

## **Jean-Baptiste, Chevalier de Lorimier (c1786-1845)**

De Lorimier was one of five Lieutenants in the Indian Department who defended the interests of the Crown at Beaver Dams. The others included Charles Gedeon Gaucher, Louis Langlade, Evangeliste St.-Germain, and Isaac Lecalir. De Lorimier is unique because he is a Kahnawake Mohawk, his mother being Anne Skaouennetsi (also known as Louise Schuyler) of Kahnawake.

As such he spoke Mohawk so he served as an interpreter and lieutenant at Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes (Oka). He was part of Capt. Francois Dominique Ducharme successful ambush of the Americans at Beaver Dams, at what is also called

Seriously wounded, he spent the remainder of 1813 as a prisoner of war at a skirmish at Balls farm. John Norton reported that along with De Lorimier

He was promoted captain and resident agent at Saint-Régis on 11 May 1813. By the time he was exchanged at the beginning of 1814, his treatment at the hands of his captors had become the subject of some controversy between the British and American commands.

On 8 Aug. 1814 Lorimier was made captain in the newly established Embodied Indian Warriors, of which his father was deputy superintendent, and saw service in the Great Lakes area. He spent the remainder of that year in the canoe guards which protected the flotillas travelling to British posts on the upper Great Lakes, his knowledge of various Indian dialects making him especially useful. At the end of the war he returned to his duties at Saint-Régis, where in June 1815 he sat on a commission investigating the community's grievances concerning property disputes on the reserves and their charges that they had been cheated by local whites.

He accompanied the North West Company partners who were arrested by Selkirk back to Upper Canada. He was seconded in 1816 by Lord Selkirk and was part of the force that captured Fort William in August of that year. He was a witness in 1817 to the treaty between Selkirk and Peguis, and he escorted Roman Catholic missionaries J.-N. Provencher and S.-J.-N. Dumoulin to the colony in 1818. Provencher described him as a "gay, pleasant, polite, and honest man." He retired from the Indian Department in 1832.

(<http://www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=37630>)