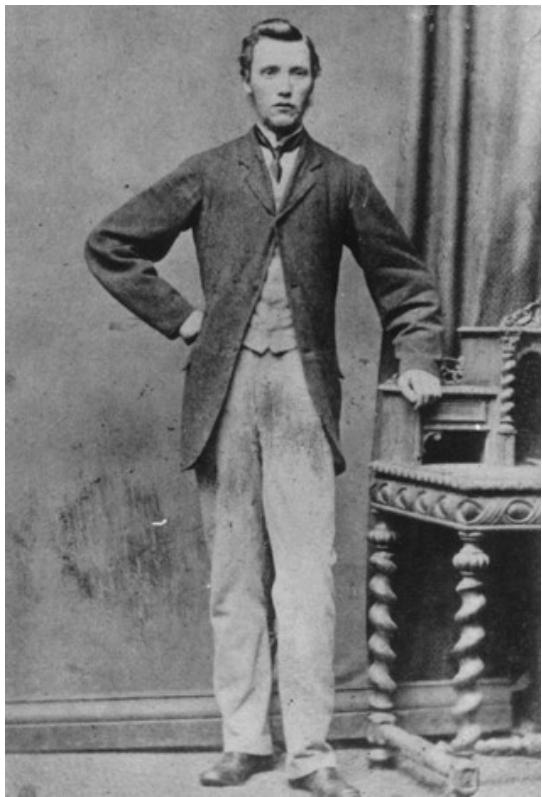


Who Was Thomas Scott?



Thomas Scott was an English-Protestant settler, living in the Red River Settlement when the Métis took over Upper Fort Garry in Red River, and formed a government called the Métis National Committee. Riel was the president of this new government. At this time, Thomas Scott and a group of English-Protestants wanted Red River to be taken over by Canada and to be led by English Protestants. So Thomas Scott and his men planned an attack on the Metis government. Riel knew about their plan and

had some of Thomas Scott's men arrested. When Thomas Scott found out about the arrests, he demanded that the prisoners be freed. When Riel refused, Scott yelled racist insults, so he was also arrested by Riel. Thomas Scott continued yelling and insulting Louis Riel while he was in prison and threatened to shoot Riel.

Eventually, Scott ended up escaping the prison and joined about 60 other English men to take over Upper Fort Garry and to free the prisoners. Another 100 men armed with clubs and guns joined Scott's group. When they arrived, they learned that Riel had already released the prisoners, so many of these men left. But Scott and 45 others continued to insist that Riel step down as president, so Riel had them arrested.

While Thomas Scott was in jail, he complained about conditions and constantly shouted violent threats and racist insults at his Métis guards. They chained his feet and hands, but he kept on acting violently. After Thomas Scott hit a guard, two other guards dragged Scott outside and beat him until a member of Riel's government stopped them. Riel visited Scott and, speaking through a hole in the door, tried to calm the man but Scott shouted more insults and, again, threatened to kill Riel.

Riel had a trial for Scott and he was charged with treason. Riel's men wanted Scott to be executed for his violent behaviour. Riel believed that the trial and Scott's execution would show Canada the power of Riel's government to the people of Red River and would make the Canadian government and people respect the Métis. So Louis Riel ordered the execution of Thomas Scott and he was shot by a group of Riel's men. After this, a \$5000 reward was made for the arrest of Louis Riel for murdering Scott, so he fled to the U.S.

