

Thomas Sinclair Sr. (1809-1870)

Thomas Sinclair¹ was born circa 1809, the son of Chief Factor William Sinclair (a Scot) and his Cree wife Margaret Nahovway. His older brother was the famous free trader James Sinclair (b. 1805) who led two parties of Red River Settlers to the Oregon Territory in 1841 and 1854.

Thomas first married Hannah Cummings the daughter of North West Company clerk Cuthbert Cummings and Susette McKee (English-Metis) on February 9, 1832 at St. John's. Hannah died October 23, 1846. He then married Caroline Pruden on April 3, 1850 at St. John's. He had seven children with Hannah and six more children with Caroline Pruden. Thomas was a Magistrate and Councillor of Assiniboia. He was a boat brigade captain who worked as an independent freighter and trader out of St. Andrews and he also operated a windmill near the rapids on the Red River in St. Andrews parish. He died on March 23, 1870 after a long illness, and the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia made a motion of condolences to the family on March 26, 1870 and noted that his son, Thomas Sinclair Jr. was to continue with the offices held by his father.



“Old” Thomas Sinclair

Children with Hannah Cummings:

- William, born December 6, 1832 at St. Andrews. He married Jane McDonald.

¹ Thomas Sinclair Sr. is identified as living somewhere on Lots 58-59 at St. Andrews.

- Eliza, born November 1834 at St. John's.²
- Cuthbert Cummings "Cubby",³ born September 1836 at St. John's. He married Mary Jane Mowat.
- Anne, born February 1839 at St. John's.
- Thomas⁴, born April 9, 1841 at St. Andrew's. He married Alice Mathilda Davis, then Harriet Marie Pruden.
- Margaret, born May 23, 1846 at St. Andrews. She married James Robert Clare⁵, then John Berresford Allen.

Children with Caroline Pruden:

- Anne Harriet, born August 13, 1851. She married Andrew Strong.
- John Edward "Jackie", born 1855. He married Lydia McKenzie.
- James Alexander Henry, born June 5, 1858. He married Emily Patten.
- Caroline, born March 17, 1861. She married Fred K. Hershmer.
- Frederick Clare, born June 5, 1865. He married Virginia Adelaide McKay.
- Maria Louise, born August 5, 1868 and died on December 29, 1870 at St. Andrew's.



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² William Sinclair is identified as living somewhere on Lots 58-59 at St. Andrews.

³ Cuthbert is identified as living at Lots 59-60 at St. Andrews.

⁴ The Hon. Thomas Sinclair Jr. is identified as living on Lot 59 at St. Andrews.

⁵ Clare born circa 1827 is identified as living somewhere on Lots 58-59 at St. Andrews.