Heather Devine, Ph. D.

Heather Devine is a historian specializing in Canadian Native History, American Indian Policy, and Western Canadian ethnic history. She has published numerous articles on fur trade social history, and is a frequent guest speaker at genealogical seminars. At the present time she has a joint academic appointment at the University of Calgary as Assistant Professor in the Museum and Heritage Studies Program in the Faculty of Communication and Culture, and as Curator of Indigenous Heritage at the Nickle Arts Museum.

Heather is a Metis with roots in the Qu’Appelle Valley and Saulteaux Village (Baie St. Paul) in Manitoba. Heather Devine’s great grandparents were Thomas Desjarlais born December 12, 1850 at St. Francois Xavier and Madeleine Klyne (b. 1820) the daughter of Michel Klyne (b. 1811) and Madeleine Millet dit Beauchemin.

Thomas Desjarlais was the son of Jean Baptiste Desjarlais (b. 1811) who married Marie Martin, the daughter of Francois Martin and Margeurite Racette. Jean Baptiste was the son of Francois Desjarlais (b. 1768) and Madeleine Roy, his second wife. This family was enumerated at Saulteaux Village in Manitoba in 1840 as Family # 2.


François married Francoise Roy. They had the following children:

- Francois Xavier Desjarlais, b. 1795, married Marie Otshikkan Outehique Bottineau.

François then married Madeleine Roy. They had the following children:

- Marie, b. 1805, married Joseph Morisseau.
- Charles, b. c. 1809.
- Suzanne, b. 1810, married Louis Gladu.
- Jean Baptiste, b. 1811, married Marie Martin.
- Antoine, b. 1818, married Louise Richard.
- Andre, b. 1822, married Josephte Fagnant. They had nine children. He was active in the 1885 Metis Resistance at Batoche along with his son-in-law, Louis Davis who had married their daughter Therese. His son Paul Desjarlais (b. 1853) fought in the Resistance in Captain Edouard Dumont’s company.
- Josephte, b. 1823, married Antoine Gladu.

Michel Klyne (1811-1875) was born at Fort des Prairies (Fort Edmonton), the son of Michel Kline Sr.1 (b. 1781) and Suzanne Lafrance (Metisse, b. 1790). Klyne Sr.’s father, Jean Adam Klyne, was a private in the German Auxiliary Troops in Canada, the “Hesse Hanau Chasseurs,” and had fought in the War of 1812. He was married to a Marie Geneviève Bisson, also of Quebec.

1 Michel Klyne Sr. entered the employment of the North West Company in the late 1790s as a fur trader After the 1821 merger of the NWC and the HBC, he was put in charge of Jasper House. He served as postmaster for 11 years, from 1824 to 1835. Alberta’s Cline River and Mount Cline were named in his honor.
Michel Sr. signed on as a voyageur with the North West Company at 17 years of age, Feb. 28, 1798. In the early 1800s, “by custom of the country,” he married another teenager, Suzanne Lafrance (b. 1790), a Metisse. Michel Sr. was known to be Postmaster at Jasper House in 1829. They apparently retired from the fur trade prior to 1838 and this was a buffalo hunting family who was often out on the plains. They had moved permanently to Fort Qu’Appelle by 1871. Their son, Benjamin Klyne, went on to become one of the founding fathers of Spring Creek (Lewistown), Montana.

Michel Jr. married Madeleine Beauchemin, (Metis, b. 1820) on January 9, 1838 at St. Francois Xavier. She was the daughter Andre Millet dit Beauchemin, (b.1778) and Charlotte Pelletier (Metis, b.1785). A hunting family, they had thirteen children and they lived variously at St. Francois Xavier, Point Douglas, St. Joseph and, Devil’s Lake. Their son, Benjamin Klyne (b. 1847) was one of the founders of the Metis community of Spring Creek, Montana now Lewistown. Michel died in 1875 at Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan.

Michel’s sister, Jane Klyne-McDonald (b. 1808) was married to Archibald McDonald a chief factor of the Hudson’s Bay Company. His brother George Klyne (b. 1828) became an MLA for Ste. Agathe Riding in Manitoba (1871-1874).

In 1885, when Madeleine, his wife applied for Michel’s Metis Scrip she states:

  The late Michel Klyne, was a Halfbreed head of a family, and resided in the North-West Territories previous to the 15th July 1870.
  The said late Michel Klyne was temporarily absent from the Territories in 1870, but returned to the Territories and took up his permanent domicile at Fort Qu’Appelle in the Fall 1871.
  The said Michel Klyne was the son of a White man by the same name and of an Indian woman – he was born at Edmonton – in 1811.
  The said Michel Klyne died at Fort Qu’Appelle on the 9th December 1875 and I produce his burial certificate.
Besides his widow he left the following children:
1. Andre Klyne, aged 44 years, living at fort Qu’Appelle.
2. Michel Klyne, 43 years, at present absent Fort Qu’Appelle but domiciled here.
4. Guillaume Klyne, aged 39 years, a resident of Wood Mountain.
5. Elise Klyne, wife of Thomas Kavanagh of Fort Qu’Appelle, aged 37 years.
6. Benjamin Klyne, 35 years, of Milk River.
7. Theophile Klyne, 33 years, of Fort Qu’Appelle.
8. Veronique Klyne, 31 years, wife of Thomas Kelly, of Fort Qu’Appelle.
9. Madeleine Klyne, aged 29 years, wife of Thomas Desjarlais, of Fort Qu’Appelle.
10. Napoleon Klyne, 21 years, of Fort Qu’Appelle.
Reading List:

Books


Chapters in Books:


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