

Catherine McKay. (b. 1851)

Catherine McKay Clarke was one of the Metis "First Ladies" of the fur trade. She was the wife of Lawrence Clarke when he was Chief Factor HBC at Fort Carlton then chief Factor for the Saskatchewan district at Prince Albert.

Catherine McKay was born on September 20, 1851 at Fort Pelly. She was the daughter of William McKay (b: 16 February, 1818 in Beaver Creek and Mary Cook (b. 1824 in Cumberland House). She was the granddaughter of John Richards McKay (b: 1792 in Moose Factory) and Harriet Ballenden (b. 1802 in York Factory) and on her mother's side granddaughter of Joseph Cook (b.c. 1792 in Rupert's Land) and Catherine Sinclair. Catherine was a sister of Thomas and John McKay of Prince Albert. Catherine married Lawrence Clarke on April 25, 1874 in Prince Albert.

Lawrence Clarke was a HBC fur-trader and office-holder. He was born 26 June 1832 in Fermoy (Republic of Ireland). He first married in 1859 Jane (d. 1870), daughter of John Bell and they had five children; secondly in 1874 Catherine (Katherine) McKay, and they had nine children.

Lawrence Clarke joined the Hudson's Bay Company in Montreal in 1851, after spending several years in the West Indies. He was immediately sent to Fort McPherson (N. W. T.) on the Peel River, and there was promoted to clerk. In 1863 Clarke was transferred to Fort-à-la-Corne, then HBC headquarters on the lower Saskatchewan River. Four years later he went to Fort Carlton as chief trader; he was made factor in 1868 and chief factor in 1875. Three years later, as chief factor of the Saskatchewan District, he moved to Prince Albert where he served until his death on 5 October 1890.

Children of Lawrence Clarke and Catherine McKay:

- Mary Clarke, born March 1, 1875 at Fort Carlton, she married Frederick W Armitage.
- Thomas, born January 4, 1877 at Fort Carlton, he married Aurora McKenzie b: Abt. 1880 m: Abt. 1910, then married Mary Maria Beads b: Bet. 1870 - 1890 m: Aft. 1932 Father: Thomas Beads Mother: Harriet Wills.
- Sedley, born January 27, 1879 at Fort Carlton.
- George, born 1881.
- Douglas, born October 20, 1882 in Prince Albert.
- Alex S., born February 11, 1887 at Prince Albert, died on September 7, 1887.

Lawrence Clarke was first married to Jane Bell (Metis). Jane Bell Clarke was born on 14 May 1856 Fort Rae. She died before 1874 in St John's, Red River Settlement. Her father, John Bell, joined the North West Company in 1818 as an apprentice clerk. His early years with that company, and, following the coalition of 1821, with the Hudson's Bay Company, were spent in the Winnipeg River area. In 1824 Bell was transferred to the company's Mackenzie River District; while there he married Nancy, daughter of Peter Warren Dease, an HBC chief factor. In the winter of 1825-26, Bell was appointed clerk at the company's most northerly post, Fort Good Hope.

Their children were:

- Jane Bell Clarke b: May 14, 1856 in Fort Rae, Northwest Territories. She married Sedley Blanchard on August 01, 1876.
- Aileen Flora Clarke b: December 17, 1857. She married Francis D. Wilson.
- Lawrence John McKenzie Clarke b: December 20, 1859 d: January 03, 1941 in Calgary.
- Christiana Clarke b: January 22, 1862.
- Florence Anne Clarke b: January 22, 1862, she married Hugh Bain.
- Rupert Henry Finlayson Clarke b: December 20, 1864 in Fort-à-la-Corne.
- Augustus Peter Warren Clarke b: August 01, 1867 in Fort-à-la-Corne, died 1944. He married Liza Lizotte b: August 1868 in Fort Vermillion, on September 01, 1891 in Fort-à-la-Corne. She was the daughter of Michel Lizotte and Sophie Tourangeau.

Scrip Records:

Clarke, Thomas McKay; address: Fort McMurray; claim no. 503; born: 4 January, 1877 at Fort Carlton; father: Lawrence Clarke (Irish); mother: Catherine McKay (Métis); scrip cert. no. 1064 A

Clarke, Catherine; for her son, Douglas Clarke; claim no. 464; address: Prince Albert. Saskatchewan; father: Lawrence Clarke (deceased Irish); mother: Catherine McKay (Métis and deponent); born: 20 October, 1882 at Prince Albert; scrip cert.: form E, no. 315 for 240 acres

Clarke, Mary; address: Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; claim no. 403; born: 1 March, 1875 at Carlton, Saskatchewan; father: Lawrence Clarke (Irish); mother: Catherine McKay (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 295 for 240 acres of land

Clarke, Sedley Blanchard; address: Cumberland District; claim no. 900; born: 27 January, 1879 at Carlton, Saskatchewan; father: Lawrence Clarke (Irish); mother: Catherine McKay (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 513 for 240 acres of land.



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