

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810635903321
Autore	Brown Jennifer S. H. <1940->
Titolo	Strangers in blood : fur trade company families in Indian country // Jennifer S.H. Brown
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Vancouver, : University of British Columbia Press, 1980
ISBN	9786613225283 1-283-22528-X 0-7748-5359-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (292 p.)
Disciplina	971.2/01
Soggetti	Fur traders - Northwest, Canadian Frontier and pioneer life - Northwest, Canadian Northwest, Canadian Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [221]-237) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Photographic Credits -- Illustrations -- Preface -- The Backgrounds and Antecedents of the British Traders -- Company Men with a Difference: The London and Montreal Britishers -- Company Men and Native Women in Hudson Bay -- North West Company Men and Native Women -- Gentlemen of 1821: New Directions in Fur Trade Social Life -- Different Loyalties: Sexual and Marital Relationships of Company Officers after 1821 -- Fur Trade Parents and Children before 1821 -- Patterns and Problems of "Placing": Company Offspring in Britain and Canada after 1821 -- Fur Trade Sons and Daughters in a New Company Context -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	For two centuries (1670-1870), English, Scottish, and Canadian fur traders voyaged the myriad waterways of Rupert's Land, the vast territory chartered to the Hudson's Bay Company and later splintered among five Canadian provinces and four American states. The knowledge and support of northern Native peoples were critical to the newcomer's survival and success. With acquaintance and alliance came intermarriage, and the unions of European traders and Native women generated thousands of descendants. Jennifer Brown's Strangers in

Blood is the first work to look systemically at these parents and their children. Brown focuses on Hudson's Bay Company officers and North West Company wintering partners and clerks those whose relationships are best known from post journals, correspondence, accounts, and wills. The durability of such families varied greatly. Settlers, missionaries, European women, and sometimes the courts challenged fur trade marriages. Some officers' Scottish and Canadian relatives dismissed Native wives and "Indian" progeny as illegitimate. Trades who took these ties seriously were obliged to defend them, to leave wills recognizing their wives and children, and to secure their legal and social status to prove that they were kin, not "strangers in blood." Brown illustrates that the lives and identities of these children were shaped by factors far more complex than "blood." Sons and daughters diverged along paths affected by gender. Some descendants became Métis nationhood under Louis Riel. Other rejected or were never offered that course they passed into white or Indian communities or, in some instances, identified themselves (without prejudice) as "halfbreeds." The fur trade did not coalesce into a single society. Rather, like Rupert's Land, it splintered, and the historical consequences have been with us ever since.
