

Reunion of Descendants of William Grant of Trois-Rivieres with Lord Strathspey
By Anita Grant Steele (submitted to Canada's History Magazine, 2012)

By any standard, Friday, July 13, 2012, was a significant day. For the first time in over two hundred and fifty years, a Chief of Grant and a cadet branch previously known only as the descendants of William Grant of Trois-Rivieres, were reunited – on Canadian soil. Sir James Grant of Grant, Lord Strathspey, officially named the descendants of that cadet branch *The MacRobbie Grants of Trois-Rivieres* and appointed Anita Grant Steele of Whitehorse as their first steward.

William Grant (April 24, Parish of Kirkmichael, Scotland – November 20, 1810, Sorel, Quebec) was about 16 years when he arrived in North America and was in Quebec shortly after the conquest of 1759. Known as William Grant of Trois-Rivieres, he was one of the originators of the North West Company and the senior partner of Grant, Campion and Company.

William's most well known son was Richard Grant (January 20, 1794, Montreal, Quebec – June 21, 1862, Walla Walla, Washington). Richard served with the 2nd Battalion of Select Embodied Militia at Chateaugay in the War of 1812 and achieved the rank of Lieutenant. In 1815, he joined the North West Company as clerk. With the 1831 amalgamation of the North West Company with the Hudson's Bay Company, Richard Grant became part of HBC history. Ultimately, he became Chief Trader of Fort Hall, gateway of the Oregon Trail. Grant's Pass, Oregon, is named for Richard Grant.

Richard Grant married three times: (1) Marie Anne Breland (Metisse, sister of Pascal Breland and step-daughter of Chief Factor John Rowand; had 3 sons, 1 daughter.) (2) Sarah aka Indian Woman At Oxford House (Full blood Chippewa; had 1 son.) (3) Helene Kittson nee McDonald (Daughter of Finnan McDonald and Charlotte Pend'Oreille, the daughter of a Kalispel chief; had 3 daughters.)

Richard's youngest son by Marie Anne Breland was John Francis Grant (January 7, 1833, Fort Edmonton, NWT – May 1, 1907, Edmonton, Alberta). Johnny Grant, as he was known in the U.S., was one of Montana's earliest settlers. The national historic ranch at Deer Lodge, *The Grant-Kohrs Ranch* continues to honour him as the originator of the ranch and, until his move to Manitoba, the owner of the largest cattle ranch in Montana. When he left Montana, it was with 62 wagons, 12 carts, 500 horses (200 were Grant's), 106 men, plus their wives and children. Most, if not all, were Metis, French or Indian.

They arrived in Manitoba in 1867 and Grant settled what is now the area of Carman. Today, John F. Grant and his wife, Clothilde, are recognized as the founding couple of the Carman area and, as such, are featured in the top left hand corner of Carman's Historical Mural. Less well known, but certainly worthy of note, is Johnny's brief political career and his imprisonment by Louis Riel at Lower Fort Garry.

Today, the MacRobbie Grants of Trois-Riviers continue to leave their mark on Canadian history. On January 26, 2012, Sergeant Graham Marc Verrier (November 4, Winnipeg) received the Medal of Military Valour for "selfless, courageous and decisive actions" while serving in Afghanistan.

The MacRobbie Grants of Trois-Rivieres have earned their place in Canadian history and should be a source of pride for all Canadians. For more information about these Grants, please visit:
<http://www.william-grant-of-trois-rivieres-genealogy.ca/index.html>

All of the descendants who attended the Grant Reunion with Lord Strathspey, and pictured in the accompanying group photograph, are descendants of Richard Grant and his first two wives. These guests came from Montana, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Yukon Territory to participate in this once in a lifetime occasion. Three of them: Donald Grant, Emerald Grant and Roy Grant were responsible for the Y-DNA test results which positively determined The MacRobbie Grants of Trois-Rivieres are the same genetic line as the Chiefs of Grant.

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