

## Stories of Our People: Biographies

### Storytellers whose stories appeared in the book:



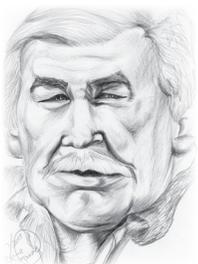
**Norman Fleury**, originally from St. Lazare, Manitoba, is a gifted Michif storyteller. He has worked extremely hard to promote and preserve Michif, including the production of language resources and an introductory Michif dictionary. He has been active with the Manitoba Métis Federation since 1967. Married with two children, he farms southwest of Virden, Manitoba in the small community of Woodnorth.



**Gilbert Pelletier** was born in December 1939 at the Métis Road Allowance community of Crescent Lake, Saskatchewan. His parents were Joseph Pelletier and Isabelle Flamont. He tells a wide array of traditional Michif stories. He was the chair of the Senate for the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, and is a leader in the revitalization of the Michif language. He has contributed to two GDI resources including *The Story of the Crescent Lake Métis: Our Life on the Road Allowance*.



**Jeanne Pelletier** was born in 1940 at the Métis community of Crooked Lake, Saskatchewan. In 1980, she formed a successful dance group for at-risk youth. In 1986, she developed *Steps in Time: Métis Dance*. She was honoured with the title “Mrs. Batoche” for her successful efforts to instill cultural pride in young Métis in 1987. In 2005, she was awarded the *Commemorative Medal* for Saskatchewan’s centennial. At present, she teaches Métis dance in Regina at the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program and the Eastview Community Centre. Her latest book, *The Story of the Rabbit Dance*, was published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in 2007.



**Joe Welsh** is a Métis author and playwright originally from Lebret, Saskatchewan. His father was Joseph Welsh, his mother was Eleanor Amyotte, and he is Norma Welsh’s younger brother. He is a direct descendent of Norbert Welsh, the “last buffalo hunter.” After his mother died, he and seven of his siblings were raised in an orphanage in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. His latest book, *Jack Rabbit Street*, was published in 2004 by Thistledown Press. He presently lives in Regina where he spends his time writing and collecting Métis stories.



**Norma Welsh** is originally from Lebret, Saskatchewan. Her father was Joseph Welsh, her mother was Elanore Amyotte, and she is Joe Welsh’s older sister. She is a direct descendent of Norbert Welsh, the “last buffalo hunter.” She has lived in and around Lebret and Regina for most of her life including the Métis Farm and on Road Allowances. She has twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

## Other storytellers' biographies:



**Guy Blondeau**, the son of Joseph Adrian Blondeau and Georgina-Marie Klyne, was born in Jasmine, Saskatchewan. He now lives in nearby Lebret. He is a life-long educator, and is presently a member of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Board of Governors.



**Albert "Hap" Boyer** was born in 1928 at Cochin, Saskatchewan. He currently lives in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. He is a regular fixture at *Back to Batoche Days* and at other Métis celebrations. He collects and records Métis fiddle tunes.



**Wilbert "Bob" Desjarlais**, was the son of William Desjarlais and Florence Racette. He was born near Katepwa Beach in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan. In his youth, he worked for farmers and built elevators in all three Prairie Provinces. Bob married Bernice Desjarlais in 1956. Together, they had four children. Bob was a highly regarded storyteller, and was a Michif speaker. He was proud of his Métis heritage, working for years to organize the Métis Society. At the time of his death in 2004, he was working to print a book on the Michif language.



**George Klyne**, born and raised in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan, is the son of Andrew Klyne and Vera Amyotte. Now in retirement, George has been, among many other things, a rodeo cowboy and a horse breaker. He has shared stories of his Road Allowance upbringing with others in the Métis community.



**Robert "Jimmy" LaRocque**, originally from the Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan, is the son of J.Z. LaRocque, an early organizer of the Métis Society. Robert and his wife Lucy manages the Lebret Museum in Lebret, Saskatchewan. The museum has many Métis exhibits. He is passionate about his Métis identity, and the history of his beloved Qu'Appelle Valley.



**Clementine Longworth**, originally from Crooked Lake, Saskatchewan, was the daughter of Alex and Adele Flamand. Clementine was born on March 24, 1924. An outdoors person, Clementine was a hard worker, and a very spiritual person who loved to travel. She was committed to preserving her Michif language, and fighting for Métis rights. She passed away in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 2007.



**Rose Richardson** is a Métis Elder and traditional healer. Rose and her first husband, Rod Bishop, were actively involved in the Métis rights movement in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Rose also works as an Elder and Professor in the Northern Teacher Education Program in Northern Saskatchewan. Rose and her husband Rick Richardson operate a business in Green Lake, Saskatchewan.

## Project contributors' biographies:



**Janice DePeel**, a Métis originally from Candle Lake, Saskatchewan, is a writer and educator, living in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. A graduate of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, and an educator at the Dumont Technical Institute in Prince Albert, Janice grew up in an environment rich in the oral and written traditions. She spent many evenings listening to her father's wild tales of his childhood and reading her mother's poetry and short stories. Janice feels that expressing herself in the same way brings her closer to her roots, and helps to share her Métis culture and traditions with others.



**David Morin** is a Métis from Nipawin, Saskatchewan. He received a Bachelor of Education with Distinction from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, University of Saskatchewan. David is presently a Curriculum Development Officer with the Gabriel Dumont Institute.



**Christa Nicholat** was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Christa received a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Native Studies and a Masters degree in History with specialization in Native-Newcomer Relations from the University of Saskatchewan. For the past eight years, she has been dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Aboriginal and Prairie history and culture through research, writing, editing, program development, and teaching.



**Darren Préfontaine** is originally from Rockglen, Saskatchewan. He majored in Canadian History at the University of Regina (B.A.), the University of Saskatchewan, and York University (M.A.). Since 1996, Darren has been employed with the Gabriel Dumont Institute as a Curriculum Development Officer, editor, and researcher.



**Carrie Saganace** is a First Nations artist who has produced art professionally since her early teens. To date, Carrie has created a variety of work in diverse media including graphic novels, comic strips, animation, and paintings, which have been viewed in public galleries. She is largely self-taught, but has attended the University of Saskatchewan for several years. Carrie continues her training and development in First Nations art, while continuing to express her own forms of modern storytelling.



**Karon Shmon** is a Métis from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She has been a consultant in a variety of fields including Aboriginal education, cultural diversity, representative workforce, employment equity, leadership, and strategic planning. She is the Coordinator of Gabriel Dumont Institute's Publishing Department.



**Janessa Temple** is a Métis from Nipawin, Saskatchewan. She obtained a Bachelor of Education degree from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, University of Saskatchewan, with a major in Native Studies. She was a Curriculum Development Officer with the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and is now a teacher in Nipawin.