

## **Daniel McDougall (1842-1880)**

By Jim Jerome and Lawrence Barkwell

The McDougall family was among many Métis who relocated from St. Boniface-St. Vital to Lorette and other areas in Taché during the troubled years of 1868-70. Daniel McDougall, 27, found property to his liking south of the Seine River in 1869, staked his claim (8-5E-11), and began ploughing his field.

By 1871, McDougall and his family had built a 6.1 x 7.6 m (20' x 25') log house and taken up permanent residency. However, McDougall died on May 28, 1880, shortly after a train accident in St. Boniface in which he lost a leg. He left his wife and two sons with lot 11 (136.8 ha. or 338 ac.), two buildings and some cultivated land. He also had bought lot 59 from another squatter in 1870 (80.9 ha. or 200 ac.) and claimed part of lot 60 (13.0 ha. or 32 ac.), both on the north bank of the Seine. Three years after her husband's death, Mrs. McDougall and her teenage sons moved across the river and built a sturdy log house 5.8 m x 6.4 m (19' x 21') on lot 59.9. This house now stands on a new site in St. Norbert.

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!).



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