

James Flett. (b. c. 1840)

James Flett was born about 1840 at Belcourt, Turtle Mountain Reservation, the son of Peter Flett and Mary Caribou. When James applied for Metis scrip many years later he described his father as Indian, and his mother as mixed European and Indian background, but no doubt his father had mixed Orcadian and Indian roots, because Flett is an old Orkney Islands name associated with the HBC fur trade.

Peter and Mary Flett lived at St. Peters in the Red River Settlement when James was young, but in the 1850s, he moved to Manitoba House, where in 1859 James married Mary Thompson, also a Metis. Mary, also born at Turtle Mountain around 1845 was the daughter of Antoine Thompson and Harriet Collin. This family must have moved to the Manitoba House area shortly after Mary was born, because her younger brother, Henry was born at Ebb and Flow Lake between 1846 and 1850. Henry was later to marry Sophia Beauchamp, the eldest daughter of Joseph Beauchamp and Catherine Delorme.

Like the Beauchamps, James and Mary Flett were members of the Ebb and Flow Band for a time, although, like many band members they lived off the reserve at or near Manitoba House. In the 1880s they left treaty, but many of their descendants are still Ebb and Flow Band members, including a descendant, Chief Louis Malcolm.

James and Mary had the following children:

- Roderick Flett (b. 1860)
- John James Flett (b.1867)
- Eliza Flett (b.1869)
- Margaret Flett (b.1870)
- Sarah Ann Flett (b.1872)
- Thomas Flett (b.1875)
- Caroline Flett (b.1878)
- Charles Flett (b.1880)
- Fanny Flett (b.1883)
- Mary Julia Flett (b. 1884)

Metis Scrip applications:

Reference: RG15 , Interior , Series D-II-8-c , Volume 1347 , Reel C-14969 , Access code: 90 File Title: Flett, James; address: Manitoba House, Kenesota, P.Q; claim no. 1551; born: 1840 at Turtle Mountain; father: Peter Flett (Indian); mother: Mary Caribou (Métis); married: 1859 at Manitoba House to Mary Thompson; children living: Roderick, John James, Eliza, Marguerite, Sara Ann, Thomas, Caroline, Fanny & Mary Julia; children deceased: Mary Ann, Harriet, Charley & William; scrip for \$160.00 Finding Aid number: 15-21.

Reference: RG15 , Interior , Series D-II-8-c , Volume 1369 , Reel C-15006 , Access code: 90 File Title: Thompson, Mary; address: Manitoba House, Kinosota; born: 1845 at Turtle Mountain; father: Antoine Thompson (Métis); mother: Harriet Collin (Métis); married: 1859 at Manitoba House to James Flett; children living: Roderick, John James, Eliza, Marguerite, Sara Ann, Thomas, Caroline, Fanny, Mary Julia; scrip for \$160; claim no. 1552 Finding Aid number: 15-21.

(Prepared with contributions by Raymond M. Beaumont (Editor), from *Ebb and Flow Stories*, Winnipeg: Frontier School Division No. 48, 1997: 152.)



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