's years ago now; no name is going to be told by me."

It is over forty years since the tragedy of Scott's death within Fort Garry's walls. The sad termination to his useful life has always been perplex-

ing in one matter: How were Scott's remains disposed of? The only information forthcoming appears to have been that his corpse was cast into the Red River in close proximity to the junction of the Assiniboine with that stream. An old-time resident dwelling in Winnipeg today informed the writer quite recently that he had never entertained such an idea; he claims the statement to be absurd in the extreme. It was suggested by the writer to Gouteau



Thomas Scott

that the body of Scott was thrust into the muddy waters of the Red River. With much emphasis Gouteau repudiated the story, declaring that neither Red River nor Assiniboine received Scott's remains.

"People said that at the time," said he, "they tell that yet. They claim that no person knows what did become of Scott's body. There are people who do know, but there are reasons why they would rather not tell."

To these sentiments the writer remarked that it appeared strange that people should have consigned so important a matter into the abyss of forgetfulness or reticence to impart the information. Yet the answer of Gouteau to this appears to be with reason. The Manitoba of 1870 and the country of more recent years are not identical for, according to the testimony of Gouteau, it was not considered conducive to a person's welfare to relate everything they saw, knew, or had been told.

Continuing his remarks relative to Scott's assassination, Gouteau said: "The rebels picked up his corpse and put it into a shed; they stripped the clothing off Scott in there also."

"What took place after this, have you any knowledge?" asked the writer.

"I was coming to that point," said Gouteau. "That same evening, about seven o'clock, my father and I were having supper at a house close to where Main Street bridge now crosses the Assiniboine; two men in a cart drove up to the door—one of them got out and asked if they could get some supper. This man—he was just about the worst of a bad lot—said that they had got him in the cart and were going to put him away. My father asked

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