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My Journey

Throughout our Native history our people have been taught life skills that have been passed down from generation to generation. Unfortunately I was not familiar with my Native roots until recently. I did not grow up on a reserve or attend powwows or seek advice from Elders. I did however have the privilege of learning my healing skills from many great teachers.

My journey began at a young age caring for injured and sick animals that I would find while playing in the woods or down by the creek near my house. I would take home many little critters and nurse them back to health and set them free again. I continued to follow my love for animals into the equestrian world when I began riding horses at a local stable.

When I was fifteen my family purchased some land and built our own dream equestrian facility. I started with one horse, but that horse needed a friend so more came along not too long after. When I finished my studies at High School, I continued my education at a local college to become a veterinary technician. I worked in the veterinary field for six years and in that time I decided to take more classes and obtain certifications in Reflexology, aromatherapy and equine massage. I used my knowledge to open up my own holistic practice, treating humans and animals. My journey did not end there.

I still felt I needed to be more educated, so I returned to school and graduated from University with a bachelors' degree in developmental psychology and a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology. While I was studying I came upon an organization called the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) which provided training to utilize horses as co-therapists in treating individuals experiencing various mental health distresses. I decided this was a perfect opportunity to incorporate all my modalities and love for horses in one practice. I joined EAGALA, became a certified member and a Registered Canadian Professional Counselor with the Canadian Professional Counseling Association and opened up my private practice utilizing all of my education and teachings to help individuals develop insight into their own journey and help them create a more balanced and fulfilling life.

Since opening my practice I have helped many people overcome their past traumas of abuse, substance use, relationship conflicts, developmental delays, childhood and adolescent life lessons and everyday life stresses. I have presented and attended international conferences and workshops. I am also a faculty member at a local College teaching behavioral and developmental psychology to nursing students.

For me my journey will continue to move forward and although I am just learning about my heritage, I feel a strong sense of unity, culture and identity passed down by my Native elders to be a voice and a healer for our people, the people of the Painted Feather Woodland Métis Tribe.

Blessed be,
Randy

Randy Hamelin, Ba, MA
Registered Professional Counselor & Psychotherapist
ranham201@hotmail.com
www.countrysunsetstables.com



Bury the Hatchet



Did you know this expression is believed to have originated with a custom of burying their tomahawks at the end of conflicts, practiced by some North American tribes.



HUDSON'S BAY CO.

Two centuries before Confederation a pair of resourceful Frenchmen named Radisson and des Groseilliers discovered a wealth of fur in the interior of the continent – north and west of the Great Lakes – accessible via the great

inland sea that is Hudson Bay. Despite their success French and American interests would not back them. It took the vision and connections of Prince Rupert, cousin of King Charles II, to acquire the Royal Charter which, in May, 1670 granted the lands of the Hudson Bay watershed to “the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson Bay.”

Read more at <http://www2.hbc.com/hbcheritage/history/>

Native Crafts



For those of you who would like to try native crafts on their own, but have no idea of where to find the supplies, check out this website.

Various supplies as well as Native American clothing, cedar boxes, beaded items, etc.

<http://www.nativeamericantrade.com/zencart/>



Aboriginal Travels - Guyana

Copied from
<http://www.invitationproject.ca/listing.php?Listing=9035>



The 'land of many waters,' as Guyana is known, aptly describes this South American country with its many rivers and extensive system of waterways. Formerly known as British Guiana before achieving independence in 1966, this tropical republic has three main rivers (the Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice) that lend their names to the

nation's three counties. Much of Guyana is covered by unexplored jungle, which is home to a variety of wild animals, colourful birds and diverse plant life. The country is also home to both the tallest wooden free-standing building in the world, St George's Cathedral (built in 1892 in the capital city of Georgetown), and one of the world's natural wonders, Kaieteur Falls. Guyana has the most unusual racial mix in South America, which is woven into all aspects of life. The two largest ethnic groups are East Indian and African, and the official language is English (Guyana is the only country in South America where this is the case), although most Guyanese speak a dialect known as Creolese.

Black History Month



The Buxton Museum is located on A.D. Shadd Road near the church. It was built in 1967 to commemorate the Buxton Settlement and its people. It is a source of pride for the people of Buxton as it tells our story and houses our treasures.

Black History Month is a remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African [diaspora](#). It is celebrated annually in the [United States](#) and [Canada](#) in [February](#).

Most people are unaware of the rich history shared by Blacks and the aboriginal peoples of North America. If you have the opportunity, visit the Buxton National Historical Site and

Museum to find out more. The museum and site is rich in history and is also an excellent site for family research.

If you are able to visit the museum, introduce yourself to the Assistant Curator, Spencer Alexander. Spencer is an invaluable contributor to our Newsletter and has a keen interest in aboriginal issues.

For more information visit <http://www.buxtonmuseum.com/>



Guyana's native people, its ethnic diversity and the beauty of the land, are dominant influences in the country's well-developed visual arts, which include painting and sculpture. The country is also known for its woodcarvings, gold and silver jewelry and cottage crafts, such as basket weaving and beadwork. Its people have a great sense of humour and love to illustrate what they say through their rich legacy of proverbs.



Quilt of Belonging - Chipewyan



An embroidered eagle with a fish in its talons soars above a scenic backdrop in the Chipewyan block, obtained through Rita Catholic. Chipewyan spirituality tells how the eagle carries the prayers of the people to the Great Spirit. Eagle feathers are given to honour unselfish acts of compassion and generosity. Each corner features a stitched flower, with flattened porcupine quill petals, linked by flowing curved lines accented with delicate beadwork, creating a frame for the piece.

The Chipewyan (*Denesuline*) are an Athapaskan-speaking, Dene people. Their lands and influence once extended east of Great Slave Lake and south into what has become northern Saskatchewan and northeastern Alberta. The name, Chipewyan is said to have come from the Cree word meaning “pointed skins,” which was a reference to the style of caribou-skin, sleeved shirt they wore with shirt-tails cut to a point front and back.

They were great caribou hunters, following the herds into the northern areas in summer. In warmer weather they relied on canoes for travel, but were adept at winter travel, with snowshoes and toboggans. A major food source, the caribou’s skin was also used to cover their homes, cone-shaped, easily transportable tepees. Their distinctive *Na hcheth* bags—rectangular, satchel-like, laced sacs that held dried meat and berries, or valuables—were made from the skin of the caribou forelegs.

The other main source of protein was fish, which Chipewyans would catch using nets made from hide. Many ceremonies would be performed before a fishing excursion, to ensure a bountiful catch. They have a great respect for animals and attributed special powers to wolverines and wolves. In Chipewyan mythology, the Wolf is a teacher, providing instruction to the people on how to survive in the harsh sub-Arctic climate. The wolverine embodies perseverance and a healthy self-esteem.

Sponsors: Joyce and Jack McGaughey

The photo and text are from: <http://www.invitationproject.ca/region.php>



The North West Company was a fur trading business headquartered in Montreal from 1779 to 1821. It competed with increasing success against the Hudson's Bay Company in what was to become Western Canada. With great wealth at stake, tensions between the companies increased to the point where several minor armed skirmishes broke out, and the two companies were forced to merge.

Read more at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_Company



To all our members and volunteers, thank you!

The OMFRC continued its rapid growth in 2010, largely due to the many referrals our members have given us. These included family members, friends and work mates. The volume of applications made it obvious that our systems needed changing. Our administrator, Lynn Haines, has been working long hours, seven days a week. Obviously, something had to be done. We are in the final stages of implementing new computer systems and procedures to streamline our operations. We have high hopes for vastly improved efficiency.

Our members continued support in many areas also contributed substantially to our success. Dozens of volunteers work from their homes giving generously of their time. Contributions include family research, writing for the newsletter and answering the phones. One volunteer is translating our websites into French. Another is researching topics for our planned resource website. We have dozens of ongoing projects and volunteers make it all possible.

We are also grateful to those who have shared their family history. This has enabled us continually add to our database and as a result we have been able to help thousands of others find their heritage.

Volunteers are the foundations of our organization. Without them we couldn't begin to accomplish what we do on a daily basis. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at omfrcinfo@gmail.com or call 613-332-4789.

THANKS!



Louis Riel Day

Louis Riel Day is celebrated each year on the 3rd Monday in February in Manitoba. This is a partial image of a poster that is available from the government of Manitoba at:

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socst/ud/riel/index.html>

Hudson Bay Company Archives



From <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/>

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives (HBCA), a division of the Archives of Manitoba, is home to one of Canada's national treasures - the records of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC).

If you believe that your ancestor(s) was associated with the fur trade, this is a great place to begin your family research.

Research from a Distance

For those unable to visit the Archives in Winnipeg, they offer several services for researching from a distance:

- [Search online resources](#), including the [Keystone Archives Descriptive Database](#).
- Some of the Archives' holdings are available on microfilm, through inter-institutional loans. See our [Microfilm Program](#) for more details.
- Researchers may [send inquiries](#) by telephone, fax, regular mail and e-mail. Archives staff will conduct limited general research or help you [prepare for a research visit](#). Read more information on [HBCA reference inquiries](#).
- For more detailed research, distance researchers may need to consider consulting a [professional researcher](#).
- Reproductions of records of all media can be provided. See [Copy and Reproduction Services](#) for details on costs and procedures.

Visit their website for more information.

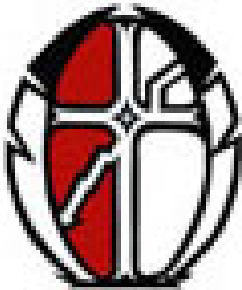


OMFRC
1314 Hybla Road RR 5
Bancroft, ON
K0L 1C0

Phone: 1-613-332-4789
or toll free 1-877-737-0770

E-MAIL:

info@omfrc.org



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.omfrc.org

www.aboriginalstatus.org

New Submissions!

We are always looking for new interesting submissions to add to upcoming issues of the OMFRC Newsletter. If you have something you would like to add to the newsletter please call or email us! We'd be happy to consider it for an upcoming issue.

A Member Writes

One of our members has a rather exceptional family history. I recently sent him a link to a website that had direct bearing on his ancestors.

In Africans & Native Americans (University of Illinois Press) Jack Forbes states that "by 1566 Inuit people could be seen in the Hague... the massive growth of the whaling industry as well as the activities of the Danish government led to many Inuit along with their kayaks being taken to Europe, principally to Denmark, the Netherlands and whaling centres.... Between 1605 and 1725 quite a number of Inuit were taken specifically to Denmark, Holland and Friesland. From these places a number managed to escape in their kayaks."

Our member is descended from one of those transplanted Inuit.

Here is his reply:

"Thank you so much! I'm flattered that you remembered me and my heritage. That website is so interesting, and it's incredible to see written out in English exactly what I have been told of my origins all my life."

For more information, visit:

<http://www.kayarchy.co.uk/html/01equipment/030greenlandhistory.htm>



Is Your Membership Coming Up for Renewal?



Certificate of Aboriginal Status



Rebecca Brant

00984747

Membership Number



D.O.B. Mar. 4, 2004 Expiry June 27, 2025

The person identified on this card is an Aboriginal person within the meaning of the Canada Constitution Act (1982) and the membership provisions of the Ontario Metis Family Records Center.

