

Je Me Souviens

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AFGS Mission Statement

The mission of the American-French Genealogical Society is:

- To collect, preserve and publish genealogical, historical and biographical matter relating to Americans of French and French-Canadian descent.
- To play an active part in the preservation of French-Canadian heritage and culture in the United States.
- To establish and maintain a reference library and research center for the benefit of its members.
- To hold meetings for the instruction of its members.
- To disseminate information of value to its members by way of a regularly published journal and other appropriate means.
- To disseminate genealogical and historical information to the general public, using appropriate means.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janice Burkhart, President

Does anyone else feel that Spring was a long time coming this year? For those of you lucky enough to experience eternal Spring and Summer, consider your more northern cousins who endure frost, sleet, ice, snow and blustery winds from November through March! To us nothing is as beautiful as those wonderful daffodils that faithfully bloom each April and set the stage for better days to come.

AFGS is a little bit like that. There are always better things to come!

New books and films are arriving at our library every month. It is wonderful to watch our library grow and to see how each new addition to the library brings one more piece of the puzzle into focus for someone!

We are making great strides with our computer resources and many of you are taking advantage of our news group. It is so interesting to read your comments and I know it is helping all of us feel more connected.

Our cultural committee is busy planning events and activities that will promote our heritage. Our cookbook, which features so many of the traditional recipes, continues to be popular. So

many of those recipes have been handed down with love from generation to generation.

We continue to publish original works aimed at making it easier for you to gather the information you need. To date, AFGS has published more than 100 books of vital statistics gathered from churches, funeral parlors and town hall records. Our collections of obituaries, marriage notices and milestones continue to grow. Our reference guides and other original reference books continue to provide expertise to our members in various stages of their work.

Our research committee and lending library services continue to reach out to those members too far away to visit our library. They are constantly striving to improve their services to you.

Our wonderful collection of periodicals continues to grow. These magazines are treasure troves of genealogical and historical information. Many of them have stories about the very families you are also researching.

Great things are happening but better things are on the way. Thank you for being a member and encouraging us to continue to grow.

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Notes on William Ross

by: **Alain Ross**

Introduction by Frances Jimmis-Tivey

It was in 1903 that my grandfather François [Frank] GEMUS came to Rhode Island. He was born in Plantagenet, Ontario on November 10, 1880. Soon after, his family moved to Ausable Falls, New York, where he lived most of his young life. In 1903, at the age of 23, he came to Rhode Island. He was most likely looking for much needed work. In 1906, he went back to Ausable Falls and packed up his parents and siblings. His father was 86 years old and Frank knew he had to support his family.

Frank soon became friends with Jean-Baptiste ROSS, who was already an established plasterer and painter. Jean hired Frank and taught him how to do this type of work. As time passed he met and fell in love with Jean's niece Laura THIBODEAU. They were married on June 18, 1910 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, in Providence, RI. [See picture on back cover.]

Together they had five children: Laura, Raymond, Francois [my Dad], Joseph Edward, and Lawrence. The next child proved to be too much for Laura. She and the baby died on November 29, 1929. Laura's Mother, Emma ROSS, stepped in to help Frank with the raising

of the GEMUS [JIMMIS] children.

As I was growing up I remembered "Grandma Ross". [We didn't call her by THIBODEAU as the two of them divorced many years before this]. Grandma was very short and round, and had two very large thumbs. My father told us it was because she rolled her own cigarettes. She also smoked a corn cob pipe.

Grandma Ross was very proud of her heritage and her homeland, Rimouski, PQ. She told her grandchildren and great-grandchildren about how life was when she was growing up and how she was mostly French, but also a wee bit of Scotch. Her ancestry can be traced back to William ROSS, her great-great-grandfather. The following article is a time line of William's life.

Notes on William ROSS

1732 – William ROSS was born in Scotland, at Tain, in the township of Geanies, located in Ross County, six miles from Eastern Fearn, on the strait of Dornoch in the northeast corner of Scotland. William was the son of Alexander ROSS and Helen BAYNE (BAINE), from Tulloch.

His father, the seventh lord of Eastern Fearn, resided in the township

of Geanies. He had been named clerk of the Intendant for County Ross. But it seems that Alexander ROSS had become insolvent and that the domain of Eastern Fearn had to be sold by the court in 1735. Alexander was a descendant of the Counts of Ross, the first of whom, Count FARQUHAR, was a member of the Celtic family named O'BEOLAIN.

Reverend Kenneth MAC FARLYNE wrote that the abbey of Fearn, where the stained glass windows were outstanding for their colors, had been built at the beginning of the XIIIth century by the care of the ROSS families – quite numerous in that region.

1757 – Conscript at 25, undoubtedly under duress, at a time when he was busy at his usual work of cultivating the fields, without the possibility of warning his associates or of retrieving his possessions. William was the victim of a raid which aimed at providing the King with troops to bring to fruition his plans to invade New France.

It was probably in October or November in the year 1756 that William lost his freedom, with no hope of knowing the future, except for the conviction that he would have to fight people and run risks which for many soldiers would be fatal.

It was the custom in Europe during that century, that the lords become involved in recruiting troops for the King, for remuneration. First of all, conscription took place on a voluntary basis, then, when the due date approached the recruiting agents – in order to speed up the organization of a regiment – scoured the countryside and seized all the able-

bodied men. These found themselves surrounded and led under armed guard toward the military barracks, or camps, to undergo a hasty training, before being shipped to the battlefields.

Several other fellow-citizens of William must have been enrolled at the same time. It is known that other ROSS family members were part of the regiment into which he was incorporated. During a period of seven years, William served as corporal in the 78th Fraser Highlanders of his majesty George II. This rank of corporal leads us to believe that William undoubtedly had some education since he had the privilege of not being a plain soldier.

Set up by Simon FRASER, Head of Lovat, (descendant of a Norman family, originally named FRAISE [i.e., “strawberry” - Trans.]), the 78th Regiment of Fraser Highlanders, to which William had been assigned, underwent a six month training program before being sent to North America to take part in the great invasion of New France. It is possible that several members of the Scottish regiment, including William, had a command or at least had some knowledge of the French language.

No doubt embarked on the vessels of His Majesty around the end of April or at the beginning of the month of May, the 78th Regiment of the Fraser Highlanders left the coasts of England, for a perilous crossing of the Atlantic. These high-landers, for the most part farmers, learned about the sea and its dangers. The storms and the hostile winds of the wide Atlantic Ocean surely did not miss trying them during the voyage. The crossing of the Atlantic, at that

time, required more than thirty days of sailing, sometimes as much as two months.

The men of the 78th Regiment of the Fraser Highlanders discover with fascination or horror of the drifts of icebergs which certainly were not lacking at that time of year all along the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Dressed in only their kilts, even if used to the cold of the Scottish mountains, they certainly suffered from the lack of clothing appropriate to their situation. Restricted for so long on narrow vessels, where only the distribution of unpleasant rations marked the passage of time, they anticipate the future with fear. They are finally in sight of Nova Scotia, where they join the regular troops and the militias from New England. Soon, after too brief a respite to recover from their distress, the men of the 78th took part of the taking of Louisbourg in June 1758.

1758 – Stationed in New York, after a crossing of the Atlantic which no doubt lasted more than thirty days. The regiment was sent, in haste, towards Boston, at the request of General AMHERST, after the defeat of Fort Carillon. On 16 August, they had to march as far as Albany. They arrived at Boston on 13 October 1758. In a report addressed to Pitt, General AMHERST declares that in Boston the Fraser Highlanders got drunk with rum imported from New England, and remained under the influence of the alcohol for three days. The regiment was billeted for the winter in Schenectady, at the Stanwix and Herkimer forts.

1759 – 23 May, the advance force of the Durrell fleet enters into the Har-

bor of Bic, Rimouski.

1759 – Arrival of the Squadron of His Majesty in the Saint Lawrence River, 13 June 1759.

1759 – Arrival of the fleet at the Isle of Bic, Rimouski on 18 June.

1759 – On 26 June, at least sixty large English vessels – among which were numerous war vessels – had succeeded in sailing across the Québec passage. At that time, the crossing was still considered dangerous for ships, while the French merchant ships of just about one hundred tons barely dared to take the chance. At that time in order to get to Québec, all ships would sail up the river along the north shore as far as l'île d'Orléans; they would then have to cross from the north channel to the southern channel, which led them to the port. In order to accomplish this, they were required to make use of the passage located between l'île d'Orléans and its closest neighbor to the west, l'île Madame. It was at this spot that a safe corridor was found. For years, the French and Canadian navigators had maintained that the English warships would never be able to cross this corridor without running aground: the waters there being too rough, too shallow, and the passage too narrow. Several French vessels had already been shipwrecked in trying to cross it, thus causing the death of a great number of French and Canadian sailors. Yet, the commandant of the regular French troops, the Marquis de MONTCALM, had in hand an old map drawn up by the Jesuits pointing out that the Crossing was sufficiently deep and wide to allow the passage of large vessels.

1759 – 30 June. Descent to Lévis. Etienne CHAREST was the seigneur of Lauzon of which the village of Saint-Joseph-de-Pointe-Lévis was part, on the south shore. Early on that day, Vaudreuil had sent CHAREST to la Pointe-Lévis, with forty inhabitants of his seigneurie and three hundred Indians, to attack the English. During the entire day they harassed the English: – the British troops, with their ludicrous headgear like a papal miter, were an ideal target for an arrow or a musket shot. Not accustomed to fighting in the woods, the English were at a disadvantage. CHAREST and his men killed, wounded, or scalped more than thirty English. The Canadians occupied the church and MONCKTON wanted to dislodge them. During the whole day, the Canadians and the British took turns occupying the church.

Around six in the evening, having been kept in check for more than three hours, MONCKTON decided that the mockery had lasted long enough; he found it absurd to be so held in check by a group of men visibly five times less numerous than his own. Taking the bulk of his men with him, he led the assault on the church from three sides. The Fraser Highlanders attacked from the forest, the foot-soldiers surrounded the mountain, chasing the Canadians and Indians who were there as far as the border of la Pointe-Lévis, while MONCKTON and his grenadiers of Louisbourg boldly arrived in the front. The Canadians, confined inside the church, fought back for a time, and then fled by the rear, covered by the Indians.

1759 – 23 July, during the night, a detachment of the Regiment of the Fraser Highlanders headed to the Côte du Sud, to take prisoners. Two other detachments

left “to scour the country.” DALLING moves towards Saint-Henri while Colonel FRASER heads toward la Côte-du-Sud with 350 men from his regiment. Aim: to capture all the prisoners and all the cattle which he could find. These troops follow those of the American Rangers who will institute reprisals against the inhabitants of la Côte, from Lévis to Kamouraska. The Rangers caused much damage, burning almost the totality of the homes and buildings and killed or made prisoner 300 persons.

Meanwhile, two detachments of the English army landed at Rivière Ouelle, including one detachment of the Fraser Highlanders. A few inhabitants of the parish, lying in ambush on the border of the woods, had greeted them with a lively fusillade and killed a few of their men. Exasperated at this defeat, the commander resolved to exact a striking revenge. The two detachments had gone up the river and around evening had come to camp near a stream which flowed into the cove of Sainte-Anne de la Pocatière, to the southwest of the present-day college.

The following morning, the British commander, the quarter-master, Guy CARLETON – later becoming Lord Dorchester – ordered that all houses and out-buildings be set afire. In order to do this, he had decided to entrust this mission to the Highlanders, while he would follow from behind with the other detachment, this one English.

The Scotch officer tried in vain to oppose burning the properties of those who offered no resistance – there remaining only the elderly, and some women and children.

All the houses and their out-buildings, from one part of Rivière-Ouelle, of the parishes of Sainte-Anne (de la Pocatière) and of Saint-Roch (des-Aulnaies), along the Saint Lawrence River as far as Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, were destroyed. It was only when this town [i.e., Saint-Jean-Port-Joli] was reached that the British commander ordered this useless destruction to stop.

During the following winter, the inhabitants of this part of the shore, lived in the most extreme destitution and had great difficulty in surviving. It can be assumed that William was part of one of the Fraser detachments which traveled to la Côte-du-Sud from Sainte-Anne to the east, or from Lévis to the west. No doubt these Scots were assigned to this thankless task because some among them spoke French, and thus could better control the population. Accordingly, William traveled this part of the south shore, a region where he would be garrisoned after the seizure of Québec, and where he would settle after his demobilization.

1759 – The 25th and 26th of July, to the east of Beaumont. The Fraser Highlanders take part in a skirmish against the Canadian inhabitants, nine of whom were killed and several others wounded. Colonel FRASER and Captain MAC PHERSON fell under fire from the Canadians – both wounded in the thigh by the same bullet. They were brought back to the camp at Pointe-Lévis during the evening of the 26th. Meanwhile, the detachment is lodged in the church of Saint-Michel where they inflict damages. The following day, he returns to the camp with a few prisoners (three women and one man, according to FRASER) and

more than two hundred head of cattle. The Highlanders also confirm the distress which reigns in the countryside and the great number of destitute families who are found there.

J-Edmond ROY maintains that “all was subject to fire and blood” during the march of FRASER through the seigniories of la Côte-du-Sud, but he does not provide any proofs of this devastation. It is a fact that in those days orders to this effect had been given. “At ten o’clock in the evening, we got on our way, examining all the houses on our route, and we stopped at the church of Beaumont, where the men settled in. There were three hundred of them, some twelve miles from the camp at Pointe-Lévy.”

1759 – Before 31 July, Wolfe had decided to attack the French at Beauport on two fronts. MONCKTON would strike on the right flank that is to say between the Saint Charles River and Beauport. The second assault would have as a target the redoubt of Johnstone, a fortification built by the French on the shore of Beauport, near the level of the high tide and apparently far away from their trenches. “The Highlander regiment would plunge firmly into the assault and would take control of it [Johnstone]. . . The matter would not be too difficult; (the redoubt) was far away from the reach of the French muskets.” WOLFE was convinced that this plan would allow him to reach his objective: forcing the French to abandon their re-trenchments.

In order to bring this endeavor to success, the general asked MONCKTON to have sent to him five artillery

pieces. “We will create a barrage so heavy that no French soldier will dare to raise his head above his trench; we will also benefit from a greater security and fewer of our men will be sacrificed.” WOLFE ordered to be built long-boats, rafts, mobile bridges, and floating batteries. Then, he pressed Saunders to send vessels upstream from Québec during of the following night. The wind had subsided, so that was impossible. WOLFE had anticipated attacking the French four days later.

1759 – 31 July. At five o’clock in the morning the operation got into full swing. A strong breeze pushed the Saunders vessels toward the Johnstone redoubt. It was felt that by the noon hour, it would already be extremely hot. WOLFE had already sent Colonel HOWE and his troops at the first ford, in order to make the French believe that the attack would take place at that location. The MONCKTON grenadiers, having arrived earlier at l’île d’Orléans, were transported with the other members of his brigade on flat-bottom boats in the direction of the agreed-upon point of encounter. Major DALLING and some hundreds of men remained at the battery of the Pointe-aux-Pères, ready to increase their fire-power against the city.

The English general ordered his men to begin the operation. He had himself transported to the Russell, from which he counted on orchestrating the seizure of the Johnstone redoubt. Four companies of grenadiers were already found aboard the Russell and the Three Sisters. At nine o’clock, Saunders ordered the captains to steer to the redoubt, located about a quarter of a mile to the west of the Chutes Montmorency.

Captain COOK had made an error in estimating: his ships hit bottom much earlier than anticipated. It was discovered, moreover, that there was not one redoubt but two: that of Johnstone, the more impressive of the two, and another small one hidden behind the first. Both however, were too distant for the canons of the Centurion to accomplish their destructive task – which was essential for the maintenance of the land attack; in addition, they were found to be much closer to the French trenches than WOLFE had hoped. Consequently, it was impossible to attack one or the other of the two fortifications.

Noon had just sounded and WOLFE was caught in a dilemma: he could either cancel the operation – once more risking appearing as an irresolute individual – or else he could order a bombardment directly on the French positions. The general decided to go ahead. He gave the agreed-upon signal and the 161 canons at his disposal on the ships, along the Montmorency and la Pointe-aux-Pères, fired at the same time.

At the time, almost 300 crafts were found in the channel which linked the Côte de Beauport and l’île d’Orléans, transporting the bulk of the troops. The soldiers had to endure the stifling heat and the terrible clamor of the canons. The French troops were in a better position. Having learned that Howe was heading to the first ford, Lévis had dispatched there – to prevent him from crossing the river – five hundred Canadians of the Montréal brigade and all the Indians he was able to assemble. He had also ordered his own soldiers to remain at their posts in the trenches and

extended his defensive line as far as the isolated redoubts – which he thought, rightfully, that Wolfe would want to seize. The men of the redoubt were to fire until their ammunition ran out, then retreat to the trenches.

In spite of the thousands of the projectiles which flew over them, the guardians of the redoubts remained at their posts, firing without respite on the ships. Wolfe ordered almost all the grenadiers who were aboard the transport vessels to go ashore.

The operation took a turn for the worse for the English. WOLFE found himself in the impossibility of canceling it. For five weeks, the troops had anticipated this battle. If Wolfe canceled the operation, his troops would never forgive him.

The displacements of MONT-CALM and of his convoy on the heights overlooking the redoubts were taken by WOLFE as chaotic movements by the enemy. He ordered the attack. The Canadians and the Indians who were busy guarding the ford were brought back between the redoubts and the trenches on the heights.

The troops of Townshend, MURRAY, and HOWE were getting ready to cross the Montmorency River. An aide-de-camp of WOLFE arrived at full gallop, ordering them to stop. MONCKTON's barges had run aground on an invisible barrier before reaching the shore. They had to be towed away while a location to land was sought. Later, the embarkations succeeded in landing on the west coast of the Montmorency River. The troops received the order to

disembark and await TOWNSHEND's men. Two barges found near the WOLFE embarkation had already foundered under enemy fire.

No longer able to bear being in this predicament, several soldiers leaped into the water before the ships had reached the shore. The Louisbourg grenadiers opened the march, followed by the Royal-American and other regiments. The French had abandoned the redoubts and had taken refuge in the trenches.

Once on land, the Louisbourg grenadiers rushed towards the redoubts, unmindful of forming ranks and of not making noise. They made the first assault on the first redoubt and, finding it abandoned, charged in the direction of the trenches, over-excited and undisciplined. All the French had to do was to fire on them. Soon the ground was covered with red tunics, dead or wounded, while the officers tried in vain to bring the troops back to order. A violent storm took place, along with lightning and thunder claps, adding to the canon noises. In the confusion, the grenadiers retreated.

The troops of TOWNSHEND and MURRAY got ready to attack the second redoubt, while WOLFE, realizing the coming disaster, sounded retreat. The Canadians and the Indians invaded the battlefield, pillaging and scalping both the wounded and the dead.

To WOLFE's great astonishment, the retreat of his troops took place "in good order." Yet, the Highlanders refused to cross the Montmorency River until all the men of their regiment – the

78th – were totally reunited. With much patience and dignity, they explained that they could not, nor desired to abandon the members of their clan. They agreed to follow WOLFE after all of their own had re-embarked. The tide was so high that the regiment had great difficulty in getting to the other shore.

It was during this battle of Montmorency, the first important battle of the “Great Undertaking,” that William was wounded. On the English side, there were four hundred forty-three dead, wounded, or missing.

MONTCALM, for his part, did not move from his lines of defense. If he had dared to order a counter-attack, a large portion of the English troops could have been annihilated.

1759 – Battle of the Plains of Abraham. William was wounded there.

1761 – Billeted at Beaumont or Montmagny, the 78th detachment of the Fraser Highlanders, of which William was a part, collects its pay for one week, for having come to the aid of the Canadians.

1761-1764 – Rendezvous of William with the lovely Marie-Josephte PROULX.

1764 – Discharge of William from the army.

1764 – Father Jean-Baptiste PETIT de Maisonbasse (Recollect Father) had been pastor of Saint-Thomas since 1756. Concerning the marriage of William ROSS he had written to Msgr BRIAND, Vicar General: “William ROSS, Scot from the troops of Montmagny, Saint-Thomas, for

two years (Protestant, or more exactly of Baptist confession) wishes to marry: he says that he had many times gone to confession in secret to Father BLONDEAU, pastor of Saint-Vallier, while being in the military.” (Father F. E. J. CASEAULT, 1906)

1764 – January 9, Marie-Josephte PROULX, daughter of Jean-Baptiste PROULX and Claire-Françoise JOLY, married William ROSS, in the church of Saint-Thomas of Montmagny. This church was abandoned in 1771.

“In the year one thousand seven hundred sixty-four, January the ninth, after the publication of three banns of marriage, made at the sermons of the parish Masses, during three consecutive Sundays, between Hector Guillaume (William) ROSS, son of Alexander ROSS and Helen BAYNE, his father and mother, from the city of Guenne (Geanies), on the one hand, and of Josephte PROULX, daughter of Jean-Baptiste PROULX and Claire JOLY, her father and mother, of this parish on the other hand; no impediment having been found to this marriage, I, the undersigned, priest-pastor of St-Thomas, Pointe-à-la-Caille, have obtained their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial blessing according to the form prescribed by our mother the Holy Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church; in the presence of Alexander ROSS, Jean PELLETIER, François PROULX, witnesses who have declared not knowing how to write as required with the wife and the husband who signed with us.”

This “husband has signed with us” indicates that William knew how to

write and possibly read French. As proof, this document – along with several others, these notarized, which will involve him later – had been drawn up in French. At that time, the running of the country and a great deal of its commerce was in British hands and so was conducted in English. It was rather in the office of Canadian notaries that William chose, frequently, to flourish (his signature on) his contracts.

Did William's father, Alexander ROSS come from Scotland to be present at the marriage as the document suggests, or is it rather a question of another Alexander ROSS, who had come with the Fraser Highlanders Regiment, who is acting as witness? One thing is certain, at the enterprise of enlistment during which William was assigned to a regiment, other ROSS family members from this region were surely conscripted to form the regiment. Some of these remained in Canada, such as Alexander ROSS who settled in the region of Matane-Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, where many descendants are found even to this day. It is not known if there was a family link between William and this Alexander. Perhaps this latter is the one who is acting as witness at the marriage.

At an undetermined time, William obtains a plot of land or the rights to one from his father-in-law, Jean-Baptiste PROULX, at Saint-Thomas de Montmagny – land which is bounded by the Rivière du Sud. This probably refers to the very land which his in-laws occupy, since later on, an exchange of lands which William made, involved a spread where the PROULX couple, in virtue of a notarized document, benefitted from and enjoyed occupying one half, until

their demise.

The PROULX family land, with its house and outbuildings, was located on the lowlands – among the most fertile of the region – on the shores of the Rivière du Sud, at Saint-Thomas-de-la Pointe-à-la-Caille, on the border of the river, later to become Montmagny.

Ancestral home and farm outbuildings of the PROULX family on the shores of the Rivière du Sud at Saint-Thomas-de-la-Pointe-à-la-Caille, second half of the XIXth century. Drawing attributed to Catherine PICARD, preserved in the monastery of the Augustinian nuns of l'Hôtel-Dieu of Québec.

1764 – February 04, Alexandre's first child, of the ROSS couple, was baptized 4 February at Saint-Thomas.

1765 – 20 February, William the son, (also named Guillaume, the French equivalent of the name William) second child of the ROSS couple, was baptized 20 February at Cap-Saint-Ignace.

1765 – Birth of Hector, third son of the ROSS couple.

1766 – 20 August, birth of Jean-Baptiste, fourth son of the ROSS couple, was baptized 20 August at Ste-Anne de la Pocatiere.

1768 – 09 June birth of Daniel [also known as Donald], fifth son of the ROSS couple, was baptized 17 June at Ste-Anne de la Pocatiere. .

1769? – William buys a plot of land at Sainte-Anne de la Pocatière, from Jean-Baptiste CAOUIET, in the canton

of the Fribourg-Swiss – land located more exactly at Saint-Roch (des-Aulnaies). This canton was known by this name because some Fribourg-Swiss mercenaries (undoubtedly forcibly recruited for the French King, like the Scots, and later on the Germans, for the English kings) had settled there around 1670. Of all of these, only Miville-Deschênes remained in this canton and set down roots.

1770 – 15 March birth of Esther, sixth child of the ROSS couple, was baptized on 16 March at Ste-Anne de la Pocatiere.

1770 – On 1 October, William makes an exchange of land in the office of notary ROUSSEAU with Michel BLAIS, resident of Sainte-Anne, in exchange for the land which he owned at Montmagny. The new land acquired by William is located in the Parish of Saint-Roch; it abuts the Saint Lawrence River, next to a plot of land which he already owned; on the southwest to Julien HERVÉ; and on the northeast to Pierre PELLERIN.

In exchange, William cedes a plot of land located in the parish of Saint-Thomas, bordered on one side to the northwest by Joseph PROULX; to the southwest by Ignace DESSAINT, taking its frontage at the small Rivière du Sud on the north coast. William had acquired this land in an exchange and common property from his brothers-in-law; but the final discharge would cease only at the demise of his in-laws, Jean-Baptiste PROULX and his wife. Since the land was subject to incomes from William, in favor of the PROULX in-laws, the latter would have lifetime use of half of the terrain. Every year in November, William would

see to offering a certified statement to Sieur BLAIS concerning the income due to the in-laws and to the seigneur.

Moreover, Sieur ROSS cedes to Sieur BLAIS one arpent of frontage by forty in depth, in the same parish and seigniorie. This land abuts on the northeast to Joseph FOURNIER, on the southwest, Mathieu LAMY. It takes its frontage at the end of the first lane which leads to the small Rivière du Sud, on the southern side of the river.

These exchanges also entailed the obligation that Sieur ROSS pays to Sieur BLAIS, in the month of June, the sum of seventy-five Spanish piasters and six shillings of the province.

1771 – On February 18, William bought an *arpent* at Cap Martin, probably in association with a man named Charles BOUCHARD, to pursue the hunt for porpoises. It is possible that this purchase was made by the said BOUCHARD himself since he reserved the right “to cut the price in half” so he could go fishing for porpoise whenever he was free to do so.

The locale was strategic for this type of fishing, since Cape Martin, as its name indicates, is a rocky outpost which overhangs the sand-bar and can be used as a natural component to create a vast fishing park with its favorable prospects. The fishing for porpoise involved stakes, buried in the mud of the sand-bar. These stakes formed a large circular arc which probably stretched from the eastern point of Cape Martin towards the northeast, and which bifurcated towards the northwest, west and southwest, almost rejoining the south-

ern point of the sea beach of the Cape.

At that time, porpoises were quite plentiful in the Saint Lawrence River. More than one thousand porpoises were harvested per year, with the traps set up from La Pocatière to Kamouraska, added to by the hunts which took place on the Côte-Nord and elsewhere on the river.

The fat of the porpoise was rendered to make fuel for lamps. In 1770, the lamps, iron receptacles forged in the shape of a beak, were attached to the walls of the houses. Once filled with porpoise oil (among others), then ignited with the help of a flaming twig, their purpose was to provide light inside the house.

After eight years spent at Saint-Thomas, perhaps in tilling the soil, and also, undoubtedly carrying on some business, William started up a business at La Pocatière.

At the time, the British authorities favored the installation of mature men from demobilized troops, along the river, on the Côte-du-Sud and lower. They bear in mind the ease with which these men had devastated this whole region, a few years earlier, before the taking of Québec. They considered it essential to grant this whole region to men on whom they could rely in the event of conflict. Facilitated by these conditions, the settlement at la Grande-Anse of his family and of a business, allowed William to look to the future with confidence.

On one of the two adjoining plots of land which he owns, a house is built. It must have been quite large to accommodate a family and a business at the

same time. There, William accumulated provisions and items which he would be able to trade in order to ensure the well-being of his kin.

He has in mind to assure the development of his business, by supplying to the residents of the area the items which they will need; but especially, he aims to provide those locales where provisioning is deficient and where competition would seem to be lower – such as la Baie-des-Chaleurs, on the coast of New Brunswick.

1772, 17 March – Elzear-Laughlin the seventh and last child of the ROSS couple, was baptized 17 March, at Ste-Anne de la Pocatière.

1772 – William acquires a schooner for his trade with New Brunswick, notably in the region of the bay of Miramichi.

1775 - The Americans attack Canada.

On 25 March, William, with the help of the militiamen of the region, of whom three were his servants, joined fifteen men gathered at la Rivière Ouelle, fifty-five at Kamouraska, and several others, for a total of 200. They seized and captured five rebels, along with the captains FAIREY and DUÉ (no doubt DUBÉ, a Canadian who had allied himself with the insurgents). The skirmish takes place at the house of Michel BLAIS (that very same one with whom William had exchanged lands, at Saint-Pierre du Sud (Montmagny). The situation went awry and the militiamen are probably, in their turn, made prisoners. After the Saint-Pierre action, said ROSS abandons

his home to avoid pursuit by the rebels.

Here are the names of those from this parish who had remained with the Seigneur de Beaumont: – Mr. DE BEAUJEU, at la Pointe à la Caille (Montmagny); the man named ROSS; Sébastien OUELET; the man named DEGRAVIER; MAROT, ROSS's servant; Bernard LIZOT the elder; Bernard SAUSSIÉ the elder, and Antoine ST-PIERRE.

Mistreated by the rebels of the parish and the surroundings, sympathizers to the Americans, William sees his store looted of its contents, amounting to a booty of six carts – goods which he had already sold to them, either in fear, or for profit. All of these were taken away by the enemy.

Pastor PORLIER of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière writes in a memoir dated March 1776, that while the Boston people were at his home, they sent for William ROSS. Mr. DUBOIS, one of the rebel chiefs, after having read a message of M. FÉRÉ, given and signed at Kamouraska, in which he encourages the militiamen to march against the rebels – which ROSS showed him to justify himself – put a price on FÉRÉ's head, because he deserved punishment. The rebel AIOT received the order to look for FÉRÉ. Mr. DUBOIS spoke with ROSS concerning the provisions he had in his home. A man named MERCIER had seen the provisions of ROSS and had notified DUBOIS about them. ROSS said that they were for his business. The rebels replied that they were taking them for their needs and that they would pay him.

Pastor PORLIER points out the

existence of another individual memoir which refers to Sieur William ROSS's concerns about the carting away of the provisions and the sequence of events leading up to the arrival of the ships.

At Saint-Roch (des Aulnaies), the rebels ran aground the schooner of said William ROSS – the schooner which he used in his business with New Brunswick. The rebels had overloaded the schooner with a great quantity of provisions which they found in his house. They sailed it as far as Saint-Roch where they abandoned it precipitously at the news that the King's vessels were appearing. There followed a loss of 600 pounds for William. A loss for which he was never reimbursed, even though shortly thereafter the schooner was brought back to the home of Sieur ROSS along with the provisions.

1776 – William ROSS, with one hundred Canadians, was part of the royalist militia under the command of Messrs de BEAUJEU and DE GASPÉ, who try to take hold of a battery held by the rebels of la Pointe-Lévis, and to establish a communication with the city of Québec. They are betrayed by Canadian compatriots who had allied themselves with the enemy. These with the help of some hundred Boston men attacked the small troop of royalists; William ROSS and thirty-six men were made prisoners. William escapes on 14 April, with the orderly book of the rebels. The following 10 May, he hands the document over to Lord Guy CARLETON.

1779 – During the summer of 1779, upon arriving at la Baie-des-Chaleurs to trade his merchandise, he discovered that the Indians (perhaps Abénakis)

were in the process of molesting and pillaging the inhabitants and Indians of Miramichi, New Brunswick. The latter find themselves literally at a stalemate, both for their lives and their possessions. Then, without hesitation, William boarded voluntarily the sloop of His Majesty, the Viper, under the command of the Honorable Augustus HARVEY. Through his vigilance and knowledge of the area, he helped to save the inhabitants from imminent ruin. During the conflict, he was wounded in the left arm by a bullet fired by an Indian; this incapacitated him for six months and prevented him, for lack of strength in that arm, from carrying out the manual labors necessary to meet his needs.

1779 – On 4 August, a letter from Sir Richard HUGUES, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, mentions: “I have hired William ROSS to bring victuals and merchandise to the inhabitants and Indians of the area, along with personal gifts which I gave them. In order that M. ROSS would be able to do business with more security, I sold him a small schooner. I also have the intention of asking his Excellency General HALDIMAND to provide him with a letter of marque, as well as the protection of the sloop of His Majesty, the Viper. I also request that a ‘Permit of Trafficker’ be issued to him, so that he could resupply the site twice a year. I take full responsibility for the conduct and obedience of William ROSS. The inhabitants and the Indians join me in this request and would regard your acquiescence to these, as a favor and an immense service.”

As we have just read, William buys a second schooner – proof that his business in this region is beginning

to flourish.

1779 – William ROSS provides a memoir, following his participation in the skirmish of Miramichi.

Pilot on the Saint Lawrence

“It is known that the Isle de Bic became the official station of the pilots of the Saint-Lawrence after the conquest; it was also their residence during the navigation season. Until 1780, it had been the property of the seigneurs du Bic but, that year, the government expropriated it to accomplish a project of Governor HALDIMAND (particularly detested – he was Swiss) who wanted to make the bay of Bic a large harbor for the merchant and military navies. Captain SHANCK and other officers of the government took possession of the Isle de Bic, in the name of the crown, in the spring of 1780. Major works had been projected but were limited to the construction of a modest house which served as residence for the pilots for a few years. But the government kept the isle for four years.

“In 1790, the government handed over the seigneurie of Bic and the island to the Marquise of ALBERGATTI-VEZZA who had previously been the owner. She busied herself in improving the island, having found it greatly damaged by the pilots who had deforested it in part, in order to obtain firewood. Until 1783, l’Isle du Bic had no other inhabitants than the pilots.” (D. POTVIN, *The Saint Lawrence and Its Isles*).

Ruined by his losses due to the Canadian-American war, William had to abandon his business, his lands, and re-

orient his life and career to survive along with his family. Of necessity, William surely made to the authorities requests based on his service, with the aim of obtaining a position.

1781 – William ROSS was named by the British government Superintendent of the Pilots of the Saint Lawrence at l'île du Bic, at a daily salary of five shillings with supplies, until the general reduction of 1784.

In the course of nine years, William had acquired a firm experience navigating the Saint Lawrence River. His business dealings with the inhabitants of Miramichi and of the coast of the Baies-des-Chaleurs at New Brunswick, had allowed him to become familiar with the dangers which navigation on the river and along the shores presented. It is not known if William was already familiar with navigation at the time of his forced departure from Scotland.

1782 – The first of November, the captain of His Majesty's vessel the Surprise, John FERGUSON, draws up a letter of recommendation concerning the piloting services received from William; it reads as follows:

“Mr. William ROSS, Superintendent at l'île du Bic, has uniformly given the strictest attention to the vessels of His Majesty which sailed to the above-mentioned isle, as well as to the merchant ships during my stay between 22 June and 1 November 1782. He used all the energy in his power to provide for said boats and vessels sober and loyal pilots to lead them upstream and downstream on the Saint Lawrence River, as well as providing the military men with fresh beef

and all the needed medications for the prompt rehabilitation of their sick. Consequently, I wish to recommend him highly to all the ships' captains of His Majesty and of vessels who from now on will arrive at this location, as an indefatigable man, meritorious, capable, and worthy of the post which he holds – and if possible, that he be promoted.”

1783 – Seigneur Louis LEPAGE concedes a plot of land to William ROSS on l'île du Bic.

1784 – William reclaims his pew located in the church of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, even though he had no doubt not paid his tithe from perhaps 1781, since from that time on he had not lived there.

1785 – The seizure of his goods at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, including land, house, and barn. During almost four years, he was able to maintain his obligations in this place. How? This needs to be explained.

On 5 October 1785, William cedes his goods to John ROSS of Québec, no doubt his creditor. William petitions a grant of land in the region of Sainte-Luce up to Métis.

1788 – William ROSS the elder and William ROSS the son, are settled as squatters on la Pointe-du-vieux-Bic, precisely at the western extremity where Antoine MICHAUD – he, too, a pilot – had settled. William ROSS, Jr. received his pilot's license that same year.

The late Napoléon CÔTÉ, former owner of la Pointe du Bic, affirmed around 1900, that, while still a child, he

had seen the ruins of the three small houses of these squatters.

1792 – William ROSS the elder takes part in a petition, while he was living at Bic, to lengthen the Chemin du Roy as far as Sainte-Luce. He was probably already settled at l’Anse-aux-Coques (Sainte-Luce).

At the beginning of the 1800 years, after he had acquired the seigneurie of Bic, Seigneur PRITCHARD (27 June 1801) had the three squatters evicted from the place. In the meantime Jean-Pierre ARSENAULT (an Acadian) gained from Seigneur PRITCHARD his title of concession to the land which the squatters had occupied.

1792 – On 6 September, William ROSS, junior (Guillaume) marries at Québec Marie-Josephte BOUCHER, daughter of Prisque BOUCHER and Marguerite HUOT. They settled at Sainte-Luce perhaps in the same year.

1793 – William ROSS, senior, receives the order to keep an eye, beginning at l’île du Bic, on the coming arrival of a flotilla which is said to have been sent by Napoleon BONAPARTE to invade Canada. In a letter dated from Rimouski on 7 December 1793, D. ROBITAILLE, priest-pastor of Rimouski and some Bic colonists reply to a circular letter from his bishop concerning this supposed coming invasion:

“I received last night at the end of vespers, the circular letter from Your Grace, dated 9 November last. The inhabitants were already talking about this fleet, because Mister ROSS, senior, was advised to guard l’île du Bic, with all the

other pilots, as soon as the next spring.” “No one ever knew about of this fleet,” says the late Benjamin SULTE. “I believe that it did not exist at all.” This rumor had probably originated because of the Continental Blockade by Napoleon BONAPARTE, suspects the same historian. (J. D. MICHAUD, 1925)

177X? – Document drawn from the Bic monograph. – The narrator practices medicine and business and earns 3,000 pounds sterling in goods. He returns from a trip to Europe, but was not able to penetrate into France because of the war.

“16 June, Wind [from the West]: we are sailing close to a mild wind. Last night, the pilot ROSS came on board from the vessel Jane with his son, the pilot LAVOIE, and his apprentice. ROSS remained and LAVOIE boarded another ship. This morning the Pointe des Monts was seen to our rear. The Cape was at SSW. We were treated to salmon. LAVOIE and he told me that they had been at the apothecary, that my son had grown taller and gained weight, that he was well and so was the whole family, and that they were expecting me every day. This news so greatly pleased me that I was not able to close my eyes for the night.

17 June. Northwest wind; cape at 1/4 SW; good breeze. We travel at 7 miles per hour. We are facing Matane, where there seem to be six houses. Plot of land in circular tiers and good, according to the pilots. They estimate twelve leagues to Métis and 6 from there to Bic. The pilot ROSS said that the île du Bic and the seigneurie facing it are for sale, and that the whole can be had for one hun-

dred fifty louis. Actual benefits: cod fishing at the end of the isle, hunt of walrus, land on which to sow 30 minots of all grains, and good land, good trees, many mature, plenty of hay. On the front of the seigneurie, near the small river, much hay, and three inhabitants paying 7s. 6d each (seven sols and six deniers of rent for each). Modest salmon fishing; excellent fishing for eels, herring, sardines. Porpoises can be caught at l'anse au Coq (Sainte-Luce). Since all the ships going up or coming down river weigh anchor in the port of Bic, this post would be advantageous for holding animals and provisions, wines and alcoholic beverages. Building a flour mill and a sawmill on the wide land at the small river would attract the inhabitants of the neighboring fiefs who lack them, and the inhabitants of Bic itself. A matter to be considered at Québec: – a vessel drawing up to 15 feet of water can enter the Matane river at high tide.

18 June. Arrived at aux Pélerins. Wind Northeast; cape WSW 1/4. We saw a brigantine run aground on the sandbar on the height of the île-aux-Lièvres; in the early morning, 5 others on l'île Rouge and one on l'île Blanche. If the wind holds, we shall, with the help of God, reach Québec and my dear family – object of my most ardent desires – and my friends. We spot Kamouraska, the good wind continues... On 19 June (Sunday), in the morning, we were anchored before the city (Québec)."

1793 – Father François CIQUART is deported to l'île du Bic and kept as prisoner in this place before being transferred to England. Abbé CIQUART, like so many other French priests, had emigrated to Canada in spite of the prohibi-

tion of the imperial government. On 22 May 1793, he arrived at Montréal, disguised as a merchant. Arrested by the immigration officers, he was sent to La Malbaie where the first ship was to take and repatriate him. But the zealous missionary did not see it in this fashion. Wanting at all costs to remain in the country, he outwitted the surveillance of his guards, took flight through the forest and returned to Montréal. He was arrested again on 13 July, upon order of the governor, and deported to l'île du Bic where a company of police guarded him until the 20th of August of the same year. Then, he was sent back to France whence he was exiled to England by the French Revolution. But the abbé was exceptionally tenacious. In 1791, he is found at Fredericton, New Brunswick, where he exercised his ministry for several years. He died in Montréal in 1824. (J. D. MICHAUD, *Le Bic, the Stages of a Parish*)

1802 – On 22 May, William ROSS, the elder, is conceded the seigneurie of xxxx [sic in original] containing 14,800 acres.

1802 – Among the resident pilots at Sainte-Luce, are mentioned William ROSS, Alexander ROSS, Daniel ROSS, and John ROSS.

1802 – At that time, a vessel called Le Jalobert transported from la Pointe-au-Père to the transatlantic waters and back our resident pilots of Sainte-Luce, among whom were: Louis-Marie LAVOIE, Pierre LAVOIE, Joseph LANGLOIS, William ROSS, Alexandre ROSS, Daniel ROSS, John ROSS, Joseph DOIRON, and Pierre ROULEAU.

1803 – Construction by Louis DESROSIERS of the first flour mill at l'anse au Lard, no doubt that the mill on the la Loutre stream, belonging to William ROSS, senior. After the sale of the seigneurie to the DRAPEAU family, this mill deteriorated rapidly because the owners of the seigneurie did not live up to their seigniorial duty to maintain it in good working order. The first mill was probably used for slightly more than forty years, because in 1848, the inhabitants of Sainte-Luce get together and present a request addressed to the owner DRAPEAU that the mill be rebuilt. In between times, some additions had perhaps been made to the original mill, or other buildings erected nearby, since the stream at la Loutre served as motor force for the saw, carding, fulling, and pressing fabric mills.

1804 – Request for survey of the Seigneurie of Sainte-Luce-Mitis.

1806 – Request for survey of the Seigneurie of Sainte-Luce-Mitis.

1807 – Distribution of the lots.

1808 – The 7th of November, demise of William, the elder, dead from the cold in the Bic pass.

1808 – The 13th of November at Rimouski, petition that there be a road opened between the said place of Rimouski and Trois-Pistoles. Thirty-four petitioners had made their mark, no doubt not knowing how to sign, among whom Euclide (Acline or Laughlin) ROSS, seventh child of William ROSS.

1809 – On 16 May, burial of William ROSS, senior, in the cemetery for

unbaptized dead children – therefore outside the consecrated cemetery of Saint-Germain de Rimouski (William was of the Baptist faith). This cemetery was located to the southwest of the present-day Cathedral of Rimouski, at the corner of the streets of Sainte-Marie and de la Cathédrale (formerly rue des avocats).

1810 – “We also know that in 1810, according to a notarized act, the greatest part of the seigneurie belonged to Marie-Josèphe PROULX, widow of William ROSS, in his lifetime an officer of the King and a pilot. We don't know at which date William ROSS acquired his domain. Mrs. ROSS sold her share of the seigneurie to Mrs. Joseph DRAPEAU, at a date we do not know. But the transaction could not have taken place before 1810 because that was the year that DRAPEAU died. We can then deduce that the first mill at the stream of La Loutre, built around 1803-1804, belonged to the ROSS family.” (Revue d'histoire du Bas-Saint-Laurent, vol. III, no 1, Mai 1976). [Revue of the Lower Saint Lawrence]

1810 - The 3rd of August, Marie-Josephite PROULX – foreseeing death and fearing she would not be forewarned before having arranged for her final wishes – dictated these final wishes word for word, as follows:

“Secondly, she gives and cedes by the present will to Miss Héleine ROSS, her grand-daughter born of the marriage of Sieur Hector ROSS (her 3rd son) and of Marie BOUILLON from the parish of Rimouski, all her furniture, wearing apparel, plates and dishes, glassware, money earned and active debts which she will leave at the day

and hour of her demise and which will then belong to her; finally all the movable goods which will be found not to have been included in the act of donation which she had made of her goods to Sieurs Hector and Laughlin ROSS, her sons, by contract before Attorney Bernard DUBERGER, notary, dated 21 June 1802.

“With the responsibility of having celebrated for the repose of the soul of said lady testatrix her grandmother: two Requiem Masses, and of caring for said

testatrix in her weaknesses, both in health and in sickness. In the year one thousand eight-hundred ten, the third day of August forenoon, at Rivière-Ouelle.”

The said testatrix has declared not knowing how to write. (Minutes of notary Aug. DIONNE. “Will of dame Marie-Josephte PROULX, widow of the late Sieur William ROSS, pilot of the Saint Lawrence River in his lifetime.” Record 4736.

Weird Facts

The human body is composed of about 36 liters or eight gallons of water.

Ocean waves have been known to toss rocks weighing more than 100 tons.

Fish that live more than 800 meters below the ocean surface don't have eyes.

Dogs pant to regulate their body heat, but they also have sweat glands in their feet.

Taking a bath requires 40 percent more water than the average shower ... Unless you sing and have to finish your song.

Grasshoppers hear through their knees.

Some snakes hear through their tongues.

Fish don't have ears, yet they hear or feel vibrations along the lateral line of their bodies.

If you could count the number of times a cricket chirps in one minute, divide by 2, add 9 and divide by 2 again, you would have the correct temperature in Celsius degrees... On the other hand you can always look at a thermometer.

There are 336 dimples on a golf ball. If you don't believe me... count them.

Your teeth are the first to decay while you are alive ... yet the last to decay when you are dead.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

Finding Ancestral Homes on the Romantic Île d'Orléans

by: **Jeanne M. Carley**

Unexpected surprises mark every holiday. But while visiting an idyllic island in the St. Lawrence River, I never expected to discover my ancestral 17th century home and learn the tragic fate of my immigrant ancestors in New France. Called l'Île d'Orléans, the island faces the city of Québec a few miles away. It was the first home of many French settlers in the New World and is sometimes known as the cradle of French civilization in North America.

Shaped like an immense ship, the 42 mile-long island was home to the Algonquins when CARTIER stopped there in 1536. The Indians called it Minigo (bewitched corner or enchanted place); The explorer names it Bacchus for the wild grapevines he found there. Later he re-named this verdant spot in honor of the king's son, the duke of Orléans.

With the advantage of isolation from marauding Iroquois, l'Île d'Orléans was one of the first areas settled by French immigrants. By 1685 the Indians had fled and colonists on the island numbered over 1,200, nearly as many as the city of Québec. During the *ancien regime* the French seigneurial system was established. Each seigneur was obligated to grant land to prospective settlers and provide a grist mill in his fief. In

return, the colonists were obliged to pay annual levies on their property, to clear and farm their land and to have their grain milled at the seigneurial mill. Like other settlers along the St. Lawrence River, these islanders received narrow concessions – 150 *metres* wide by 1600 *metres* in depth – that gave them a narrow but valuable access to river frontage on Québec's major "road." The island's central wooded area was left uncleared.

The St. Lawrence gave the French colonists abundant fish and fertile soil along the banks for the seeds they brought with them. Wildlife and game were plentiful and wood provided material for their early homes and fuel. Most of these courageous pioneers were artisans, mariners and farmers from France's western provinces, who married and raised large families. The island became home to 317 large Québec families. They created a cultural homeland for over 7 million French Canadians and at least 5 million Franco-Americans in the United States today. For many of these descendants, tracing their ancestry to this island is the last step before going back to the mother country.

Over the years Orléans has seen many changes, most notably a 1935 bridge that links it to the Beaupré main-

land, and an unsightly power line. But it still retains much of its natural beauty and unique architectural heritage. Visiting here is a return to the past with constant reminders of its rural times. Four-hundred years after CHAMPLAIN's founding of Québec, this bucolic island continues to be discovered. The current explorers are the progeny of those early immigrants and other visitors who are intrigued by its close resemblance to provincial France. I was one of those descendants who had been looking around in genealogy libraries in search of my French-Canadian roots.

From Mormon records, I had found my family name, GENDREAU, was often associated with St. Laurent, Montmorency County, Québec. I also learned from the historical society in Little Falls, MN, my home town, that my paternal grandparents had emigrated from the Montreal area in 1881 to this Mississippi River town. They were among many Canadians in the 19th century seeking new land by following the trails of the earlier fur traders. Then aided by Tanguay's *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes* and the Loiselle Marriage Registers of Québec from the Canadian National Archives, I traced my paternal line back 10 generations to France. I discovered that the first GENDREAU family (Pierre and Jeanne GARNIER) lived on the Côte de Beaupré across from l'Île d'Orléans. The next three generations of my family settled on the island until my ancestor Louis and his wife, Marie-Anne PÉPIN dit LA-CHANCE, moved west to the region of St. Jean County. Just south of Montreal is the area where both my grandparents, Paul GENDREAU and Odile DESLAURIERS (NORMANDEAU) were

born and married.

In August 1988, members of my family and I set out for a holiday in Québec, stopping in the rural villages of the Richelieu River Valley where my ancestors had lived. We visited the church graveyards, but except for a few related tombstones, there was little evidence of our families there. After a few days spent in Montreal, we headed toward Québec City, the Côte de Beaupré and l'Île d'Orléans, only minutes away. Here at last was Montmorency County. After crossing the bridge to the island, we arrived in St. Pierre, one of six picturesque villages. At the small welcoming center, a 90-minute cassette is available to guide you on a tour of the island. Tape recorders are also available. There are information booklets describing the history and listing all the sights and facilities: photos of B & B's (*gîtes*), auberges, and French restaurants. Historical sites and genealogical information are also included.

It is a jewel of an island with panoramic river views of passing ships, the majestic Laurentian slopes of Mont Ste. Anne, flocks of snow geese at Cap Tourmenté and flowers blooming everywhere. The landscape displays pastoral scenes of meadows with cows and sheep, horses, apple orchards, plum trees, vineyards and fields of strawberries. Alongside the main *chemin Royale* that circles the island, the peaceful countryside is filled with brightly painted processional chapels and barns, red-tinned roofs, ancient stone windmills, and weathered *cabanes à sucre* (sugar shacks) still used for maple sugaring parties. Every summer, roadside stands offer an array of the island products:

farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, berries, maple syrup, jams and home-made breads, crocheted and rag rugs, and woven articles. Some farms allow visitors to pick their own berries, apples and corn.

Orléans is an oasis of architectural treasures dating back to the late 17th century. There are more than 600 buildings designated as historic landmarks on the island. Some 20 wayside crosses and shrines remain along the *chemin Royal*. Quaint homes bear witness to both French and English styles reflecting four centuries of evolving design. Attractive new versions of the old style houses help maintain the traditional character of the island.

At the heart of each community, the Catholic parish became its most significant image, symbolic of its people's strong religious life. As was the custom in France, the slender spires of these simple Norman churches are topped with golden Gallic weathercocks. The island's oldest church was built in St. Pierre in the early 1700's and restored in the 1960s. For those searching for their ancestors, a genealogical tomb in this church lists their French origins and where they settled in Québec. The ancient church is no longer used for worship, but is an historical monument open daily for visitors from May 1 to November 1. Near each village church, a large sign or interpretation panel describes the parish and the names of its first settlers. Be prepared with a French-English dictionary. For us, it was quite exciting to find the St. Laurent signboard with the name of GENDREAU!

Also of interest are the 35 com-

memorative plaques erected throughout the island in memory of its founding families. Each summer, descendants arrive from all over North America to attend reunions of these Orléans families. Some of them have formed groups to travel to their villages in France. This summer reunions will be held for the families of MONTAMBAULT, ROULEAU, LAROCHE, ROCHETTE, GOSSELIN, and PRÉMONT. My other Orléanais ancestors include ALLAIRE/DALLAIRE, ARRIVÉ, ASSELIN, AUDET/LAPOINTE, CÔTÉ, DROUIN, GAGNE, GAGNON, GUYON, HOUDÉ, ISABEL, LANGLOIS, LECLERC, LEFORT, LEMELIN, LEPAGE, LOIGNON, MINEAU, MORENCY/BAUCHE, PAQUET, PARADIS, PERROT/VILDAIGNE, PÉPIN/LACHANCE, ROULEAU, ROUSSEAU, TERRIEN and others.

At Ste. Famille, where in 1661 the first parish was founded, an unusually beautiful church with triple bell towers was built during 1743-1748. Each summer, the parish exhibits sacred objects and related memorabilia, but even more fascinating to franco phones are the genealogy and local history books for sale. It helps to speak French, but if you can only pronounce the names your searching, a bevy of tiny elderly women chatting in French will find something for you. Here we obtained the recently published biographies of our Québec immigrants, one of 29 volumes published by Ste. Anne de Beaupré Press directly across on the mainland. Each book in the series "Nos Ancêtres" contains several biographies written by Père Gérard LEBEL (deceased 1999) and Jacques St. Ônge. They are still available in French at Ste. Anne's by mail and have been

translated into English. For a list of ancestors published in the books, write to: Revue Ste. Anne de Beaupré, C.P. 1000, Ste. Anne de Beaupré, Québec - GOA 3CO.

After the family history center was re-located in the old school in St. François for a few years, it returned to Ste. Famille, where it is now housed in a new building adjacent to the church in its own ancestors park. At *La Maison de nos Aïeux*, you can obtain a computerized information sheet on your family genealogy and locate their land on a three-dimensional scale model of the island. Open mid-June to Labor Day, limited hours from Labor Day until mid-October. Art and history exhibits will be held this summer.

On the south shore, the impressive stone churches of St. Laurent (1860) and St. Jean (1734) are sited near the river with enclosed stone-walled cemeteries. St. Laurent's first church was spared disaster during the British siege of Québec in 1759 when the church *cure* wrote General WOLFE begging him not to destroy the house of God. According to the story, the general, who had landed on the nearby wharf, promised he would not attack the edifice. He also assured the *habitants* that if they should take up arms against him, their homes and fields would be burned and their harbor blocked.

The 1740 church of St. François, however, was seriously damaged by the British who used it for a hospital. In 1988, the old structure with its precious gold treasures and original gilt statuary was completely gutted by fire and the gravestones smashed and lifted from their resting places. Sited at the end of the *chemin Royale*, the church was struck head-on

by a speeding car driven by a suicidal young man. We found it in smoking ruins. It was rebuilt in 1992 on the same foundation, but the stark interior is vastly different from the original ornate style. The graveyard remains, but many tombstones are missing.

To reach the *bout* (tip) of the island, we drove west on the *chemin Royale* to Ste. Pétronille, as it has been known since 1870. From this point, there are dramatic views of Montmorency Falls, Québec City and Cap Diamont. The original site of a Huron settlement in 1651, it became headquarters for General WOLFE and his 40,000 soldiers and ships in 1759. From here he bombarded the city of Québec and the Côté de Beaupré and destroyed many of the island's homes and farms. Forewarned, the French *habitants* had sought refuge in the woods behind Québec. Some babies were born to mothers there, including one of my CÔTÉ ancestors.

At the end of the 19th century, Ste. Pétronille became a favorite holiday spot as trips could be made easily by boat.. Regency and Victorian styles are evident in the ornate mansard-roofed houses and inns built during this era. The Victorian La Goeliche, one of the oldest inns, is still in operation. The studio of the 19th century painter, Horatio WALKER is open to visitors. His drawings of the *habitants* in their hand-woven clothes and pointy wool caps appear in several Québec histories. Other attractions are the presbytery, the church and convent erected in the 1870's. Ship and boat-building was an active industry here and in St. Laurent on the island in the 19th century for many years.

In St. Jean, the village of river-boat pilots and navigators, we found our B & B and its view of the water a delightful place. Our hosts, Raymond and Lyse BROUSSEAU, were not only pleasant but most helpful to us. Our comfortably carriage-house rooms were tastefully decorated by Lyse, a museum designer. On the door a note was tacked announcing "Welcome Home." Over leisurely *déjeuners* of fruit, croissants and freshly baked breads in their restored river-pilot's home, we discussed the history of the island and Québécois art. Raymond, a collector and dealer, owns three Québec shops with folk art and Inuit carvings.

One of the most beautiful rural buildings in the entire province is found in St. Jean. Manor Mauvide-Genest was built in Norman style around 1734 for MAUVIDE, former surgeon to Louis XV, and his wife, Marie-Anne GENEST. The largest home on the island, its stately stone walls are covered with stucco. It still bears the scars of cannon balls from WOLFE's attack. Today it houses a restaurant serving Amerindian, New France and classic crepes. On a later trip, while enjoying a lunch there, we saw an exhibition of oil paintings – island homes and scenes – painted by Cécile GENDREAU, a Québec artist and sister of the manager. We toured the museum filled with locally crafted items such as an Indian-made portable altar, and wonderful Orléanais furniture.

After seeing the ancient GENDREAU home pictured in *Nos Ancêtres*, we were determined to find it. With a few clues, we drove to St. Laurent again on the last day of our trip. Finally, there it was – secluded behind a modest house

and two barns owned by a current GENDREAU family on *chemin Royale*. Like most early homes built during the *ancien regime*, it's not visible from the main road since it faces the river, the early mode of transport. Prior to the bridge, residents traveled by boat and later by ferry to Québec City in an hour with the rising tide and returning with the ebbing tide. In winter, they crossed by horse-driven sleigh over the ice bridge to the city.

The three-story Norman house with its steeply pitched *pavilion* roof, wood finials, and two rows of dormers overlooks a spectacular vista on the St. Lawrence River. Constructed in the French medieval tradition, this monumental building has thick walls of fieldstone and roof trusses of heavy hewn timbers, mortised and secured with large oak pegs. It has justly been called one of the island's most important legacies. *La vieille maison* has been pictured in local histories and in "The Most Beautiful Houses of Quebec" as was another milestone GENDREAU home next door. More recently in 1993, an illustrated feature on the home was written by the owner's daughter in a Canadian magazine, "City and Country Homes." And after I contacted Cécile GENDREAU a few years ago, she agreed to paint an oil of the antique house for us. Previously, she hadn't known about the house which is her ancestral home too.

The 300 year-old GENDREAU home was built by my ancestor Jacques between 1691-1700 for his wife Catherine D'ALLERET/DALLERAY and their ten children. He was the eldest son of Pierre (1633-1673) and his wife Jeanne GARNIER (1634-1702), my immigrant an-

cestors, who had settled on the Beaupré coast at Château Richer. They both came from the tiny village of St. Denis, Île d'Oléron, the second largest French island near La Rochelle. Their tragic lives are the stuff of novels: Jeanne GARNIER, a *fille de marier* (a girl of marriageable age), traveled alone to Canada and was widowed twice with three children before marrying Pierre, a mason (worked for Monsignor LAVAL) and farmer in 1663. It is thought that he was either killed by Indians or drowned in the river when Jeanne was awaiting their sixth child. She re-married much later and was widowed once again while planning to move to Québec City. Before she died, her son, Pierre, was murdered by his wife's lover, who burned their cottage to conceal his victim's death by gunshot. He was tried and convicted, but escaped and was later pardoned by Louis XIV. One of Pierre's two sons drowned in the St. Lawrence in his teens. The mother had more children by other men and died in her forties in Montreal.

Many generations of the family lived in Jacques' home, but in 1964, it was sold to an English Canadian family, Tony PRICE, a descendant of William PRICE, the lumber baron. These early dwellings are private homes, but the PRICES graciously invited us to see the beautifully refinished interiors with its vast central fireplace, original wood *caisson* ceiling and floors. Their story of finding English military buttons in the former straw-filled loft would make it appear that British soldiers stayed there during the campaign. When the PRICE family bought the house as a summer place, there was antique furniture such as an

old wooden cradle that they used for their grandchildren. Unlike many aging homes restored by their proud residents, this house had been used by animals and neglected by its previous owners. Fortunately, today's appreciation for these venerable *maisons* and their furnishings means they are now preserved and cherished by their new owners.

A similar period house is *L'Atre* (The Hearth) a former restaurant and c. 1680 farmhouse in Ste. Famille. A horse-drawn *calèche* (carriage) took guests down a steep dirt road to its door. Furnished with Québec country antiques, a collection of these home-made wood antiques is displayed upstairs. Originally owned by the MONTMORENCY/MORENCY family, this stone house was occupied by British troops. *L'Atre* is no longer a restaurant. Nearby you can view the 1695 Cyrille DROUIN house and Heritage Museum.

Summer and early fall are the best times to visit Orléans since many cultural activities are held. Folk songfests and musicals are performed, and chamber music concerts are held at Ste. Pétronille.

Nearing the end of our holiday, we felt reluctant to leave this charming and historic place with its colorful and dramatic stories. But along with many pleasant memories of an enchanted isle, we took with us an awareness of our cultural heritage and profound respect for our newly-discovered pioneer ancestors. We vowed to return here and as the Québec motto says, *Je me souviens*.

All the chemicals in the human body have a combined value of \$6.25. At least you'll never go broke.

The Search

by: Shirley A. Beaudin

I began the search for my ancestors and those of my husband in 1994 and became a member of AFGS shortly thereafter. I live some distance from the library, about 125 miles, but became addicted to this hobby very quickly and in my quest for information I visited twice a month for about five years. The more I discovered, the more I wanted to know. Needless to say, the volunteers at the library were very helpful and taught me all that I know about research.

I would like to share two interesting stories with fellow members that I feel are unique and interesting. The family name in both stories is *BEAUDIN*. My husband's parents were both *BEAUDIN*s. The family always assumed that they were not related. However, they do connect eight generations back, but that is another story. His mother's paternal grandmother (his great-grandmother) was Caroline *RAYMOND* who married Paul *BEAUDIN* 13 January 1852 at St. Philippe, Laprairie. The *Blue Drouin* listed her parents as Joseph *RAYMOND/REMOND* and Judith *LAVALLE*. This is where I hit a brick wall. I could find no record of a marriage between Joseph *RAYMOND* and Judith *LAVALLE*. Assuming that her parents were also married at St. Philippe, I viewed St. Philippe repertoire and microfilm with no success. I searched female names on

microfiche, but no Judith *LAVALLE*. After many hours, I decided that I would finish the remainder of the family tree always on the lookout for that marriage. I searched and completed by family name which was *DAVIAU* and my husband's paternal family always checking for the Joseph *RAYMOND*/Judith *LAVALLE* marriage.

Meanwhile, I wrote to many parishes in the area asking for a marriage between Joseph and Judith with no success. I visited Canada several times always checking for this marriage at any of the parishes I visited, again with no success.

Finally in 2003 after I had completed my research except for this line, I went on another trip to Canada determined to find this marriage. At last, success. I started again at St. Philippe and was very disappointed when there was no one available at the presbytery that could locate the records. My next stop was to a combination Museum and Genealogical Library in Laprairie that I had visited before. I really did not expect to find anything there because I had already searched there before. But at last the Genealogical Gods decided to shine their sun on me. In that my French is very limited I was very lucky, a Canadian gentleman whose English was as

good as his French asked me what I was looking for. I explained my predicament to him and after checking several volumes with me (that I had already checked before) he suggested that I go to Sainte-Marguerite-de-Blairfindie in L'Acadie. Using his directions, I found it easily. However a lovely young lady who gave me a tour of the church told me that the records were no longer there. They were at the Historical Society in St. Jean de Richelieu. So, off I went again. By the way, I have come to the conclusion that genealogists are the nicest people in the world. A wonderful lady in St. Jean helped me and we found a marriage between Joseph RAYMOND and Angelique LAVALLE. I had uncovered this marriage before and even though I would love to have assumed that it was the correct marriage, I could not prove it. She explained that the head librarian was not available that day and he was the one that could do this. She took my name and address and home I went feeling rather dejected and that I probably would not hear from them. Well imagine my unbelievable excitement when about three weeks later I got an envelope with copies of all the records, along with translations, all the proof I needed that Joseph RAYMOND had married Angelique LAVALLE, and not Judith.

My second story is equally as thrilling. I enjoy taking pictures of the old churches where the ancestors lived. On another visit to Canada, I visited St. Philippe and found a relatively new church (the original had burned sometime in the 1950's). Being somewhat disappointed, I decided to start for home. A short distance down the road I noticed a sign that said St. Jacques-le-Mineur 5 km. Having recalled that name from my

searches, I decided I would go and have a look. I took several pictures of the church and then wandered around the cemetery grounds, some very close to the church and others off to the right in a more organized cemetery.

Well, imagine my surprise when I pushed aside the tall grass near some of the stones and discovered the gravesite of Melanise DENEAU, the wife of Joseph OUIMET who was my husband's great-grandmother. They were married on 12 January 1869 at St. Jacques and died seventeen years apart. Of course, I took many pictures and started to leave when an old gentleman began to speak to me in French. I could not understand most of what he was saying, but when I mentioned the name OUIMET, his response was "*Oui, oui, Ouimet farm.*" I continued on my journey home, however, that remark stuck in my mind. Did the OUIMET farm still exist? A few weeks later, back to Canada we went (my husband and I) to find the OUIMET farm.

We went back to the house where I had talked to the old gentleman and asked how we could find the OUIMET farm. While he was trying to explain how we could find it, his wife went back into the house and unbeknownst to us had called Lucille OUIMET to tell her that someone was looking for the family. Using his directions we went off to find the farm and as we were coming down the road a lady was out waving to us (we were on a motorcycle so we were easy to recognize). Well, she turned out to be the wife of a first cousin to my father-in-law. We had a wonderful visit and she has four sons who live in the US only about 40 miles from us. We got

in touch with them and have visited and dined together on several occasions. One of the sons has shared some wonderful pictures of the ancestors, the brothers and sisters of my husband's grandmother. Also, some pictures that we all know are family members but unfortunately are unable to identify. The whole experience was the thrill of a life-

time.

I guess if there is a moral to my stories, it is never give up and do not leave any stone unturned. If any of you are working on families BEAUDIN, GERVAIS, OUIOMET, DAVIAU or FOURNIER I would love to swap information.

Did you know that Jimmy Carter was the first U.S. president to have been born in a hospital?

Or that Eskimos use refrigerators to keep food FROM freezing?

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." Uses every letter in the alphabet. (developed by Western Union to test telex/twx communications)

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.

Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

In the 1940s, the FCC assigned television's Channel 1 to mobile Services(two-way radios in taxicabs, for instance) but did not Pre-number the other channel assignments. That is why your TV set has channels 2 and up, but no channel 1.

The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments. The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.

Hang On Sloopy is the official rock song of Ohio.

Did you know that there are coffee flavored PEZ?

The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.

The airplane Buddy Holly died in was the "American Pie." (Thus the name of the Don McLean song.)

When opossums are playing 'possum, they are not "playing." They actually pass out from sheer terror.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

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For all those of you who have access to the Internet out there... Check out the AFGS web site. You'll be amazed at what you'll see.

The Godefroy Family

A Continuing Story

by: Jack Valois

Editor's Note: The following, an early genealogy of one of France's and Canada's prominent families of the seventeenth century continues with this installment.

American Revolutionary War 1775-1783

On 31 August, three months after the 19 April 1775 start of the American Revolution, Irish-born Richard MONTGOMERY (1738-1775), a brigadier general in the brand-new Continental Army, left the fort at Crown Point, in upstate New York, at the head of 2,000 regional militia. By the way, the term "Continental" was coined in a vain attempt to persuade Canada's 80,000 Frenchmen to join the U.S. cause during the revolution.

MONTGOMERY was a former English army officer himself. His long-range mission was an ambitious one – nothing less than the takeover of Canada by capturing its seat of government at Québec City. The fledgling United States, even though inadequately prepared, came uncomfortably close to achieving that goal.

At the time, Canada was meagerly defended by two below-strength battalions of the royal 7th and 26th Fusilier Regi-

ments, totaling 859 men, under overall command of General Sir Guy CARLETON (1724-1808), crown administrator of British North America. The primary reason for America's planned invasion was enactment of the Québec Act by Great Britain's parliament on 20 May 1774.

This legislation finally restored to native tribes of the North American Middle West, for their use as Indian Territory, immense tracts of land seized years earlier on behalf of the crown by order of the U.S. rebels' least favorite monarch, King George III (1738-1820).

American colonists, most especially acquisitive land speculators, weren't happy to find themselves excluded from millions of acres of valuable wilderness real estate. What the U.S. later excused as "Manifest Destiny" (the policy of increasing a nation's territory by any means necessary) now became in mid-1775 an overwhelming desire by the newly rebellious United States to eliminate Canada as a rival by simply annexing it as a brand-new fourteenth state.

The 1774 Act had an opposite and beneficial effect on the French Catholic population of Canada for it established the old *regime's* civil code of law as a

legal entity once again. And it officially authorized worship of the Roman Catholic religion by *Canadiens*. Both provisions of the Act won unequivocal approval from the ruling Catholic clergy and all classes of *Québécois* churchgoers (99 percent of the provincial population in those God-fearing days).

This same law concentrated all civil power in the hands of the crown colony's top official, the English governor-general, and his provincial legislative councils – one of whose Québec members was Louis-Joseph IV, GODEFROY (1712-1784), Lord DE TONNANCOUR. The Act effectively restricted political control of Canada to the higher clergy and land-owning seigniors (most of whom were French).

Why the American colonies decided to revolt against England in the first place can be laid at the doorsteps of a small but extremely outspoken clique of wealthy and ambitious English-American merchants and landowners, primarily in the Atlantic seaboard colonies of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New York.

These clever entrepreneurs-turned-superpatriots used the rationale of “liberty for all” to persuade a doubtful two-thirds of their fellow colonists to reject taxation without American representation in the English parliament. With much fanfare, killing, and sacrifice – not to mention colossal military blunders by both sides – the rebels clumsily succeeded in cutting themselves loose from England during eight years of ruinous warfare.

Even today, few realize that only

one-third of American settlers in 1775 actually favored violent separation from Great Britain. Another one-third were either indifferent to the pleas of the patriot minority or opportunistic fence straddlers looking to improve their own fortunes. The remaining third of the populace in the 13 former crown colonies were fervent supporters of England.

Between 1775 and 1783, about 395,000 men served with the Continental Army or in militia units of the 13 colonies/states. Possibly another 30,000 Americans showed their loyalty to Britain by enlisting in the armed forces of the crown.

During and after the war, an additional 80,000 colonists, unwilling to revolt against the British monarchy, left homes behind and, in most cases, other personal possessions as well in order to vote with their feet in a mass exodus to Canada, Nova Scotia, and more distant parts of Great Britain's realm. Henceforth, they were scorned as Tories by U.S. patriots and respected as United Empire Loyalists by the English.

Quixotically, by 1774, ten years after the end of the French and Indian War and one year before the Revolutionary War started, only 200 British citizens lived in Canada. About 50 were English nationals, the remainder claimed former residency in the lower British colonies soon to be the U.S. These latter individuals principally included merchants who moved to Montreal and Québec City to engage in the profitable trade then underway with American colonies in the south.

In 1774 and 1775, French Canadi-

ans became specific targets of secret U.S. agents who infiltrated Canada. Their purpose was to create a subversive network designed to turn the Franco population against England. Example: *Canadiens* were told they would suffer the same fate as kinsmen deported in 1755 from Acadia, now New Brunswick Province, for refusing to swear allegiance to Great Britain after their French colony was ceded to England in 1713, a casualty of the peace treaty ending Queen Ann's War.

The British had expelled Acadians to the American colonies, even to France. In the process, these Francos had their land, livestock and belongings confiscated without hope of monetary compensation. During deportation at gunpoint, English soldiers irresponsibly separated French Acadian children from parents, sisters from brothers, and wives from husbands, in the course of hurriedly cramming the dishearten evacuees aboard numerous ships all destined for different ports in the British colonies and France.

In his epic narrative poem, "Evangeline," published in 1847, American poet Henry Wadsworth LONGFELLOW (1807-1882) chronicled the terrible plight of two young Acadian sweethearts, torn from each other's arms during the 1755 expulsion, never to be reunited.

U.S. spies further advised Quebecers that British transport vessels were already anchored in the St. Lawrence River, awaiting orders to forcibly transport expelled *Canadiens* to Boston in Massachusetts. Francos were also told their menfolk might be drafted into the

British Army and sent to fight in New England. For good measure, they were later threatened with a U.S. army of 50,000 men if they refused to help invaders from the south. The same provocateurs vowed that, during the forthcoming invasion, Americans would destroy Québec by fire and sword.

Some *Québécois* did flock to the revolutionary cause when U.S. troops first showed up in the autumn of 1775 at La Prairie, several miles below Montreal. But most remained passively loyal to England. As many as 500 *Canadien* volunteers joined the American attack on Montreal. These recruits were promised "thirty pence pay per day and unlimited plunder" when the town was taken by U.S. forces.

An important factor in discouraging French enthusiasm was the Catholic church. Its religious hierarchy was vehemently opposed to any U.S. conquest because Canada already had, in their view, more than its share of English-speaking residents. They had no reason to believe that a victorious but Protestant Yankee government would dare leave Franco clergy in control of Catholic parishes if the invasion and occupation of Canada ever succeeded.

French Canadian defectors to the American banner were, therefore, immediately excommunicated from the church by Bishop BRIAND of Québec (a fate worse than death for devout Catholics) by the use of religious decrees prominently displayed in the parish churches of disgraced turncoats.

To protect Canada from the U.S., British General CARLETON estimated he

would require 10,000 men with artillery and engineers. In actuality, his dismally outnumbered forces amounted to a mere 859 regulars – minus 73 military prisoners in confinement.

The defenders were divided among Québec army garrisons as follows: Fort Chambly, 114 men; Fort St. Jean, 385; St. François, 35; Québec City, 61; Lachine, 14; Chaudière River, 26; and Montreal, 111. These English regulars from the 7th and 26th battalions of the Royal Fusiliers were confronting 2,000 U.S. militia! CARLETON's troops were insufficiently supplemented by the only available Canadian militia in the area, comprising two infantry battalions – one was French-speaking, the other English-speaking.

After finally crossing into Canada, American invaders laid siege on 4 September 1775 to Fort St. Jean, 25 miles southeast of Montréal. Simultaneously, other U.S. troops showed up at Fort Chambly, 12 miles south of there. The latter garrison contained 512 British infantrymen and artillerymen, 20 Royal Highland Emigrants (sic), and 90 *Canadien* militiamen.

Defenders at Chambly put up a halfhearted resistance lasting only 36 hours before disgracefully surrendering. They also failed to destroy valuable provisions, arms, and ammunition which promptly fell into American hands. Two months later on 3 November, Fort St. Jean was forced to capitulate to the Yankees due to General CARLETON's inability to raise a sufficient relieving force of local militia.

Among the Fort Chambly prisoners was Joseph-Marie, V, GODEFROY,

Lord DE TONNANCOUR (1750-1834), a 25-year-old militia lieutenant in CARLETON's Canadian Volunteer Corps. The *seignior* of Saint Michel d'Yamaska fiefdom – educated in Canada, France, and England – spent the next two years in U.S. captivity before being freed in a 1777 prisoner-of-war exchange. After returning to Québec, Joseph became a gentleman farmer in Yamaska, was elected in 1792 as provincial parliament member representing Buckingham County, and rose to the rank of militia colonel after serving once more against American invaders during the War of 1812.

Louis-Joseph, IV, GODEFROY, Lord DE TONNANCOUR (1712-1784), was *seignior* of the Godefroy, Ile Marie, Labadie, Point-du-Lac, Roquetaillade, and Yamaska feudal estates. Under the French *regime* at Trois-Rivieres, Louis was a former Keeper of the Royal Arsenal. Later, he was appointed King's Attorney and Royal Prosecutor (with the equivalent French Army rank of lieutenant-general).

Lord DE TONNANCOUR fell in love with and, in 1740, married Mary Ann SEAMAN nee SCAMMON (1710-1746) – a Massachusetts colony native, and former Indian wars captive of the Abenaki Indians. Mary died in childbirth at the young age of 36.

After the 1763 capitulation to Britain, Louis received a direct appointment from Sir Guy CARLETON, British general and royal administrator of Canada, to the Lower Canada (present Québec Province) legislative council, modeled after the British parliament. During the Revolutionary War, he commanded a

local militia unit, with the rank of colonel, and was captured briefly in October 1775 while en route to Montréal with a contingent of Canadian recruits.

The culprits were Captain Ardouin MERLET and his company of Franco militia newly organized in Québec by American agents to support U.S. rebels. Why Louis wasn't hauled away to the United States as a prisoner-of-war isn't known. In any event, he was released, or escaped, in time to lead his militia unit, two months later, in repulsing the assault by American troops on the citadel at Québec City.

It was a far different story in Montreal. There, a month earlier in 13 November 1775, American forces defeated the defending British-Canadian garrison. The seven-month occupation that followed won few Canadian hearts. An autocratic General MONTGOMERY threatened to evict from their homes any residents unwise enough to publicly criticize the Continental Congress.

When the occupiers' supply of comparatively worthless currency ran out (it was printed by the new U.S. government and backed only by a promise of repayment after the conquest of Canada), some American personnel routinely confiscated food and supplies they were otherwise unable to buy.

Shortly after occupying Montréal, the ultimately unlucky General MONTGOMERY appointed James LIVINGSTON, born in Montréal, of English parents, to the rank of colonel with U.S. forces, and further authorized him to recruit a regiment of French Canadians. LIVINGSTON did manage to enlist 200

volunteers among local Frenchmen – hardly enough for a regiment – but they proved disappointingly lukewarm in their support for the American cause and began deserting.

Moses HAZEN was a Massachusetts colony resident and former British army officer who fought in the French and Indian War. He settled afterward on Lower Canada (Québec), married a Frenchwoman, and acquired considerable land holdings including two joint seigniories. Immediately following the U.S. invasion of Canada, HAZEN volunteered his services to General MONTGOMERY and awarded a commission as colonel with the understanding that he recruit a second regiment of *Québécois* soldiers.

The new Yankee commander led his force of 300 Canadian recruits, reinforced with 50 American veterans, on a successful assault of the English fort at St. Jean, just below Montreal, on 4 September 1775. Though outnumbered five to one, the 26th Royal Fusiliers bravely held off the invaders for 59 days before capitulating. The newly organized American infantry unit, now named Hazen's Regiment, went on to capture nearby Fort Chambly a month later on 18 October 1775.

General MONTGOMERY laid siege to the Québec city fortress in December 1775. His boast that he would dine in the citadel on Christmas Day or die in the attempt was only partly fulfilled. The scrappy commander was killed leading his men in a hard-fought December 25 attack, which took place in a blinding winter blizzard. Opposing forces were almost equal in strength. The

defenders mustered 1,800: 328 regular troops, 35 English marines, 330 British militia, 543 *Canadien* militia, 450 seamen off nearby merchant vessels, and 120 civilian tradesmen pressed into temporary military service.

The Yankees were hampered from the start by lack of heavy cannons needed to destroy town gates and battlements. Sole casualties of the American light artillery barrage, prior to the main onslaught, were a mortally wounded French civilian and one noncombatant turkey who suffered a broken leg.

After MONTGOMERY's death in battle, his slightly wounded second-in-command, Colonel Benedict ARNOLD (1741-1801), was appointed to take over leadership of all U.S. troops in Canada. The ex-Connecticut Colony militia officer, a French and Indian war militia veteran and New Haven drugstore owner in civilian life, eventually rose to the rank of major general in George WASHINGTON's Continental Army.

Joseph GODEFROY's younger brother, Charles, V, (1755-1798), became a captain with the 2nd Battalion of Québec City militia which drove back the Americans during MONTGOMERY's December 1775 assault. He served again in 1791 as an officer with Butler's Rangers, a Tory militia regiment that fought with distinction against the U.S., both in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

The unit was originally organized by American Loyalists after their assets were seized by U.S. rebels for refusing to fight against England. Eighty thousand Tories in the Atlantic seaboard received disgraceful treatment at the hands of revo-

lutionary Committees of Safety after rejecting demands to turn against the British crown. Compelled to abandon all personal property, including homes, they fled for their lives and freedom to Canada.

This regiment earned a grim reputation in the Revolutionary War. Accompanied by pro-English Iroquois auxiliaries, they exacted bitter revenge against ex-neighbors during repeated forays into the Cherry Valley region of upper New York colony.

Benedict ARNOLD's treachery in 1780 hinged around his willingness to sell the plans of fortress at West Point (N.Y.), a key element in the Continental Army defense system preventing British access to the Hudson River and the prize of New York City. ARNOLD didn't come cheap, either: he demanded 6,300 English pounds sterling (around \$20,000 in 1920 U.S. currency), 13,000 acres of Canadian land, and a British Army commission as brigadier-general.

A pugnacious, charismatic leader whose men would follow him anywhere, ARNOLD's treason was fed by character defects revolving around perceived slights by the U.S. Congress, government refusals to reimburse him for claimed expenses, resentment against promotions of less capable officers over his head, and a recent marriage to the daughter of a prominent New York Tory family.

The plot was foiled when Major John ANDRE, ARNOLD's British Army liaison, was apprehended by U.S. sentries with incriminating documents, hidden in fancy riding boots, while attempt-

ing to meet his American co-conspirator. ANDRE was tried by a Continental Army court-martial, sentenced to death, and hanged as a spy for being in civilian clothes when captured. ARNOLD himself only just managed to escape to English lines ahead of a pursuing squad of American soldiers.

Following his desertion, ARNOLD served with enemy forces as a brigadier general of infantry and actually fought against his former comrades-in-arms during several small amphibious operations, launched from British Navy vessels, against Connecticut shore communities.

One raid on 6 September 1781 against Fort Griswold, near Groton, CT, caused great outrage when ARNOLD's 600 English regulars callously massacred 105 state militiamen, including the American commander, after the fort surrendered following a stubborn, hard-fought engagement. Only 51 wounded defenders escaped with their lives. ARNOLD died an outcast's death in Great Britain at the age of 60, untrusted and ostracized, even by the British military elite, for his wartime traitorous acts.

The arrival of 34,000 regular troops from England in the spring of 1776 effectively broke the back of the American siege of Québec. Colonel HAZEN's new Franco regiment headed for the U.S. along with defeated Continental Army forces. He and his *Canadiens*, considered pariahs in Québec, fought at Brandywine (11 September 1777) and Germantown (4 October 1777), both in Pennsylvania; Saratoga (7 October 1777, where they lost a hotly contested fight Major-Gen-

eral Benedict ARNOLD, shortly before he defected to the British); and at Stoney Point 15 July 1779), both in New York Colony; plus the battle of Yorktown, Virginia (19 October 1781).

The latter engagement effectively ended the Revolutionary War and Great Britain grudgingly relinquished its American colonies. When hostilities ceased, Colonels LIVINGSTON, HAZEN, and the *Canadien* volunteers received free bounty lands in New York State from the U.S. government for their wartime services. To avoid being treated as traitors, the *Québécois* veterans never returned home.

For lack of documentation, it isn't possible to evaluate the Revolutionary War role of Pierre, V, GODEFROY (1752-1798). He once held a regular commission as lieutenant "in the service of His British Majesty," George III, the bizarre monarch who wittingly presided over dissolution of the English colonies that became the United States. The King suffered from periodic bouts of mental illness; a royal court reluctantly declared him legally insane in 1810, ten years before his death.

When Pierre died at Trois-Rivières in 1798, aged 45, he was a lieutenant colonel with district militia forces. So he must have performed military service in Lower Canada during the American Revolution.

The other side of the coin is represented by Daniel-M., V, GODEFROY DE LINTOT (1739-____), a fur trader who chose to set aside loyalties to Canada and family when he became a U.S. militia officer. Daniel was barely 16 when older brother Hyacinthe (1733-

____), a *Troupes de la Marine* officer in the French and Indian war, took part in the crushing 1755 defeat of British General BRADDOCK's army.

Born in Montreal, Daniel moved to the midwest country of Illinois where he entered the fur trade. LINTOT (this branch took their surname from a GODEFROY seigniory in Québec) soon formed a mutual friendship with George ROGERS CLARK (1752-1818) – frontier leader, legendary Indian fighter, and Continental Army general during the Revolutionary War.

George's brother William (1770-1838), 18 years younger than his sibling, began in 1804 a much heralded, two-year exploration of the mid-American continent, together with Meriwether LEWIS (1774-1809), that ended on the shores of the Pacific coast.

George CLARK persuaded 39-year-old Daniel to renounce British allegiance and throw in his lot with the

Americans by accepting an officer's commission in the new Virginia state militia. Captain LINTOT was subsequently appointed U.S. Indian agent in 1779 "for the Illinois River and all the western side of such river to the east side of the Mississippi River..." One of his accomplishments was to effectively strengthen the friendship of influential Shawnee Indian chiefs through generous gifts of U.S. brandy.

Promoted to Major, Daniel reported via letter to Virginia's first governor – Thomas JEFFERSON (1743-1826), later president – "on his mission in August 1779 from Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) to the Country of the Illinois Tribe to allay any Indian Trouble." Publically praised for his unstinting efforts on behalf of the newest North American nation, Daniel was eventually appointed federal Indian agent for those native tribes residing in U.S. territory between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River.

The highest point in Pennsylvania is lower than the lowest point in Colorado.

Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.

If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

No NFL team, which plays its home games in a domed stadium, has ever won a Superbowl.

The first toilet ever seen on television was on "Leave It to Beaver".

The only two days of the year in which there are no professional sports games (MLB, NBA, NHL, or NFL) are the day before and the day after the Major League all-star Game.

Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

Louis Truchon and Marie-Françoise Beauchamp

by: Roy F. Forgit

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from the book: "A Study of the Family of Jean-Louis L'EVEILLE and Lisa MIREAULT of St. Jacques-de-L'Achigan, Québec." It is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author. A copy of this book is in the A.F.G.S. Library.

The presence of Louis TRUCHON in New France is first recorded on the third of February, 1675, on a baptismal record found in the parish book for Pointe-aux-Trembles on the Ile de Montréal. This was a small village located nine miles down river, that is northeast, from Montréal itself. He was not the father, but the godfather (*le parrain*). What is more of interest is that this baptism actually took place on the Ile Ste. Thérèse, where the traveling missionary priest had gone to perform the sacraments for the colonists. The child was baptized as Louis GAUTIER, and was the son of Maturin GAUTIER and Nicole PHILIPPEAU. The godmother (*la marraine*) was Marie CHENIE, wife of Jean BRISU DE LA MARCHE.

Six years later on the 1681 Census we find Louis TRUCHON as yet unmarried at age 35, a *habitant* farming on the Ile Ste. Thérèse. That small island in the St. Lawrence River is located south of Repentigny and just to the northeast of

the Ile Jesus. There he farms 9 arpents of land, owns a *fusil* (a rifle), and 4 bushels of corn. He would have cleared his own land, felling trees to build a log hut for shelter, likely with the aid of his neighboring colonists. He fed himself by fishing and hunting, as well as with his crops. The rifle was very necessary for defense against Indian attacks and for service as a militiaman when called by his Seigneur, Sidrac-Michel DUGUE.

Granted in 1672 to Sidrac DUGUE (or DUGUAY), titled Le Sieur De Bois Briant, Captain of the Carignan Regiment, the Ile Ste. Thérèse was the largest of a group of seven islands at the confluence of the Riviere des Prairies and the much greater St. Lawrence. It measured two and one-half miles long by one mile wide, and was said to have excellent soils. After the death of DUGUE in 1688 these lands were divided among his children, since his wife, Marie MOYEN, had died the year previous to his passing. They had wed in 1667. In 1691, this seigneurie was obtained by Charles-Gaspard PIOT Dit LANGLOISERIE thru his marriage to Marie-Thérèse DUGUE, eldest daughter of the original grantee. It would later become a parish with the seigneurie of Varennes and of La Trinite. See Munro, Footnote (1).

The Ile Ste. Thérèse by 1681 had a total French population of 53 people, numbering 28 males and 25 females, of whom there only 9 married couples. The other 35 were either children or single men. There was a real shortage of marriageable-age women in New France. The noted historian Benjamin SULTE provides the surnames of the fourteen *habitants*, or colonists, who farmed there in 1681. They were recorded as DUGUE, BRIEN, CATIN, GAUTHIER, TROCHON, LIMOUSIN, RAGUENEAU, DESMARES, VOINE, HAYET, MASTA, BOUSQUET, TRAJEAN, and CHOQUET. See SULTE, Footnote (2)

For a comparison of just how small the entire French colony on that western edge of the Laurentian wilderness in 1681 was, we have the following:

Place	No. of Families	Total Pop
Ile Montréal	216	1,418
Ile Jesus	4	27
Lachenaye	14	72
Repentigny	22	114

See Sulte, Footnote (3)

Also residing nearby on the Ile Montréal in 1681 was the family of one Jean BEAUCHAMP, 43, and his wife Jeanne LOISEL, 34. Their *enfants* were Marie, 12, Françoise, 10, Jean, 5, and Pierre, 2. The possessions of BEAUCHAMP were similar to those of TRUCHON: ... "1 fusil, 3 betes a corne, et 9 arpents en valeur". Thus he owned a gun, 3 bushels of corn and 9 acres of cleared land.

We learn that this couple had begun their life together in New France well before the arrival of Louis TRUCHON, as Jean BEAUCHAMP and Jeanne LOISEL had wed at Montréal in

1666. Jean had been born in 1644, and was a native of the parish of Ste. Marguerite in the Diocese of La Rochelle, Province of Aunis. Jeanne was born at Montréal in 1649, and thus was all of age 17 when she was married.

It is in the marriage contract of 13 April 1687 and the actual marriage record of the 14th that we learn the names of the parents of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE. He was the son of Pierre TRUCHON and of Perrine SIROUIET of Gavarl (?) in the Diocese of Nantes, Bretagne. This marriage was at the Parish of St. Enfant Jesus, in the riverfront village of Pointe-aux-Trembles, on the Ile Montréal. His bride was Marie-Françoise BEAUCHAMP, who was the second daughter of Jean BEAUCHAMP and Jeanne LOISELLE, as above. The priest makes due note in marginal entries of the ages of the groom, 38 *ans*, and of his child bride, 16 *ans*. Marie-Francoise had been baptized on 11 September 1670. See their marriage record, Exhibit 4-2.

Notably, their marriage was the second of that date, as the entry begins: "This same day and year as of the above...". Perhaps this explains the rather unusual fact that twelve people signed at the bottom of their page. The other two to marry were Jean DEROCHE and Marie BEAUCHAMP, ages 37 and 14. A reading of that record informs us that the two brides were not sisters as we first assumed, for their parents were not the same.

In the above we learn, too, that the "*dit*" name of *L'Eveille*, "The Awakener", was one applied as a nickname to Louis TRUCHON by his friends and

acquaintances of New France, but not to his father, Pierre TRUCHON. As we shall see, this “dit” name will become the family surname in later generations, a common fact among *Quebecois* families. As to the family’s place of origin in France, other records use the name Daborel and/or d’Abbaretz, in the old district of Boisbriant, also Diocese of Nantes. We have located on the Michelin Website maps a village named Derval, but none by these other names. The city of Nantes is near the mouth of the Loire River, thus the modern district’s name of *Loire-Atlantique*. See Exhibit 4-3.

Although only speculation as of this writing, it is possible that Louis TRUCHON was a soldier under the command of his Seigneur, Sidrac DUGUE. At the time when the Carignan-Salieres Regiment arrived in New France in 1665, Louis would have been 18 or 19 years of age. The regiment is variously said to have had 1300 to 1400 men, most of whom are not named in any records. Several related facts would support the theory, however. First is that DUGUE, a Captain of the regiment, was from the same area of Boisbriant as was TRUCHON, and may have recruited him. Secondly, it was common practice for officers who had decided to remain in Canada and accept land grants to keep their best men with them as colonists. Lastly, new research indicates that the origins of *dit* names were military in nature. See Lepine, Footnote (4).

Louis would take Marie-Francoise to live on his modest farm on the Ile Ste. Thérèse, as proven by the recorded births there of at least two of their earliest children. A son, Louis TRUCHON,

was baptized on 1 January 1691 and a daughter, Marie TRUCHON, on 28 July 1693. Although these baptisms are in the parish book of St. Enfant Jesus at Pointe-aux-Trembles, the priest most likely traveled to their island home to perform these baptisms. We would question, too, why no other children were born to them before baby Louis in late 1690, as more than three years and eight months had elapsed since their 14 April 1687 marriage. The loss of such records was common. For example, we found that on 17 December 1694 a son, Jean-Baptiste LEVEILLE was said to be baptised at St. Enfant Jesus. Born on the previous day, his father is stated as “Jean” LEVEILLE, but the mother is Françoise BEAUCHAMP! The genealogist Tanguay does not list this baby, who may have died as a young child. His next birth of record for the family is Pierre TRUCHON, born on the 13th and baptized the 14th of June, 1696. See Tanguay, Footnote (5).

Then, on 24-March-1699, another son was discovered to be baptized as Jean-Baptiste LEVEILLE. He is said to have been born at Pointe-aux-Trembles on March 23rd, an indication that the family may have left the farm on Ile Ste. Thérèse. This son will grow to become the next of line of your direct ancestry, marrying Marie-Joséphé ETHIER in 1725.

One can ask here why would Louis TRUCHON, the pioneer colonist, have given up his fertile farmlands, which he had cleared with his own hands before 1681? One answer is that there existed terrible dangers to his wife and children from Indian attacks. It is well related by historians that the settlement

of lands all around the Ile Montréal was delayed or abandoned by the French during that era. Since the pre-dawn of 25 August 1689, when in the Massacre of Lachine a war-party of some 1500 Iroquois warriors had attacked and killed 200 colonists, their lives had been changed.

The village of Lachine was situated at the southwest corner of the Ile Montréal, at the Lachine Rapids. Its name derived from the early belief that the St.Lawrence River was a route to the China Sea! The Iroquois were feared as savages, and justly so. We quote as follows from the historian DECHARLEVOIX:

“They invented a number of other unheard-of tortures , and thus, in less than an hour, two hundred persons, of every age and both sexes, perished in the most frightful tortures.” See DECHARLEVOIX, Footnote (6).

At Lachine 120 other people were taken away as captives, and all but two of the houses were burned. The Terror continued until mid-October, and all of the Ile Montréal was said to have “...remained a prey to the victors, who overran the greatest part of it, leaving everywhere bloody traces of their fury, which the French were not able to oppose.” See DECHARLEVOIX, Footnote (7)

FRONTENAC was then at Québec, the Capitol, having been re-appointed only recently as Governor of New France. He arrived at Montréal on 22 November 1689 to take charge of a military force to pursue the Iroquois into New York in the hope of rescuing the many hostages. Of the five tribes of the

Iroquois, the Mohawks and the Senecas were known to be the cruelist to captives. These hostilities would continue, as they were in fact a part of the larger conflict between England and France for control of North America.

Four other children would be born to Louis TRUCHON and his wife Françoise BEAUCHAMP, but these births were at Lachenaie. They were Guillaume in 1702, Marguerite in 1704, Louise in 1704, and lastly Marie-Catherine in 1708. All of the four were recorded as being baptised at St. François-de-Sales Parish on the Ile Jesus, although the actual baptisms may well have been performed by a missionary priest. See Exhibit 4-4.

Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE would live to the stated age of 80, certainly a remarkably long life for his era of history. His February of 1724 passing at Lachenaie, on the north shore of the *Riviere des Milles Iles*, indicates that this was where he had spent his latter years. His burial was at St.Francois-de-Sales Cemetery on the Ile Jesus. See Exhibit 4-5.

As it was written, his wife of thirty-six years is not mentioned on the 15 February 1724 funeral record of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE, nor were any of his sons present. We find this to be a departure from custom. They may have been away from their homes on hunting expeditions, as it was a practice to trap for furs in the winter.

His widow Françoise BEAUCHAMP would remarry on 20 April 1729, at Lachenaie. Her second husband was the widower Jacques ROBIN, whose

first wife had been Marie ETU (Records state her name as Marie TETU-FLAMAND).

Using that earlier baptismal record of Françoise BEAUCHAMP as being on 11 September 1670, we calculate her age at her second marriage as 58. She would live out as remarkably long a life as did Louis TRUCHON. Her passing at Lachenaie at age 82 was at *St. Henri de Massecouche* on 28 May 1752. She was buried in the cemetery of that parish on the 29th. Present at her interment were Jean-Baptiste GUIBORD and Jean CHARPENTIER. In other records we learn that another son of hers, named Pierre TRUCHON, had been wed to a Marie-Josephe CHARPENTIER on 10 June 1720. Thus the CHARPENTIER family was connected to that of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE as well.

The Seigneurie de Lachenaie derived its name from that of the original owner, Charles - Aubert DE LA CHESNAYE. Born in 1632 at St. Michel, Diocese of Amiens in Picardie, France, he had come to Canada as a lowly clerk of the Company of New France, a fur-trading stock company. As a young man possessed of a strong entrepreneurial spirit he would be engaged on his own in the fur trade and the grain trade, as well as the fisheries. For a time, Charles LACHENAYE would be the richest man in Canada. Beginning in 1662 he amassed so much land that he controlled more of the seigneuries than anyone else in Canada ever had, before or since. Yet he would die in debt after a forty-year career, and his holdings were split among his many creditors. See Harris, Footnote (8).

A son of Aubert DE LA CHENAYE, by the same name, became the Seigneur de Lachenaie before 1689. The notary ADHEMAR registered a contract on 9 July 1689 for Charles-Aubert DE LA CHENAYE, *filis*. We believe that Louis TRUCHON, as well as his sons, signed as *censitaires* to farm lands of this man. See Harris, Footnote (9)

It is to Lachenaie and Repentigny that we go next to locate the sons and daughters of Louis TRUCHON and Françoise BEAUCHAMP, for there the lands are a fertile plain, well-watered by the clear streams flowing from the Laurentian Mountains. That area would become the wheat center of Canada for another one hundred years. Not until the advent of canals and the building of the railroads which opened Ontario to settlement would better farms be found.

Footnotes:

1. Munro, William B., "Documents Relating to the Seigneurial Tenure in Canada, 1598-1854", p.112.

2. Sulte, Benjamin, "*Le Regiment de Carignan*", *Melanges Historiques*, Vol.8, ed. by Gerard Malchelosse. Pub. G.Ducharme, Montréal, 1922, p.115.

3. Sulte, Benjamin, "*Histoire des Canadiens-Français, 1608-1880*", Vol.V, *Wilson & Cie*, Montréal, 1882, p.72 and charts on p.89 of 1681 census.

4. Lepine, Luc, "The Military Roots of the *dit* Names", *American-Canadian Genealogist*, Issue #98, Vol.29, 4th Quarter, 2003.

5. Tanguay, *Dictionnaire Genealogique*, p.363.

6. DeCharlevoix, Rev.P.F.X.,S.J., "History and Gen.Description of New France," translated by John G,Shea,

Loyola University Press, Chicago, 1870,
Vol.4 of 6, p.29.

7. Ibidem

8. Harris,R.C. P.56.

9. Ibidem, p.82.

Exhibit 4-1

A baptism in 1675, the first record
of Louis TRUCHON in New France, at
the Ile Ste. Thérèse

A translation of the original
French, of a page in the Parish Book of
St.Enfant Jesus at Pointe-aux-Trembles,
on the Ile de Montréal, Quebec

(B3) The third of February, 1675,
has been baptized Louis, son of Maturin
de Ste. Gautier and of Nicole Philipau,
his wife, habitants of Ste. Thérèse. The
godfather has been Louis Truchon (He
continues at top of next page, repeats
the name Truchon.), the godmother
Marie Chenie, the wife of Jean Brisu de
la Marche.

L.A.Grenier, priest

(Note: The previous entry, B2, has
“de la chenaye”, indicating that this mis-
sionary had been to the north of the Ile
Thérèse for an earlier baptism.)

Exhibit 4-2

The 14-April-1687 Marriage of
Louis TRUCHON Dit L'EVEILLE and
Marie-Françoise BEAUCHAMP at the
Church of St. Enfant Jesus, Pointe-aux-
Trembles, Ile de Montréal, Québec

A translation of the original
French, of pages 79-80 of the Parish
Book, from Roll # 1128e of the Drouin
Film Files of the A.F.G.S., Woonsocket,
R.I.

This same day and year as of the
above has been celebrated in this
church the marriage between Louis
TRUCHON Dit L'EVEILLE + (in the left
margin he wrote: + age of 38 years), ha-
bitant of Ste. Thérèse, son of Pierre
TRUCHON and of Perrine SIROUIET,
the father and mother of the parish of
Gavarl, Diocese of Nantes, in Bretagne,
and Marie + (again in the margin he
wrote: + age of 16 years) BAUCHAMP,
daughter of Jean BAUCHAMP and of
Jeanne LOISEL, his wife, of this parish,
after 3 banns having been publicized at
3 sermons of Masses consecutively,
and without anything of objection, the
consents to marriage were made in the
presence of Jean BAUCHAMP, Jacques
BAUCHAMP, SYDRAC DUGUE,
Seigneur de Ste. Thérèse, Jacques
BIZARD, Mayor of Montréal, Pierre
BERAUDS, Joseph LOISEL, Jean
BECQUEL, François CHENIE, and oth-
ers, female friends and male friends, of
whom many have signed with me, the
others having declared not to know how
to sign, of this requirement of the ordi-
nance.

(twelve signatures follow, includ-
ing that of the priest, at bottom.)

DUGUE Jean Cesaire DARIN
Marie MOSIER J.BIZARD
L.BECQUEL
Jean DUPUIS
Pierre BERAUDS Jeanne GERVAISE
Simon ALLARD
Louis BERNARD François
CHENIE

LEQUIEN, priest

Note: Exhibit 4-3 was a Michelin
Map of France, not reproduced here.

Exhibit 4-4

A Listing of the Children of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE and Marie-Françoise BEAUCHAMP, with their marriages, where known.

Louis, n. Ile Ste. Thérèse, b. 1 January 1691, Pointe-aux-Trembles + ELISABETH BESSIERE, m. 29 November 1718, St. Francois-de-Sales, I.J.

Marie, nee Ile Ste. Thérèse, b. 28 July 1693, Pte.-aux-Trembles + Louis PLOUF, m. 1714

Pierre, n. 13, b. 14 June 1696, Pte.-aux-Trembles +(1) Marie-Joséphé CHARPENTIER, m. 10 June 1720, Riv. Des Prairies; +(2) CHARLOTTE BOESME, m. 3 July 1730, Lachenaie

Jean-Baptiste, n. 23, b. 24 March 1699, Pte.-aux-Trembles + Marie-Joséphé ETHIER, m. 26 November 1725, Repentigny

Guillaume, n. et b. 14 May 1702, Lachenaie, record @ St. Francois, I.J. + Marie-Thérèse FONTAINE-BIENVENUE, m. 16 July 1724, Vercheres

Marguerite, nee 10, Lachenaie, b. 11 May 1704, St. Francois, I.J. + Pierre ARPIN (HERPIN dit POITDEVIN), m. 17 February 1721, Contrecoeur

Louise, nee vers 1706 + Antoine EMERY, m. 1728

Marie-Catherine, nee @ Lachenaie, b. 27-May-1708, St. Francois, I.J. + Bernard CROTEAU, m. 1728, St.

Charles, Lachenaie

Exhibit 4-5

The 15 February 1724 Burial of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE, age 80, at the Cemetery of St. Francois-de-Sales, Ile Jesus

A translation of the French original, from the Parish Book, as found in the Drouin Film Files of the A.F.G.S., Roll # 1135

The fifteenth of February, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-four, by me, priest undersigned, has been buried in the cemetery of the parish the body of the deceased Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE, age of eighty years, following the sacraments. Sworn in the presence of Nicholas THIBAULT, Joseph CHARTRES and others.
PLANTE, priest

Note: The summary of the life of Louis TRUCHON by the Genealogist Rene JETTY states that he died at Lachenaie, which is across the *Riviere des Mille Iles* from the parish of St. Francois de Sales on the Ile Jesus. As he was buried on the same day, no doubt it was only a short crossing when made on the ice in February. There was as yet neither a church nor a cemetery at Lachenaie.

His age at death of 80, if correct, would give us a birth year of 1644. The 1681 Census had stated his age then as 35, giving a birth year of 1646. But, the 1687 Census had his age as 38, yielding a third estimate for his birth as 1649!

The name Wendy was made up for the book "Peter Pan."
In Cleveland, Ohio, it's illegal to catch mice without a hunting license.

THE BEGINNINGS
of the
FRANCO-AMERICAN
COLONY
in
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

MARIE LOUISE BONIER



Translated and Edited
by
Claire Quintal

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Cream Puffs From Borgia

by: Lowell Ames Norris

Editors note: This article was originally published in "Famous Crime Cases," Volume 5, #4, April 1945.

Writhing in pain, twenty-eight-year-old Almand VADEBONCOEUR called for water, and the words came thick from a strangely constricted throat, His young and attractive wife stepped from the shadows of the dimly lighted room. "I've called the doctor," she told him. "He's on his way now." She stooped closer to smooth a rumpled pillow; her arm struck the bedside lamp. The shade tilted, casting the light full upon the man in bed. The woman stifled a cry of alarm; his skin was turning an ugly blue. Just then the doorbell rang. She rose quickly.

"He's here," she said, striving to keep her voice natural. "You'll be all right now."

She was gone. Even before she left the room, he knew he was dying. His mind flashed back to events which had followed his meeting with his friend, 30-year-old Henry CASSAVANT, some hours previous. His senses now abnormally acute disclosed the cause for this mysterious seizure.

He raised himself in bed to call his wife. But the constriction in his throat has grown much worse. The words died

in a rattling choke.

Steps on the stairs quickened at the sound. The doctor burst into the bedroom and leaned over the silent figure.

"Why wasn't I called earlier?" he questioned sharply as he lifted the patient's eyelid and studied the pupil?

VADEBONCOEUR was now beyond all speech.

Earlier that same evening, Henry CASSAVANT, popular bachelor about town, was seated in a nearby motion picture theater in company with a young and charming woman.

During the showing of the second feature, the girl suddenly felt his form stiffen. She turned and saw he had slumped forward in his seat. She spoke. He raised his head and tried to smile. Enough light filtered from the screen for her to see his face was bathed in perspiration.

She pressed sympathetically closer. "Are you ill?" she asked.

"I'm all right," he answered. He spoke with an effort and the hand which returned her pressure was cold and

clammy.

The girl took a second look at her handsome six footed curly-haired escort. He was ill, although he would not admit it, and it was not until the end of the picture that she could persuade him to leave. He paused in the brilliantly lighted lobby to get his breath.

“You’re not going home with me,” she said. “I want you to see a doctor at once.”

Despite her protests, he saw her to her door. They said goodnight, He made his way to the gate. Halfway to the street, he turned, retracing his steps.

“Here’s something I wish you would keep.” he said. Reaching into his pocket, he drew out a thin flat object which fluttered in the wind. “It may be important,” he added as he thrust it into her hand. He suddenly bent over as if in pain but instantly straightened up again.

Before she could ask further questions, he was gone. She stood in the cold listening to his retreating footsteps. Then she let herself into the silent house.

Alone in the darkness, CASSAVANT wondered if he would last long enough to go to the home of his parents. Some distance from the girl’s house, he stumbled and almost fell. Regaining his balance, he rested against the plate glass window of a closed corner drugstore. As he stood waiting for the weakness to pass, he caught a reflection of himself in the mirror illuminated by the light of the overhead street arc. Frightened, he made for the residence of his physician, Dr. J. J. JETTE, who made a careful examination.

There was some temperature, evidence of prostration with nausea and muscular cramps.

“What did you eat today?” he finally asked. The patient told him.

“You may have a trace of ptomaine poisoning.” JETTE stated. He crossed to his medical cabinet and poured out some liquid from a vial. “Take this and go to bed.”

Early the next morning, Dr. JETTE visited CASSAVANT at his home. The patient was still in bed.

“Do you know Almand VAD-EBONCOEUR?” the doctor asked/

“Yes. He works in his brother’s store on the lower floor of the Cloutier block and lives with his wife and kids in an upper apartment. We are remodeling the place. I saw him yesterday.”

“Did he complain of feeling ill?”

“We both had griping pains all afternoon; although we managed to stick it out until it was time to quit.” CASSAVANT answered. “How did you happen to know about him?”

“I met his doctor this morning and the similarity of the two cases interested us.” JETTE returned. “During the time you spent together, did you have anything to drink?”

“Not a drop.”

“Then it couldn’t have been liquor.”

During the rest of his stay, the doctor watched his patient closely through narrowed lids. Suspicions which he had already entertained were fast becoming sinister certainties.

He left without telling the prostrated CASSAVANT that VADEBONCOEUR had died in agony the night before, and drove immediately to the office of the physician who had attended the dead man.

"There's something very strange about these two illnesses, almost identical in character, which occurred in the Cloutier building yesterday." JETTE remarked to his colleague.

"You speak as though you suspect something might be wrong."

"Very wrong," the other corrected. "From what you tell me about VADEBONCOEUR and from the symptoms I have already observed in my patient, I should say both men are the victims of arsenic poisoning. I suggest we go to the police.

Some minutes later, JETTE was closeted with Chief of Police Frederick K. COE, to whom he described the facts.

"Your suspicions may be correct," the official replied after the doctor had finished speaking. "By the way, do you happen to know whether VADEBONCOEUR's body has been prepared for burial yet?"

"I'm afraid it has," the other stated.

"Then we'll act at once." He asked

further questions and then placed the matter in the hands of Chief Detective Joseph H. JALBERT, who ordered Detective Inspectors John S. GILCHRIST and John F. MURRAY, to make an immediate investigation.

Medical Examiner R. G. REED performed an autopsy on the dead man. The contents of the stomach, together with a specimen from CASSAVANT were rushed to State Pathologist Harry S. BERNSTEIN for analysis.

By late afternoon, the reports were in JALBERT's hands at Police Headquarters. As his eyes traveled down the closely typed sheets, his expression became grim and determined. He reached for the telephone and called JETTE.

"Looks as though you might be right," he told the doctor. "Reactions on every specimen submitted reveal that all contained lethal amounts of arsenic. I must see Henry CASSAVANT right away."

"You're too late," the doctor replied. "I just rushed him, in a collapsed condition to the Woonsocket Hospital."

JALBERT issued orders directing his men to visit all city drugstores to check on recent sales of the deadly drug. Then he climbed the stairs of the building to speak with Mrs. VADEBONCOEUR, who had returned. Inquiries about the neighborhood had disclosed that, as far as could be learned, the couple had been very happily married. The widow told JALBERT her husband had come home on the afternoon of the previous day, Wednesday, January 26th, complaining of severe nausea and say-

ing he had hardly been able to stay on the job.

“What time was this?” the detective inquired.

“Shortly after six. I had supper ready, but he said he couldn’t eat and went to bed. I looked in on him just before I did the dishes. He was so sick. I called the doctor. He told him he was taken ill soon after he had finished his lunch. He ate out somewhere.”

She said the doctor had tried to relieve the pain. Hours later she called the doctor back. He did everything he could, but it was too late. At half past eleven her husband was dead.

“Anything that seemed unusual about his illness?”

The woman shuddered. “I went in to look at him after I called the doctor the last time and he looked as though his skin was turning blue.”

JALBERT nodded. In arsenic poisoning, cyanosis usually precedes the final stages. “Do you know whether your husband had any enemies who might have wished his life?”

“None,” she answered sadly. “That is what makes it so hard to understand.”

“Any woman friends who might have been jealous of his happy married life?”

“Not one.” The widow was emphatic. “All he cared about was his home and family.”

“How about CASSAVANT? How well did he know your husband?”

“They were good friends, but not intimate. He is single, makes good money and likes a good time. My husband was married and had other uses for what he earned.”

JALBERT was admittedly puzzled as he left the building. Despite what the widow told him and what she so obviously believed, he sensed some unknown bond between the two men which had made them victims of the cold-blooded plot that had succeeded in taking one life and was reaching out for the second. Somewhere in the city a diabolical killing was at large.

Reports from detectives checking drug-store sales of arsenic brought the police no nearer a solution. The few recorded sales found were in no way connected with the mysterious events. JALBERT ordered the scope of the search to include neighboring towns and cities.

At the same time, he directed GILCHRIST and MURPHY to delve into the private lives of both victims. Through confidential sources they learned that VADEBONCOEUR was very popular about town. There had never been any other woman in his life and his wife was equally devoted. Police realized that she could be in no way connected with this tragedy.

That same night, the two detectives also made their report on CASSAVANT. JALBERT glanced at it without comment as it lay on his desk.

“He’s been very friendly with those women listed there and has been showing them a good time,” GILCHRIST remarked.

“How about jealousy?”

“From what we could learn, he hasn’t been serious with any of them. And that wouldn’t explain away the other murder.”

JALBERT remained at his desk long after the two men had left rereading the report they had submitted. His eyes strayed to the names of the three women whom GILCHRIST had mentioned and he studied the data which had been gathered regarding them.

The first was Mae RICH, an attractive young girl, nineteen years old and a vivacious brunette. She had met the handsome giant a year and a half before during a church social held in her home city of Pawtucket. She was a girl from a comfortably well off middle-class family and the two had become friendly. During the past year, JALBERT noted, CASSAVANT had been calling upon her at least once a week.

The second woman, in whom the builder had shown a friendly interest, was a youthful blonde widow, Mrs. Hattie OAKLEY. Her husband had died six or seven years before and she had gone to live at the home of her parents at 28 Ross Street, Woonsocket. The widow appeared to have many friends, although her life seemed circumspect and colorless. She had known CASSAVANT for about five years.

The third and last name was that

of Linda DANIELS, a member of ex-Governor Aram J. POTHIER’s household in Woonsocket. This girl was a young and attractive chestnut-haired Belgian who had come to the country four years before and had won many friends by her pleasing appearance and jovial personality.

JALBERT was about to pass on when another line held his interest. Miss DANIELS was the girl who had been CASSAVANT’s theater companion on the night he had been stricken.

Had one of these women, aflame with love for the stalwart contractor, felt her own case so hopeless that she sought to slay the man she loved rather than lose him forever? Yet if this were the solution, why were the happily married VADEBONCOEURs involved?

JALBERT was still deliberating when the telephone rang sharply at his shoulder. It was Dr. JETTE calling from the hospital.

“CASSAVANT is conscious and can talk,” he said, “but I can’t vouch how long he will be this way. If you want an ante mortem statement, I advise you to get out here at once.”

JALBERT hurried to the waiting police car.

CASSAVANT, looking more dead than alive, greeted him when he entered. JALBERT took a seat and waited. The sick man’s eyes regarded him listlessly.

“What do you want to know?” he asked finally.

“Everything that happened last Wednesday when you and your friend, Almand, became so dangerously ill.

“There isn’t much to tell,” the other answered. “It all happened after we had lunch together.

“So that was the way in which VADEBONCOEUR became involved, the detective commented. “You shared the same lunch.”

“Didn’t share it,” the poisoned man mumbled. “He ate his lunch. I ate mine.”

“There was something you ate which you shared,” the bureau head insisted. “Both of you were poisoned by doses of arsenic administered in the same strength. Think back.”

“There were the cream puffs,” CASSAVANT finally said.

“Cream puffs!” JALBERT ejaculated.

“Yes, they were brought to me just as I was about to eat,” was the astonishing reply.

Pressed for further details, he said he had done a lot of outside work about the block on Wednesday morning. Just as he started in for lunch, he met VADEBONCOEUR standing at the entrance talking to a boy who was holding a package.

VADEBONCOEUR said it was a special delivery which he had already signed for and the boy handed him a brown paper package. Unwrapping it, he

found a bakery box containing three cream puffs daintily enclosed in wax paper.

“Just a minute,” interrupted the detective. “Was that bakery box open or had it been sealed?”

“I broke the seal,” the contractor stated, “and put them aside for my lunch. I ate two and VADEBONCOEUR finished off the other.”

“That’s probably what saved your life.” JALBERT thought. “You got an overdose.” Aloud he asked, “Had you ever seen this messenger before?”

“No, but I think he must have been all right. The package had been sent through the mail and Almand signed what looked to me like the regular special delivery form.”

JALBERT regarded him sharply. “You mean this package was addressed to you at the Cloutier Building?”

“That’s right.”

“Then it must have been sent by someone who knew you were working there.”

CASSAVANT remained silent.

“I assume you like cream puffs.”

“I can never get enough of them,” the massively built contractor admitted sheepishly.

“Whoever sent you the package knew that,” JALBERT commented dryly.

Questioned as to whether he knew anyone among his acquaintances who made cream puffs, CASSAVANT again became confused,

“I do know a girl who makes them,” he said, “but she wouldn’t be mixed up in anything like this and I’d rather not tell you.”

JALBERT was insistent.

“Her name is Linda DANIELS,” he said at last, and unwillingly gave her address.

“Does she know anything about this?”

“I told her something about it when I took her to the theater,” he admitted. “That was the night I was taken ill.”

“You are positive that this package came through the mail?”

CASSAVANT declared he was positive. The stamps on the box had been canceled, he said. The detective asked what became of the box containing the deadly pastry. He answered that he had taken it into one of the rooms he was finishing and threw it to one side after eating.

“And the wrapper?”

“I gave it to Linda, I happened to have it with me at the theater and I showed it to her after I told her about the cream puffs. Just before I left her that night I pulled it out of my pocket and gave it to her.”

JALBERT contacted Postmaster T. F. CAVANAUGH of Woonsocket. Search of the records revealed that a special delivery package addressed to Henry CASSAVANT at the Cloutier Building had been delivered by one of the messenger boys at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26th. JALBERT talked to this boy who substantiated the contractor’s story.

“Gee, mister,” the messenger said, “I was standing right beside the guy when he opened them up. He offered me one. I don’t know what made me pass them up. But wasn’t I lucky!”

Meanwhile, down at Police Headquarters, the Chief of Police was talking with petite and attractive Linda DANIELS. If she felt chagrined at this official summons, she gave no sign as she sat there, neatly shod feet barely touching the floor.

“I called you in to talk about Henry CASSAVANT,” the Chief said gravely. “He tells me that you are an excellent cook, especially as far as cream puffs are concerned.”

The girl dimpled. “It is nice of him to remember,” she answered.

“How well do you know Henry CASSAVANT?”

“He is what you in America would call an acquaintance.”

The Chief’s expression became like that of a cat about to pounce. “Where is the paper he gave you to keep for him the night he took you to the theatre?”

“I kept it in my room for several days. When I heard he had been taken ill, I began to wonder if there might not be something wrong with the cream puffs he told me he ate. So I gave it to the governor’s brother for safekeeping.”

A half hour later the Chief summoned JALBERT who dispatched GILCHRIST with fresh orders.

“Check over that information we have on Linda DANIELS.” he directed. “See if you can add to it. Also, go down to the home of Governor POITHIER on Pond Street and see his brother. Tell him Chief COE would like the brown paper wrapper which Miss DANIELS says she gave him several days ago.”

The detective departed on his mission. JALBERT and other detectives returned to the Cloutier Block. Assisted by a nephew of the murdered VADEBONCOEUR, they commenced a search of all waste paper collected daily throughout the building and carried to the cellar for eventual disposal.

In one corner the nephew came to a small pasteboard box stained with the trademark of a well-known baking company. He picked it up and carried it over to JALBERT.

“I think this is the box,” he said.

The bureau head, noting the broken seal, swung back the flimsy cover and looked inside. Clinging to the bottom of the container was a portion of wax paper affixed by soft, drying, brownish, jelly-like substance.

He rushed box and all to the Woonsocket Hospital where CASSAVANT identified it as the one in which the three cream puffs had been mailed. JALBERT then hurried to Police Headquarters. COE sent the wax paper with the adhering jelly-like substance to BERNSTEIN for analysis. Then setting the empty box on a nearby table, he began an exhaustive examination. JALBERT, checking through the telephone book, crossed to the phone and called a number.

The Chief looked up as the bureau head finished speaking. “There’s something phony about this box,” he said.

JALBERT nodded. “I know,” he answered. “I’ve just had the baking company on the wire. As you know, there are times when cream filling in bakery products become dangerous to eat because of certain bacteriological changes at certain temperatures. For that reason many bakeries refuse to make cream-filled products during the warm months. So I thought I would check with the bakery to see if there had been any complaints regarding the day’s baking.”

“What did you find out?” COE questioned.

“That this baking company does not make cream puffs.” the detective replied.

“That may throw light upon a discovery I have just made,” the Chief commented. He picked up the box he had been examining and showed JALBERT a narrow slit at one end of the container.

“CASSAVANT broke the seal as he stated, but this box had been opened previous to this so that the original contents could be secretly removed and the poisoned puffs substituted.”

GILCHRIST returned while the two men were in conference and produced the missing wrapper. Spreading it out on the desk before them, the two police detectives studied it eagerly. JALBERT noted the paper itself was of nondescript stock obtainable in any grocery or butcher shop. Near one of the upper folded edges, four one-cent stamps had been carefully affixed together with a ten-cent stamp, with the words “Special Delivery” scrawled beneath. Below that was written: Henry Cassavant, Cloutier Block, Social Street, Woonsocket, R.I. There was no return address.

Somebody knocked on the door. JALBERT opened it. A uniformed officer stood outside. “There’s a woman out here, Chief COE, who’s been waiting to see you for some time,” he said. “Says it’s very important.”

The Chief slipped the brown paper wrapper into an upper desk drawer and carefully closed it.

“Show her in,” he directed.

An attractive, well-formed blonde entered. “So sorry to trouble you,” she began in a rich cultivated voice, “but this morning I learned something which I thought you should know. It’s about the CASSAVANT case. I went out to mail a letter. The wind took it and blew it into the street where a young boy rushed out and rescued it for me. I thanked him

and we got to talking. ‘You’re the second young lady withing a week who I’ve helped with her mail.’ he told me.”

“What’s that got to do with the CASSAVANT case?” the Chief asked.

“That’s what I was coming to. This boy looked at me sharply and then asked me if I wasn’t a friend of Henry’s. I said that I was and he said that he had met another one of his friends, a young lady on Pond Street gave him a package last Wednesday to send to Henry by special delivery.”

“Did he know who this girl was?”

“He just said she came from a big house on Pond Street and that she was very pretty.”

“That’s getting close to the home of Linda DANIELS.” COE said to himself and asked aloud: “Who was this boy?”

“He ran off before I could get him to tell me,” the visitor said, “but it’s a boy whom I’ve seen quite frequently in the neighborhood. He usually wears a dark red sweater, has curly light brown hair and is about twelve years old.”

“Thank you very much,” COE replied and paused. “I don’t believe I got your name.”

“I am Mrs. OAKLEY – Mrs. Hattie OAKLEY,” the woman said.

“We’ll look into what you’ve told me.” the Chief promised.

Inquiry about the Pond Street

neighborhood failed to locate a boy who mailed a package on the fatal Wednesday to Henry CASSAVANT. Detectives again checked on the story told them by Linda DANIELS but discovered all facts had been as she represented.

In a further effort to solve the identity of the unknown poisoner, JALBERT instructed his men to secure specimens of handwriting from every person connected with the case, using as copy the address scrawled on the brown paper wrapper.

The next morning Mrs. OAKLEY called again to see if they had located the boy yet, and a sample of her writing was added to the rest.

These handwriting specimens were submitted to Joseph K. CLARK, one of Rhode Island's authorities on this subject for comparison with the writing on the brown paper wrapper.

From BERNSTEIN came word that analysis of the jelly-like substance found on the wax paper in the bakery box was part of the poisoned filling, and contained a lethal dose of arsenic. BERNSTEIN stated this checked with previous amounts found in the bodies of both VADEBONCOEUR and CASSAVANT. All were the same strength and grade as that commonly sold in drug-stores for rat poison.

COE ordered JALBERT to have detectives again check back on all poison sales made in the city for the past eight months. But before this new order could be carried out the police had an unexpected visitor.

He came rushing into headquarters out of breath, with a large book under one arm. Greatly excited, he said his name was Harold MARCH and that he was the prescription clerk in a drug store not far from Pond Street which the police had already visited.

"I told them when they were there that I did not remember if any such sales had been made. They checked my book and were satisfied. Now I find a terrible mistake has been made. Arsenic was purchased in our store on Tuesday, January 25th 1916, the day before Almand VADEBONCOEUR died of poisoning."

As he spoke, he drew the book from beneath his arm. He opened it up and pointed to a dried, uneven glucose smudge at the edge of blank double pages which bore a single entry under the date of January 25th, the day before the murder.

He explained that during the day after that sale had been recorded, the book was lying open on the prescription desk while a sticky cough syrup mixture was being compounded.

In some way, a minute quantity of the colorless liquid fell upon the open pages, sealing them tight when the book was replaced upon the shelf. New entries were made on the following pages and investigators checking chronologically did not observe what had happened.

"If this escaped the notice of my men, how did you happen to discover it?" COE asked.

"Purely through accident," the

clerk admitted. "Tonight, I had occasion to use the book. It slipped through my fingers and dropped upside down on the floor, falling open to the two pages which had become unsealed by the jarring impact. Then I realized what had happened and came to you at once."

The Chief took the book and studied the entry which had been made on that day.

"The customer only bought ten cents worth," the clerk went on. "I was assured it was to be used to kill rats."

The police head glanced at the purchaser's name and read it aloud.

"That's right," agreed MARCH. "I've known her for many years. I feel sure she could have nothing to do with this awful thing, but nevertheless I felt it should be reported."

"Miss MERRILL," the Chief repeated puzzled. "Did CASSAVANT ever mention a woman by that name?" he asked JALBERT.

The detective shook his head: COE turned again to the clerk, "The address given here is merely Woonsocket. Do you know where she lives?"

"On Ross Street," was the reply. "She's made her home there since the death of her husband. Miss MERRILL is her maiden name; you may know her as Mrs. Hattie OAKLEY."

Following this startling disclosure came word from CLARK, the handwriting expert. He returned the brown paper poison wrapper together with the speci-

mens which had been submitted. In his opinion, he stated, the person who had penned sample no. 2 was the one who had addressed the poison package.

COE and JALBERT checked on the identity of the writer of sample no. 2. It was Mrs. Hattie OAKLEY.

Squads of police searched this woman's home on Ross Street. Down in the cellar they discovered empty bakery boxes similar to the one containing the poison cream puffs and from the same company. JALBERT examined them.

"Look at these, Chief," he acclaimed. "Every one of them has been opened at one end leaving the seal intact."

"What's wrong with that?" the watching widow demanded. "Lots of people do that. I always open them up that way because it makes them easier to fill with yarn that I send to my aunt in Massachussets."

"You didn't use one of these boxes to send those poisoned cakes to Henry CASSAVANT?" the Chief asked as JALBERT disappeared in response to a call from one of the detectives.

"Certainly not," the widow replied. "I never made a cream puff in my life."

"That's strange," JALBERT cut in as he rejoined the group. "Somebody in this house is interested in cream puffs." He produced a cookbook which one of his men had just found in the OAKLEY kitchen. One page had been turned down to mark a cream puff recipe.

“That doesn’t mean a thing.” said Mrs. OAKLEY.

“Maybe not,” COE admitted. “Perhaps you will also tell us that you were not the person who purchased arsenic on the day before VADEBONCOEUR was murdered, using the name of Miss MERRILL.”

“I couldn’t do that,” the woman stated. “That would be a lie. I bought some because I needed it in the house.”

“What for?”

“Cockroaches,” replied Mrs. OAKLEY.

“If that is true, why did you tell Harold MARCH, the clerk, that you wanted it for rats?”

“For the best reason in the world,” she answered. “Do you think I wanted the neighborhood to know that I was so bad a housekeeper that I had cockroaches? Henry CASSAVANT told me arsenic was the only thing to use, but after going through all that red tape to buy it, I left the package on the counter and when I returned it wasn’t there.”

COE thought differently and so did JALBERT. These experienced officers, accustomed to dealing with the dark quirks of human nature, felt certain Hattie OAKLEY, rendered desperate by the thought of losing Henry CASSAVANT to young and attractive Linda DANIELS, had made up her mind that if she couldn’t have the handsome contractor, nobody else would. Murder and attempted murder followed. JALBERT remembered something the

poisoned man had told him at the hospital.

“You must have had this in mind for some time,” he remarked, “in fact ever since Henry told you Linda made the best cream puffs he had ever tasted.”

“That’s a lie,” Mrs. OAKLEY screamed, no longer gentle and lady-like. “This whole thing is a frame-up!”

“I wish I could think so,” returned Chief COE. “Put her under arrest.”

Linda DANIELS, whose story the police had believed from the first, was completely cleared of all connection with the crime. As for Mae RICH, there never had been a moment when this girl’s name was involved.

On May 31, 1916, Mrs. OAKLEY went on trial before Justice John W. SWEENEY and a handpicked jury in Superior Court at Providence, charged with the first-degree murder of VADEBONCOEUR and the attempted murder of CASSAVANT.

As one incriminating detail after another was admitted into the records, Mrs. OAKLEY lost her nerve. Instructing her attorneys to withdraw her previous plea of “Not Guilty,” this modern Borgia threw herself upon the mercy of the court. She was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to a term of twenty years.

Thus ended Rhode Island’s strangest poison mystery.

(May RICH and Linda DANIELS are fictitious names to save innocent

persons from embarrassment.)

Editor's note: Henry C. Casavant was born on 4 December 1884 in St. Marcel, Que. and died on 2 November 1942 in Woonsocket, RI. Almand Vadeboncoeur

was born on 9 November 1886 in Canada and died on 26 January 1916 in Woonsocket, RI. They are both buried in Precious Blood Cemetery. Source is the Rhode Island Cemetery Transcription Project.

Things I wish I'd known Before I went out into the Real World

A person needs only two tools. WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.

Any and all compliments can be handled by simply saying "Thank you" though it helps if you say it with a Southern accent.

Some people are working backstage, some are playing in the orchestra, some are on-stage singing, some are in the audience as critics, some are there to applaud. Know who and where you are.

Never give yourself a haircut after three margaritas.

When baking, follow directions. When cooking, go by your own taste.

Never continue dating anyone who is rude to the waiter.

Good sex should involve laughter. Because it's, you know, funny.

If you tell a lie, don't believe it deceives only the other person.

The five most essential words for a healthy, vital relationship: "I apologize" and "You are right".

Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

When you make a mistake, make amends immediately.

It's easier to eat crow while it's still warm.

If he says that you are too good for him—believe it.

I've learned to pick my battles; I ask myself, Will this matter one year from now? How about one month? One week? One day?

If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You have another chance!

Living well really is the best revenge. Being miserable because of a bad or former relationship just proves that the other person was right about you.

Be really nice to your friends because you never know when you are going to need them to empty your bed pan and hold your hand.

Work is good but it's not important.

Never underestimate the kindness of your fellow man.

You are the only person who can truly make you happy.



Don't forget to change your address when you move!!!!

Every time the Society sends a mailing to the general membership, we get a lot of returns with bad addresses. These have to be remailed with first class postage.

This is an unnecessary expense for the Society, and an inconvenience for its members.

If you plan to move, please fill out the form below. Doing so will save a lot of trouble for the AFGS and for you!

Name: _____ Member # _____

Old address: _____

New address: _____

Effective date: _____

The post office does not forward bulk mail. If you plan on being at another address for part of the year, you should inform us of that fact.

Please don't tear this book. Photocopy this page.

Noël Norbert Bissonette

1836-1928

by: Paul Vilmur & Robert Larson

Introduction

This is the story of my great grandfather Noël Norbert BISSONETTE. I have been researching the BISSONETTE ancestry line for the past four years and have traced it back to the first immigrant to Canada, Jacques BISSONNET, who arrived in Quebec on June 18, 1665 on the ship *Le Cat de Hollande*. But this is the story of Jacques 3rd great grandson, Noël that contains some of my research but also consists of the research and large chunks of the narrative from an unpublished 1984 memoir by my late cousin Robert Larson.

The Early Years

Named in honor of his birth day, Noël Norbert BISSONETTE was born on December 25th 1836 either in Burlington, Vermont or in the town 12 miles East of Burlington called Jericho. His parents were Pierre BISSONETTE and Scholas-tique POUDRET who had married November 21, 1826 at the church of La Conception in the town of St. Mathias, Rouville County Quebec. The first two children of this marriage Pierre Jr. and Edouard were born in Rouville County. By 1835, Pierre and family had moved to Jericho, Vermont where he worked in the timber industry, probably in one of the several sawmills operating in Jericho. Noël and his sister Maria and his brothers Jean-Baptiste, Napoleon and Jeremy

were all born in Vermont although his father Pierre made frequent trips back to Rouville County for various family doings.

It is believed that Noël had a better than average education for his time possibly at the Academy in Jericho Center a short distance from the village of Jericho. It was evident from his later correspondence that his writing skills were pretty good although his spelling remained atrocious. Academies in those days were the equivalent of High Schools today. The building housing the Academy was still in Jericho Center in 1981 although it was now a library. As they grew older, Noël and his older brothers also worked in the sawmills in Jericho.

In 1858, the family was in Angie-Gardien, Rouville County, Quebec. It was here that Noël married Sophie FRÉCHETTE on November 22, 1858. A month later, Noël's sister Marie married Antoine CHAMBERLAND December 18, 1858 in the same place. It is believed that Noël's father Pierre and some of the older brothers and sister Marie stayed in Canada for some time but Noël soon returned to Jericho, Vermont with his bride. He was picked up there in the 1860 census. Two daughters were born in Jericho; the first Mary Jane was born April

30, 1861 but died shortly thereafter. The second daughter Sophie Caroline Carrie was born in 1863.

A Business Venture

In late 1864 or early 1865, Noël moved to Valcourt, Shefford County, Quebec to join in a business venture in the timber industry with an older brother. His younger brothers Napoleon and Jean-Baptiste along with his brother-in-law Antoine CHAMBERLAND soon joined them. Napoleon had joined the 5th Vermont Volunteer Infantry in 1861 but had contracted typhoid fever in July of 1862 at Harrison's Landing, Maryland. He was given a disability discharge in November 1862 and sent home to Jericho to recuperate. The effects of the typhoid fever would leave him in poor health for the rest of his life. Both Napoleon and Jean-Baptiste were married in North Adams, Massachusetts in July of 1867. Both brothers with their brides returned to Valcourt. Napoleon died at Valcourt in 1884. Jean-Baptiste and family along with the wife and children of Napoleon would return to the US after the death of his brother Napoleon and eventually settled in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Noël's third daughter (my grandmother) Eliza Scholastique was born June 30, 1865 in Valcourt. Another sister Marie Herminé Minnie followed on October 5th 1867. In the meantime the brothers business venture was not going well and Noël had a falling out with his older brother. By this time the center of the lumbering industry had shifted from New England to the Great Lake states. The word was that lumbering jobs were plentiful in Wisconsin. So in 1868 Noël, his wife and three daughters made the journey along with

the Narcisse BISSONETTE family (a distant cousin) to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Noël and Narcisse quickly found work in Fond du Lac. In 1869, Sophie BISSONETTE gave birth to twins. One died shortly after birth, but the other, Clothilde, survived. Unfortunately, Sophie died of hemorrhaging just two days after the twins' birth. An elderly Aunt, Marie-Anne GOYETTE, came from Canada to help out but it was too much for her to take care of a new born baby and three young children. In Fond du Lac, the Narcisse GOYETTE family from Massachusetts (possibly a relative of Marie-Anne's husband Louis GOYETTE) took in the newborn child. For some reason, this family soon returned to Massachusetts with Clothilde. In Massachusetts she was called Emerance after her foster mother but later went by the nickname Minnie. Noël would not see this daughter again until 40 years later. After his Aunt returned to Canada, Noël hired a housekeeper but this did not work out either. Noël would come home to find his children dirty, full of lice and complaining of not being fed. At this time, Noël met a widow, Agnes (PACQUET) GOULET, who was living with her son Alex in Fond du Lac. They were married on July 10, 1870. Agnes also had a young daughter, Ann, with her the same age as Carrie. Agnes' other children Louise, John and Louis were old enough to be out on their own. Noël took a special liking to his stepson Louis who was a millwright. When Louis went to work in the big sawmill in Peshtigo, Wisconsin, Noël, Agnes and the five children followed.

Peshtigo, Wisconsin

In 1871, Peshtigo Wisconsin was a booming lumber town of about 2000 with a huge sawmill and a woodenware factory. Noël built a cabin some distance from the town so he probably worked in the woods. As was the custom at the time he also built an underground root cellar to keep root vegetables such as carrots, potatoes and beets during the winter. This was usually accessible from outside the home by a double door covered stairway close to the ground. This would later prove a lifesaver.

Noël's whole world changed on a fateful Sunday, October 8, 1871 when the town was destroyed by fire. Conditions for disaster had been building for some time before that fateful Sunday in October. Even with normal weather the fire hazard around Peshtigo must have been enormous as logging operations left huge piles of slash over thousands of acres. Adding greatly to the already dangerous situation was a severe drought over the past year. Very little snow fell during the preceding winter, so little, in fact, that logging operations were hampered. Streams and rivers were so low that it was difficult to float logs to the mills. The spring and summer were unusually hot with little or no rain falling since May.

In September the fires started. Daily clouds of smoke blotted out the sun. Fires seemed everywhere. Woods and mill operations ceased while all available manpower was used to fight the fires.

It is believed that the BISSONETTE family lived in an area known as the upper and lower Sugar

Bush. This was a farming area. It seems that the family lived in a cabin surrounded by considerable cleared land. Noël sensed the fire danger and spent a good deal of time that fall burning the flammable trash surrounding the clearing.

Sunday, October 8, dawned hot and sultry, more like a day in mid-August than in October. The sun was barely visible through the smoke-filled sky. Under normal conditions the family would probably have attended mass at Father Perrin's partially completed church in Peshtigo. Instead, after giving the family instructions as to what to do if conditions worsened, Noël picked up his fire fighting tools and joined the other men on the fire line.

The Peshtigo Historical Museum gives the following account of what happened that day:

"The afternoon wore on, hot and still, and smoky enough to make eyes water. When night closed down, a sultry red glow could be seen over the treetops to the southwest. The smoke thickened, and about nine o'clock a low, moaning, far-off roaring of the wind from the southwest was heard. Suddenly the roar became louder and quickly a crashing and deep booming came from the surrounding forest. In less than five minutes there was fire everywhere. The atmosphere quickly grew unbearably warm and a rush of air as hot enveloped the town as though it was issuing from a blast furnace. The wind lifted the roof off houses, toppled chimneys and showered the town with hot sand and live coals. The cries of the men, women and children were scarcely audible

above the rumble of exploding gas and crashing timber. People were numb with terror, seeing nothing but fire overhead and all around them.”

By ten o'clock, an hour after the fire descended, the entire village of Peshtigo had been wiped out; 800 people had lost their lives. At the same time that this was taking place, fire was destroying a large part of Chicago in the infamous “Chicago Fire”. The Chicago fire got all the headlines, but in terms of lives lost the Peshtigo fire was by far the greater disaster. Today the Peshtigo fire remains the most destructive fire in terms of lives lost of any fire in the U. S.

It is not difficult to imagine Noël BISSONETTE watching the flames from some distance northwest of the town where he and others had been trying to control the fire. When the wind came up towards evening the fire fighters probably had the good sense to take refuge in one of what must have been many burned-out areas surrounding the town. Fires had burned all summer in the outlying areas around Peshtigo, some areas undoubtedly burned over several times, so there must have been large areas where there was very little left to burn. The goal of the fire fighters was to save the town, especially their source of employment, the sawmill and the woodenware factory. Their efforts may have been self defeating and contributed to the intensity of the conflagration by leaving a ring of heavy fuel to feed the flames as they approached the village.

. Towards morning when the wind died down Noël made his way back to where he had left his family, fearful of what he might find. He was overwhelmed

with joy and thanksgiving to find wife Agnes and the five children in the root cellar he had prepared for them in advance. The cabin had burned but the family had been spared, thanks largely to Noël's foresight in reducing the fuel surrounding the cabin.

Monday night the rains came and the drought was broken, a day too late for hundreds of people. In sharp contrast to the heat the weather now turned seasonably cold and damp. There was much suffering from exposure since there was no shelter to be had. Noël and family were probably a little better off than most since they had the root cellar to ward off the cold. Still it was damp and not a place conducive to good health. Little Minnie, always a frail child, became ill, and a short time later, died. My grandmother Eliza, Minnie's sister, never forgot the heart rending scene of the pathetic little coffin being drawn through the dreary, cold, blackened burned-out forest.

A New Life in Michigan

After the funeral the family moved to Menominee, Michigan where Noël got a job in a sawmill. Things seemed to go well for the family for a time. Noël was able to purchase a house although with a substantial mortgage to pay off. Then tragedy struck again. Noël broke his arm while working in the mill. There was no workman's compensation in those days; when one stopped working, for whatever reason, income stopped. The family banded together to earn a few' dollars to survive. During the summer they picked berries, and sold them in town. When there were no berries to pick the womenfolk knitted caps, mittens and scarves for Noël to sell in

town.

Then came the depression. The mill shut down and Noël was out of work again. When Noël couldn't make his loan payments and lost his house, he was ready to look elsewhere for a place to live. We believe Noël and his family left Menominee some time in the late seventies. They were still in Menominee in 1877 as there is a record of Eliza BISSONETTE receiving her first communion in the parish church of St. John in Menominee on July 29, 1877.

From Menominee Noël moved to Maple Ridge (now called Rock) some 30 miles northwest of Escanaba in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Here the family lived in a logging camp operated by Peter GROOS, father of the well known Drs. Louis and Harold GROOS of Escanaba.

While in Maple Ridge, Noël worked as a charcoal kiln operator and earned a reputation as one of the best in the business. Loading and tending the kiln in order to produce the maximum yield of high grade charcoal used in iron making required a great deal of skill and patience. Tending the kiln was a twenty-four hour a day job.

Next Noël is found working for a David DANFORTH on his truck garden farm in Wells just north of Escanaba on the property now known as the "Poor Farm". David DANFORTH, a big land and timber dealer around Escanaba in the late 1800's, is believed to have been the first settler in the farming community that now bears his name. The deed records of Delta County show that on April 12, 1879, Noël BISSONETTE con-

tracted to buy forty acres of land in Danforth from the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company for \$120, to be paid in five annual installments of \$24. The last payment was made April 16, 1883 and a deed recorded on December 8th of that same year. This is the place at the intersection of the Danforth and Flatrock roads.

Marriage in the Family

The first marriage in the BISSONETTE family was when stepson Alex married Helene HARRIS on November 29, 1884. They lived on the BISSONETTE farm until children started to arrive. Then Noël gave his stepson the West half of his 40 acre property. It appeared that Noël was less interested in farming as he had built a grocery store on the property and most of his income was now coming from this business. The next marriage was my grandmother Eliza to Adelard ROY on February 16, 1885. Again Noël helped his new son-in-law to obtain farmland close by. Eliza and Adelard had seven children before Adelard was killed in a train accident on September 16, 1899. The third marriage was daughter Carrie to Peter EMARD on July 26, 1886.

My grandmother Eliza married for the second time to Evariste VILMUR on August 5, 1902. A year later Noël decided to semi-retire and give over the management of his farm and grocery store to his son-in-law Evariste. To give his daughter and son-in-law more privacy, Noël had a two-room addition put on the farmhouse for himself and his wife Agnes. It consisted of a living room and bedroom. Meals were held with the rest of the family.

Noël's second wife Agnes died February 6, 1908. Around 1910, Noël was visiting relatives in Canada. On his way back, he stopped off in Worcester, Massachusetts to see his daughter Minnie for the first time in 40 years. It is not known if they had corresponded over the years. (All Noël's papers were lost in a farmhouse fire in 1936). By all accounts it was a very tearful reunion. His daughter had married Etienne DEMERS on May 20, 1891 in Marlborough, Massachusetts. At the time of the meeting Minnie had 8 children. He would see his daughter Minnie again when she came with her married daughter and grandchild to visit Noël in 1920.

The BISSONETTE Grocery Store

By the mid 1910s, "BISSONETTE'S Groceries", now operated by my grandfather VILMUR, was the place to go. It was the center of community activities. It was the place to go to buy groceries. It was the place to go to buy kerosene for the lamp, lantern or oil stove:-If you needed gas for the car you could get filled up at the Hanson and Jensen pump at the store. It was the place to go to get away from a nagging wife or a bunch of noisy, snotty-nosed kids. It was the place to go to catch up on all the gossip, to find out who was running around with whose wife, who was drinking to much and who was being mean to his wife It was the place to go to get into a card game any night of the week and on Sunday afternoons.

The store was in three sections. First there was the west room where the main entrance was. Here were the display cases full of candy, cakes and other mouth-watering tidbits. A wide arch led to a room where the groceries and other

staples were displayed on floor-to-ceiling shelves behind a long counter. At one end of the counter was a large scale for weighing out sugar, lard and other such items kept in barrels and large sacks.

Several steps led down to an annex that served mainly as a storeroom. Here barrels of salt pork, vinegar and pickles were kept along with bags of chicken and cow feed. A double door at the east end of the storeroom opened on a loading platform. Steep narrow steps led down to a low, earthen cellar where rows of barrels filled with aging sweet and hard cider were stored.

Noël still worked occasionally in the store and would love to give the grandkids treats. His youngest grand daughter Mabel would sometimes sneak candy on the sly. Occasionally Grandpa would catch her at it and he would be heard to say in this thick French Canadian accent, "*Gosh darn the keed; she eat up all my profete.*"

Noël also liked to hang out in his living room which he termed his office. One wall from floor to ceiling was lined with shelves filled mostly with law books. (All this would be lost in a 1936 farmhouse fire.) Upon entering his office one would nearly always find Grandpa pouring over a book and smoking a huge cigar. The place had a strange, exotic smell of camphor (for his aging joints) mixed with cigar smoke. I think Noël fancied himself as a country lawyer. He was greatly respected for his opinions on a wide range of subjects; in fact there were few subjects about which he didn't have an opinion. There was always someone coming in to seek

his advice or to discuss current events and politics. He drafted contracts and his own will. Even though he spoke and wrote English well enough he still thought in French so sometimes the English and spelling came out a little strange. Here is a small excerpt from his last will and testament written in 1919: *I Desire and Recommend For My Funeral Not Put on any Stile or Glory let it be Plain I Desire More Preares than Stile, Plain Coffin if Poseble a 10 Dollar Mass in my mind is just as Good as a 20 Dollar Mass, Also I want and Desire if it can be arraigned at the time of my Funarl that Those to be Mes Porteurs Shall be Six of my Grandsons if it is So at my Death that there is Grandsons Enough, other Wise let the officers or Members of L'Enstitute Joe Cartier Be My Pail Bearriers.*

In summer Noël was more apt to be in his garden than in his office. The garden was a square plot of ground just outside the west window of his office. The plot was not more than a hundred feet square, perhaps less, and enclosed by a high woven-wire fence to keep the chickens and the dogs out. Noël was very particular about who entered his garden; one entered through the gate at his invitation and inspected it under his watchful eye. He always had a hoe in his hand; he used it partly as a cane, but also as a weapon to attack any hapless weed that was imprudent enough to appear. The garden was devoted exclusively to growing fruit, which included apples, plums, cherries, raspberries, strawberries and currants. The currants were Noël's cash crop. About a third of

the garden was devoted to growing currants. Except for the currants, the fruit from this garden was for household use, and for treating great grandchildren.

Noël remained physically active and mentally alert right up to within a few days of his death. His last Christmas in 1927 was remembered by some of the great grand children. It was traditional for all the kinfolk to gather at Grandma's for Christmas dinner. It was also traditional for Noël to propose a toast before everyone sat down. He would stand at the head of the table with glass held high in one hand (filled with cider as this was during the days of prohibition), and with much waving and gesturing with the other hand would discourse at length on diverse subjects ranging from politics to religion. This Christmas, as in the past, all the food was on the table with the mouth-watering odors of roast chicken wafting up to the nostrils of the gathered kinfolk. Folks began to fidget impatiently as the toast wore on. Finally Grandma Eliza said, "Pa, you had better finish your speech later; the mashed potatoes are getting cold."

Noël had a bad habit of leaving his black socks on for long periods of time even in bed. In March of 1928 he got an ingrown toenail which became infected. Because he never took his socks off no one knew there was a problem and Noël didn't say anything until he couldn't get out of bed. By then the blood poisoning had spread up his leg and nothing could be done for him. Noël died March 17, 1928. He was 91 years old.

The world's termites outweigh the world's humans 10 to 1.
Pound for pound, hamburgers cost more than new cars.



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Alphonse Deslauriers

Translated by: Raymond Lambert

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Because the fascinating biography of our esteemed compatriot, Mr. Alphonse DESLAURIERS, is so full of intriguing and perilous situations, many would believe that the following lines have come straight from a work of fiction. They are, however, real experiences from a life that we are quite pleased to record here. Our compatriot's life can serve as an example for many others. Though he was born poor and was deprived of good fortune and a formal education, Mr. Alphonse DESLAURIERS built a prosperous business through hard work, undaunted courage, and an enterprising spirit. His brilliant administrative abilities have brought him the success that he enjoys today, and there is no doubt that these abilities will guarantee him a bright future. Thus, with great pleasure, we publish a short summary of this honest and respected citizen's career. We are convinced that the path he has blazed will lead the way for others, and we pay tribute to a man that we all admire and are proud to know.

Mr. Alphonse DESLAURIERS was born in Ste-Anne de la Pocatiere, Kamouraska, Québec on June 5, 1848,



to a good old French Canadian family of farmers, many who still live in Québec.

DESLAURIERS's early years were spent not at the school desk like most other children, but with his parents on the family farm, where he offered his parents all the services that could be expected of a young child.

Not yet 10 years of age, the young

and adventurous fellow left for Rivière-du-Loup. He wanted to see the country and try a trade because farm work did not suit him. In March 1858 he found an opening with a tanner, Mr. Louis DUGAL. Two months after starting at Mr. DUGAL's tannery, the young DESLAURIERS returned to Ste-Anne de la Pocatière for his confirmation. At this time he received a favor he still remembers fondly: with only 30 *sous* to pay for his passage (his own brother had even refused to send him more money), he boarded a Grand-Tronc rail car, and the conductor, Mr. Joseph FONTAINE of Rivière-du-Loupe, let the boy sit in a corner of a wagon. Mr. FONTAINE took only twenty-five cents, and looked after the little passenger until he happily arrived at his destination. Though many years have passed since this incident, our compatriot still remembers this favor with gratitude.

Mr. DESLAURIERS became unhappy with his new trade – particularly the displeasing odors of the tannery, as he likes to recall – and left his master in July 1858, even though he had committed himself to a full apprenticeship. He stowed away on the riverboat of Captain CHARETTE and left Rivière-du-Loup for Québec.

Once the boat had left the port, he approached the captain and went to work to pay for his passage. Not long after arriving in Québec, the young DESLAURIERS found work in the St. Roch tannery owned by another Mr. Dugal – the uncle of his former master in Rivière-du-Loup.

Our friend was beginning to enjoy his new job, when one fine morning his

former master from Rivière-du-Loup showed up to reclaim his former apprentice. DESLAURIERS, however, was not very willing to go back with him. When his former boss finally ordered the young man to return with him, DESLAURIERS asked for a few minutes to gather his belongings, bundled up what little clothes he possessed, and high-tailed it towards the Palais. He then obtained a cook's position aboard the boat of Captain BEAUMONT, which was headed to Gaspé to pick up a shipment of oil. The young DESLAURIERS made the voyage from Québec to Gaspé and back and then sailed to Caraquet, where the ship was to unload a cargo of oysters. On returning from Caraquet, the ship ran into a reef during the night and was destroyed. The young DESLAURIERS, the captain, and the second mate were the only ones to escape the shipwreck. They three spent the night on a lifeboat – without oars – and nearly froze to death. They were saved the next morning by an English ship returning to Québec.

The young DESLAURIERS, not much taken in by the allures of the shipping trade, traveled to St. Thomas de Montmagny and worked for a while at his brother's tannery in Ste. Anne.

After some time at his brother's tannery he traveled back to Québec and quickly found a job with Gaspard ROCHETTE, a tanner on St. Valier Street. A few months later he was hired by a Mr. PORTELANCE of Lotbinière.

It was during this time in Lotbinière that Mr. COLOMBE, a local merchant, gave him a shiny new French *piastre*. He preciously guarded this coin

for over twenty years – the greatest privations and the bleakest misery could not make him give it up. (Unfortunately, this *piastre* was later stolen by one of Mr. DESLAURIERS's employees.)

But Mr. PORTELANCE halted his tannery business for a time, and Mr. DESLAURIERS returned to work for his former boss, Mr. Gaspard ROCHETTE, working there until the great fire of Québec in 1866.¹

Our friend was not disheartened by this event, and with his precious *piastre* tucked away nicely in his shirt he left on foot for Montréal. It took him ten long days to complete the journey. Sometimes he had to sleep under the stars, and sometimes he had to sleep in stables among the animals. Throughout the entire journey, he suffered from hunger, cold, and fatigue. To avoid starving to death, our compatriot – and it is he himself who reports this – had to resort to stealing turnips and potatoes to survive. Exhausted, he finally arrived one evening in Montréal and fortunately met a man named MASSON who took him to his house at Côtés des Neiges.

Mr. Masson, after generously giving our friend plenty of pudding to fill his belly, introduced DESLAURIERS to a Mr. DESLOGES who took care of him and employed him for several weeks. The young DESLAURIERS enjoyed his stay with his new boss, who also provided him with good food and lodging.

A short time later, however, Alphonse DESLAURIERS again found himself without work, lodging, and food in the large city of Montréal where he knew no one. He was obliged to take

what used and worn-out clothes he had to a pawn shop. He managed to find work shearing sheep for a man named MALONEY. The pay was quite paltry, he did not have enough to eat, and he had to sleep at night at the shop with the sheepskins pulled over him.

Even the most robust temperament and constitution could not withstand such privations for long; our compatriot became severely ill and spent the winter at Notre Dame Hospital. By the spring of 1867, he began to recover and was ready to be discharged. After leaving the hospital, the young DESLAURIERS strolled along the city's wharfs and enlisted in the service of the barge McCluken. The ship's captain, CE-SAIRE, listened to the story of his new hand and paid him an advance of ten dollars so he could retrieve all the clothes that he had pawned before his illness.

Our friend sailed on this barge from Montréal to Ottawa and then to Whitehall. He then embarked on another barge that transported wheat between Kingston and Montréal, but this voyage was unpleasant: having been struck in a collision, the barge began to take on water, and our young friend had to once again change ships.

This time he joined a barge that transported timber from Lancaster to Montréal for a government account. He only made one voyage; the captain was a husky and jolly fellow who hunted ducks and geese on the canal and had them prepared for his own kitchen. When the authorities heard of this they arrested the enterprising captain upon his arrival at Montréal, and the ship's crew was subsequently disbanded.

Alphonse DESLAURIERS then worked for over a year for a Mr. MONGEAU of Verchères. Leaving Verchères he returned to Québec to see his parents, who operated an inn in the lower city at the time.

Though he had tried more than one trade, Alphonse DESLAURIERS was a born businessman. Sooner or later he was destined to start his own business. With very little capital, he combed the markets at night buying all that he could at the best possible price and resold the goods the following day at a profit. Business went well, but his parents did not seem very pleased with their son's new venture. He eventually abandoned it and resolved to go to the United States to make his fortune.

It was on All Saints Day of this same year that Alphonse DESLAURIERS started out for the United States. He arrived in Clermont, Vermont, where he found work as a wood cutter in a lumber yard. The first weeks went well, but our compatriot soon realized that he was not going to make much money cutting wood for 50 cents a day. Again, he decided on a change. He went to the city and bought a saw, a hatchet, and a saw horse and soon started work sawing wood. He earned four dollars per cord and soon had enough work to hire another man to work with him. Our friend saved a little bit of money and soon left the saw trade to go to Worcester, Massachusetts, where he immediately started to work for a Mr. NOYES.

After a couple of months working for Mr. NOYES, Alphonse DESLAURIERS began to transport slate for S.H. HATTAN. After four years of service,

Mr. Hattan made DESLAURIERS a foreman and sent him to Southbridge, Massachusetts, as a horse team driver. It was in Southbridge that our compatriot married Miss Phoebe COURBRON of Haggard-town, Pennsylvania, on October 21, 1870.

With the support and encouragement of his young wife, Alphonse DESLAURIERS left the service of Mr. HATTAN; on November 15, 1870 – three weeks after his marriage – he started his own slating business in Southbridge.

When he started this business he did not have much capital – only \$35, as he likes to recall. But he had the necessary courage and energy, and he was a man who could succeed in anything he set out to do. His first project was to re-slate the house and sheds for Mr. Luther MEADOW of Southbridge. After completing this work, many other opportunities arrived. Soon our friend had too much work to handle by himself and had to hire extra help.

He began to receive contracts for very large jobs, not only in Southbridge, but also in the surrounding areas. Soon Alphonse DESLAURIERS found himself at the head of a company of many employees and had so much work that he even had to turn down some jobs. Business was booming, and soon our compatriot had amassed a small fortune. With his commercial ingenuity, courage, and incessant energy his success would multiply.

Alphonse DESLAURIERS soon opened a general store, a butcher's shop, and a popular bakery. But he did not foresee much opportunity to expand

his business in the Southbridge area. He then turned to Providence, Rhode Island, where he bought several properties and entered into the slate and galvanized iron businesses. A little later he bought a mine in Maine. In a just a short amount of time his fortune grew further, and today he is one of the wealthiest French Canadians in Rhode Island.

If other French Canadians follow his example and adopt the courage, and “go ahead” attitude of our compatriot DESLAURIERS, there will be many more well-off French Canadians in this state enjoying their own good fortune.

¹ *Translator’s Note: The Great Fire of October 1866 destroyed most of the Québec suburbs of St-Roch and St-Sauveur.*

It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year’s supply of footballs.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

There is an average of 178 sesame seeds on a McDonald’s Big Mac bun.

The 3 most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca-Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.

When Heinz ketchup leaves the bottle, it travels at a rate of 25 miles per year.

It’s possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.

The Bible has been translated into Klingon.

Humans are the only primates that don’t have pigment in the palms of their hands.

Ten percent of the Russian government’s income comes from the sale of vodka.

Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world’s nuclear weapons combined.

Reno, Nevada is west of Los Angeles, California.

Average age of top GM executives in 1994: 49.8 years.

Elephants can’t jump. Every other mammal can.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

Five Jell-O flavors that flopped: celery, coffee, cola, apple, and chocolate.

According to one study, 24% of lawns have some sort of lawn ornament in their yard.

Internationally, Baywatch is the most popular TV show in history.

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A Buteau in the American Civil War

by: **George H. Buteau**

Immigration of French Canadians to the United States was in its infancy when the American Civil War broke out in 1861. No one knows for certain how many French-Canadian immigrants actually served in the Union or Confederate armies. There is at least one estimate that as many as 4,000 fought on the Union side. This article will discuss one such Franco-American, my great-grand uncle Alexander Buteau who fought in the Union Army.

Alexander Buteau was the second child born to Henry T. and Marie (Dufault) Buteau. He was born on September 6, 1844 in Sorel, QC and was baptized Joseph Elie Buteau that very day in St. Pierre parish church. Sometime around 1853, the Buteau family now totaling nine moved to Slatersville, Rhode Island most likely to find work in the textile mill in that town. A daughter and two sons were born in Rhode Island. The youngest of them, my great-grandfather, Damase Buteau, was born in April 1857. By the U.S. Census of 1860, the family was living in Lord's Bridge, Connecticut (present-day Sprague), where Henry and the three oldest children, Henry, 18, Mary, 16, and Alexander, 15, were working in the Sprague cotton mill.

On September 10, 1861, Alexander Buteau, who had just celebrated his 17th

birthday four days earlier, enlisted in the 10th Connecticut Regiment of Infantry. The Regiment mustered into the Union Army on September 30th, at Camp Buckingham, in Hartford, CT. On October 31, under the command of Colonel Charles L. Russell of Derby, CT, they left for Annapolis, MD on the steamers *Granite State* and *Mary Burton*. The 10th Connecticut Regiment remained at Annapolis as part of the First Brigade of Burnside's Division. During this time, the regiment became known for its superior drill and discipline.

On January 2, 1862, the 10th Connecticut Regiment was transported by ship to North Carolina and for the 5-day trip endured miserable conditions until they landed at Roanoke Island on February 7. The next day they fought like a regiment of veterans and helped win a victory for the Union over the Confederate fortifications at Roanoke. There were 4 deaths including Colonel Russell and 51 were wounded. Colonel Albert Drake took over the 10th Regiment.

On February 11, the regiment began a month-long transport to Slocum's Creek, North Carolina landing on March 13. The next day, after a hard march, they fought in the Battle of New Bern. Casualties included 5 killed and 20 wounded. Colonel Drake died of disease on June 5

and was succeeded by Colonel Ira W. Pettibone of Winsted. The 10th Regiment remained in North Carolina for the summer and took part in several minor engagements. On July 22, all Union troops in North Carolina were organized into the 9th Corps under Major-General Burnside.

In December, during the subsequent Goldsboro campaign, the 10th took part in a major battle at Kingston, NC. Some 6,000-7,000 Confederate troops occupied the town while an additional brigade was posted across the Neuse River to defend the bridge. The 10th Connecticut Regiment charged the Confederates and took the bridge ultimately capturing 500 prisoners. The regiment suffered the greatest loss in a single day of their campaign with 15 killed and 88 wounded. On December 16, in subsequent campaigns at Whitehall and Goldsboro the regiment suffered no losses. On December 24 all troops in North Carolina were combined into the 18th Army Corps with Maj. Gen. J.G. Foster in command.

On January 29, 1863, General Foster led a division of his troops which included the Connecticut 10th, to South Carolina to attack Morris Island and Charleston. Though the attack on Morris Island never occurred, the regiment was actively involved in numerous offensives during the siege of Charleston. On April 10, 1863, the brigade drove the enemy from Seabrook Island. The regiment was assigned to Major General Alfred Terry's Division, 10th Corps. On April 17, after a standoff with Confederates on James Island, the 10th Connecticut Regiment boarded boats for Morris Island where they joined the third col-

umn of attack on Fort Wagner. However, a truce was made just before the attack. The 10th remained on duty outside Fort Wagner suffering debilitating conditions. By the time the 10th Regiment left for St Augustine, following Fort Wagner's capture, 60% of the men were on the sick list.

After the siege of Charleston, the 10th Connecticut Regiment was ordered to St. Augustine, Florida to do guard duty at the convalescent camp and hospital. While stationed in St. Augustine, a party of the 10th Connecticut Regiment was ambushed on December 30, 1863 by a force of 160 Confederate cavalry resulting in the death of one and the capture of twenty-one. Alexander Buteau was one of those captured.

A written account of the incident appeared in the Boston Herald on January 20, 1864 as an anonymous letter from the 24th Massachusetts Regiment titled "A Detail of Pioneers Ambushed by Rebel Cavalry – Lieut. Walker Killed and Three Men Captured – Twenty-one of the 10th Conn. Captured and One Killed." Following is a portion of that article:

Camp of the 24th Mass. Regiment

St. Augustine, Fla., Jan. 4, 1864

For the last month it has been our custom to send out a party of pioneers two or three miles in advance of our pickets for the purpose of chopping wood for camp and garrison uses. On all such occasions a guard is sent with them for the purpose of protection. On the morning of the 30th ult., the 24th Mass. furnished the detail, consisting

of twenty-seven, as pioneers, and the 10th Conn. furnished the guard both for, picket and pioneers, it being the custom for them to furnish the guard one day and we the next. The guard consisted of thirty men under command of Lieut. Walker, Co, D, 24th Mass. After having posted his pickets as usual, the pioneers and guard proceeded on towards the scene of their labors, without a thought of danger, as no confessed enemies had ever been seen in that vicinity, little suspecting that an ambushed foe was lying in wait for them. But such was the fact, however, for on arriving within a few hundred yards of their destination, they found themselves suddenly confronted by a body of rebel dismounted cavalry, that had arisen from their ambush, and, in a tone of triumph, commanded them to surrender.

Their situation was a desperate one. To give battle would have been madness, for they were overpowered by largely superior numbers. To surrender would have been contrary to all their teaching, and could not be thought of for a moment, and sending a volley and a yell of defiance at their enemies they dashed into the woods and swamp to make their escape as best they could, their enemies after them. Lieut. Walker, who had remained a few minutes behind to give instructions to the pickets, now came up, and endeavoring to rally his men was shot and fell. ... Twenty-one of the 10th Conn. were captured and one killed. ... Walker mortally wounded. ... He died on the 3d of January ...

The rebel captures would no doubt have been larger, but for the promptitude with which the 24th appeared upon the scene. Their appear-

ance was the signal for a sudden leave taking. Throwing their prisoners on their horses, whip and spur was brought into requisition to accelerate their flight, and they were soon beyond the range of Springfield muskets. We pursued them six miles, but as they were all mounted, pursuit was useless. Here we sadly missed a good company of cavalry; however, we expect soon to have a couple of companies of cavalry here, and then, perhaps, they will be under the necessity of paying back those few prisoners with the interest thereon. If a guerilla warfare is what they desire, we shall soon be enabled to accommodate them with the whole system revised and corrected.

Alexander Buteau was discharged from the Union Army on September 30, 1864 but wasn't paroled from the Confederate prison until November 20, 1864.

He later married Lena Lafleur who was born in Canada in 1852. They had only one son, Henry, born in Columbia, CT in 1872. Alexander died accidentally by drowning in Sprague, CT in 1899 at 54 years of age. He is buried in St Joseph Cemetery, Windham, CT.

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Useless Facts

- A sick pig rarely curls it's tail.
- A woodpeckers tongue is long enough to wrap it around his head 2 times.
- Ants prefer not to walk through baby powder.
- Snakes can't blink.
- A rat can tread water for 3 days.
- A snail takes 33 hours to crawl 1 mile.
- The bigger the naval, the sweeter the orange.
- The dot over the lower case i is called a Tittle.
- In an average lifetime the human heart circulates 55 million gallons of blood.
- Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.
- It is illegal in the state of Kentucky to marry your wife's grandmother.
- If a frog's mouth is held open too long the frog will suffocate.
- Kokomo, Indiana is the home of canned tomato juice.
- Peanuts are used in the manufacture of dynamite.
- In an average lifetime the average American receives 31 prank phone calls.
- Most American car horns honk in the key of F.
- At the first Thanksgiving dinner lobster was one of the main entrees.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month.
- Worcestershire Sauce is basically an anchovy ketchup.
- A duck's quack does not echo.
- The ashes of an average cremated person weighs 9 lbs.
- The signs around HTML tags are called angle braces.
- Roosters cannot crow if they cannot extend their necks.
- Oak trees do not have acorns until they are 50 years or older.
- Shirley Temple always had 56 curls in her hair.
- Corduroy comes from the French, meaning cloth of the king.
- The dial tone of a normal phone is in the key of F.

My Acadian Ancestors

by: Paul Vilmur

Introduction

Félicité LANDRY my 2nd Great-Grandmother and god-mother to my grandfather Evariste VILLEMURE has a family history which dates back to the early settlement of French Acadia and the Acadian exile. This account relates some of the early history of Acadia and the events and aftermath of the exile as it impacted my LANDRY and HEBERT families.

Early Acadian History

Acadia as it finally ended up consisted of Ile-Royal (Cape Breton Island), Nova Scotia, Ile St. Jean (Prince Edward Island) and the Eastern coast of what is now New Brunswick. The first French settlement was in 1604 on the West side of Nova Scotia along the Bay of Fundy and called Port-Royal (now Annapolis Royal). Because of numerous British raids, a permanent settled area really didn't get established here until about 1640. Population increased slowly by fits and starts until by 1670 there were about 300 settlers at Port-Royal made up of about 70 farming families along the Dauphin River. By 1707 the French-Acadian population had increased to about 1400; spread between Port-Royal and an area further up the Bay of Fundy called "Les Mines" which consisted of the settlements of Riviere-aux-Canards, Grand-Pre and Pigiguit. There were also

a few settlers on the New Brunswick coast in an area called Beaubassin.

From 1683 to 1713 these colonists were caught up in what seemed like continual warfare between France and Great Britain. Port-Royal survived two British attacks in 1709 but finally surrendered to the British in 1710. When hostilities ended, all Acadians came under British control by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 where the Acadian Peninsula (Nova Scotia), Hudson Bay and Newfoundland were handed over to the British. The new local British government forced the French speaking population to swear allegiance to the British king, which they very reluctantly accepted under the condition that they could remain neutral in the English-French struggles. Although the British authorities were unhappy about this they accepted the right of the Acadians not to fight against their French brothers.

In 1755, the seven years war between France and Britain started. The British disregarded claims of Acadian neutrality so in 1755, the commander-in-chief of Nova Scotia, Colonel Charles LAWRENCE decided that the French speaking Acadians were an impediment to Britain conquering the rest of French North America and used a brief by the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, Jonathan

BELCHER, as an excuse to round them all up for deportation. About 1500 escaped to Québec while others hid out in New Brunswick; the rest (10,000 from a total of about 12,000) were deported between October 1755 and August 1758. All the Eastern seaboard states took in refugees including Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia. Many sent to the Southern states eventually came to Louisiana. Some 3,500 Acadians from Prince Edward Island were sent back to France.

The LANDRY Family

My first ancestor to arrive at Port-Royal probably around 1640 was René LANDRY- LE AINE. He was called "Landry the Elder" to differentiate him from a younger René LANDRY living in the area who it is believed was not a relation. René the Elder was born about 1618 in Lachausse, Loudun in the department of Vienne. There is much speculation about the parents of René the Elder with many researchers confusing his ancestry with the parents of René LANDRY the Younger. It appears that René married a quite young (possibly 13 or 14 years old) Perrine BOURG in France around 1639 and immigrated to Acadia a short time later. René and Perrine settled at Port-Royal and there had at least nine children between 1640 and 1663.

Felicite's ancestral line continues with René's son Pierre. Pierre was born about 1658 at Port-Royal. He married Madeleine ROBICHAUD about 1682 at Port-Royal. They had at least 7 children between 1683 and 1706 all born in the Port-Royal area. Pierre's son Jean-Baptiste born about 1690 in Port Royal continues the ancestral line. Jean married Madeleine MELANSON in 1697 in

Grand-Pré. They had about 12 children, 10 of whom were living at the time of the deportation. Son Charles born in 4 November 1738 at Grand-Pré was Felicite's grandfather.

The ancestors of Madeleine MELANSON is also an interesting story. Her great grandfather was Pierre LAVERDURE. Pierre LAVERDURE was born in La Rochelle, France around 1608 and was raised as a French Huguenot. The seaport of La Rochelle was the center of French Calvinism. The Catholic King Louis XIII had ordered a severe and savage siege of La Rochelle in 1628. As a result Pierre LAVERDURE escaped to England where he married Priscilla MELANSON in Plymouth, England about 1630. The family and three sons (Pierre, Charles-Phillipe and John) immigrated to Nova Scotia in 1657 where Pierre converted to Roman-Catholic and adopted his wife's surname MELANSON as a "dit" name. Pierre moved again with wife and son John to Boston after England took over Nova Scotia. Sons Pierre Jr. & Charles stayed behind in Nova Scotia. The son of Pierre Jr, Philippe-Charles, dropped the LAVERDURE surname altogether and was known as Philippe MELANSON. He is the father of Madeleine MELANSON.

The Deportation

In October of 1755, the Jean-Baptiste LANDRY family was caught in the Acadian round-up and deported to Boston Massachusetts arriving in November 1755. The Acadian exiles in Protestant Massachusetts were not treated well. They were scattered among the villages around Boston, billeted in homes or sometimes out buildings and treated like indentured servants or worse. In all

1,389 Acadians were deported to Boston. They were essentially prisoners in a foreign land. The fate of the LANDRY family is not known until in January 1757 a record from Chelmsford Massachusetts shows this family assigned to the town for care. Chelmsford is about 40 miles North of Boston. They were not in good shape. Jean's wife had a broken arm, son Charles was so sick he couldn't work and son Joseph had three young boys all very sick. One of these children died in 1759. Another of Jean's sons, Simon-Pierre, would die in 1760.

Jean-Baptiste LANDRY'S son Charles married Marie HEBERT probably in Chelmsford around 1765. (The marriage was reconfirmed at L'Assomption, Québec late in 1766.) They might have had a child born in Massachusetts before returning to Canada. Marie was from another exiled Acadian family from Pigiguit, Nova Scotia. The HEBERT family was probably deported on the same ship as the LANDRY family. Marie's great grandfather, Etienne HEBERT, came to Port-Royal about 1640.

The Return

In 1763, the treaty of Paris was signed giving all of former French North America to the British except for the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon which are just South of Newfoundland. In 1766, Massachusetts governor LAWRENCE decided to allow the Acadians held there to return to French speaking Canada. The Governors of the various Québec Seigneuries now under British control were instructed to welcome back the Acadians. This was a not an easy trip. The Boston area families probably made their way on foot across Massachusetts

into New York state to Albany and then by boat up Lake Champlain to the Richelieu River to the St. Lawrence River. Apparently the LANDRY families first arrived at L'Assomption in September of 1766. This village was about 30 miles Southwest from where the Richelieu River joins the St. Lawrence. In the summer of 1767, 43 Acadian families including the LANDRY families moved on to Yamachiche and were welcomed there by the parish priest who went by the long name of Jacques-Maxime CHEF-DE-VILLE DE LA GARENNE. The children of these families born in exile were conditionally baptized at Yamachiche on August 9, 1767.

Charles LANDRY & Charles Jr.

Charles and Marie's son Charles Jr. was born a few months after arriving in Yamachiche on November 18, 1767. He was a twin of Cécile who died a month later. Seven more children were born in Yamachiche up to 1785. Charles Jr. married Marie-Vincent MAHEU on February 10, 1795 in Riviere-du-Loup (now called Louiseville). This town is about 6 miles Southwest of Yamachiche. Daughter Félicité was born of this marriage on February 2, 1798 at Louiseville. She married Antoine VILLEMURE January 7, 1817 at St. Leon-le-Grand in Maskinonge County. Félicité was god-mother at the baptism of her grandson Evariste VILLEMURE on December 2, 1862. Félicité died at St. Leon on June 8, 1871.

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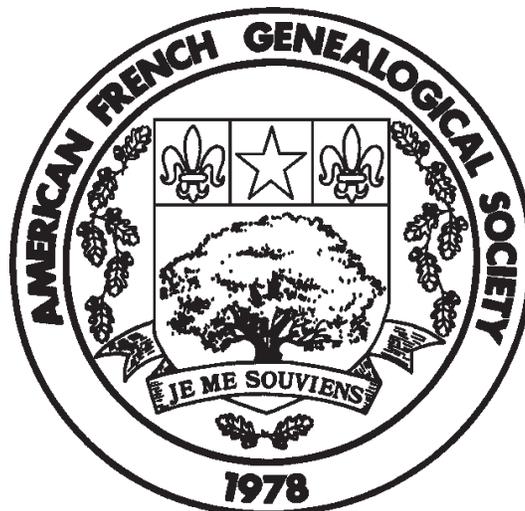
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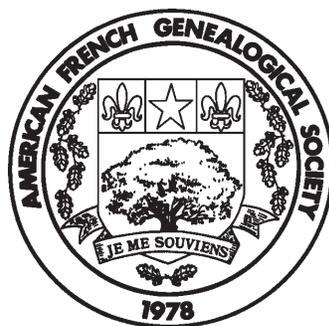
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Weird Facts

Elephants can't jump. Every other mammal can.

Cat's urine glows under a black light. (Ultraviolet)

Humans are the only primates that don't have pigment in the palms of their hands.

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs ...but not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

When opossums are playing 'possum, they are not "playing."

They actually pass out from sheer terror.

Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.

In a deck of playing cards each king supposedly represents a great king or emperor from our history. King David - Spades , Alexander the Great - Clubs, Charlemagne - Hearts, and Julius Caesar - Diamonds.

The shortest complete sentence in the English language is, "I am."

The expression "to get fired" comes from long, long ago. When clans wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

An ant can pull 50 times its own weight.

Cats have two different sets of vocal cords, one to meow and one to purr.

There are 800 000 different kinds of insects.

Did I re-
member to
renew my
member-
ship?





PARTING SHOTS

Paul P. Delisle, Editor

With the new year comes changes in the Society. We have a new President and Vice-President. Janice BURKHART is now heading the AFGS, with Lucile MC DONALD as Vice-President.

Our landlords, the Universalist Church, has offered to rent more space to us, and we were able to get many shelf units at a very reasonable price. The changes are going on now at our library.

We have an very interesting issue to present to you. The main article concerns William ROSS, a Scot who emigrated to Canada as a soldier during

the war between England and France. When the conflict was over, he remained in Canada, married, and raised a family.

Alexandre BUTEAU came with his family to Slatersville, RI around 1853. At 17 years of age, he enlisted in a Connecticut regiment and fought bravely in the Civil War. We have his story to tell you.

We also have a very interesting article on Acadians.

Good reading.

Weird Facts

In their lifetime, 150 bees will gather only 25 milliliters of honey. (And they call them worker bees?)

A tarantula can live up to two years without food. Some of them eat birds.

Your eyes can distinguish nearly eight million different colors.

Your digestive tract is ten meters long. (Approx. 30 feet).

Your heart pumps more than six liters of blood every minute. That is about 10 000 liters a day, or about 2000 gallons.

If all 600 muscles in your body pulled in one direction, you could lift 25 tons.

Every half kilogram of excess fat you carry requires an extra 320 kilometers of capillaries.

You have skin cells in your stomach, eyes and lungs.

More than half of your body's 206 bones are in your hands and feet.

Your eyes and brain build color from waves of energy.