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Sarah Carter

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Imperial Plots Roundtable Commentary: A Reply

SARAH CARTER

I am honoured and grateful to have such a distinguished group of colleagues discuss *Imperial Plots*. Thanks to Jarvis Brownlie for organizing the panel and to Lara Campbell, Valerie Korinek, Carolyn Podruchny, and Katherine McKenna for their thoughtful and astute comments and insights at the University of Regina meeting of the CHA. As she had already published a review of my book, Katherine did not submit her remarks to this forum, but she was a valuable panel participant.

I was pleased to see historian and former president of the CHA Lyle Dick in the audience as he reminded me that it was exactly 40 years earlier that we were working on the Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site in southeast Saskatchewan. That was my first introduction to homestead records and I was intrigued by the stories they contained, and the physical, social, and cultural landscapes sculpted out of the prairies through homestead laws. It was also my first foray into women's history as I focused on material culture and the lives of the women of the Motherwell homestead. Often asked just when I started this project and how long I have worked on it, my answer would begin there, 40 years ago, although my curiosity about homesteading originated with my own family history in Manitoba. My dissertation, later published as *Lost Harvests* began my exploration of how Indigenous land was taken, carved up, and parceled out on the Prairies, and how notions of what constituted a "farmer" were deployed to exclude First Nations people from the central economic driver of the region: land and agriculture.¹⁰⁵ *Imperial Plots* is in many ways a bookend to my first book, exploring how most women were excluded, settler and Indigenous, and the ideas pressed into the service of this exclusion.

For the University of Manitoba Press, I was asked to list what I consider to be the most significant and distinguishing features of *Imperial Plots*. These are points I made: it places the history of the Canadian prairies in conversation with histories of gender, race and, colonialism in other colonial settings, yet it is grounded in the specifics of the Canadian West; it is the first study in this international field to consider the issue of settler colonial women's access to land, adding a new gendered dimension to settler colonial studies; it expands understandings of how settler women were bound in "gendered pat-

terns of disadvantage and frustration” while they simultaneously held positions of power over Indigenous people; it examines the complex intersection of ethnicity, race, gender, and class in the heated debates on women, land, and agriculture on the Prairies, in Canada and Britain; it contributes to understanding Western Canada as a colony of the British Empire, with an assumed “traditional” gender order as the foundation; it draws attention to the importance of the proximity of the United States in crafting the Canadian West as a British colony, drawing comparisons with the access settler women had to land in the United States; it analyzes the “homesteads-for-some-women” campaign, spearheaded by British women for British women, to the exclusion of others — theirs would be imperial plots where British civilization would be sown along with their crops; it emphasizes how the issue of access to land was a key component of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the West; it establishes the racialized and gendered architecture of the homestead system and Dominion Land legislation that was the foundation of settler colonialism in Western Canada; it is the first study of Canada’s women homesteaders, mostly widows with children; it explores women’s work on the land in the West during World War I, pondering why women were mobilized for farm work in the United Kingdom, in the United States, and in Ontario, and not on the Prairies; it analyzes why Canada was such a hostile environment for women farmers, and why the Canadian government remained intransigent and skeptical over decades, deliberately ignoring, belittling, or minimizing the substantial and essential work of women on homesteads and farms; it examines the attention paid to celebrity women farmers of the West, in particular Georgina Binnie-Clark and “Jack” May; and, finally, it reveals and explores the many strategies and tactics women drew on to obtain and cultivate land of their own and brings to light many forgotten women farmers and ranchers.

As the list suggests, *Imperial Plots* is a long and sprawling book, and at least one reviewer has pronounced it far too long. And it was to be even longer; there is a lot of unused footage. It began as a borderlands and comparative United States-Canada project that had many more dimensions, including gendered analysis of the allotment of reservations in the United States, of Métis scrip in Canada, and the “Indian homestead” legislation of the United States. I have binders full of homestead and census data from one Montana borderlands county alone. In the borderlands community of Wood Mountain Saskatchewan I found far fewer numbers of women homesteaders.

These findings did not make their way into the book that had to be scaled back, and become more focused. I am explaining this in part in response to Carolyn, Betsy, and Jesse's outstanding essay on women at the margins of my study — Hidatsa, Métis, and Ukrainian women farmers who persisted on the land and as farmers despite obstacles. It is true that the diverse range of women homesteaders/farmers were left on the cutting floor as I decided to focus on the imperial plots and plans of British settler women. In my Wood Mountain sample, most of the women homesteaders were from the United States, and others were from Canada, France, Norway, Ukraine, and Hungary. There were Icelandic and Mennonite women homesteaders in the West. I mention a few Métis women homesteaders in the book and discuss the likelihood that there are many more.

I hope the topic of diverse women as landowners and farmers, and their persistence well beyond the homestead era, will be taken up by enterprising historians, and the commentary by Carolyn, Jesse, and Elizabeth will be an inspiration and starting point. I also want to pass the torch to someone who will analyze the hundreds of women homesteaders in the Peace River Country of Alberta after 1930. And British Columbia was another world altogether, with its own gendered and racialized land laws that did permit greater opportunities for settler women than on the federally-run Prairies. I hope that this too might be studied by someone who finds land as fascinating and as important as I do.

Imperial Plots is, however, not so much a story of the decline of women landowners and farmers, but of them never being able to gain much ground — ever — and of government determination to increasingly restrict and narrow women's eligibility. There are determined women in the book who weathered the slings and arrows, purchasing land, with some persisting for decades (such as Ethel Binnie-Clark, Georgina's sister). Some homesteading widows created lasting family dynasties. But they are the exceptions. The more they fought for land, the more determined the opposition. This is the story of persistent and powerful opposition to women landowners and farmers, particularly when they threatened to farm grain on a large scale. Nettie Wiebe, Saskatchewan farmer, activist, and former president of the National Farmers Union wrote in 2017 that by the early-1990s, there was some progress in official agricultural statistics that began to reflect that women on family farms are indeed farmers and women's names on sections of land were growing. But Wiebe observes that women's

names on the maps are now disappearing, replaced by male investors and companies in the world of global capital.

While not a story of progress, or of decline, it is about settler women's failure, aside from widows with children, to persuade others that they should be permitted the right to homestead. This was the outcome despite all the varied strategies they pursued, including their arguments that British women homesteaders would push out undesirable "foreign" males. Lara Campbell asks the prescient question why homesteads-for-women was a failure, while votes for (most) women succeeded. I could have addressed this more directly. I think the answer lies, in part, in the division of powers: the vote was a provincial matter, and homesteads were governed by the federal government. Petitions for voting rights had far more supporters than the homesteads-for-women petitions. Voting rights for women could assist Prairie settler-farmer organizations achieve their political and economic objectives, while homesteads-for-women was opposed or not endorsed. The prevailing views of women as incompetent farmers, combined with the fear of gender chaos exemplified in the United States, and a determination to craft and maintain a masculine West and a cherished gender order, were all thrown into the stew by opponents. The complete disregard of the homesteads-for-British-women petition by Canadian Federal Parliament led, I believe, to a decision to distance the votes campaign from homesteads-for-women, and to downplay, at least publicly, criticisms of "foreign" men and their unfitness for the vote.

I agree with Valerie's comments that I should have engaged more with queer history, and I should have used the term queer in discussing farmers like Isobel "Jack" May. It was not reticence, but rather ignorance that led to this oversight. I certainly learned about archival challenges to queer history; we only have fragmentary and generally second-hand glimpses. Dressed in "male attire," May was a great curiosity in Canada, Britain, and other settler colonies, but the massive press coverage of her is not to be relied upon. Consulting family and communities does not always clarify, as there remains a reluctance to speak of relatives or community members as queer. Since the book was published, I have realized that I was wrong to posit that May likely left Alberta after a year and a half, never to return, because she was made to feel an outcast, unwelcome in both masculine and feminine realms of rural Alberta. An intrepid researcher I met at a conference, Joan Heggie of Teesside University in Middlesborough, placed Jack

May under her microscope, learning that May returned to England late in 1912 to live the rest of her long life with a woman who had been an apprentice on her Alberta farm in the summer of 1912. They ran a dairy farm together in Somerset for decades, and then were residents of the same nursing home. Joan and I are together planning an article about Jack May.

I share with Valerie the concern that *Imperial Plots* will be stuffed in the silo of women's history, and prairie history, of interest to only a small group of academic specialists. I hoped it might reach a wider audience. My goal was to show a wider readership at home and beyond that gender, race, and land are at the heart of the history of the Canadian West, and that the history of this region has much to offer historians and students of settler colonialism beyond the borders of Canada. As yet, however, there is little evidence of a wider audience at home or abroad. I hope I am wrong, and the contributors to this panel encourage me in this hope.

SARAH CARTER is Professor and Henry Marshall Tory Chair in the Department of History and Classics and Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta.

SARAH CARTER est professeure à la faculté des études autochtones à l'Université de l'Alberta où elle détient également la chaire Henry Marshall Tory, au département d'histoire et d'études classiques.

Endnotes

- 1 Buffalo Bird Woman's Hidatsa name is usually spelled Maxi'diwiac or Maxidiwiac, but Michael W. Stevens gives Mahidiweash as the first spelling; it more closely approximates the Hidatsa pronunciation in *Biographical Dictionary of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara* (New Town, ND: Fort Berthold Library, 2003). <http://lib.fortbertholdcc.edu/Fort-Berthold/TATBIO.htm>, < viewed 24 July 2015 >. We have employed the spelling that Carter used in *Imperial Plots*. Carter discusses Maxi'diwiac on pp. 29, 31, 33–4, 36, and 382.
- 2 *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden*, recounted by Maxi'diwiac (Buffalo Bird Woman) of the Hidatsa Indian Tribe (ca.1839–1932), edited by Gilbert Livingstone Wilson (1868–1930). Originally published as Gilbert Livingstone Wilson ed., *Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians: An Indian Interpretation* (Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota, 1917; rpt. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1987); Gilbert L. Wilson, *Wabeenee: An Indian Girl's Story told by herself to Gilbert L. Wilson* (1921; rpt. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1981). Buffalo Bird Woman came to the attention of many feminist historians through Joan M. Jensen's pioneering *With these Hands: Women Working on the Land* (Old Westbury, N.Y: Feminist Press), pp. 19–23, which reprinted part of her narrative accessed from James E. Sperry, ed., "Wabeenee: An Indian Girl's Story Told by Herself to Gilbert L. Wilson," *North Dakota History* 38 (Winter-Spring, 1971): pp. 92–8.
- 3 Archaeologists Karen Olsen Bruhns and Karen E. Stothert assert that "by the time of first European contact, virtually all agriculture was done by Native American women." See Karen Olsen Bruhns and Karen E. Stothert, *Women in Ancient America* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999), pp. 82, 84–98, 101. Quote on p. 86. Also see R. Douglas Hunt, *Indian Agriculture: Prehistory to the Present* (University of Kansas Press, 1987), pp. 11–2. Men did farm in some areas, including in what is now the American Southwest.
- 4 Stephen A. Chomko and Gary W. Crawford, "Plant Husbandry in Prehistoric Eastern North America: New Evidence for its Development," *American Antiquity* 43 (July 1978): p. 405; Richard A. Yarnell, "Early Plant Husbandry in Eastern North America" in *Cultural Change and Continuity*, ed. Charles E. Cleland (New York: Academic Press, 1976), p. 66; Jeffrey R. Hanson, "Introduction" to reprint edition of *Wabeenee*, pp. vi–viii.
- 5 Hunt, *Indian Agriculture*, pp. 9–16.
- 6 Dennis L. Toom, "Northeastern Plains Village Complex Timelines and Relations," *Plains Anthropologist* 49 no. 191 (2014), pp. 281–97; Hunt, *Indian Agriculture*, pp. 2–3, 6–7; Alan M. Klein, "The Political Econ-

- omy of Gender: A Nineteenth-Century Plains Indian Case Study,” in *The Hidden Half: Studies of Plains Indian Women*, ed. Patricia Albers and Beatrice Medicine (Latham, Md.: University Press of America, 1983), pp. 143–73.
- 7 Wilson, *Wabeenee*, p. 7, and Wilson, *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden*, pp. 7–8.
 - 8 Hanson, “Introduction,” pp. xi–xii. Quote from the opening passage of *Wabeenee*, 7; Klein, “The Political Economy of Gender.”
 - 9 See Wilson, *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden*, p. 25.
 - 10 *Ibid.*, pp. 6–8. American settlers called the lake “Devils Lake,” and established the Devils Lake Sioux Reservation (now the Spirit Lake Reservation) on its shores.
 - 11 In the United States, a woman could marry after filing for her homestead but before proving up and gaining title, provided her husband was not also proving up on another homestead claim. For Carter’s discussion of women in both the United States and Canada losing access to farmsteads, see pp. 313, 316–7.
 - 12 MHS, Gilbert L. and Frederick N. Wilson Papers, Volume 11, Hidatsa-Mandan Report, Fort Berthold Reservation 1912, Minnesota Historical Society (hereinafter cited as Wilson Papers, MHS), pp. 27–9. See also Jensen, *With These Hands*, 19–23 and Wilson, *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden*, pp. 27–8.
 - 13 Wilson, *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden*, p. 9.
 - 14 *Ibid.*; Wilson, *Wabeenee*, pp. 66–8. Note that just as Maxi’ diwiac considered her mother’s sisters her mothers, she considered all their children her brothers and sisters, and she considered the sister of her biological grandmother also her grandmother. See also MHS, Wilson Papers, Volume 11, p. 23
 - 15 See MHS, Wilson Papers, Volume 10, 1911 Report, pp. 160–73.
 - 16 MHS, Wilson Papers, Volume 11, p. 4, “The Beginning of a Garden.” By “put away,” Maxi’ diwiac referred to Hidatsa divorce practices whereby both men and women could end an unsatisfactory marriage.
 - 17 MHS, Wilson Papers, Volume 11, p. 136.
 - 18 MHS, Wilson Papers, Volume 11, Hidatsa-Mandan Report, Fort Berthold Reservation 1912; Wilson, *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden*, pp. 119–20.
 - 19 Wilson, *Wabeenee*, pp. 175–6. For Maxi’ diwiac’s son, see Edward Goodbird as told to Gilbert L. Wilson, *Goodbird the Indian: His Story* (1914; rpt. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1965). The phrase, “From savagery to civilization,” is from Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History,” first presented at the Historical Congress in Chicago at the World’s Columbian Exhibition of 1893, originally printed in *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1893* (Washington, D.C. Government Printing Office,

- 1894). Turner's essay is quoted here from *History, Frontier, and Section: Three Essays by Frederick Jackson Turner*, ed. Martin Ridge (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993), pp. 59–92; 60.
- 20 MHS, Wilson Papers, Volume 11, p. 258. Note that Wilson identified these two women through their relationships to their husbands and did not name Butterfly's wife.
- 21 *Ibid.*, p. 75.
- 22 *Ibid.*, p. 66.
- 23 Brenda J. Child, *Holding Our World Together: Ojibwe Women and the Survival of Community* (New York: Penguin Books, 2012), p. 22.
- 24 Jesse Thistle, "The Puzzle of the Morrissette-Arcand Clan: A History of Metis Historic and Intergenerational Trauma" (MA Thesis, University of Waterloo, 2016), pp. 82–140.
- 25 LAC, Census of Canada 1911, Prince Albert, Territories, SK, District 9, Page: 1; Family No: 5.
- 26 Leo Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette, interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Wrixson, SK, 25 June 2014; Diane Payment, "The Free People – Li Gens Libres: A History of the Metis Community of Batoche, Saskatchewan," (Ottawa: Marquis Printing, 2009): pp. 36, 80–81.
- 27 In this context, scrip was a payment of money or land in exchange for extinguishing Aboriginal rights for Métis by the Dominion of Canada. In contrast to the numbered treaties, Métis scrip was given on an individual, not collective, basis. Carter provides an excellent discussion of scrip in *Imperial Plots*, pp. 53–7. Nancy's Grandfather Francois Arcand held lot 12 on Fig. 47 map by David Elrick in Diane Payment, "The Free People — Otipemisiwak: Batoche, Saskatchewan, 1870–1930," (Ottawa: Ministry of the Environment, Canada, 1990): pp. 302–3; LAC, RG15-D-II-8-f, vol. 1398, Scrip number A 11625 – Certificate number C 871, "Arcand, Saint-Pierre (Son of Francois Arcand) — \$160."
- 28 Lawrence Barkwell and Evelyn Peters, "Remembrance of Things Past: Winnipeg's Rooster Town, the Last Metis Road Allowance Community in Winnipeg," (presentation at *Shawane Dagošiwīn: Aboriginal Education Research Forum*, Winnipeg, 30 April 30 2014); David G. Burley, "Rooster Town: Winnipeg's Lost Metis suburb, 1900–1960," *Urban History Review* 42, no. 1 (Fall, 2013): pp. 3–25.
- 29 Louis Arcand, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Morrissette, interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Saskatoon, SK, June 23, 2014; LAC, Census of Canada 1911, Prince Albert, Territories, SK, District 9, Page: 1; Family No: 5.
- 30 Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (hereafter PAS), Record Number: 3422 – 1928, File 100, No. 74, September 1928, Jeremie Morrissette and Nancy Arcand Record of Registration of Marriage.

- 31 LAC, Census of Canada 1906, Mistawasis Reserve 103, SK, Sub-district 38, Page: 5; Family No: 46 – “Marianne Morrissette.”
- 32 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette, interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014. Carter discusses the Pass System in *Imperial Plots*, p. 50, explaining that many First Nations women were often able to leave reserve to gather resources, trade handicrafts, and work as day labourers on farms.
- 33 Indigenous Foundations, “Bill C-31,” https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/bill_c-31/ < viewed 2 October 2018 >.
- 34 Lawrence Barkwell, *Veterans and Families of the Northwest Resistance* (Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2011), p. 166.
- 35 PAS, Record Number: 3422 – 1928, File 100, No. 74, September 1928, Jeremie Morrissette and Nancy Arcand Record of Registration of Marriage.
- 36 Park Valley History Committee, “Jerry and Nancy Morrissette as recalled by daughter Bernadette Barrone,” in Park Valley History Committee, *Wilderness to Neighborhoods: Sturgeon River, Lake Four, Park Valley, Rabbit Bluff, Stump Lake, and Millard Hill* (Altona: Friesen Printers, 1992), pp. 418–9.
- 37 Park Valley Historic Committee, *Wilderness to Neighbourhoods*, pp. 64–5.
- 38 Ibid., p. 62.
- 39 Ibid.
- 40 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014.
- 41 Blanche Morrissette and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Carolyn Podruchny and Jesse Thistle, North Battleford, SK, June 22, 2013.
- 42 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014.
- 43 On the use of adding ash to soil, see “Wood Ash: An Alternative Liming Material for Agricultural Soils” (Alberta: Agriculture and Forestry) [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3435](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3435) < viewed 7 October 2018 >.
- 44 Louis Arcand, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Saskatoon, SK, June 23, 2014.
- 45 D. N. Sprague and R. P. Frye, *The Genealogy of the First Metis Nation* (Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 1983), Table 1, Table 2.
- 46 William Lewis Morton, “Agriculture in the Red River Colony,” *Canadian Historical Review* 30, no. 4 (1949): pp. 305–21.
- 47 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014.
- 48 Ibid.
- 49 Blanche Morrissette and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Carolyn Podruchny and Jesse Thistle, North Battleford, SK, June 22, 2013.

- 50 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014.
- 51 Cheryl Troupe, "Mapping Métis Stories: Land Use, Gender, and Kinship in the Qu'Appelle Valley, 1850–1950" (Ph.D. diss., University of Saskatchewan, 2019); Chris Andersen, Adam Gaudry, and Jennifer Adese, *New Directions in Métis Peoplehood* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, forthcoming); and Nicole St-Onge, "Memories of Métis Women of Saint-Eustache, Manitoba — 1910–1980" *Oral History Forum/Forum d'histoire orale* 17, no. 2 (2008): pp. 90–111.
- 52 Josephine Morrissette and Blanche Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Edmonton, AB, June 27, 2014.
- 53 Ray Campbell interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Saskatoon, SK, June 23, 2014.
- 54 Josephine Morrissette and Blanche Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Edmonton, AB, June 27, 2014.
- 55 Ray Campbell interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Saskatoon, SK, June 23, 2014.
- 56 Blanche Morrissette and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Carolyn Podruchny and Jesse Thistle, North Battleford, SK, June 22, 2013.
- 57 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014.
- 58 Andersen, Gaudry, and Adese, *New Directions in Métis Peoplehood*.
- 59 Leo Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Wrixson, SK, June 25, 2014.
- 60 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014; Interview Victoria Racette with Josephine Tarr, Saskatoon, SK, February 2, 1984; Gabriel Dumont Institute, "Josephine M. Tarr", <https://ourspace.uregina.ca/bitstream/handle/10294/1960/IH-SD.57.pdf> < viewed 2 October 2018 >.
- 61 Leo Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Wrixson, SK, June 25, 2014.
- 62 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014; F. Laurie Barron, *Walking in Indian Moccasins: The Native Policies of Tommy Douglas and the CCF* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1997): pp. 20–3, 31–2; Jeremie and Nancy's marriage certificate list both the bridegroom and bride as "illiterate" in PAS, Record Number: 3422 – 1928, File 100, No. 74, September 1928, Jeremie Morrissette and Nancy Arcand Record of Registration of Marriage.
- 63 Bernadette Morrissette, Blanche Morrissette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrissette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014.

- 64 “Thistle Family Homestead Interview” – Yvonne Morrisette, Jesse Thistle, and Blanche Morrisette interviewed by Marc DeGuerre, Erin Ferry (Dumbolt), SK, February 25, 2017.
- 65 Marc DeGuerre, “Family Camera,” on *TVO: Never Stop Learning*, <https://tvo.org/video/documentaries/family-camera> < viewed 2 October 2018 >.
- 66 Leo Morrisette, Blanche Morrisette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrisette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Wrixson, SK, June 25, 2014.
- 67 Ibid.
- 68 Bernadette Morrisette, Blanche Morrisette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrisette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014; Sprague and Frye, *The Genealogy of the First Metis Nation*, Table 1, Table 2; Gerhard Ens, “Dispossession or Adaptation?: Migration and the Persistence of the Red River Metis, 1835–1980” *Historical Papers {of the Canadian Historical Association}* 23, no. 1 (1980), pp. 120–44.
- 69 Bernadette Morrisette, Blanche Morrisette, and Yvonne Richer-Morrisette interviewed by Jesse Thistle, Debden, SK, June 21, 2014 and Marc DeGuerre, “Family Camera.”
- 70 Thistle, “The Puzzle of the Morrisette-Arcand Clan”; Carolyn Podruchny and Nicole St-Onge, “Scuttling along a Spider’s Webb: Mobility and Kinship in Metis Ethnogenesis” in *Contours of a People: Metis Family, Mobility, and History*, ed. Nicole St-Onge, Carolyn Podruchny, and Brenda McDougall (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012), pp. 63–70; and Heather Devine, *The People Who Own Themselves: Aboriginal Ethnogenesis in a Canadian Family, 1660-1900* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2004), pp. 1–17.
- 71 “Thistle Family Homestead Interview” –Yvonne Morrisette, Jesse Thistle, and Blanche Morrisette interviewed by Marc DeGuerre, Erin Ferry (Dumbolt), SK, February 25, 2017.
- 72 Marc DeGuerre, “Family Camera.”
- 73 See chapter 6, “‘Daughters of British Blood’ or ‘Hordes of Men of Alien Races’” in Carter, *Imperial Plots*, 287–325. Quote from p. 288.
- 74 See Carter, *Imperial Plots*, pp. 254-6 for a discussion of the “immigrant peril” on the Prairies.
- 75 Vladimir J. Kaye (Kysilewsky) and Frances A. Swyripa, “Settlement and Colonization” in *A Heritage in Transition: Essays in the History of Ukrainians in Canada*, ed. Manoly R. Lupul, pp. 32–58 (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1982), p. 32. We note that many Poles also migrated into the Ukrainian block settlements, especially in families that intermarried.
- 76 Frances A. Swyripa, “Ukrainian Canadians” in *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, Historica Institute, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ukrainian-canadians> < viewed 16 September 2018 >. Also see Orest T. Martynowych, *Ukrainians in Canada, The Formative Period, 1891-*

- 1924 (Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 1991); Michael H. Marunchak, *The Ukrainian Canadians: A History* (2nd ed, 1983); Vladimir Kaye, *Early Ukrainian Settlements in Canada, 1895-1900* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1964); Jaroslav Petryshyn, *Peasants in the Promised Land: Canada and the Ukrainians, 1891-1914* (Toronto: James Lorimer, 1985); Vadim Kukushkin, *From Peasants to Labourers: Ukrainian and Belarusian Immigration from the Russian Empire to Canada* (Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007).
- 77 John C. Lehr, "The Landscape of Ukrainian Settlement in the Canadian West" *Great Plains Quarterly* 2, no. 2 (Spring 1982): pp. 94–105. See <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/1655>.
- 78 The 1916 census of the Canadian prairies shows a Nick and Mary Chupka, in the district of Brandon, both age 37, originating from Austria (rulers of that region were constantly shifting), which is also part of family lore, and arriving in Manitoba in 1906 (rather than 1915 as the family remembers). The census lists daughter Fannie (2), which is probably Frances, and son Michael (9 months). The family's language is listed as Polish; we are dubious that the census enumerator could distinguish Polish from Ukrainian. Nick is listed as a labourer for the CRP. See LAC, Census of the Prairie Provinces 1916, items 521914, 521905, 521868, and 521867.
- 79 David J. Hall, "Sir Clifford Sifton" *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sir-clifford-sifton> < 16 September 16 2018 >.
- 80 Frances Swyripa, *Wedded to the Cause: Ukrainian-Canadian Women and Ethnic Identity, 1891-1991* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993), p. 19.
- 81 See especially Carter's chapter 5, "Answering the Call of Empire" in *Imperial Plots*, pp. 245-86.
- 82 All of the information about Frances Zatylny is based on family lore and conversations. We are particularly grateful to Carolyn's parents, Thomas and Sonia Podruchny, as well as her uncles, Stan and Allan Podruchny, her Aunt Sonia Podruchny, her Aunt Betty Zatylny, and her sister Heather Podruchny for their assistance with this piece. Although we find the family in the 1916 census, they do not appear in the 1921 or 1926 censuses. Nor does the family appear in any immigration and citizenship records, or land grant records of the Canadian government. Note that several George Smiths show up in the 1921 census as living in the district of Neepawa (a town close by), aged 58, 32, 2, 40, 16, 37, 24, 45, 48, and 19. See LAC, Census of Canada 1921.
- 83 Kaye and Swyripa, "Settlement and Colonization," p. 48.
- 84 A George Horner, aged 62, shows up in the 1926 census in the District of Souris, immigrating from England in 1908, see item number

- 484671, LAC, Census of the Prairie Provinces 1926. The only remaining part of the village of Ozerna, Manitoba is the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church and Cemetery, see <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stnicholasukrainiancatholic2.shtml> < viewed 30 June 2019 >, and Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Cemetery, where Michael Podruchny, and Frances's and Michael's first two children are buried.
- 85 A local history from the region includes a chapter called "The Home-maker" that describes farming women's labour in cooking, cleaning, sewing, and making cream and butter. See *Our Roots: A History of Sandy Lake and District* (Sandy Lake Historical Society, 1984).
- 86 Katherine Borland, "'That's not what I said': Interpretive conflict in oral narrative research" in *Women's Words: The Feminist Practice of Oral History*, ed. Sherna Cluck and Daphne Patai (New York: Routledge, 1991), p. 321.
- 87 Katherine Borland, "'That's not what I said': A reprise of 25 years" in *Beyond Woman's Words*, p. 34. We also take inspiration from Stacey Zembrzycki, *According to Baba: A Collaborative Oral History of Sudbury's Ukrainian Community* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2014).
- 88 Susan Jackel, ed. *A Flannel Shirt and Liberty: British Emigrant Gentlewomen in the Canadian West, 1880-1914* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1982); Georgina Binnie-Clark, *Wheat and Woman* with an Introduction by Susan Jackel. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1979). This Canadian classic has just been re-released, see Georgina Binnie-Clark, *Wheat and Woman: with an Introduction by Sarah Carter* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007).
- 89 Sarah Carter, *Capturing Women: The Manipulation of Cultural Imagery in the Canadian Prairie West* (Montréal: McGill Queen's University Press, 1997); Sarah Carter, *Lost Harvests: Prairie Indian Reserve Farmers and Government Policy* (Montréal: McGill Queen's University Press, 1990).
- 90 Georgina Binnie-Clark, *A Summer on The Canadian Prairie* (London: E. Arnold, 1910).
- 91 Martha Vicinus, *Intimate Friends: Women who Loved Women, 1778-1828* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004).
- 92 Terry Chapman, "Male Homosexuality: Legal Restraints and Social Attitudes in Western Canada, 1890-1920," in *Law and Justice in a New Land: Essays in Western Canadian Legal History*, ed. Louis A. Knaffa (Toronto: Carswell, 1986); Peter Boag, *Same-Sex Affairs: Constructing and Controlling Homosexuality in the Pacific Northwest* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003); Cecilia Danysk, *Hired Hands: Labour and the Development of Prairie Agriculture, 1880-1930*. (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1985); Adele Perry, *On the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race and the Making of British Columbia* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001);

- Lyle Dick, "Same-Sex Intersections of the Prairie Settlement Era: The Case of Regina's Oscar Wilde," *Histoire sociale/Social History* 42, no 83 (2009): 107–45.
- 93 Patrick Gale, *A Place Called Winter* (London: Tinder Press, 2015).
- 94 See Liz Milward, *Making a Scene: Lesbians and Community Across Canada, 1964-84* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2015) and V.J. Korinek, *Prairie Fairies: A History of Queer Communities and People in Western Canada, 1930-1985* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018) for contemporary works of queer history with attention to western Canada.
- 95 Elizabeth Jameson and Sheila McManus, eds. *One Step Over the Line: Toward A History of Women in the North American Wests* (Edmonton: Athabasca University Press, 2008).
- 96 Recently, Saskatoon's Western Development Museum initiated a plan to create a Saskatchewan LGBTQ2+ History Collection Project. This project will collect, archive, and display objects and ephemera related to the province's sexual minority communities and people.
- 97 There is an extensive literature devoted to analysis of the possibilities of queer histories prior to gay and lesbian identities were formed and articulated by individual women and men. See Matt Cook and Jennifer V. Evans, "Introduction" in *Queer Cities, Queer Cultures: Europe Since 1945*, ed. Matt Cook and Jennifer V. Evans (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014), 3.; Colin R. Johnson, *Just Queer Folks: Gender and Sexuality in America* (Philadelphia, P.A.: Temple University Press, 2013) and Laura Doan, *Disturbing Practices: History, Sexuality and Women's Experiences of Modern War* (Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 2013).
- 98 V.J. Korinek, "A Queer-Eye View of the Prairies: Reorienting Western Canadian Histories," in *The West And Beyond: New Perspectives on an Imagined Region*, ed. A. Finkel, S. Carter, and P. Fortna (Edmonton: Athabasca University Press, 2010).
- 99 Colin R. Johnson, *Just Queer Folks: Gender and Sexuality in Rural America* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2013).
- 100 Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2008).
- 101 See Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (London: Routledge, 1990 & 2008); J. Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (New York: New York University Press, 2005) for an extended discussion of the concept of "heteronormativity."
- 102 For examples of range of queer historical work, see Vicki L. Eaklor, *Queer America: A People's LGBT History of the United States* (New York & London: The New Press, 2008); John D'Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman,

Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America, 3rd edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012); Lila J. Rupp, *A Desired Past: A Short History of Same-Sex Love in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1999); Rebecca Jennings, *A Lesbian History of Britain: Love and Sex Between Women Since 1500* (Oxford: Greenwood World Publishing, 2007); Matt Houllbrook, *Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005); and George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (New York: Basic Books, 1995).

- 103 Sarah Carter, *Lost Harvests: Prairie Indian Reserve Farmers and Government Policy* (Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1990).