

**Thérèse Marcot LaSaliere Schindler.** (b. 1775)  
**Métis Entrepreneur.**

Thérèse was born around 1775 at Mackinac, the Métis daughter of a Sieur Jean-Baptiste Marcot and Marie Amighissen, the daughter of Kewinaquot an Odawa chief. Her parents were married at Mackinac on July 24, 1776. Thérèse was the second youngest of their children followed by Madeleine (later La Framboise).

The family lived part of the year in St. Joseph where Jean-Baptiste was a fur trader, and summers were spent on Mackinac Island. During the summer of 1786, Thérèse and her younger sister, Madeleine were baptized. When Thérèse was around 14-years-old, she married Pierre LaSaliere, a Canadian voyageur, in an Indian ceremony and of this union Marianne was born. She was baptized in 1799. LaSaliere disappeared from their lives never to return. Their daughter Marianne LaSaliere was born in 1790. Marianne married Henry Munroe Fisher on July 22, 1809. They had a daughter, Elizabeth-Thérèse, born on April 10, 1810 at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

On July 12, 1804, Thérèse married George Schindler, a Mackinac fur trader and a Protestant. They were married in the Catholic Church, and promised to bring up any children of their marriage in the Catholic faith.

Following the example set by her sister, and in the business learned from their father, Thérèse took up the fur trade after her husband's death in 1825. She was an independent fur trader, trading at L'Arbe Croche, the Odawa community closest to Mackinac. Thérèse also supplied a large number of French-Canadian fur traders, Barthe, Chevalier and La Framboise<sup>1</sup> families, all members of her kin network. Thérèse's business was successful mainly from the trade and support with her relatives at Arbre Croche. After the deaths of her sister Madeleine in 1846 and Marianne's in 1853, Thérèse left her home on the island and went to live with her granddaughter, Elizabeth-Thérèse Baird, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she died on October 1, 1855. Her body was returned to Mackinac Island and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery next to her daughter Marianne LaSaliere- Fisher. She was 80 years old.

References:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mimacki2/Therese\\_Schindler.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mimacki2/Therese_Schindler.html).

John E. McDowell. "Therese Schindler of Mackinac: Upward Mobility in the Great Lakes Fur Trade," *The Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Vol. 61, No. 2 (Winter, 1977-1978): 125-143.

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<sup>1</sup> Madeline LaFramboise was the sister of Thérèse Marcot Lasaliere Schindler and a trading competitor in the Grand River Valley. She took over the trading business after her husband was murdered in 1806. She continued to manage several trading posts, and expanded her business throughout the western and northern portions of Michigan's lower peninsula while raising two children on her own.