

Jeanne Pelletier, Clementine Longworth, Maria Campbell
Video 1

Start 5.50.05 Maria Campbell: So, did you ever hear any stories about women, long about women from long ago, like during Riel's time? Ever hear stories like that, history stories about, about women?

Jeanne Pelletier: My, my grandma was telling us. Like, we had this school project to do when I was in Grade Five, Grade Five, and we had to write a, this history. So I went and asked my grandma if she'd help me. "You know anything about Riel, Louis Riel?" "Yeah," she said, "I remember," she said. "I was a little girl, but I remember." And she told us they were coming home from, there was a war between the, the Crees and another tribe ...

Maria Campbell: Sioux? The Lakota?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. And, and they were caught in the middle. So she said—her, her dad was a medicine man—so she said he, he let, he told them to go and hide, like, to keep out and stay at the back for, for a little while, he said. He didn't say why, but I guess he created a diversion with smoke.

Maria Campbell: Oh, I heard that story.

Jeanne Pelletier: And he all passed through and after, after that he came back to where his family were, and they were living there, were in the cave for three days. Three days and all the water they had was what the, what the, the pee water. 'Cause she said, "We were there for three days," and then finally they made it to, to the east. Like she was from the east, east reserve, it's a Cree reserve. She said, and she said, "Louis Riel was, was not a bad man," and she said, "If it wasn't for a priest, we'd be okay." She said it was a priest that betrayed him.

Maria Campbell: True, eh.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, and I had that book, you know, for the longest time. All what she told me, and it, and I had it for the longest time, until I was about fifteen, and then I lost it. I always tell my mom, "Gee, I'm sorry I lost that book." But she told, she said she was about eight years old.

Maria Campbell: Did she tell you who that, your grandfather was, like, who was the medicine man?

Jeanne Pelletier: I have his name at home, but I can't say it.

Maria Campbell: Because I heard that story, too. I was interviewing an old lady around Onion Lake, and she told me that, but she didn't know who it was. She just said this man made all of this smoke, and they were able to go through the smoke and, and he did it. He didn't make a fire; he did it with medicine.

Jeanne Pelletier: Magic.

Maria Campbell: Yeah. Magic.

Jeanne Pelletier: So her dad was a good medicine man, I guess. I guess that's where she got the, the trade passed down. Medicine.

Maria Campbell: She learned it from him.

End 5:53.09.14