

# Li'l Shadd

## The Lafayette Family

“Does *Black Lives Matter* apply to Saskatchewan? Well actually Black settlers have been here since 1906! Was it easy for them? Absolutely not! Aunt Carol remembers how her aunt, working in the Rosetown bakery, was only permitted by the owner to “work in the back.” People in Saskatchewan are treated differently based on the colour of their skin which is why showcasing Saskatchewan Black history is so important. The LaFayettees grew up in the Fiske area and at the time were the only Black family in the area. There was also a larger Black Settlement by Maidstone, Sk, which has the Shiloh Baptist Church that is now designated as a provincial heritage property. Another prominent Black pioneer was Dr. Shadd. Dr. Shadd operated a pharmacy, was one of Saskatchewan's first coroners, a teacher and fought for his political principles.”

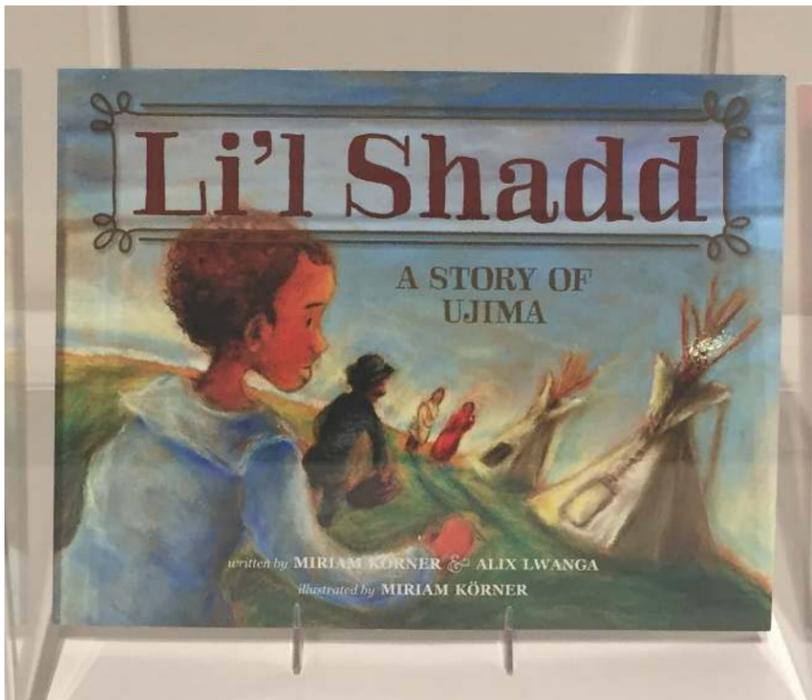
- *Michelle LaFayette*

## Saskatchewan Black Pioneers

Lewis LaFayette was born in 1872 in Liberty, Iowa. He was the great, great grandson of the famous slave spy, James Armistead, who took the last name of LaFayette from General LaFayette when he was given his freedom seven years after the Civil War. James had been a double spy in the American Revolution and had worked with General LaFayette in spying for the Americans.

Lewis immigrated to Regina, Saskatchewan in 1906 with his wife Lillie, son Ernest and brother Golden. In 1911 Lewis moved his family to his homestead in the Fiske area. He turned the land with a team of horses but purchased a steam engine in 1913. Two of Lewis's sons (Glen and Earl) served in World War II. Lewis was a strict god-fearing man who always had children around him. He was considered a person of quiet dignity and high principles. He believed “If you can't say anything good about someone, don't say anything at all”.

Information about black pioneers in Saskatchewan has been adapted from the Saskatchewan African Canadian History Museum. You can also find information on Dr. Shadd who moved to the Kinistino area in 1896 for a teaching position. He later received his medical degree from Trinity Medical College in Toronto. Li'l Shadd is a children's storybook written about his life in Saskatchewan.



“Li'l Shadd: A Story of Ujima”  
By Miriam Körner & Alix Lwanga  
Illustrated by Miriam Körner



Lewis LaFayette and his wife Lillie and their ten children: Ernest, Karl, Homer, Anne, Glen, Edith, Earl, Lillian, Muriel and Daniel. The many descendants of Lewis and Lillie LaFayette have lived in every province and territory, at least 12 states and three countries, including right here in Humboldt today.



Alyssa and Dolan LaFayette of Humboldt, the great, great grandchildren of Lewis LaFayette.