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MAGGIE SIGGINS

By ELIZABETH SEITZ

NOVEMBER 2008

**Biographical Sketch:** Maggie Siggins was born on May 28, 1942 in Toronto and attended Ryerson Polytechnical University from 1962 to 1965 earning a Bachelor degree in Applied Arts.

She has worked as a magazine writer, political columnist and television reporter and producer. From 1965 to 1970 she was a general reporter with the Toronto Telegram. She was a freelance writer with Chatelaine from 1970-71 in Toronto. At City-TV, also in Toronto, she worked as an on-air political reporter/commentator. She moved to CBC Toronto as a reporter/interviewer/producer in 1975 until 1977. In 1979 to 1981 she was with CityPulse News in Toronto as a producer. From 1981 to 1983 (still in Toronto), she produced freelance work for Toronto Life, Reader's Digest, Financial Post, Today Magazine, MacLean's and others. While in China, in 1985-86 she worked at the New China News Agency.

She has taught Journalism while a Max Bell Professor in Journalism at the University of Regina in 1983-84 and Professor of Graduate Studies at the Beijing Broadcast Institute during her 1985-86 visit to China.

Her books are as follows: *A Guide to Skiing in Eastern North America*, 1969; *How to Catch a Man* co-authored with Ben Wicks, 1970; *Bassett: his Forty Years in Politics, Publishing, Business and Sports*, 1979; *Brian and the Boys: a Story of Gang Rape*, 1984; *A Canadian Tragedy Joann and Colin Thatcher: a Story of Love and Hate*, 1985; *Revenge of the Land: a Century of Greed, Tragedy and Murder on a Saskatchewan Farm*, 1991; *Louis Riel: a Life of Revolution*, 1994; and *In her Own Time: a Class Reunion Inspires a Cultural History of Women*, 1999

She has received numerous awards: Southam Journalism Fellowship at the University of Toronto in 1974-75; Arthur Ellis Award in the Best True Crime Category for *A Canadian Tragedy Joann and Colin Thatcher: a Story of Love and Hate* in 1986; Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction for *Revenge of the Land: a Century of Greed, Tragedy and Murder on a Saskatchewan Farm* in 1992; City of Regina Best Book Award for *Louis Riel: a Life of Revolution* in 1994; and City of Regina Best Book Award for *In her Own Time: a Class Reunion Inspires a Cultural History of Women* in 1999.

*A Canadian Tragedy Joann and Colin Thatcher: a Story of Love and Hate* was produced as a four-hour mini series by CBC Television. The CBC aired the series in December of 1989 NBC in July 1990 in the United States, BBC in England in 1991 and over 40 other countries since. *Louis Riel: a Life of Revolution* was translated into French by Editions Québec-Amérique of Montreal in the spring of 1996. *Revenge of the Land: a Century of Greed, Tragedy and Murder on a Saskatchewan Farm* was produced into a four-hour mini series with CBC and aired in December 2000.

She has memberships in the following professional organizations: Writers' Union of Canada (Chair 1995-96), Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, Canadian Historical Association, ACTRA, P.E.N. Canada (Board member 1995-96), Canadian Association of Journalists and Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association. She has served on the Board of Directors of NeWest Press of Edmonton and Curtain Raisers Players of Regina.

She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and literate in French.  
She currently resides in Toronto with her husband Gerry B. Sperling and two dogs

**Scope and Content:** This collection consists of .7112 meters of textual records, 58 photographs, 6 audio cassette.

The collection is divided into the following series: Address Book, Calendar/Day Planners, Correspondence, Finances, Notebooks, Photographs, Writing by Maggie Siggins, Writing by Others and Original Thermal Faxes. The thermal faxes were preservation photocopied and kept in box 6 files 67, 68 and 69

The date range of the records is 1974 to 1990 with one file from 2006

**Custodial History:** The collection was sent to the University of Regina Archives by the donor.

**Legal Agreement:**

**Restrictions:** Files marked CLOSED are closed to all researchers except by permission of the donor.

**Related Accessions:** 84-4, 84-26, 87-46, 94-67, 2000-23, 2002-43, 2005-30.

**Future Accruals:** Future Accruals are expected.

|       |    |                       |      |
|-------|----|-----------------------|------|
| Box 1 | 1. | ADDRESS BOOK          | n.d. |
|       | 2. | CALENDAR/DAY PLANNERS |      |
|       |    | 1974                  |      |
|       |    | June                  |      |
|       |    | July                  |      |
|       |    | 1976                  |      |
|       |    | December              |      |
|       |    | 1977                  |      |
|       |    | April                 |      |
|       |    | June                  |      |
|       |    | July                  |      |
|       |    | August                |      |
|       |    | October               |      |
|       |    | 1978                  |      |
|       |    | January               |      |
|       |    | February              |      |
|       |    | March                 |      |
|       |    | May                   |      |
|       |    | June                  |      |
|       |    | August                |      |
|       |    | September             |      |
|       |    | October               |      |
|       |    | November              |      |
|       |    | December              |      |
|       | 3. | 1979                  |      |
|       |    | January               |      |
|       |    | February              |      |
|       |    | 1980                  |      |
|       |    | July                  |      |
|       |    | August                |      |
|       |    | September             |      |
|       |    | October               |      |
|       |    | November              |      |
|       |    | December              |      |
|       |    | 1981                  |      |
|       |    | January               |      |
|       |    | February              |      |
|       |    | March                 |      |
|       |    | April                 |      |
|       |    | May                   |      |
|       |    | June                  |      |
|       |    | July                  |      |
|       |    | September             |      |
|       |    | November              |      |
|       |    | 1982                  |      |
|       |    | January               |      |
|       |    | February              |      |

- March
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- November
- December
- 4. 1983
  - (2) January
  - February
  - March
  - April
  - June
  - July
  - August
  - September
  - October
  - November
  - December
- 1984
  - January
  - February
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  - September
  - October
  - November
  - December
- 1985
  - February
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  - October
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  - December
- Box 2 5. 1986
  - February
  - March
  - April
  - May

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November  
December

1990

January

|        |     |   |                  |
|--------|-----|---|------------------|
|        |     | CORRESPONDENCE  |                  |
|        | 7.  | Maggie Siggins to Gerry Sperling  | n.d., 1982, 1983 |
|        |     | FINANCES  |                  |
|        | 8.  | Income Tax 1985, 1986   | 1985, 1986       |
| Box 3  |     | NOTE BOOKS  |                  |
|        | 9.  | (4) n.d.  |                  |
|        | 10. | 1985-86   |                  |
|        |     | (3) 1990  |                  |
|        |     | (2) 1991  |                  |
|        |     | 1993  |                  |
|        |     | 1994  |                  |
|        |     | 1994 A Woman's Notebook   |                  |
|        |     | (2) 1995  |                  |
|        |     | 1996  |                  |
|        |     | 1997  |                  |
|        |     | 1998  |                  |
|        | 11. | PHOTOGRAPHS<br>Includes 58 photographs  |                  |
|        |     | WRITING BY MAGGIE SIGGINS   |                  |
| CLOSED | 12. | <u>Bassett</u> – Correspondence<br>(Thermal Fax sheets have been Preservation photocopied and moved to File 62) | 1978 – 1979      |
|        |     | <u>Bitter Embrace</u>   |                  |
|        | 13. | Correspondence<br>Edited Manuscript   | October 8, 2004  |
|        | 14. | Prologue  |                  |
| Box 4  | 15. | Chapter One   |                  |
|        | 16. | Chapter Two   |                  |
|        | 17. | Chapter Three   |                  |
|        | 18. | Chapter Four  |                  |
|        | 19. | Chapter Five  |                  |
|        | 20. | Chapter Six   |                  |
|        | 21. | Chapter Eight   |                  |
|        |     | <u>Love and Hate</u>  |                  |
|        | 22. | Response to First Draft<br><u>Marie-Anne: The Extraordinary Life of Louis Riel's Grandmother</u>                |                  |
|        |     | Annotated   |                  |
|        | 23. | Chapter One   |                  |
|        | 24. | Chapter Three   |                  |
|        | 25. | Chapter Four  |                  |
|        | 26. | Chapter Five  |                  |
|        | 27. | Chapter Six   |                  |
|        | 28. | Part Two: The Settlement  |                  |

|       |     |   |             |
|-------|-----|---|-------------|
|       | 29. | Chapter Seven   |             |
|       | 30. | Chapter Eight   |             |
|       | 31. | Chapter Nine  |             |
|       | 32. | Chapter Ten   |             |
|       | 33. | Chapter Eleven  |             |
|       | 34. | Chapter Twelve  |             |
|       |     | Marie-Anne: The Extraordinary Life of Louis Riel's Grandmother  |             |
| Box 5 | 35. | Un-identified Chapter   |             |
|       | 36. | Chapter One   |             |
|       | 37. | Chapter Four  |             |
|       | 38. | Chapter Five  |             |
|       | 39. | Chapter Six   |             |
|       | 40. | Part Two: The Settlement  |             |
|       | 41. | Chapter Seven   |             |
|       | 42. | Chapter Eight   |             |
|       | 43. | Chapter Ten   |             |
|       | 44. | Chapter Eleven  |             |
|       | 45. | Chapter Twelve  |             |
|       | 46. | Chapter Thirteen  |             |
|       |     | Marie-Anne: The Extraordinary Life of Louis Riel's Grandmother<br>Copy Edit Manuscript                            |             |
|       | 47. | Chapter One   |             |
|       | 48. | Chapter Two   |             |
|       | 49. | Chapter Three   |             |
|       | 50. | Chapter Four  |             |
|       | 51. | Chapter Five  |             |
|       | 52. | Chapter Six   |             |
|       | 53. | Part Two: Fort Des Prairies   |             |
|       | 54. | Part Three: The Settlement  |             |
|       | 55. | Chapter Eight   |             |
|       | 56. | Chapter Nine  |             |
|       | 57. | Chapter Twelve  |             |
|       | 58. | Chapter Thirteen  |             |
|       | 59. | Chapter Fourteen  |             |
|       | 60. | Chapter Fifteen   |             |
|       |     | <u>Revenge of the Land</u>  |             |
|       | 61. | Correspondence Re: Research Methods   | 1988        |
|       |     | <u>Riel: A Life of Revolution</u>   |             |
|       | 62. | Correspondence and Research<br>(Thermal Fax sheets have been Preservation photocopied<br>and moved to File 68)    |             |
| Box 6 | 63. | Correspondence with Translator<br>(Thermal Fax sheets have been Preservation photocopied<br>and moved to File 69) | 1995 – 1996 |
|       | 64. | A Film Treatment  | [2006]      |
|       | 65. | A one hour documentary based on the book Riel: A Life of<br>Revolution  | 1998        |
|       |     | <u>Season in North Country (A)</u>  |             |
|       | 66. | Book Proposal   | August 2001 |



## WRITINGS BY OTHERS

67. Unidentified

## ORIGINAL THERMAL FAXES

68. Writings by Maggie Siggins  
Bassett Correspondence 1978-79  
(file 12)
69. Writings by Maggie Siggins Riel: A Life of Revolution  
Correspondence with translator  
(file 61)
70. Writings by Maggie Siggins Riel: A Life of Revolution  
(file 62)

## AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL

## Cassettes

- 1) Side 1 [Murten]  
Side 2 [Murten]
- 2) Side 1 [Mrs. Forsyth Coren] Aug 19, 1984  
Side 2 [Curly Dick Evan] August 19, 1984
- 3) Side 1 [Rae Purdy]  
Side 2 [Rae Purdy]
- 4) Side 1 [Ray Nelson]  
Side 2 [Ray Nelson]
- 5) Side 1 Katherine Weingart  
Side 2 [\_\_\_\_\_ Murten]
- 6) Side 1 Emmett Hall  
Side 2 Emmett Hall