

NOTE ON THE FRENCH CANADIAN ORIGIN OF MELINDA MARIE JETTÉ

Melinda Marie Jetté, a native of Portland, Oregon and a direct descendant of the French-Indian families who settled French Prairie, received a M.A. in history from Université Laval and a Ph.D from the University of British Columbia. Two French Canadian paternal ancestors, who departed Rigaud and St. Jacques, Quebec as engagés with the Hudson's Bay Company in the 1820s and 1830s, settled in French Prairie with their Native wives in the 1840s. Her great-great-grandfather, Adolphe (Théophile) Jetté left Repentigny, Quebec in the late 1840s, and eventually reached French Prairie in the early 1850s. Her ancestors remained in French Prairie until the 1910s, when they moved to Portland, Oregon. As a youngster, Melinda Jetté would often visit Champoeg on family outings. Since the family ceased speaking French in the early 1900s, Melinda Jetté learned French during sojourns in France and Quebec. She now studies the role of French-speaking peoples in American history.

Melinda Marie Jetté