

Kathy Lee Hodgson-Smith, M. Ed., J. D.

Kathy Hodgson Smith is the daughter of Kathleen Hodgson and Howard Smith. Her maternal Métis grandparents, William Arthur Hodgson (b. 1892) and Florence Lee Cook (b. 1891) were from the Lindsay, St. Catherine's, Prince Albert area of Saskatchewan.¹ Kathy is a descendant of Susannah Short (b. 1815) whose sister Isabelle (b. 1804) and brother-in-law Alexis Vivier (b. 1796) were at the famous Métis Battle of the Grand Coteau in 1851.

Métis lawyer, educator, writer, and photographer, Kathy Hodgson-Smith was president of Infinity Research Development and Design and now has her own law firm in Saskatoon. On March 30, 2012, she was awarded the *Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal* by the Women of the Métis Nation General Assembly in Edmonton.

Kathy Hodgson-Smith has a M.Ed. and was on the faculty of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program. Her 1997 M.Ed. thesis at the University of Saskatchewan was titled *Seeking Good and Right Relations: Student Perspectives on the Pedagogy of Joe Duquette High School*. This was followed-up when she was a co-author with Celia Haig-Brown, Robert Regnier, and Jo-Ann Archibald of the book, *Making the Spirit Dance Within: Joe Duquette High School and an Aboriginal Community* (Toronto: James Lorimer & Company Ltd., 1997). This book provides an in-depth study of Joe Duquette High School (now Oskayak High School) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This school for Aboriginal students has a commitment to Aboriginal spirituality as its guiding principle for both curriculum and human relations within the school.

Kathy Hodgson-Smith has run METSI, the former employment and training institute of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. She also worked with the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council; as research director for their studies to address the land use concerns of the Métis of northwest Saskatchewan. She has become an expert at collecting oral histories as a means to document land-use occupancy and mapping. This work has resulted in a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant for \$1 million (over five years) under the Community-University Research Alliance program.

More recently, Kathy Hodgson-Smith served as editor of *New Breed Magazine* for four years from 2000-2003. She contributed



¹ With historic roots in the Portage la Prairie, Red River Settlement, Fort Pelly, and Fort Cumberland Métis communities.

many community profiles and biographies² of Métis people to this publication as well as producing many excellent photographic essays to complement the stories. She has also served on the board of directors of SaskCulture Inc. Kathy has worked as Chief of Staff, Office of The President, Métis National Council. She subsequently completed her law degree and operates Hodgson-Smith Law in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

(Sharon Ashby Wood, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Prince Albert, contributed to the writing of this article.)

Family Scrip:

Great-great-great-grandfather:

Scrip affidavit for **Hodgson, Wm.**; born: 1826; father: John Hodgson; mother: Charlotte Yostan; claim no: 2728; date of issue: April 20, 1877.

Great-great-great-grandfather:

Scrip affidavit for **Inkster, George**; born: April 4, 1842; father: James Inkster; mother: Elizabeth Sutherland; claim no: 2678; date of issue: April 20, 1977.

Great-great-grandfather:

Scrip affidavit for **Cook, Roderick**; born: July 1846; father: Samuel Cook; mother: Suzanne Short; claim no.: 2714; scrip no.: 12084; date of issue: Apr. 20, 1877; amount: \$160.

Great-great-great-grandmother:

Scrip affidavit for **Cook, Susanna**; widow of Samuel Cook; born: 1815; father: James Short (Scot); mother: Betsy (Indian); claim no.: 2223; scrip no.: 11092; date of issue: Oct. 2, 1876; amount: \$160



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute

² See for example:
Hodgson-Smith, Kathy. 2002. "Keith Goulet: A Proud Métis and A Leader for the People of Saskatchewan," *New Breed Magazine* (July/August): 5-7.