

Petrin (Somerset), Terry (b. 1925)

Theresa “Terry” Somerset (née Petrin), born February 4, 1925 in St. Boniface, is the daughter of Evangeline Nolin (b. 1896) and Médéric Petrin and the granddaughter of Augustin Nolin (1862-1942) and his first wife Marguerite Ekachigne (Goulet) of Roseau River First Nation.

To mark the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812, on October 25, 2012, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, presented Métis and First Nations communities with Commemorative War of 1812 Medals and Banners.

Theresa Somerset and Randy Ranville accepted the Medal and Banner on behalf of the Métis people of Manitoba, and their relatives who fought in that war. Theresa Somerset is a Nolin family descendant; her ancestors, brothers Francis Nolin (b. 1779) and Augustin Nolin 1781-1848), both participated in the first Canadian victory of the war, the taking of Fort Michilimackinac in July of 1812. Randy Ranville is the great-great-great-grandson of Métis warrior Joseph “Akipa” Ranville (1779-1846). Joseph Ranville held the rank of Captain during the war.



Randy Ranville and Theresa Somerset with Prime Minister Harper and the Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada

A monument to Angélique and Marguerite Nolin, who started the first school for Aboriginal girls in Manitoba, was placed on the grounds of the St. Boniface Museum and unveiled on November 4, 2015. The commemoration of these two Métis Pioneers was inspired by Ms. Terry Somerset (then age 90) who is a direct descendant of the Nolin Sisters. Ms. Somerset was quite passionate in helping make sure the Nolin Sisters were duly recognized for their work in the provision and advancement of education for young Aboriginal girls.



Above: Cathy Somerset, Terry Somerset¹ and Grant Anderson unveil a special plaque honouring the Nolin Sisters. The event took place on November 4, 2015 at the St. Boniface Museum located at 494 Taché Avenue, Winnipeg.



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¹ Terry Somerset (now age 93) and her daughter Cathy are Nolin descendants.