

## Louis Riel: Power of Attorney

Shown below is a Power of Attorney that Louis Riel made out to his mother, Julie Riel on March 5, 1878 while in New York. It is notarized by N.A. Kinney a Notary Public. The document also has an attached Certificate of Proof from the Clerk's Office of Clinton County, State of New York, signed by William J. McCaffrey.

This document was likely made out while Riel was staying at Keeseville, N.Y. This town is located in Clinton County just west of Lake Champlain and is about 90 miles south of Montréal. Upon his release from a mental asylum in Beauport Quebec in 1878 Riel traveled to Keeseville, New York, where he lived with Father Fabien Martin *dit* Barnabé. In time, he fell in love with the priest's sister, Evelina, and the two became secretly engaged.

It is noteworthy that Riel authorizes his mother to sell his lands "of every description" in Manitoba, except "my Metis Rights" by which he is referring to the lands he was entitled to receive under the *Manitoba Act*.

This document was conveyed to the Louis Riel Institute by the Manitoba Land Titles office in 2008.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell  
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research  
Louis Riel Institute  
and  
Randy Ranville  
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Know all Men by these Presents, That

*I Louis Riel*

have made, constituted, and appointed, and BY THESE PRESENTS do make, constitute and appoint

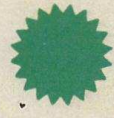
*Julie Riel my Mother of St Nabert  
District Proceched Manitoba my  
true and lawful attorney for me and in my name, place and stead  
to sell and convey all my Lands of every  
description in the Province of Manitoba  
except my Melis Rights*

giving and granting unto *my* said attorney full power and authority to do and perform  
all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully  
to all intents and purposes as *I* might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution  
and revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that *my* said attorney or *her*  
substitute shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

*In Witness Whereof, I* have hereunto set *my* hand and seal the *5<sup>th</sup>* day  
of *March* one thousand eight hundred and *Seventy Eight*

Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

*Louis Riel*



United States of America.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

COUNTY OF *Clatsop*

BE IT KNOWN, that on the *5<sup>th</sup>* day  
of *March* one thousand eight hundred and  
*Seventy Eight* before me personally appeared  
*Louis Riel*

above named, who *is* to me known to be the per-  
son described in and who executed the above Letter of  
Attorney, and acknowledged the same to be *his*  
free act and deed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed  
my name, the day and year last above written.

*W. A. Kincaid*