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Along A River: The First French-Canadian Women



Synopsis

French-Canadian explorers, traders, and soldiers feature prominently in this country's storytelling, but little has been written about their female counterparts. In *Along a River*, award-winning historian Jan Noel shines a light on the lives of remarkable French-Canadian women — immigrant brides, nuns, tradeswomen, farmers, governors' wives, and even smugglers — during the period between the settlement of the St. Lawrence Lowlands and the Victorian era. *Along a River* builds the case that inside the cabins that stretched for miles along the shoreline, most early French-Canadian women retained old-fashioned forms of economic production and customary rights over land ownership. Noel demonstrates how this continued even as the world changed around them by comparing their lives to those of their contemporaries in France, England, and New England. Exploring how the daughters and granddaughters of the *filles du roi* adapted to their terrain, turned their hands to trade, and even acquired surprising influence at the French court, *Along a River* is an innovative and engagingly written history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I chose this book to gain a better understanding of French Canadian history and the challenges faced by women. This was my first introduction to this type of history. I tore through this book and stayed focused with each chapter. The author was able to clearly explain the nature of the roles women played in the home, in the towns they lived and with negotiations to improve their quality of living. I especially like the explanation on how women were able to inherit property and become the powerful women they are in history. My ancestors are part of this history. This book is well

referenced and there are several other books that I may read due to the authors reference. The reference section was as informative as the book.

Being of French-Canadian descent, I couldn't put this book down. Thirty-five of my ancestors are "Fille À Marier" and "Fille du Roi." I always believed that these women must have become strong and independent. This book takes a new, and what I believe, more realistic view of our great grandmothers. If your ancestors came to La Nouvelle France in the 1600s, then you will want to add this book to your library.

While researching my family tree, I discovered many relatives on different sides and lines of my family had immigrated from France and England to Canada in the mid-1600s. I was driven to find out why, how, and what they encountered. The usual histories of those countries did little -- if anything -- in resolving that curiosity. They gave information on battles and fights but not on the actual daily lives of the settlers. This book provides some of that information. However, it failed in the detail I seek. I want to know actual daily activities -- where/how did they get their water, where/how did they prepare their food and meals, how they birthed their babies, how they managed their monthly periods, etc. Of those who were captured by the Indians, how were they treated, what was different about the natural Native culture from the culture they immigrated from? If anyone knows a book that would cover that, please email me.

reading it presently, I like the comparison of the ancient regime with their contemporaries in England and France. very thoughtful and interesting book.

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