

Louis Riel, the mere mention of his name brings on debate. The debate can take on many themes. It may be Canadian geography, religion, politics or law, but the debate will be hard and long. Think of Canadians, famous or infamous. Pick a name and ask yourself : "How many books were written about this person?" Was there an opera written about the person? How many stage plays, movies, documentaries, TV series? How many statues erected in the persons honour? Was there a postage stamp bearing his image? Were buildings, a village, a college, streets and roads named after this Canadian you think of? Yes, and sports teams, schools to add to the list. Louis Riel is likely the sole Canadian to meet this impressive list. The following pages offer a brief insight into the life and times of Louis Riel. Each year another entry is made, as the debate continues. Louis Riel will find his correct place in our history. Hope you enjoy reading these pages.

Dennis J. Fisher - Saskatoon

RIEL CHRONOLOGY-1844 to 2000

- 1817 - June 7 - Louis Riel born - Ile à la Crosse - Rupert's Land - son of Jean-Baptiste Riel
1844 - Jan.21 - Louis Riel (Sr.) marries Julie Lagimodiere - To this union 11 children were born -
1844 - Louis Riel - born Oct. 22/23 - died Nov.16. 1885
1846 - Elie - died in infancy
1847 - Philomène - died in infancy
1848 - Sara - born Oct.11th - died Dec.27, 1883 at Isle à la Crosse
1850 - Marie - born Oct.23, - died Jan. 25, 1873 - never married
1852 - Octavie - died Dec. 4, 1890 -
1853 - Eulalie - born Sept. 15, 1853 - died Feb. 10, 1931
1854 - Charles - born Nov. 4, 1854 - died Nov. 4, 1875 - "Meunier"
1857 - Joseph - born May 2, 1857 - died May 27, 1921
1861 - Henriette - born July 26, 1861 - died Aug. 12, 1898
1863 - Alexandre - born Feb. 22, 1863 - died Sept. 21, 1938
1844 - Oct.22/23 - Louis Riel born and baptized - Saint Boniface, Red Deer River district
1845 - 1848 - Two younger children born - die in infancy
1847 - Louis Riel Sr. begins mill operation at the Junction of the Seine & Red Rivers- a failure
1848 - Oct.11 - Louis's sister Sara is born at St. Boniface, Red River - later changed her name,
1849 - May 17 - Riel leads Metis at Guillaume Sayer's trial
1852 - Riel home is inundated in spring flood
1853 - April 1 - Louis enters Grey Nuns' school -St. Boniface
1854 - Dec.1 - Louis enters Christian Bros. school -St. Boniface
1854 - 1855 - Riel Sr. begins second mill operation
1856 - Mar.25 - Louis Riel makes first communion
1857 - Sept.1 - Louis Riel begins to study Latin -
1858 - May 23 - Louis Riel confirmed by Bishop Tache
1858 - June 1 - Riel leaves home to attend college in Que. Sees father en route (Minn.)- their last
encounter - July 15 - Riel & two Metis boys arrive in Montreal
1864 - Jan.15 - Riel enters first poem in his notebook
1864 - Jan.21 - Louis Riel(Sr.) dies - Louis spends time with Lee family - Montreal relatives.
1864 - Dec. - Does well with college exams. Riel sees John Atkinson about a commercial
career. Riel gives up his religious vocation.
1865 - March 8 - Riel expelled from College of Montreal He goes to live with Lees - seeks work
1866 - Jan./Mar - Riel writes three epistles seeking patronage from G.E.Carter
1866 - March - Riel begins to read law - LaFlamme firm
1866 - June 12 - Riel & Marie-Julie Guernon agree to marry.
1866 - June 19 - Marie-Julie's parents forbid the marriage - Louis Riel leaves Montreal -
1866 - 1868 - Riel spend two years in Minnesota. Little known about this period of his life.
1868 - July 26 - Riel arrives at St. Boniface via Pembina
1869 - Feb.25 - Le Nouveau Monde publishes Riel letter that criticizes the view of Charles Mair
1869 - March -Riel considers returning to Minnesota
1869 - August - Riel rises to lead of Metis movement, organizing it - acts as secretary.
1869 - Oct.1 - House of Commons passes Act for Temporary Govt. of Rupert's Land. by
Lt.Governor and Council.William McDougall appointed Lt.Gov
1869 - Oct.11 - Metis led by Riel & Baptiste Tourond stop government surveyors on Nault land.
1869 - Oct.16 - Metis meet to organize in St. Norbert. Riel elected Sect'y. -John Bruce - Pres.
1869 -Oct.21 - Riel issues order to Lt.Gov.McDougall not to enter NWT without permission of the National
Committee of
the Metis of the Red River. Barrier erected at Rivière Sale
1869 - Oct.25 - Riel & John Bruce summoned to appear before new Council of Assiniboia
1869 - Oct.30 - McDougall arrives in Pembina & receives Riel's order not to enter Rupert's Land
1869 - Nov.2 - Metis patrol headed by Ambroise Lépine turns back McDougall- occupy Ft. Garry
1869 - Nov.16 - Convention - 24 delegates meet for a week -Inconclusive on the future of Red River.
1869 - Nov.23 -Riel suggests forming provisional government to replace Council of Assiniboia
1869 - Dec.1 - McDougall crosses into HBC territory & reads Royal Proclamation annexing the NWT to Canada
& making him Lt. Governor.Meeting at Ft.Garry draws up a "List of Rights"
1869 - Dec. 8 - Metis declare a Provisional Government in the Red River. Riel issues the
Declaration of the People of Ruperts Land and the NW. "
1869 -Dec.22 - Riel seizes HBC funds after Gov.MacLavish refuses to give him a loan.

- 1869 -Dec.27 - Riel is elected president of Provisional Government after John Bruce resigns.
- 1869 -Dec.27 - Donald A. Smith arrives at Fort Garry.
- 1870 -Jan.19 - Riel, Smith and others address a mass open-air meeting at Ft.Garry. Temp:-25F
- 1870 -Jan.26 - Convention of 40 Metis delegates convenes for two weeks
- 1870 -Jan.29 - Second list of rights is presented to the convention. (See Dec.1,1869 for first list)
- 1870 -Feb.3 - Riel proposes to convention that it should demand provincial status immediately.
A vote defeats the suggestion.
- 1870 -Feb.10 - Convention ends. Provisional Government is established with Riel as president.
Three delegates are chosen to go to Ottawa.
- 1870 - Feb.16 - Norbert Parisien kills Hugh Sutherland while attempting to escape from the party of men brought by C.A.Boulton from Portage La Prairie to overthrow Riel.
- 1870 - Feb.18 - Boultons party is captured and imprisoned.
- 1870 - Feb.24 - Riel falls ill with "brain fever" for several days.
- 1870 - Mar.3 - Thomas Scott tried by court martial, in captivity, for "insubordination"
- 1870 - Mar.4 - Thomas Scott executed by Metis firing squad.
- 1870 - Mar.15/16- All prisoners released by Provisional Govt.
- 1870 -Mar.23 - Father Richot & Alfred Scott leave Red River for Ottawa.
Judge John Black leaves next day.
- 1870 -Mar.24 - Riel & other members of Provisional Govt. take oaths of office before Chief Justice J.Ross
- 1870 -April 8 - Ft.Garry is returned to HBC -business resumes
- 1870 -May 9 - Assembly of Provisional Government adjourns. No date set for next sitting.
- 1870 -May 12 - The Manitoba Act receives royal assent. Manitoba to be a Province.
- 1870 -May 12 - Adams Archibald appointed Lt.Gov. of Manitoba and the North-West Territories.
- 1870 -May 21 - First soldiers of the Red River Expedition leave Toronto
- 1870 - June 17 - Father Richot arrives back in Fort Garry
- 1870 - June 24 - The Assembly of the Provisional Government accepts entry into Confederation.
- 1870 - July 15 - Red River enters Canada as the Province of Manitoba.
- 1870 - Aug. 24 - Riel flees Fort Garry as Col.Wolseley's expedition approaches.
- 1870 -Sept.2 - Lt.Governor Archibald arrives in Ft.Garry
- 1870 -Sept.13 - Elzear Goulet drowns in the Red River while fleeing from Ontario militiamen.
Goulet was a member of the Thomas Scott court Martial.
- 1870 - Sept.17 - Riel, who had been staying at St.Joseph, Dakota, comes secretly to St. Norbert to chair a Metis meeting. It is agreed to send a petition to U.S. President Grant.
- 1870 - Nov. - Louis Riel declines invitations to run in Manitoba's first provincial elections.
- 1871 - Feb. - Riel is seriously ill for several weeks. He vows to make a retreat
to consider his religious vocation.
- 1871 - May 3 - Riel arrives home in St. Vital
- 1871 - June 19 - Riel's sister Sara leaves Red River to go Ile-a-la-Crosse as a missionary nun.
- 1871 - Oct. - Riel cooperates in preparations to repel the Fenian invasion of Manitoba
organized by William O'Donoghue.
- 1871 - Dec. - While Riel is attending a meeting to form the St. Jean Baptiste Society,
armed men invade his house.
- 1872 - Feb.25. - Riel & Ambrose Lepine leave St.Vital for St.Paul,Minn. They have been urged to go by Bishop Tache. They also received money from the P.M. & Donald Smith
- 1872 -Mar.2 - Riel & Lepine arrive in St. Paul,Minn
- 1872 -Mar.9 - Province of Ontario offers \$5000.00 reward for apprehension
of those implicated in the death of Thomas Scott
- 1872 -Mar.19 - John Mager & Wm.Devlin sign affidavit that they were offered money to steal
Riel's papers relating to uprising of 1879 by Brown and Schultz
- 1872 -April 28 -Riel & Lepine go to Breckenridge, Minnesota
- 1872 -May 17 - Riel writes to Joseph Dubuc saying he would like to run for House of Commons
- 1872 -July 5 - Riel returns to Red River intending to run for House of Commons.
- 1872 -Sept.14 - Several Schultz followers swear out warrant for the arrest of
Riel & A.Lepine for the "murder" of Thomas Scott
- 1872 -Sept.14 - Riel resigns nomination in the riding of Provencher in favour of George Cartier.
- 1872 -Nov. - Sara Riel cured of severe chest inflammation after praying to the Blessed
Marguerite-Marie Alacoque. Sara promised to change her name to Marguerite-Marie.
- 1872 -Dec.3 - Riel escapes an attempt to arrest him on the order of newly appointed Lt.Gov.Morris.
- 1873 - Jan.3 - Riel & Lepine send letter to Lt.Gov.Morris outlining Metis grievances. First
petition from Metis to Govt. of Canada regarding land distribution.
- 1873-Jan.25 - Riel's sister Marie dies. (a teacher -she never married)
- 1873 - April - Riel makes his long-postponed retreat, and gives up the idea of a religious vocation.
- 1873 -May - Sister Sainte -Therese confers on Riel a blessing left for him by his late father.
Riel interprets this as ratification of his choice of a political rather than a religious career.
- 1873 -May 20 - Sir George Cartier dies in England, leaving Provencer seat vacant.
- 1973 -May 23 - Establishment of North-West Mounted Police....the N.W.M.P.
- 1873 -Sept.14 - Several Canadians meet at the office of F.Cornish to arrange for the arrest of Riel. A warrant is issued.

- 1873 -Sept.15 - Riel escapes arrest but Ambroise Lepine is arrested on his farm. Riel hides in woods of riverbank opposite St. Norbert. Lepine is jailed in Fort Garry.
- 1873 -Oct.13 * Louis Riel is elected MP for Provencher by acclamation. After the meeting he returns to hiding.
- 1873 -Oct.21 - Riel leaves St. Vital for the United States en route to Montreal.
- 1873 -Dec.22 - Ambroise Lepine is released on \$8000.00 bail posted by Metis.
- 1873 -Dec. - Riel meets Father Fabien Barnabe and his sister Evelina in Keeseville, New York.
- 1874 -Jan.8 - Riel visits Bishop Ignace Bourget at the Hotel Dieu of Montreal. His health improves after the Bishop blesses him, which Riel interprets as a miracle. He goes to stay with the Lee family & later A.Desjardins
- 1874 -Jan.22 - Riel's pamphlet L'Amnistie is published in the *Nouveau Monde*.
- 1874 -Feb.13 * Riel is elected MP for Provencher for the second time. *****
- 1874 -Feb.14 - Ambroise Lepine appears before Chief Justice E.B.Wood on a charge of murder.
- 1874 -Mar.30 - Riel, who has travelled from Montreal to Hull crosses into Ottawa. He enters the House of Commons & is sworn in by the Clerk. He then returns to Montreal.
- 1874 -April 9 - Motion that Louis Riel be expelled from the House of Commons is passed.
- 1874 -April 10- House of Commons Select Committee on the causes of the Difficulties in the NWT meets and hears representations till May 21.
- 1874 - May -Riel makes a trip to St. Paul, Minnesota for reasons unknown.
- 1874 - July -Riel visits Edmond Mallet in Washington,D.C. He also visits several cities in New England to speak to French-Canadian audiences.
- 1874 -Sept.3 * Riel is re-elected in absentia in a by-election in Provencher.
- 1874 - Sept. - Riel makes a tour of Quebec, visiting several Bishops to seek their support.
- 1874 -Oct/Nov - Ambroise Lepine trial - Lepine convicted of the murder of Thomas Scott and sentenced to death. Riel's movements are difficult to trace in the Autumn of 1874.
- 1874 - Dec. - Riel again in Washington. He leaves to visit friends in New York & New England.
- 1875 -Jan.15 -Lepine's death sentence is commuted by the Gov. General to two years and loss of political rights.
- 1875 -Feb.12 -Alexander MacKenzie's motion for conditional amnesty for Riel and Lepine passes in the House of Commons - 126 to 50. Riel is again expelled from Parliament and is exiled from British possessions for five years.
- 1875 -April - Riel visits Alphonse Desjardins in Montreal and returns to Keeseville.
- 1875 -July 14 - Bishop Bourget writes to Riel the letter that will become the foundation for his prophetic "mission".
- 1875 -Sept. - Riel again visits Montreal even though his presence is illegal.
- 1875 -Oct. -Riel goes to Indianapolis seeking interview with Senator Oliver P. Morton.
- 1875 -Nov.4 - Riel's brother Charles dies. Never married he died of an infection on his 21st birthday.
- 1875 - Dec. - Riel is in Washington to try and get American support for an invasion of Western Canada.The attempt fails.
- 1875 -Dec.8 -Riel undergoes a spiritual experience in Washington, which he later considers the commencement of his mission. Other mystical experiences follow in rapid succession.
- 1875 -Dec.16 -Edmond Mallet takes Riel to stay with Father J.B.Primreau in Worcester, Mass.
- 1875 -Dec.24 -Father Primreau takes Riel to stay with Father Evariste Richer in Suncook, N.H.
- 1876 - Jan.2 - -Mgr.Bourget writes to Riel, emphasizing he should never leave "the path which divine Providence has laid out for you". Riel takes this as further proof of his mission.
- 1876 - Jan.29 -Riel's uncle John Lee brings him from Keeseville to Montreal. He is placed under virtual house arrest.
- 1876 -March 6 -Riel is committed to the Hospital of St.Jean de Dieu at Longue Pointe by Dr.E.P.Lachapelle under the name of Mr.Louis R. David.
- 1876 - March/May -Riel writes repeatedly to Bishop Bourget about his revelations and implores to be set free. He struggles violently with hospital authorities.
- 1876 -May 19 -Riel is transferred from the hospital to the asylum at Beauport, near Quebec City. At first he struggles with the hospital authorities, but gradually he becomes more subdued. He is allowed many privileges. He writes prolifically about his revelations.
- 1876 -Nov./Dec.- Archbishop Tache visits Riel at Beauport, thereafter he resumes postal contact with his family.
- 1878 -Jan.23 - Riel is released from Beauport and goes to Keeseville, New York.
- 1878 -Jan./Nov. -Riel stays with the Barnabe family in Keeseville, making some visits to other friends. He thinks of selling his Red River property and becoming a farmer in the United States. He falls in love with Evelina Barnabe and they secretly pledge to marry.
- 1878 -Sept./Nov. -Riel visits New York City, ostensibly to find work, possibly also to seek alliance with the Fenians.
- 1878 -November - Late in the month, Riel travels to St. Paul
- 1878 -Dec. - Riel discusses a colonization scheme with Bishop John Ireland.
- 1879 -Jan. - Riel travels to Pembina & then to St. Joseph where he will spend the next several months at the farm of Norman Gingras. Friends and relatives from Manitoba come to see him.
- 1879 -August - In the middle of the month Riel leaves for Montana. En route he makes a detour to Wood Mountain, probably to meet with the Sioux who have taken refuge in Canada.
- 1880 -Jan./May - Riel joins a group of Metis Buffalo hunters in Northern Montana. They winter on the Milk River. Riel tries to unite the Metis & Indian tribes for a spring invasion of Western Canada, but the plan aborts.

- 1880- Aug 6 - At a mass meeting of Metis on the Musselshell River, a petition is drawn up to request a Metis reservation in Montana.
- 1880-Aug 20 -Riel personally presents the petition to Col. Nelson Miles at Fort Keogh.
- 1880-Oct 21 - CPR begins construction of a transcontinental railroad in Canada.
- 1880-1883 - Riel wanders with the Metis across central Montana, finally settling at Carroll. Here he supports himself as a sub-trader, taking goods on account from trading companies and exchanging them for buffalo robes. His movements in this period are poorly documented.
- 1880-1881 - The Metis winter at Flat Willow Creek, a tributary of the Musselshell.
Riel is a sub-agent for trader James Willard Schultz.
- 1881-April 28 - Riel marries Marguerite Monnet dit Bellehumeur - *à la mode du pays*
- 1882-March 9- Louis & Marguerite solemnize their marriage in a religious ceremony at St. Peter's Mission -MT.
- 1882-March - Riel reports the liquor-trafficking of Simon Pepin to Deputy Marshall John Beidler. Repeats report in April.
- 1882-May 9 - Marguerite gives birth to a son, Jean near Carroll, Montana. Jean later raised by Uncle Joseph Riel
- 1882-June - Riel is appointed a special deputy marshall following his petitions about the problem of liquor-trafficking.
- 1882-Oct 15 - Evelina Barrabe writes Riel, expressing her shock at his marrying another woman.
- 1882-Nov 7 -The U.S. Congressional elections are held. Riel had campaigned diligently for the Republicans in Montana.
- 1882-Dec.21 - Riel writes to the Helena Weekly Herald to clear him of accusations of vote fraud.
- 1883-Mar.16 - Riel appears before Judge Wade of District Court of Montana. Having been a resident of the U.S. since Jan.24,1878, he is granted American citizenship.
- 1883-April -Riel is hired as school teacher at St. Peters Mission on the Sun River. (northwest of Great Falls)
- 1883- April 12 -Riel writes a letter to Helena Weekly Herald concerning sale of whiskey to Metis.
- 1883-May - Sheriff Healy arrests Riel for complicity in election frauds. He is briefly imprisoned at Fort Benton
- 1883 June/July - Riel visits Winnipeg to attend the wedding of his sister Henriette (July 10).
He hears of the discontent in the Saskatchewan district.
- 1883-Sept.17 - A daughter is born to Louis & Marguerite Riel She is named Marie-Angelique.
- 1883-Sept.27//28 -Riel appears in court at Fort Benton on the charge of electoral fraud, but the case is held over till spring of next year.
- 1883 -Dec.27 - Riel's sister Sara dies of tuberculosis at Ile-a-la-Crosee, District of Saskatchewan.
- 1884 -Mar-24 -Metis of St.Laurent(Sask) meet at Abraham Montours house in Batoche.The idea of bringing in Riel to act as their political advisor and leader is raised and accepted.
- 1884 -Mar-30 - Government of Canada names a committee to investigate troubles in the North-West.
- 1884 - March - Riel's prosecution of Simon Pepin for selling liquor to the Metis fails.
- 1884 -March/April -Riel has numerous and intense spiritual experiences in this period.
He goes through extremes of exaltation and depression.
- 1884 -April 16 -The case against Riel for vote fraud is dismissed.
- 1884 -May 6 -A meeting of white settlers & English half-breeds is held at the Lindsay School House. Five Metis leaders also attend. A resolution is adopted that Riel's assistance be sought.
- 1884 -May 18 - A delegation of Metis leaves Batoche to visit Riel at St.Peter's Mission in Montana.
- 1884 - June 4 - Riel greets the delegation from Saskatchewan district. Gabriel Dumont, Moise Ouellette, Michel Dumas and James Isbister invite Riel to Batoche.
- 1884 - June 5 - Riel presents written reply, saying he will return with them to Saskatchewan.
- 1884 -June 10 -The Riel family leave the Sun River for Saskatchewan .They are accompanied by the Metis delegation.
- 1884 - July 1 - The Riel family arrives at Fish Creek where they are met by a Metis group of about fifty wagons.
The families stays at the Tourond home.
- 1884 -July 8 - Riel addresses a group of Metis assembled at the home of Charles Nolin in Batoche.
- 1884 -July 11 -Riel addresses a group of English half-breeds and settlers at the Lindsay School.
- 1884 -July 19 -Riel speaks to a public meeting in Treston Hall in Prince Albert.
- 1884 -July 23 -William H. Jackson writes to Riel asking him to prepare the petition of grievances of the settlers and Metis.
(Jackson later became Riel's secretary.)
- 1884 -July 28 -Jackson issues a manifesto of the grievances and objectives of the Settlers' Union
with an explanation of the role of Louis Riel.
- 1884 - August - Big Bear and other Indian leaders meet in council at Fort Carlton.
- 1884 -Aug.21 - Riel meets with Big Bear at Jackson's house in Prince Albert.
- 1884 -Sept.1 - Bishop Vital Grandin arrives in St. Laurent. He is accompanied by Amedee Forget,
clerk of the North-West Council.
- 1884 -Sept.5 - Riel meets with Bishop Grandin, telling him of his disappointment with the Church support
- 1884 -Sept.6 - Gabriel Dumont meets with Forget & Grandin at Joseph Vandal's house at Gabriels Crossing. He tells them of people's support for Riel & gives Grandin a memo from Riel outlining the movement's objectives.
- 1884 -Sept.24 -First celebration of the feast of St.Joseph as special patron saint of the Metis
is held at St.Anthony's Church near Batoche.
- 1884 -Oct.1 - Riel sends out several draft copies of the petition of grievances.

- 1884 -Nov.8 - Riel & his family, who have been staying with Charles Nolin (his cousin) in St. Louis de Langevin, move to Moise Ouellettes house in St. Laurent.
- 1884 -Dec.12 Riel asks Father Andre to approach the Canadian government on his behalf regarding money he feels the government owes him.
- 1884 -Dec.16- Riel's petition of grievances is sent to the Secretary of State.
- 1884 -Dec.23 -Father Andre & D.H.MacDowall, representative of the District of Lorne in the Territorial Council visit Batoche and visit with Riel. He says he has a claim on the government suggesting a figure of \$35,000 as first installment.
- 1885 -Jan.14 -Riel goes to Prince Albert with Nolin & Lepine. Sees Andre & MacDowall again.
- 1885 - Jan.27- Riel and Dumont approach Maxime Lepine and Charles Nolin demanding that as a sign of dissatisfaction with the government, they remove their tender to build the telegraph line from Edmonton to Duck Lake.
- 1885 -Feb.4 -Governor Dewdney receives a telegram from Ottawa stating that the government is prepared to enumerate the Metis for possible distribution of scrip.
- 1885 -Feb.8 -Riel sees a telegram from Dewdney to Nolin announcing the government's intention.
- 1885 -Feb.24 -A public meeting is held in St.Anthony's Church to discuss future action.
Riel suggests he will return to the U.S., but the crowd convinces him to stay.
- 1885 -Mar.1 - Riel speaks from the steps of the church in St.Laurent promising new tactics in dealing with Ottawa. He says he has the backing of "a vast multitude of nations."
- 1885 -Mar.2 -Riel goes to Prince Albert with Napoleon Nault & Damase Carriere. He is seeking, but does not get, Father Andre's permission to proclaim a provisional government.
- 1885 -Mar.5 -Riel and ten others hold a secret meeting at which they sign an oath to take up arms if necessary.
- 1885 -Mar.10 - A novena is begun at St. Laurent to allow time for deliberation.
- 1885 -Mar.18 -Riel takes control of the church at St. Anthony's, proclaiming "Rome is fallen."
Hostages are taken and telegraph lines cut.
- 1885 -Mar.19 -St. Josephs Day. The Exovedate is formed, its members being nominated by Riel and Dumont and ratified by the Metis crowd.
- 1885 -Mar.21 - Riel sends a letter to Major.L.N.Crozier of the NWMP demanding surrender of Fort Carlton.
- 1885 -Mar.22 - A Meeting of English settlers of the Ridge and St. Catherine's is held.
It is decided that they will remain neutral in any armed conflict.
- 1885 -Mar.26 -"Battle of Duck Lake". The Metis defeat the NWMP & Prince Albert volunteers at Duck Lake. Isadore Dumont (Gabriels brother) among dead.
- 1885 -Mar.28 - NWMP reinforcements under Colonel A.G.Irvine reach Prince Albert.
- 1885 -April 2 -Big Bear's Indians kill eight at Frog Lake.
- 1885 -April 6 -Major General F.Middleton sets out from Fort Qu'Appelle. Cold & windy weather.
- 1885 -Apr.11 -Middleton's sends a column, led by Col.Otter from Swift Current toward Battleford.
- 1885 -Apr.13 -Troops reach Humboldt -now numbered 800 men
- 1885 -Apr.19 -FathersVegreville & Moulin and six nuns held prisoner in St.Antoine Presbytery.
- 1885 -Apr.20 -Middleton's troops reach Clark's King. Separate into 2 columns - each side of river.
- 1885 -Apr.24 -Metis await troops at Touronds Coulee (Fish Creek) Ambush troops and set back Middleton
- 1885 -Apr.30 -The priests held prisoner at Batoche denounce the religious innovations of the Exovedate. They excommunicate Riel and his followers.
- 1885 -May 1 -Riel receives a letter of support from Chief Poundmaker via a messenger.
- 1885 -May 2 -Battle of Cut Knife Hill -Col. Otter's troops engage Chief Poundmakers Indians & retreat.
- 1885 -May 9 -Canadian Militia in armed conflict with Metis at Batoche, NWT - Canons and Gatling Gun employed
- 1885 May 12 -Battle of Batoche- Three day encounter ends with Metis lines broken and Metis defeat.
Riel, Dumont and others slip away from enemy lines and go into hiding.
- 1885 -May 15 -Riel gives himself up to three scouts (Diehl, Armstrong & Hourie) take him to Middleton at Batoche camp. Riel is photographed by Capt. Peters beside tent on riverbank
- 1885 -May 17 -Riel leaves Batoche aboard steamer Northcote with destination of Regina.
Stop in Saskatoon - Marr residence used as field hospital.
- 1885 -May 22- Romuald Fiset writes to Riel,telling him that Riel Defence Committee has arranged for him to be defended by Francois Lemieux, Charles Fitzpatrick and J.N. Greenshields.
- 1885 -May 23 -Poundmakers and band surrender at Battleford
- 1885 -May 23 -Riel arrives at NWMP barracks in Regina. He is placed in solitary confinement under the command of Inspector R.B.Deane.
- 1885 -May 26 -Gabriel Dumont & Michel Dumas are taken into custody and jailed by U.S.Cavalry at Fort Assiniboine (Havre) Montana. President G. Cleveland frees them and they make their way to Fort Benton. Dumont and mount were photographed at this time.
- 1885 -May 28 -Big Bear & his men are engaged by Major Gen. T.B.Strange at Frenchman's Butte.
- 1885 -June 24 -Riel writes to Edgar Dewdney and R.B.Deane asking that he be tried before the Supreme Court of Canada.
- 1885 -June 30 -Riel's sister Henriette, writes , telling him that his family has arrived in St. Vital, but that they are in very poor health
- 1885 - July 2 -Big Bear surrenders at Fort Carlton
- 1885 -July 6 - Riel is formally charged with High Treason, from 400 year old Treason Act of Edward III
- 1885 -July 20 -Riel's trial opens in Regina before Judge Hugh Richardson. It is adjourned for a week to allow the defence time to prepare for case

- 1885 -July 24 -William H. Jackson, Riels secretary is tried for complicity in the Rebellion. He is found not guilty on the grounds of insanity. (later known as 'Honre Jaxon')
- 1885-July 28 -Riel's trial reconvenes. Jury of six is chosen as per North West Territories Act
- 1885 -Aug. 1 -Riel is found guilty by his jury, but with the recommendation for mercy.
Judge Richardson sentences him to be hanged on Sept.18th.
- 1885 -Aug.5 -Riel signs a recantation of his heresies.
- 1885 -Aug./Nov. In prison in Regina and awaiting execution, Riel writes prolifically:
letters, diaries and last major essay,"Les Metis du Nord Ouest"
- 1885 -Sept.9 - The Manitoba Court of Queens Bench rejects Riel's appeal.
- 1885 - Oct.21- Riel's third child,a boy,is born at St.Vital but lives less than three hours.
- 1885 -Oct.22 - The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council rules against Riel's appeal.
- 1885 -Oct.31 -Three doctors are appointed to examine Riel with regard to his mental condition.
- 1885 -Nov.6 - Riel writes his will.
- 1885 -Nov.9 -The medical commission, having interviewed Riel Nov.7 & 8,telegraphs its report to the Prime Minister. The commission is divided on the question of Riel's sanity but the Cabinet decides to proceed with the death penalty. Commissions reports will later be abridged when released to the House of Commons.
- 1885 -Nov.15 -Sheriff S.E.Chapleau informs Riel that he will be executed the following morning.
- 1885-Nov.16 - 5:00am -Riel rises and attends a special mass being said in the prison.
7:00am -Father McWilliams, a former class-mate of Riel's in Montreal, helps to administer last rites
8:00am -Sheriff Gibson arrives at Riel's cell to conduct him to the scaffold. Riel replies that he is ready.
8:18am -Riel executed by hanging. Hangman was Jack Henderson , a Scottish freighter
8:22am -Coroner H.Dodds pronounces Louis Riel dead.
- 1885 -Nov.19 -Simple funeral held for Riel in St.Mary's Church in Regina. Body in coffin then placed beneath the floor of the chapel. Rumours corpse had been mutilated false. Some hair & moccasins taken. 1885 - Dec.9 - Riel's coffin secretly placed in CPR freight car and taken to St.Boniface, Manitoba - Pascal Bonneau accompanies Riel's body during his last trip from the Northwest.
- 1885 -Dec.11 -For two days Riel lay in state in his mothers house in St.Vital.
Hundreds of Metis pay last respects to the man they honoured.
- 1885 - Dec.12 -Riel's coffin on the shoulders of Metis is carried six miles in the snow to St.Boniface.
Requiem Mass sung by Father Dugast ,Archbishop Tache - St.Boniface Cathedral
Riel buried in the grounds of Basilica.
- 1886 -April 24 -Marguerite Riel dies in St. Vital.
- 1897 -June 5 -Marie-Angelique Riel dies of diphtheria.
- 1905 -Sept.6 -Province of Saskatchewan proclaimed
- 1906 -May 6 -Gabriel Dumont dies near Saint Isadore de Bellevue - buried in Batoche church cemetery
- 1908 -Mar.25 -Jean Riel marries Laura Casault in Quebec
- 1908 -July 31 -Jean Riel dies in St.Boniface of complications after a carriage accident. No children.
- 1923 -June 8 -Ambroise Lepine dies at St. Boniface
- 1936 - -George G. Stanley's Oxford doctoral thesis published under title "The Birth of Western Canada". First major work on Riel, et al.
- 1950 -CBC Radio broadcast"Riel" a play by J.Coulter
- 1967 -Opera "Riel" by Mavor Moore & Harry Somers , produced at O'Keefe Centre (Ont)
- 1968 -P.M.Trudeau unveils Riel statue in Regina
- 1970 -June 19 - Canada issues Postage Stamp (six cent) honouring Riel
- 1971 - April 22 - Riel's diary auctioned in Montreal -Ritz Carlton Hotel - Gene Reheaume buys for \$26,500
DJF attended auction. Later had diary - photos of sons with diary, on back step.
- 1978 -AMNSIS at Batoche seek pardon for Riel "Justice Must be Done" submitted Nov.16,1978
- 1979 -CBC-TV produces and broadcasts -five hour fictional "Riel"
- 1984 - Feb 24 - Province of Saskatchewan acquires Riel diary - cost \$75,000 - replica made for Metis Assn.
- 1984 - Centenary of "Riel Rebellion" ...Saskatchewan establishes 'NorthWest Centennial Committee'
- 1984 - City of Saskatoon establishes "Commemorate '85" - to recognise the Centennial of 1885
- 1985 - Jan. - 'Commemorate '85 ' commissions Bill Epp to produce statue of Gabriel Dumont & mount. (\$40M)
- 1985 - May 6 - Canada Post issues stamp (32¢) honouring Gabriel Dumont - Batoche - 1885 -
- 1989 -Tories pass resolution at national convention naming Riel as a Father of Confederation.
- 1992 -March -Govt. of Canada recognizes Louis Riel as the founder of Manitoba.
- 1992/93 -Some Riel statues put in storage - Metis complain about design and interpretation.
- 1994 - Nov.16 -Bloc Quebecois table bill asking to annul the guilty verdict against Riel in 1885.
- 1995 - Oct.19 - Riel papers to be sold by auction at Montreal - 2 papers - one letter of Oct.1885 in which he inquires about the health of his children. As well, an address to provisional government of Manitoba, four days after Scott execution. Star Phoenix -Oct.13th,1995 -both under \$5000.00 Metis Assn. of Manitoba purchased letter.
- 1996 - May 12 - New Riel statue unveiled at Winnipeg. By artist Miguel Joyal.
Old statue by Marcen Lemay was removed.

- 1996 - Dec.10th - Riel's treason conviction stands. Commons voted 11-103 against a Bloc Quebec motion to purge the record of Riel. Several Reform and NDP backed the Bloc's motion along with a few Liberal MPs.\
- 1998 - Jan. - Fed.Govt responds to Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples...Gov't pledges to look for ways to recognize Riel's place in Canadian history. Metis wanted him named as a Father of Confederation. Debate continues.(Star Phoenix pageA10)
- 1998- March 18 -Liberal MP Reg Alcock, Winnipeg prepares another private members bill to clear Riel's name. Bill co-sponsored by a Quebec MP. Wants July 15th to be "Riel Day", also wants a statue erected and scholarships. - Bill C-417 - Dennis Coderre.
- 1999 - March 29 - Jean Teillet, grand niece of Riel tells MNC conference she does not agree with private members bill that would pardon Riel. Conference wants other matters settled first - land claims and self-government.
- 1999 - March 30 - Newly released poll show most Canadians support clearing the name of Riel. Poll done August 1998 for M.P.Ralph Goodale
- 1999 - April 12 - Members of all five parties want to call Riel Father of Confederation. Coderre's bill has signed support of 137 MPs and will be fast-tracked and reach floor for debate later this year. Strongest support in Quebec.
- 1999- April 15 - Hair reportedly clipped from Riel's beard after he was hanged to be returned to descendants. Joseph Riel great-grandnephew to participate in St. Boniface ceremony.
- 1999- July 9, - Metis oppose Riel bill. Efforts distracts focus from rea; problems according to Gerald Morin, President of MNC. Dave Chartrand, President of Manitoba Metis says: "Coderre is operating in a cloak-and -dagger style" The bill has not yet come up for debate.
- 1999 - Aug.10 - RCMP Museum of Regina send strand of rope allegedly used to hang Riel to US laboratory for advanced scientific analysis. The museum has three rope portions on hand. They are not on display and recent tests indicate the three pieces are not from the same rope.
- 1999 - Nov.16th - On 114th anniversary of execution, ceremonies held in many cities across Canada. The most notable...the first time one held in Ottawa. Gov.Gen. Clarkson paid tribute to Riel in a public ceremony. It was her first political act.
- 2000 - Sept.19th - Senator pushes to exonerate Louis Riel - story on Star phoenix. Thelma Chalifoux, first Metis Senator wants to get the private members bill into the upper chamber. This is still the Coderre/Alcock bill of March 1998. It is stalled in the house, never chosen to go to the Senate. Supported by some of five parties in the House of Commons. Chalifoux wants bill in Commons by Christmas. An ongoing page in history.
- 2000 - Nov.16th - 115 anniversary of Riel's death....little news of events in Winnipeg, Quebec or elsewhere across Canada Here in Saskatoon there was a program and dinner held at the Indian Metis Friendship Centre. The event was organized by Metis local, May Henderson involved. We attended and took photos.