

## Reita Hardy's Response to Fort Walsh, Grassland National Park, and Fort Battleford Questions

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1. Reita Hardy (née Vodan), Vanguard, SK. (Originally from Grande Clairière and Lauder District (My addition near Estevan, SK).
2. My grandparents on my father's side—Grandma—Qu'Appelle, SK (Desnominée)' Grandpa—Belgium (Vodon). My grandparents on my Mother's side both came from Belgium (Henry Colleaux)
3. No—we do not speak Michif—(Perhaps my grandmother did). My uncle served in WW II. No. I do not speak Michif.
4. In the English community where I lived in Man. (itoba) the Metis were somewhat ignored. My brothers probably dealt with this in the larger school they went to. More so. As for myself the girls ignored me and also made me feel like an outsider—didn't belong. I had only one true friend during the school years which we still keep in touch with each other.
5. Mostly my immediate family and grandparents and aunts and uncle. They didn't speak much Michif except I remember hearing my dad and uncle speak in patwa (sic—patois).
6. No- I do not know any stories or songs.
7. My family farmed and had cattle.
8. My grandmother probably did, but I was too young to remember.
9. No, not that I know of.
10. My grandmother made woven baskets.
11. We each celebrate in our house as we didn't have much.
12. No. I think they all tried to hide the fact they were Métis.
13. I don't know.
14. No.
15. Not that I know of, since I came from Manitoba.
16. I might suspect my great grandfather might have, I don't know.
17. Unknown. My grandparents.
18. None of our families lived in the Grasslands or Battleford areas at any time.
19. Unknown,
20. No.
21. No.
22. How about a pow-wow like they do at Batoche every year.
23. Not familiar enough with any body except Mrs. Cecile Blanc in Swift Current.
24. No.
25. Don't have any suggestions.

Since I am originally from Manitoba, I am sorry that I wasn't able to answer too many of your questions about the area. We did visit Fort Walsh three years ago and also Batoche about three times in our travels and did enjoy both.

As I said we weren't too welcomed by the English community when I was young, but had great friends in the French speaking community. I spent most of my younger years trying to hide who I was and was ashamed of being a little darker than everyone, also until these past few years when I've learned to appreciate who I am and being proud of it.