

Merelda Fiddler

Merelda Fiddler, a Métis from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, graduated with her BA in Journalism from the University of Regina School of Journalism in 1999. Since her graduation, she has worked as a reporter and associate producer at CBC Radio in Regina as well as freelancing for local papers and magazines. Her previous documentary, *Ghosts on the Land*, also directed by Robert McTavish, profiles three Saskatchewan families and their struggle to save the family farm.

Merelda is the daughter of Charlotte Taillifer and Ron Fiddler. Her paternal grandparents are William Fiddler and Avelina De La Ronde. Avelina was the daughter of Agnes Morin and Paul De La Ronde; William was the son of Veronique Gervais (b. 1867)¹ and Jean Baptiste Fidler (b. 1862). Jean Baptiste was the son of Francois Fidler² (b. 1838) and Josephte Laplante (b. 1845). Francois Fidler was the brother of William Fidler (b. 1827) also the son of George Fidler an HBC employee and Nancy Black. William married Marguerite McGillis, the daughter of Alexandre McGillis and Marguerite Bottineau in 1851 at SFX. William fought at the Battle of the Grand Coteau in 1851, with the St. Francois Xavier hunting band led by Jean Baptiste Falcon.



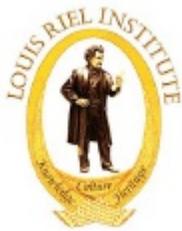
Métis filmmaker Merelda Fiddler completed her Masters degree in Canadian Plains Studies at the University of Regina in 2010. Her 2009 MA thesis was entitled “Fiddlers’ Journey: The Perseverance of One Metis Family’s Identity.” She also works as a reporter/associate producer with CBC Radio, as well as freelancing for local magazines and papers.

¹ Veronique was the daughter of Cleophas Gervais and Catherine Ross.

² Francois “Lagaua” Fidler fought in the 1885 Northwest Resistance at Batoche, along with his cousins, Cuthbert (b. 1858), Francois Xavier (b. 1861), James (b. 1865), William Jr. (b. 1865) Jean Baptiste (b. 1861) and John William (b. 1860). Their father William Sr. (1827-1895) was a *dizaine* Captain for Gabriel Dumouht during the 1885 Resistance.

She has produced the documentary “Fiddler’s Map” (2003) which tells the story of Métis history and culture through the life and eyes of Merelda Fiddler. As a Métis woman who denied her own heritage as she was growing up, she begins a journey to rediscover her roots. We follow Merelda on her search to find her heritage and family and through her gain insights into what it means to be a Métis person in Canada.

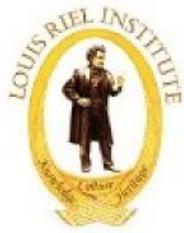
On September 28, 2013 Merelda Fiddler was honoured with a Métis Award for Journalism. The Wiichihwayshinawn Foundation recognized Fiddler for her contribution in journalism with a Metis Award. Most recently Fiddler produced the Boombox competition, which focused on Aboriginal entrepreneurship. The Métis Awards are given out to dedicated individuals in the Métis community who through their hard work are role models to younger generations.



Edited and Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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and life was all about us recognizing each other and creating an understanding for the differences," she said.

"I believe that everything is not a hill to die on and sometimes you've just got to say, 'OK that is your point of view but let me know if you want to know something else. If you want to ask me a question I'm open to that.' That is how you've got to be. You have to be strong."



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