

## **The Last Battle of Seven Oaks Puppet Play**

### **Sample Script**

**Narrator:** In 1821, in the small community of Grantown, Manitoba, a family was having a birthday party. There were three boys and their names were Francis, Pierre and Michel. They were playing a game about a battle that had happened near their town. The men in the family earned money working for the North West Fur Trading company.

**Francis:** I am a Nor'Wester fur trader!

**Michel:** Okay, I will be a Bayman. But I don't like pretending I work for the Hudson's Bay Company.

**Pierre:** I am Governor Semple. He was a mean man who took away food from Nor'Westers.

**Narrator:** The boys pretended to fight a battle between the two fur trading companies. They pretended they were riding horses and shooting rifles at each other. As they played, their father, Paul, was watching them.

**Paul:** Boys, can you tell me why the Baymen were fighting with our people?

**Francis:** The Baymen took food from our trading post on the Assiniboine River and we could not feed our people.

**Michel:** Then Governor Semple kicked us out of our homes and stopped us from using the river to travel. That made our families very angry and we fought with the Baymen.

**Pierre:** Lots of people got arrested after the battles and were sent to Montreal.

**Paul:** That is true boys. Some of the men came home to our families but you know lots of other men died. I am sad when I think about that. But, I have a letter here that has good news in it. We will never have to fight with the Baymen again because the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company are now going to be one company and we will not have to fight again.

**Francis:** Thanks for telling us the story, Papa. Now can we go eat?

**Narrator:** The story of the Battle is a true part of Canadian history. In 1815, Scottish settlers came to the Red River areas but arrived too late to plant and harvest a crop. The settlers were hungry so the Hudson's Bay Company seized the North West Company's Pemmican supplies. The two companies had many battles and the main trading post for the North West Company was torn down. The fighting continued until the two companies merged to become one big company.