

**James Finlay (d.1797) and  
Christiana Youel (fl.1765-1774) /  
a Saulteaux native (fl.1768)<sup>1</sup>**

JAMES FINLAY

BORN: ? (Scottish)<sup>2</sup>

MARRIED: 1765 Montreal, Lower Canada to Christiana Youel<sup>3</sup>  
A second time to a Saulteaux native<sup>4</sup>

DIED: 1797 Montreal, Lower Canada<sup>5</sup>

**The children of James Finlay and  
Christiana Youel**

1. James Finlay

Born: 1766 Montreal, Lower Canada<sup>6</sup>

Married: 1798 to Elizabeth Grant, the daughter of John Grant<sup>7</sup>

Died: 3 Jan. 1830 Montreal, Canada East<sup>8</sup>

Children:

They had a large family.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Completed 16 June 1999, and revised 22 Aug. 1999.

<sup>2</sup>W. Stewart Wallace, ed., The Macmillan Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1978), 258.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Eric J. Holmgren, "Finlay, Jacques-Raphael", Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VI 1821 To 1835 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987), 253.

<sup>5</sup>Wallace, 258.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., 258.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., 259.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

1. Elizabeth Finlay  
Married: 26 Mar. 1835 to Frederick Chetwode, the son of Sir John Chetwode<sup>10</sup>
2. John Finlay  
Born: 1774 Montreal, Lower Canada<sup>11</sup>  
Died: 19 Dec. 1833 Montreal, Canada East<sup>12</sup>
3. Christy Finlay  
Married: To Edward Townsend<sup>13</sup>
4. Anne Finlay<sup>14</sup>

**The child of James Finlay and  
a Saulteaux native**

1. Jaco Finlay  
Born: ca. 1768 Finlay's House, Saskatchewan River, Rupert's Land<sup>15</sup>  
Died: May 1828 Spokane House, Oregon Territory<sup>16</sup>

**Children:**

He was the father of a large family.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., 258.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>Holmgren, 253.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., 259.

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ville posts; another to the posts among the Pend O'Reilles and Flat-head Indians in Montana; also to the Kootneai tribe in B. C.

On my first trip up to the Colville Valley from the Spokane Country I started from our winter camp about 8 miles above the little falls (Post Falls) and traveled over the Hudson Bay Company's trail. It took me about three days to reach the first settlers in the valley. These were some of the Finlays; there were three brothers, close neighbors, Patrick, Koostah and Nicholas Finlay. All of them had big families, and some of their descendants with their families were settled in their near neighborhood with the exception of James Finlay and his family who were settled further on up the valley. I think that there were thirteen in that family. The original Finlay, Jacques Finlay, was in charge of the old Spokane post in the early days; I never saw him, as he died before I came to that country. What other settlers there were in the Colville Valley, besides the Finlays, were some Scotchmen, Orkneymen and a few French Canadians that had been employes of the Hudson Bay Company. These were married to some of the descendants of Jacques Finlay and some to the native women of the country.

I think that there were just two settlers in the entire valley that had not been employes of the Hudson Bay Company; one Francois Morrigeaux who was a trapper from the East side of the Rocky Mountains and one Canadian by the name of La Bien. I do not think that there were more than twenty-five or thirty settlers in the entire Colville Valley when I first came to that country in the spring of 1855. When I arrived at the Fort Colville there was quite a stir as the trader, Mr. Angus McDonald, was starting a pack train of 50 or 60 horses down to Fort Hope on the Fraser River for an outfit of goods to supply the Company's store at Colville. The goods brought were mostly dry goods and some groceries and some ammunition,—that is gunpowder and lead for the kind of guns that they used at that time. These guns were mostly old flint lock, muzzle loaders. There was never any flour brought to Colville as the Company had a flour mill at what is called Meyers Falls now. The settlers used to take their wheat to the mill in carts that were made in the valley; there were no wagons in that country at that time. The wheat was ground at the mill for the farmers, but I do not know how much the toll was.

There was quite a trade in furs at that trading post. I did not see much money in the country. A farmer coming to the Fort for his groceries generally paid for them in wheat or flour or other produce. There was not any fruit raised in the country at that time.

Washington Historical Quarterly July 1916  
by John V. Campbell (61,000)