

## **Eleanor Thomas Garneau. (1852-1912).**

Eleanor “Helene” Thomas was born on August 13, 1851 in the Swampy Cree Indian Village, in the Kildonan Parish, Red River Settlement. She died on July 13, 1912 in St. Paul des Métis, Alberta. Her Funeral Service was held on July 18th 1912 at the St Anthony's Church in Edmonton, Eleanor Thomas was the granddaughter of Richard Thomas, a Métis born in the Albany River District west of James Bay in 1800.

Helene and Lawrence married in 1864 at Little Britain Parish, Red River Settlement. She was the daughter of Alexander “Sandy” Thomas (1800-1861) and Victoria Taylor, the daughter of George Taylor and Jane Prince. Lawrence and Helene lived on river lots 96-97 in St. Andrews Parish along with the Taylors. Eleanor died on July 13, 1912 in St. Paul des Métis, Alberta. Her Funeral Service was held on July 18th 1912 at the St Anthony's Church in Edmonton, Alberta. Lawrence subsequently married Emily Hamelin, daughter of Métis voyageur Alexander Hamelin and Angelique Houle.

Helene’s husband Lawrence “Larry” Garneau was born December 1, 1840 in Bay Mills, Minnesota, the son of Louis Garneau and Say-Shaw-Ne-Nie-Se-Ranze. Garneau’s father was Louis Garneau born 1790 north-west of Lake Superior and his mother was Archange Cadotte<sup>1</sup> born 1798 at Rainy Lake. Laurent Garneau started as a trader at age 19 (1859), when he traveled to the Missouri River basin. He was chased out of this area by the Sioux and was actually rescued by Métis buffalo hunters from Pembina. Shortly thereafter he arrived at the Red River Settlement. He served in Riel’s forces during the 1869-70 Resistance.

The children of Eleanor and Lawrence were:

- Victoria, born October 22, 1870 near Lower Fort Garry.
- Louis, born August 21, 1871 in Lower Fort Garry area.
- Edward “Ned”, born April 03, 1872 in Little Britain, Manitoba.
- Henri Joseph, born November 12, 1874 in the North West Territories.
- Archange; born: September 2, 1876 at Strathcona.
- Lawrence, 1878 at Strathcona.
- Alexander, February 22, 1880 at Strathcona.
- Jean Marie, born: November 12, 1883 at Strathcona.
- Agathe, born: December 30, 1885 at Strathcona.
- Charlotte, born: 19 January, 1882 at Strathcona.
- Margaret “Madeleine”, born circa January 1883 in the North West Territories
- Chile "Agathe", born November 12, 1883 in Strathcona District, east of Edmonton.
- John Michel, born December 30, 1885 in Edmonton District.
- Millicent "Millie", born July 04, 1888 in Edmonton District.

Eleanor was the grandmother of Métis patriot Jim Brady. She died on July 13, 1912 at St. Paul des Métis, Alberta. Lawrence then married Emily Hamelin, daughter of Métis

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<sup>1</sup> Both parents were Métis and lived at both Sault Ste. Marie and La Pointe. Archange Cadotte’s father was a Chief Factor for the N.W.C.

voyageur Alexander Hamelin and Angelique Houle.

As part of the Métis exodus from Manitoba in the 1870s, Garneau sold his plots of land in St. Andrews to other Métis, and then he and his family traveled the plains for almost four years before settling in Edmonton in 1874.

In 1901 the Garneaus moved to the St. Paul des Métis colony 150 miles northeast of Edmonton. His sons and sons-in-law followed him to this location. The area they inhabited became known as Garneau Village. Several years later son-in-law James Brady Sr. (married to Garneau's daughter, Philomena)<sup>2</sup> also moved his family to this village.

Jim Brady commented on his grandmother's participation in the 1885 Resistance:

*Riel and his council had sent letters to my grandfather and Vandal inquiring as to the local situation and the degree of support that could be expected from the local Métis. My grandfather (Lawrence) kept this letter to read to some of the Métis sympathizers who were illiterate. My grandmother (Eleanor) was in the kitchen when a sergeant and four constables of the North West Mounted Police galloped into the yard... (They had a warrant for Garneau's arrest and a search warrant for the premises). The sergeant bounded up the stairs to place my grandfather under arrest. The other police immediately ransacked the house. One policeman went to the actual spot where the letter had been hidden. It was evident they were acting on information from an informer. But they found nothing. My grandmother had acted with great presence of mind. She had been laundering when they came into the yard, and she reached up, placed the letter and other incriminating material in the washtub, and calmly destroyed them by rubbing them on the washboard until they were completely disintegrated.*

Family Scrip:

Garneau, Eleanor (Wife of Lawrence Garneau) - Scrip number 4508 - Amount 160.00\$ - Certificate number MS. 1887/06/20. File. RG15-D-II-8-f. Volume/box number: 1396. File number: 143511.

Garneau, Lawrence; for his deceased daughter, Victoria Garneau; claim no. 3092; born: 22 October, 1870 near Lower Fort Garry; address: Strathcona; father: Lawrence Garneau (Métis and deponent); mother: Eleanore Thomas (Métis); died: 18 December, 1899; file ref. 768987.

Garneau, Lawrence; for his children: Jean Marie, born: 12 November, 1883 at Strathcona; Agathe, born: 30 December, 1885 at Strathcona; address: Strathcona; father: Lawrence Garneau (Métis and deponent); mother: Eleanore Thomas (Métis); Jean Marie, scrip cert.: form E, no. 2358; Agathe, scrip cert.: form E, no. 2360; claim no. 3079.

Garneau, Archange; address: Winnipeg; claim no. 1370; born: 2 September, 1876

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<sup>2</sup> Philomena Archange Garneau was born at Strathcona, NWT, September 24, 1876. She lived in Winnipeg from 1898 to the time of her Scrip Application in 1901. She became Alberta's first registered nurse of Métis ancestry. She married James Brady Sr. in Edmonton, on November 28, 1905.

at Strathcona; father: Lawrence Garneau (Métis); mother: Eleanore Thomas (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 3394.

Garneau, Charlotte; address: Strathcona; claim no. 3077; born: 19 January, 1882 at Strathcona; father: Lawrence Garneau (Métis); mother: Eleanore Thomas (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 2340.

Garneau, Alexander; address: Strathcona; claim no. 3076; born: 22 February, 1880 at Strathcona; father: Lawrence Garneau (Métis); mother: Eleanore Thomas (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 2338.

Garneau, Lawrence; address: Strathcona; claim no. 3078; born: 1878 at Strathcona; father: Lawrence Garneau (Métis); mother: Eleanore Thomas (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 2342.

Genealogy Reference:

Eileen Horan at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/MÉTISGEN/2015-04/1428943322>



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