

Riel or Real? Two Truths and One Lie

Louis Riel helped create Manitoba decades before Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces.

Red River Settlement is now known as Saskatchewan.

Manitoba is still governed by the Manitoba Act, a legislation that Louis Riel helped create.

This is a lie because...

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Louis Riel was 25 years old when he led the Red River Resistance in 1869.

Louis Riel owned a general store during his time in exile in the American West.

Riel left college in 1864 and found work as a law clerk in Montreal.

This is a lie because...

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Louis Riel's children were raised to be strong Métis leaders and led the Battle of Batoche.

In some battles, Louis Riel was seen riding a horse, carrying a crucifix, and praying out loud.

Louis Riel had one wife and two children.

This is a lie because...

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Louis Riel had a passion for poetry.

Louis Riel was a master fiddler, and created the Red River Jig.

Louis Riel is buried at the St. Boniface Cathedral in Winnipeg

This is a lie because...

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Riel or Real? — Answer Key

LIE: Red River Settlement is now known as Saskatchewan.

Most of the Red River Settlement lies on what is now known as Winnipeg, Manitoba.

LIE: Louis Riel owned a general store during his time in exile in the American West.

During exile, Louis Riel was a school teacher in the American West (Montana).

LIE: Louis Riel's children were raised to be strong Métis leaders and led the Battle of Batoche.

Louis Riel had one wife, Marguerite Monet dit Bellehumeur, and two children Jean-Louis and Marie-Angélique Riel. Both children passed away at a young age.

LIE: Louis Riel was a master fiddler, and created the Red River Jig.

Although it's possible that Louis could have played the fiddle, he was not known as a master fiddler. Also, there are many different stories on the origins of the Red River Jig, some are dated before Louis was born and others when he was still in his youth.