

# The Story of: “The Valley of Green and Blue”

It's a hundred years before the French Revolution and two young men ache for freedom and are willing to face danger and sacrifice. They make a plan. The first of these young men, Pontbriard, will follow his heart **“Allons Pontbriard”** whatever the outcome he will have no regrets! For this he will be given a name, Sansregret. And so across the treacherous Atlantic came the seeds of the Métis race. Those **“Mothers And Fathers”** would be swept along the waterways and across ocean-wide prairies until their progeny were in every corner of the continent facilitating trade and supplying a burgeoning civilization with not only music and dance, but also with the known non-perishable food of the time, pemmican. Among all of these ‘progenated’ was one who would meet the eye of **“Mijakmijikok”** the matriarchal grandmother of my family.

Away from the oppressive royalty that ruled their homeland, the Voyageurs were the happiest people on earth. The female children brought about through intermarriage were called **“Daughters of the Country”** and they were key to the growth and development of the Métis. All this romance and discovery was against the backdrop of war between two rival companies The Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company that got very bloody and resulted in the Battle of Seven Oaks. **“Bittersweet Oaks”** tell this sad story.

The Scots of Lord Selkirks' settlement also thrived in the Red River and produced a veritable throng! Remembered here in a little song called **“The Raisin' O' The Kilt”**. Its 1869 and Rupertsland is being sold by the Hudsons Bay Company to Canada. Can the Métis of Red River secure cultural rights and freedoms before the final deal goes through? Will their farms survive the surveyors with their acres and sections? Will they be **“Losing Freedom”**? Will their presence in the settlement be as valued as it once was? Apparently not, and the **“Jews, Gypsies and the Half Caste Man”** will be without a homeland.

St. Francis Xavier Parish has preserved a registry with the birth and death of **“Ti Hyacinth”**. He lies buried on the shore of that vast undulating sea of grass that Gabriel Dumont would thunder across with his rifle ‘Le Petite’ making sure that everyone would have winter provisions...**“Ride Gabriel Ride”**! The events of **“1885”** started long before that eventful year began and resonated for a long time afterward. Far past the year of 1886 when the Métis resistance were only **“One Year Gone”** and returned from exile to decimation and shame. Through it all rides **“Johnny Sansregret”** a Rebel in Chains, progeny of Pontbriard. He rests his buffalo runner atop a prominence and contemplates the history of his people. He has no regrets.

Later, after the all the wars, the birth of a nation, the hard times still linger in **“Duck Lake”**.

Voices from the inside of a tiny white church are carried along the river valley: **“When This Valley”** no longer a wound that won't heal, when it's story is well understood, may Infinity fly where the blue of the sky meets the green of the river and gold of the straw in the valley of old St. Laurent.”