

McDougall House:

This house belonged to Marguerite McDougall née Bruneau (b. 1839) the daughter of François Bruneau and Marguerite Harrison. She was married to Daniel McDougall (1843-1880) who was born at Lesser Slave Lake in November of 1843, the son of John George McDougall and Genevieve “Jane” Jaspard (Gaspard). His father, a Scot, was the first Chief Factor of the Hudson’s Bay Company for the Edmonton District. His mother, Geneviève, was a Métisse.

In 1857, Daniel McDougall along with Louis Riel and Louis (Laferté) Schmidt were attending school at St. Boniface with the Frères des Écoles Chrésiennes when their mentor Mgr. Taché decided to send the boys to Bas-Canada (Quebec) to complete their studies in 1858. Louis Riel went to the Collège de Montréal, Daniel McDougall to the Collège de Nicolet and Louis Schmidt to the Collège de Saint-Hyacinthe. On June 18, 1866 at St. Boniface, Daniel married Marguerite Bruneau.

The couple were among a number of Métis families who moved from St. Boniface to areas further south such as Lorette after the troubles of the 1869-70 Resistance. Daniel first established a homestead on the south side of the Seine River near Lorette in 1869-71 and then obtained land on the north bank of the Seine prior to his death in 1880. He died as the result of a train accident in St. Boniface in which he lost a leg. He left his wife and two sons, François-Daniel (b. 1872) and Alexandre (b. 1867) to survive him. The couple had a deceased daughter, Margaret (b. 1870).

The McDougall house, built in 1883, consists of dovetailed spruce logs, a common log construction technique of the time. The logs, ranging in diameter from 13 to 24 centimetres, were rough-planed on inner and outer sides. Mud or other similar substances was used to fill the spaces between adjacent logs. Doors and windows were cut after the walls were completed, and wooden siding was added to the exterior at some point in the past. The ground floor had a single room while the upper level was divided into three bedrooms.

Mrs. Marguerite (née Bruneau) McDougall eventually moved to Lorette where she operated a general store. Her son Alexandre McDougall built a home on an adjacent property, while her other son Francois-Daniel lived in this house until his death in 1902. His daughter, Alexina Manaigre, lived in it until 1965 when she moved to St. Norbert. The house was moved to the Place St. Norbert Interpretive Centre on Pembina Highway next to the St. Norbert Market.¹

¹ Manitoba Historical Society: <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/mcdougallhouse.shtml>



McDougall House: Photo by Gordon Goldsborough.

François-Daniel, the eldest child of Daniel McDougall, eventually took over the 1883 house. His mother moved into the nearby village of Lorette and opened a general store that lasted several years. Alexandre, the second son, also moved out to establish his own farm. Letters patent for lot 59 were given to the three McDougalls in 1885; two years later, the westerly two chains of lot 60 were added. Of these 93.9 ha. (232 ac.) 10.1 ha. (25 ac.) were under cultivation and the family owned assorted livestock.

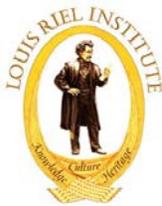
By 1889, the family also held letters patent for the westerly 94.7 ha. (234 ac.) of lot 11. Mrs. McDougall and her two sons had received lot 11 through the procedure laid out in the 1881 Order-In-Council, including a grant of 64.8 hectares and purchase of the remainder at \$1/0.4 hectares. In total, the entire 136.8 ha. (338 ac.) cost the family \$210.16.

François-Daniel married Virginie Flamand (born 1869). They had two sons and four daughters (although one of the sons died soon after birth). In 1902, François-Daniel died at the age of 35 of smallpox, but his descendants continued to use the 1883 log home. A daughter, Alexina, lived in the house until 1965 (two years after her mother's death), then moved to St. Norbert (only to have the house follow her there!).

Scrip affidavit for McDougall, Daniel; born: November 1843; father: John George McDougall (Scot); mother: Genevieve Gaspard (Métis); claim no: 817; scrip no: 6369 to 6376; date of issue: July 12, 1876; amount: \$160

Affidavit of McDougall, Daniel; applies on behalf of his deceased daughter Marguerite McDougall; born: 25 September 1870; mother: Marguerite Bruneau (Métis); claim no. 1717; grant no. 4154.

Scrip affidavit for McDougall, Marguerite born: December 3, 1839; wife of Daniel McDougall; father: Francois Bruneau (Métis); mother: Marguerite Harrison (Métis); claim no: 759; scrip no: 5913 to 5920; date of issue: June 26, 1876; amount: \$160



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