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Historic Acadia

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Acadia - today the usually refers to those areas of Nova New Brunswick and Prince Edward habited by French-speaking whose history in the Maritime goes back several centuries. In the word referred to a smaller area, the shores of the Bay of Fundy and there French colonists established their in the 17th and 18th centuries.

In this isolated corner of North America there evolved a community unique in North America. The Acadians were basically an agricultural people but, unlike other settlers on this continent, they cleared no forests nor broke any prairie sod. They chose instead to exploit the rich soils of the tidal marshlands of the Bay of Fundy; by raising large earthen dykes along the shore they kept out the high tides and drained the land for agriculture. On the former marshlands the Acadians grazed large herds of cattle and grew prolific crops of hay for their livestock, as well as grain for their own use; they also kept productive orchards and vegetable gardens.

Acadia Different

Acadia also differed from the French colonies on the St. Lawrence River and in Newfoundland in that furs and fish were not the most important products of its economy. Fish and game were plentiful and occasionally the Acadians caught a surplus for trade, but generally they were no more than a supplement to their economy. There were small settlements on the St. John River and the Strait of Canso and at Cape Sable, however, which depended on fur-trading and fishing.

In contrast with most European settlers in North America the Acadians generally experienced congenial and cooperative relations with their Indian neighbours. There was some inter-marriage between the two groups and most of the Micmacs converted to Christianity. Acadians were quick to discover that their enemy was not the Indians but other Europeans.

Frequent Attacks

Over the years Acadia suffered frequent attacks from the English colonies to the South. Some of the attacks were the work of men hoping to seize Acadia in the mistaken belief that it held a rich treasury of furs. Others were the work of pirates knowing that the Acadians were easy to plunder.

Most serious, however, were the clashing interests of the British and French empires. The Acadians were a border people inhabiting a crucial zone coveted by two powerful neighbours. The two forces did not fight over Acadia for its agricultural wealth but because

it occupied a strategic position between New England and Canada. Acadians were usually the first to suffer whenever hostilities arose between the imperial powers. For example, whenever France went to war with Britain in Europe its officials in Acadia would outfit privateer ships and Micmac war parties to raid the English colonies; Acadians were seldom involved but it was they who suffered when the New Englanders retaliated.

Independent Spirit

Although they were French-speaking, Acadians often considered both powers as outsiders. They knew they were different from the people in the other colonies of New France and, in their isolated villages, Acadians developed a certain spirit of independence. One of the French Governors denounced them as "true republicans." The Governors also noticed that the Acadians seemed to have nearly as much commerce with English as with French merchants. New England traders brought textiles, iron goods and sugar and rum to Acadia. In exchange New England schooners picked up surplus Acadian grain and livestock. To the French Government trade with England was treasonous but that did not deter the independent-minded farmers of Acadia.

Relations Hostile

Often, however, relations with the English were hostile. New England was part of the British Empire and provided many of the ships and men which the British employed in their attempts to capture Acadia. In its first hundred years Acadia was attacked ten times by the British Colonies. The first was in 1613 when Port-Royal, the settlement begun by Samuel de Champlain in 1605, was looted and destroyed.

Events in Europe were invariably felt across the sea in Acadia. In 1621 the British King

granted Acadia to one of his Scottish subjects who called it Nova Scotia. The Scots established a small settlement at Port-Royal but, in a 1632 peace treaty, Britain surrendered Nova Scotia to France. The French then worked vigorously to develop their Acadian colony; they brought in new settlers who began to dyke the marshes around Port-Royal. Later Britain seized and held Acadia for sixteen years. But the French returned and, despite frequent attacks, the colony expanded out from Port-Royal, along the Annapolis Valley and over to the marshlands of the Minas Basin, Chignecto Bay and Shepody Bay. Eventually, however, in the midst of another European war, Acadia was again captured by the British and, in a treaty signed in 1713, France gave up all its claim to Acadia.

French Withdrew

The French forces withdrew to develop small colonies in what are now New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and on Cape Breton Island they erected the great fortress of Louisbourg as a military and administrative centre. The 1713 treaty permitted Acadians to leave with all their possessions but few of them accepted a French offer of free lands on Cape Breton Island. Most Acadians chose to remain on their ancestral lands under their new masters, the British; they did, however, develop a profitable trade with the new French colony of Louisbourg. The British naturally discouraged this commerce while the French promoted it. The Governor of Louisbourg maintained contact with the French King's former subjects in Nova Scotia by means of traders and missionaries, hoping that, in the event of another war, the Acadians would resume their allegiance to France.

The treaty of 1713 allowed Acadians free practice of their religion and continued possession of their lands in Nova Scotia if they swore allegiance to the British Crown.

They agreed to swear allegiance on the provision that, in any future war they could remain neutral, that they would never have to take up arms against their former countrymen. The British Governor of Nova Scotia pressed them to drop their desire for neutrality but the Acadians were resolute. As a result of their persistence the Acadians eventually came to be known as the "neutral French of Nova Scotia."

Neutrality Tested

Their neutrality was tested in the 1740's when a new war broke out in Europe and French troops marched into Nova Scotia. There is no doubt that some Acadians assisted the French, especially with food and shelter, but most of them claimed that the French forced them to do so. Again the Acadians regarded the fighting as a war fought across their islands by two outside powers; their policy was to try to avoid reprisals by both sides. Some reverses (the Battle of Grand-Pre, 1758) the British again drove the French out of Nova Scotia. Acadians felt that they had proved their neutrality by refusing to fight with the French against the British and the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia agreed with them. The British Government, nevertheless, considered them to be unsatisfactory subjects and took steps to strengthen its position in Nova Scotia. More than thirty years after capturing the colony Britain decided to send out Protestant and English settlers. A new town was created at Halifax in 1749 and provided with a larger garrison.

In the early 1750's the French built a strong fortification, Fort Beausejour, on the north-west shore of the Missaguash River; they contended that this river, on the isthmus of Chignecto, marked the limits of British territory. The British disputed the claim but erected their fortification, Fort Lawrence, on

the south-east shore of the river. French missionaries persuaded many Acadians to abandon their farms in Nova Scotia and settle on the French-controlled rivers flowing into Chignecto Bay, including the Memramcook.

Beausejour Captured

Then, in 1755, Charles Lawrence, Governor of Nova Scotia, besieged and captured Fort Beausejour with the assistance of the colony of Massachusetts. Amongst the surrendered garrison of the fort, Lawrence discovered about 200 Acadians, all of whom claimed they had been forced to fight with the French under threat of death. Nonetheless, the discovery convinced Lawrence to take a course of action he had long been considering - he would insist that the Acadians take an unqualified oath of allegiance or be deported from the colony.

The British authorities were accustomed to dealing with Acadians through delegates from each settlement. Summoned to Halifax, the delegates refused to submit to Lawrence's threat; they claimed that they could live as loyal subjects of the British monarch while remaining neutral in times of war. This time the Acadian delegates may have tragically misjudged the determination of the Governor. Lawrence's reaction was to imprison the delegates and begin plans for the deportation of all Acadians.

Whatever the consequences, however, the representatives of the Acadians knew that their people unanimously supported their stand. Despite the great distances and difficulties of communication between their settlements, the Acadians were all part of one tightly-knit community. Every village was linked by close family ties to settlements elsewhere. The community effort required to dyke the coastal marshes also contributed to the feeling of equality and togetherness among Acadians. Furthermore, Acadians were united in their devotion to the Roman Catholic Church. The

British Government had permitted French missionaries to work in Nova Scotia and the priests had constantly urged the Acadians to avoid swearing any oath which might lead them to taking up arms against the French. In any case, the Acadians were a peace-loving people; they did not want to fight anyone, but they did not want to leave their homeland either.

After the treaty of 1713 the British could have encouraged the Acadians to leave but they did not do so because they would have moved to Louisbourg or Canada and, thus, strengthened the French empire. Besides, if the Acadians had left, Britain's new colony of Nova Scotia would have been empty of settlers. It was the Acadians who supplied most of the provisions consumed by the British troops in the garrison at Annapolis Royal. With the founding of Halifax, however, the non-Acadian population of Nova Scotia grew and the British became less dependent on the Acadians. The final decision to remove the Acadians was taken by Governor Lawrence, the British Government approving the deed after it was accomplished.

Acadians Deported

Most of the Acadians were deported in the autumn of 1755. First, Lawrence's troops burned the Acadian villages and destroyed the crops. Then they loaded the people on ships which took them southward to the British colonies from Massachusetts to Georgia. Some of the colonies took good care of the Acadian exiles while others neglected their welfare; those who arrived in Virginia were

immediately sent on to England where they remained for a few years before being shipped to France. The British troops tried to avoid separating families in the confusion of loading the ships; there were few cases of children and parents sailing on different ships but occasionally cousins and grandparents were tragically separated. On board the crowded ships there was great misery and many Acadians died before reaching their exile, or shortly after.

The population of Acadia in 1755 was approximately 10,000 people and in that first year probably 6,000 were deported. There was little armed resistance to the expulsion but many Acadian families escaped exile by hiding in the forests. These refugees suffered grievously from starvation and other hardships and many died. Over the next few years many of the refugees were rounded up or surrendered. About 2,000 more Acadians were deported after 1755 and, indeed, there were Acadians being expelled as late as 1762. Some Acadians, however, succeeded in fleeing to the safety of Quebec and others managed to survive in the forests of present-day New Brunswick.

After the fall of New France in 1760 the Acadians were no longer considered a threat to Britain so, in 1764, they were allowed to own land again in Nova Scotia. Their farms on the Fundy marshlands were not returned to them, but they moved on to open up new areas of the Maritimes where the Acadian spirit flourishes today.

*There studios let me sit,
And hold high converse with the mighty dead.*

James Thomson 1700-1748
"The Seasons, Winter" (1726)

Lot 1, Block 4: Searching for the Grave of Anthony Morse

By Lisa Lindell

My fascination with family history began with my maternal grandmother's stories. As a child, I loved quizzing her about the lives of her parents and grandparents, prodding her to reach far back as she could into her memory family lineage to tell me their stories.

My ancestors, English, Scottish, and French, had come to North America in the first half of the seventeenth century. Settling in the British colonies of New France, they participated in many of the events and movements that shaped the continent. The family tales my grandmother told focused on deeds of female heroism, male soldiery, and the pioneering experience. Admittedly, not all of these stories can be verified. Passed down from generation to generation, they have inevitably become embellished and distorted. Nevertheless, I was and still am captivated by them. Through these stories, history comes alive for me and I feel a sense of connectedness with the past.

The French side of my ancestry has especially intrigued me. This link comes through my grandmother's grandfather Andrew Jackson Morse who was of French-Canadian descent. That he was named for a president impressed me mightily, as did his service in the Civil War. My grandmother used to recount how Grandpa Morse would delight his grandchildren by counting in French for them and telling them of his Civil War experiences. Treasuring these family stories, I began to trace

my French-Canadian roots, a quest that has continued now for over a decade. The experience has exceeded my expectations, resulting in the discovery of the names of hundreds of ancestors; valuable and lively correspondence with relatives and fellow genealogists; and a deep interest in Canadian and American history.

My mother's sister had first begun the genealogical search by following back in time the federal census records for Andrew Jackson Morse. Knowing that Andrew had lived in Morrison County, Minnesota in the 1880s, she was able to trace in reverse his perpetual westward course, locating him in Waushara County, Wisconsin in 1870; Adams County, Wisconsin in 1860; and ultimately in Lewis County, New York in 1850. This, we discovered, was the county where Andrew had been born on November 12, 1836. His parents were listed as Anthony and Eliza Morse.

Anthony and Eliza thereupon became the focus of my search. My active involvement in the genealogical process began in New York. Here (on a visit from my home state of South Dakota) I found in the Lewis County Court House in Lowville my first significant information about Anthony. Stored near the ceiling in the courthouse were Anthony's 1846 naturalization papers. Reaching up with a long pole, a helpful employee brought down the drawer containing the records. I was thrilled when I realized that I was handling the original documents. The papers stated that Anthony had come to New York from Lower Canada in 1817.¹ The federal census records had identified Anthony's birthplace as Canada, but offered nothing more specific than that.

At a standstill in tracing Anthony's lineage back any further, I directed my efforts toward following his trail in the United States. I determined in particular to find the place of burial for Anthony and Eliza. From the census records, I knew Anthony and his family had moved from New York to Waushara County, Wisconsin between 1850 and 1855 and had settled in Adams County, Wisconsin before 1860. After 1860 I lost track of them. Although I knew (also from the census records) that several of their children had eventually left Wisconsin, others had remained. I conjectured that the elder Morses may well have lived out their lives in Adams County, residing near their children and dying before 1870. Aged 54 and 53 in 1860 according to the federal census, they could well have died within the next decade. Therefore I checked for Wisconsin death records, but I learned to my disappointment that few of the state's records predated 1878 and that the State Bureau of Vital Statistics had not been established until 1907.

Unsure how best to proceed with my search, I began to comb the cemeteries located nearest the last known residence of Anthony and Eliza. I was attending graduate school in Wisconsin at this time and was therefore able to carry out my research on weekends. When my family came to visit, I dragged them with me on cemetery expeditions. We spent some memorable times tramping through snow-covered Adams County cemeteries but to no avail. There was no sign of Anthony or Eliza.

At this point, the discovery of an 1870 Adams County land record redirected my search. I found that Anthony and Eliza had granted a life lease to their son Julius and that the residence of Anthony and Eliza was Dodge County, Minnesota. Excitedly turning to the Minnesota federal and state census records, I found Anthony and Eliza living near Mantorville, Minnesota in 1870 and near Milton, Minnesota in 1875 and 1880. There I again lost their trail. So once more I sought death and burial records, checked cemetery records, and wandered through a few cemeteries, this time in Dodge County, vainly searching for Anthony and Eliza's graves.

Since my cemetery sleuthing was not paying off, I refined my approach and began searching for the marriage and death records of Anthony's children.²



Mary Ann and Andrew Jackson Morse

Tracing their whereabouts, I reasoned, might give me some clue of Anthony and Eliza's final location. Soon I had gathered marriage records for six of the nine children and death records for three.³ But the locations given in these records were in Wisconsin and Minnesota, places I had already checked for Anthony and Eliza. The most important information gleaned from these records was that Eliza's maiden name was Dezotell (or Desautels). But having no more specific location for her birth than "Canada," I was not then able to trace her ancestry.

Again an impasse. Then I unexpectedly received a letter from a third cousin once removed who was also tracing the Morse family line. This cousin, Verna Leetch, had obtained my name from a distant relative who knew of my interest in the Morse family. Verna was descended from Andrew Jackson Morse's oldest sister Julia, and thus was a direct descendant of Anthony and Eliza Morse.

Verna had found a query in an old issue of a Wisconsin genealogical newsletter. The inquirer, another Verna (Verna Koebel), was seeking information on John Morse/Massé, the older brother of Andrew Jackson Morse. With great anticipation, I immediately wrote to the listed address in Surrey, British Columbia; but my letter was returned marked address unknown. My expectations substantially lowered, I contacted the Surrey Public Library, asking if they could locate a current address for Verna Koebel. I was in luck. The library sent her new address, and my second attempt at contacting Verna brought fantastic results.



Andrew Jackson Morse in his Civil War uniform

Suddenly Anthony's history was unlocked. Verna Koebel sent me the names and marriage dates of several Massé family ancestors, including Antoine Massé, who was, it became clear, my Anthony Morse.⁴ The newly found data on the Massés led, ultimately, to the discovery of the names of over 300 direct French-Canadian ancestors. This feat was accomplished through the efforts of Verna Leetch and of my sister, who knows French and served as a willing and skilled translator. We sent for and pored over copies of the often barely decipherable Québec parish records, consulted René Jetté's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec* and Cyprien Tanguay's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes*, and made an enjoyable trip to Québec to visit the locales of my ancestors.

Visiting Chambly, Québec was a particular pleasure. Located on the banks of the Richelieu River, this picturesque town was home to many of my Morse ancestors throughout the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century. Anthony's mother Elizabeth, the last of my Massé ancestors to live in Chambly, died here in 1856. Fort Chambly, named for Captain Jacques de Chambly, the first seigneur of Chambly, was built in 1665 to protect against the attacks of the Iroquois. By 1674, settlers had begun to settle the area. In the

first decade of the 1700s, Jean Massé, the first Massé in my direct line to arrive in Canada, was stationed at Fort Chambly as a soldier in the "Compagnie franche de la Marine." He and his wife Marie Beaudet lived in the nearby settlement of Pointe-Olivier (later Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu).

Chambly was the scene of a number of vital events in my family history, including a tragic death. On April 24, 1754, Jean Massé's son François, drowned in the Chambly Basin at age 50. Although I can piece together only small fragments of the lives of François and his wife Magdelaine Robert, I find this couple intriguing. Magdelaine's parents had been married in the far-off settlement of Detroit in 1711. At her own wedding ceremony in Chambly in 1728, Magdelaine, age 15, signed her name on the marriage record, demonstrating an unusual ability at that time and place. François and Magdelaine were the great grandparents of my great-great-great-grandfather Antoine Massé (Anthony Morse). I found that Anthony was born in Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu on June 13, 1804 and was married in Chambly to Josephte (later called Eliza) Desautels on June 12, 1827.⁵

As I followed Anthony and Eliza's lines farther back, I discovered that my ancestors had played instrumental roles in the founding of New France, figuring prominently in the history of Québec City and also of Trois-Rivières, Château-Richer, Rivière-Ouelle, and Pointe-aux-Trembles. And I discovered more fascinating stories. My French-Canadian ancestors include at least ten of the more than 800 *filles du roi* (daughters of the king) who migrated to New France in 1663 to 1673 under the protection of King Louis XIV. They arrived with the express purpose of marrying established colonists, males outnumbering the female population in Canada by more than 12 to 1 in the 1660s.⁶

Eagerly reading about these daughters of the king and about the many other courageous women central to the early history of New France (women such as the Reverend Mother Marie de l'Incarnation and Marie-Catherine-de-Saint-Augustin of Québec City and Jeanne Mance and Marguerite Bourgeoys of Montréal), I developed an admiration for these women and became absorbed in their stories. My Québec trip and my reading prompted

me to look beyond the roles of my own ancestors and to take a broader interest in Canadian history.

After my return from Canada, I continued my quest for Anthony and Eliza's gravesites with renewed vigor. I soon received some intriguing clues. Included in a packet of information that Verna Koebel sent me was a small slip of paper on which she had copied part of a letter she had discovered in a trunk belonging to her grandmother Mary Campbell (the wife of John Morse and the daughter-in-law of Anthony). The letter stated that Anthony had made his last will and testament in Lake County, Dakota Territory in January 1884; that he died on March 14, 1891; and that a "burying lot" had been bought four years earlier. The location of the cemetery was not given. Making little apparent sense, the burial plot was identified as "lot 14 block."

*Translation from a letter in
the trunk
Anthony Morse died march
14th, 1891
Taken sick Oct. 1st, 1890, with
bowel complaints.
Mary Morse charges for tending
Grandpa when sick, \$30.00
Lewis Morse charges \$50.00
steady all the time, suit of
clothes, \$10 bought at S. K.
Caswell? - paid when got.
Burying lot got 4 years ago
number of lot 14 block

the last part we can't
make out.*

Portion of the letter from Verna Koebel showing
"burying lot" identified as "lot 14 block."

This information was a total surprise to me, and the last bit was certainly tantalizing. Following Anthony from Canada to New York to Wisconsin to Minnesota, I had had no idea that he ultimately lived in what is now South Dakota, the state where I was raised and still live. I had always believed I had no family connections in South Dakota other than my parents who had moved there in the

1960s. Even more amazing, my county of Brookings borders Lake County. With a revived interest in locating the burial spot of Anthony and Eliza, I began searching for census records, land records, wills, and cemeteries in Lake County. On the 1885 Lake County census, I quickly located John Morse and family. Living with them was Anthony Morse, age 80.

That there was no mention of Eliza was disappointing, but locating Anthony was a real windfall. I began searching for Anthony's will and for his grave in the Lake County cemeteries. Unsuccessful on both counts, I began extending my cemetery search into Moody County, just to the east of Lake County. From the 1885 census records, I discovered that two of Anthony's other sons, Lewis W. and Jerome Bonaparte, had come to Dakota Territory as well. Both men, with their families, had resided in Moody County. Now thoroughly interested in all of the Morse family members, I followed Lewis' trail from his birth in Lewis County, New York in 1849 (baby boy Morse), to his marriage to Mary Meeker in Dodge County, Minnesota in July 1877, to his untimely death in South Dakota in May 1891.

Jerome's life was likewise ill fated. The tragic death of his young wife Betsy in 1896 left him with seven small motherless children. Unable to care for them, Jerome placed some of the children with relatives and his two-year-old twins at an orphanage. After serving in the Philippines during the Spanish American War, he married three more times before he died from the effects of illnesses contracted during his military service. I learned about Jerome's troubled life from his voluminous pension records file. Disputed claims for a widow's pension by Jerome's last wife and by a former wife, and the efforts to corroborate these claims, resulted in a wealth of biographical information. Unfortunately, I gained no new information about Anthony or my direct line of ancestry.

However, Lewis and Jerome's connection with Moody County prompted me to check out the cemeteries of yet another county. Thus it was that my quest brought me one windy October afternoon to the Colman cemetery in Moody County. And here, at last, my luck changed. I excitedly recognized some names of family relations. In this

cemetery were buried Lewis Morse, his wife, and one of their sons. Jerome's daughter Jessie was also buried here. But there was no sign of Anthony. Somewhat discouraged but not ready to give up, I talked with the couple who kept the cemetery's records. To my surprise and delight, their records revealed three unmarked Morse graves in the Colman cemetery: one for Jerome's wife Betsy Morse; one for an unnamed baby (of Betsy and Jerome); and the final unmarked grave for an A. Morse. Could it be Anthony?



Colman Cemetery, Colman, South Dakota
The grave of Lewis Morse, son of Anthony.
The unmarked grave of A. Morse (lot 1, block 4)
is off to the right.

My excitement turned to frustration as I realized that I might never know for sure if this was Anthony's grave. But suddenly it occurred to me that there might indeed be a way of lessening the uncertainty. I checked the coordinates of the A. Morse grave in the Colman cemetery. They were lot no. 1, block no. 4. Could the "lot 14 block" specified in the letter from Verna Koebel actually be lot 1, 4 block? I concluded that this was indeed the case. In all probability, I had at long last found Anthony's final resting place.

Although I still don't know where Eliza is buried or all that I would like to know about the lives of Anthony and Eliza, I am astonished by what I have found. Born nearly 200 years ago in Québec, in a time and a place completely alien from that which I know, my great-great-grandfather Anthony

incredibly ended his life just twenty miles from where I now live. With the invaluable help of the two Vernas and my family and the allure of my grandmother's stories, I have been able to unravel more of my French-Canadian ancestry than I dreamed possible. I love puzzles, family stories, and history, and I have greatly enjoyed, and amply benefited from, my genealogical quest.

NOTES

1. This date of 1817 may be an error for 1827. I have found no evidence that Anthony's parents ever left Canada; and in 1817, he would have been only 13 years old.

2. I had previously sought birth records in Lewis County, New York, where all the children had been born. There I had found only one record. It was for a yet unnamed baby boy Morse, born December 25, 1849. Later I was able to match this record with Lewis W., the Morses' eighth child.

3. Eventually, I found marriage data for all but one of the Morse children and death dates and places for five of them.

4. In my search, I have found many variations in the spelling of Morse. The name appears as Massé or Macé in Québec records. After Anthony immigrated to the United States, it is spelled Morse and occasionally Moss.

5. I am indebted to two Chambly genealogists for their generous help in locating baptism, marriage, and death records for me.

6. For additional information on the *filles du roi*, see Joy Reisinger and Elmer Courteau, *The King's Daughters* (Dexter, Mich.: Thomson-Shore, 1988); Thomas J. Laforest, "The King's Daughters," *Heritage Quest* 22 (May/June 1989): 7-12; Silvio Dumas, *Les filles du roi en Nouvelle-France* (Québec: La Société Historique de Québec, 1972); and "Reluctant Exiles: Emigrants from France in Canada before 1760," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d Series, 46 (July 1989), p. 482.

Some Little Used French Canadian Resources

by Dorothy Chandler

CANADIAN PASSPORTS 1681-1752 by Massicotte

To travel into Indian Country and trade with the Indians, one needed a "Conge de Traite", a trade passport. Voyageurs (also called Engages or Canotiers) should not be confused with Coureurs-des-Bois. The latter were illegally engaged in trade and had no license or passport. Twenty-five passports were granted per year. This book will tell you the date each trade expedition was leaving, how many canoes, the names of the men and where each was from.

KASKASKIA UNDER THE FRENCH REGIME by Belting

This is the story of the French in the Illinois Country of the 18th century. It is a fascinating account of some of our ancestors. It also contains extracts of records from the parish registers. Kaskaskia was a thriving village in the early 1700s. There was a large church with three chapels. In 1721 at Kaskaskia there were 80 houses and 4 mills. Today nothing remains.

IN SEARCH OF YOUR CANADIAN ROOTS by Angus Baxter

In this book you will find research help all over Canada. It advises you where to find archives, libraries, parish registers, cemeteries, genealogy societies, Loyalists, newspaper, land records, etc., and many of the addresses you will need. I have found it to be a wealth of information.

FRENCH CANADIAN and ACADIAN GENEALOGICAL REVIEW by Roland Auger

This was a wonderful series! We, as subscribers, were lucky to receive one publication a year, but each issue was so packed with information we were satisfied. They contained ancestral biographies, answered queries, history, photos and art work. The series ended after eleven or twelve issues because of the death of Roland Auger.

COMPLEMENT au DICTIONNAIRE GENEALOGIQUE TANGUAY by J. Arthur Leboeuf

This volume contains corrections and additions to the seven volume set of Tanguay. Approximately 626 pages of marriages. A great resource!

1851 Election Certificate

Mendota Precinct, Dakota County, Minnesota Territory

Transcribed by Diana Berg

The following is transcribed from the Henry H. Sibley Papers, Roll 8. Spelling and punctuation are, for the most part, as they appear in the original.

At an election held at the lower warehouse of Henry H. Sibley in the precinct of Mendota in the County of Dakota and Territory of Minnesota the fourteenth day of April, A.D. 1851, the following named persons were elected by the legal voters present to perform the duties of Judge of Election viz

The following persons were also elected to act as Clerks of said election viz

At 10 o'clock of said day, the polls were opened by proclamation and continued open till 4 o'clock of said day.

After the votes were counted, Mr. F. B. Sibley was selected and agreed to carry the Poll Books of said election to the office of Register of Deeds of the County of Ramsey.

Witness and bound the fourteenth day of April A.D. 1851

Nathaniel McLean)
Franklin Steele) Judges of
Alexander Faribault) Election

Attest

Frederic B. Sibley)
B. H. Randall) Clerks of
Election

We, Nathaniel McLean, Franklin Steele and Alexander Faribault having been elected to serve as Judges of Election, do solemnly swear that we will perform the duties according to law and to the best of our ability and that we will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting the said election.

Nathaniel McLean
Franklin Steele
Alex. Faribault

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of April A.D. 1851

Hypolite Dupuis
Justice of the Peace
Dakota County M.T.

We Frederic B. Sibley and B. H. Randall having been elected to act as Clerks of Election, do solemnly swear that we will perform the duties thereof according to law and to the best of our ability, and that we will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud deceit and abuse in conducting the same.

Frederic B. Sibley
B. H. Randall

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of April A.D. 1851

Hypolite Dupuis
Justice of the Peace
Dakota County M.T.

At a special election for two commissioners of Public Buildings, held in pursuance of law, at Mendota in the County of Dakota and Territory of Minnesota on Monday, the fourteenth day of April A.D. 1851 the following named persons received the number of votes set opposite their respective names, for the said office.

Daniel F. Brawley	received	(52) Fifty Two Votes
Louis Roberts	received	(46) Forty Six Votes
Eli F. Lewis	received	(8) Eight Votes
Roswell Russell	received	(1) One Vote

Attest

Frederic B. Sibley)
B. H. Randall) Clerks of
Election

Certified by us

Nathaniel McLean)
Franklin Steele) Judges
Alexander Faribault) of
Election

At an election held at the lower warehouse of Henry H. Sibley in the precinct of Mendota in the County of Dakota and Territory of Minnesota on Monday, the fourteenth day of April, A.D. 1851, the following persons voted.

Certified by us

1	Victor Chattelle	5	Francis Charatin [Chavatin?]
2	Francis Voisin	6	Peter Quinn
3	Louis Martin	7	Louis Vasseur
4	Francis Gamelle	8	David Faribault

9 Joseph Lord [Londy?]
 10 Antoine Young
 11 J. J. Frazer
 12 James Beaupre
 13 Thomas Provencille [Provencalle?]
 14 John Rouso
 15 Polite Provost
 16 Frederick Faribault
 17 Charles St. Antoine
 18 Pierre St. Antoine
 19 H. Dupuis
 20 G. H. Faribault
 21 Norbert Paquin
 22 Henry Belland
 23 Joseph Coursoll
 24 Joseph Rinville
 25 Joseph Rinville Jr
 26 Joseph Robinette
 27 P. Prescott
 28 Nathaniel McLean
 29 Alex Faribault
 30 Gabriel Rinville
 31 Franklin Steele
 32 Frederick B. Sibley

33 B. H. Randall
 34 J. B. Cresnes
 35 George Cournoyer
 36 Alex Huar
 37 Louis Lounan
 38 Chas McNelledge
 39 Pierre Felix
 40 Louis Lavally
 41 Louis Fourcier
 42 Hypolite Martin
 43 S. M. Court [Cavitt?]
 44 T. S. Williamson
 45 John Tapper
 46 Daniel Steele
 47 Calvin Tuttle
 48 Horace Webster
 49 J. H. Stevens
 50 Henry Chambers
 51 Joseph Dunn
 52 H. H. Sibley
 53 Joseph Montourville
 54 Chas Mitchell

Nathaniel McLean) Judges of
 Franklin Steele)
 Alexander Faribault) Election

Attest

Frederic B. Sibley) Clerks of
 B. H. Randall) Election

Serendipity!

Submitted by Dorothy Chandler

My cousin Joyce Ferris and her husband had just moved to Roseville California. Our mothers were sisters with the name Papineau. One day Joyce was going through their new phone directory, about 2000 names, when she found a Francis Papineau listed.

She called him a couple days later and during their conversation she mentioned that her mother had been born in Escanaba, Michigan. He laughed and said he too had been born in Escanaba, Michigan.

To make a long story short, we are cousins with the same great grandfather.

Why My Ancestors Became Catholic

By Ronald E. Beauchane

My eighth great grandfather, Elie Bourbeau, was born in 1599 in the city of La Rochelle, in what is now called France. His family had moved to this port city on the Atlantic from the nearby city of Poitiers a few generations earlier. The first records of the family in 972 indicate that they were "Christians", which at that time meant "Catholic", having earlier been converted from the poly-theism of their Roman occupiers. Sometime in the early 1500s, they were evidently influenced by the religious reform movement and eventually became followers of Jean Chauvin (John Calvin) (1509-64), the creator of the Calvinist religion which became Presbyterianism. Calvin's followers, including my ancestors, came to be known as Huguenots, which was a name applied to all French Protestants of the 16th and 17th century.

At this time in France's history, the area now known as France was a land of multiple kingdoms, fiefs and domains. Centralized government was slowly being developed under the early "Kings of France". Many cities, including especially La Rochelle, were still "city-states", beholding to no outside central leadership or country, with their own laws and customs. France had survived the Black Death of the 1300s and the Hundred Years War with England, which ended in 1458. It had regained all of its lost territory, but the plague and the war had left the population devastated and decimated. Generations of families were killed, cities, towns and villages destroyed. Churches, the repositories of family records, were put to the

torch. Discontent with the "oneness" of church and state grew rapidly and the French religious reformation grew with it. Religious wars became rampant, with Protestants killing Catholics and Catholics killing Protestants.

The city-state of La Rochelle had greater commerce and alliances with England, a Protestant country, than with the rest of France. Unlike most of France, La Rochelle had developed its own town council and mayor and a strong bourgeois class with an independent nature. The city had been English property during the 12th century, used as an English campaign headquarters in the fighting against the French kings. It grew with the English influence, was recaptured by the French in 1224 and King Louis VIII allowed the city to keep its independent privileges. During the ensuing years and wars, the city again became English and then again French, but always maintained its basic independence. The city's people and customs fit well the new role it would play in the 1500s as the center of Calvinism in France. French Calvinism grew rapidly after 1565 and in 1568 La Rochelle declared itself an independent Calvinist republic. Catholic churches were destroyed, some priests and nuns were killed, and the church property that survived taken over by the Calvinist congregations.

Protestants throughout France were being killed. Many Protestant families from outside the area came to La Rochelle for safety and commerce.

In Paris on August 24, 1572, the massacre of Saint Barthelemy Day occurred. Over 3,000 Protestants were surprised and murdered. Massacres of Huguenots followed throughout France. But in La Rochelle there was no massacre. The city leaders closed the gates and so started the first major siege of La Rochelle.... the siege of 1573 The city remained free only because the Catholic Duke de Anjou who had been leading the siege was named King of Poland, and was in a hurry to leave for his new post. He quickly sued for peace and the city remained independent and Calvinist.

My family, the Bourbeau, evidently moved to La Rochelle after the siege of 1573. My eighth great grandfather Elie was born near there in 1599. He was married in the Calvinist Temple 1625. He and his first wife, Marguerite Renaut, had six children. The first son, and perhaps the second son, were born before 1628 and were baptized Protestant in the *Temple Calviniste* in La Rochelle. The four children born after 1628 were baptized Catholic in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de La Rochelle. All six baptisms, however, took place in the same building. How can this be? The answer is the infamous siege of La Rochelle of 1628.

The siege of 1628 really started in 1624, when Louis XIII appointed Cardinal Richelieu his Prime Minister. Louis and Richelieu started the final actions to make France one nation and Catholic. By 1627 there remained only one strong and independent bastion of Protestantism... La Rochelle. Richelieu's royal troops and fleet surrounded the city, preventing any help from outside. The siege lasted from 10 September 1627 to 30 October 1628. It took 13 months and 20 days to crush the spirit of the inhabitants of La Rochelle. After food supplies were exhausted, horses, dogs, cats, mice and rats devoured, people ate grass and weeds. Soon they were eating parchment and leather belts; as soup

ingredients. to survive. Women went to the beach at low tide, in search of shellfish. As they ventured further and further, they were more often captured or killed. Soon starvation, disease and wounds had killed 23,000 of the original 28,000 inhabitants. The dead littered the streets and covered the ground. The rocky earth afforded few burial places. The survivors staggered out of the walled city to surrender.

The citizens had expected their English allies to help, but the English could not overcome the wooden protection dike and the massed French fleet outside the harbor of La Rochelle. Ironically, 8 days after the surrender, a storm destroyed the wooden dike. The English would have been able to relieve the siege.

The survivors, being protestant and anti-royalist, expected to be massacred, and to have their city destroyed. The king pardoned the 5,000, left the city standing, destroyed the surrounding city walls and allowed a protestant temple to be built. The people lost their political and military independence and the municipal government privileges they had enjoyed.

The newly appointed Catholic governor, mayor and city officials quickly encouraged Catholics to return to the city that they had earlier left because of the Protestant threat and barbarism. The Catholics reclaimed religious buildings, and the surviving Calvinists were strongly encouraged to convert to Catholicism.

The Bourbeau had never claimed great wisdom, but they did prove to be very adaptable in the face of extinction. Great grandfather Elie became Catholic! His next four children were baptized in the Catholic cathedral. When his wife died, he married Marie Noyron in the Cathedral de Notre Dame. They had seven children; all baptized Catholic in the cathedral.

My seventh great grandfather, Pierre

Bourbeau, was the fourth child of the second marriage. He was born in 1648. The sixth son of the second marriage was also named Pierre. When he became a Catholic priest, the family had accomplished its second 180-degree change!

La Rochelle quickly regained its commercial and trading importance. It once again was the major port from which the French populated New France (Canada). A majority of French-Canadian ancestors had either been residents of La Rochelle before leaving France, or had used the city as a departure point. The successful city, though was definitely a Catholic city. The former Protestants and their descendants, now Catholic, were still looked upon as Protestants. Most economic doors were closed to them and, as a result, many chose to try their luck in the New World. Pierre left La Rochelle in 1662, at age 14, bound for Quebec.

Land ownership in New France was limited to French Catholics. Jesuit priests had been assigned to Quebec to insure that only "sincere Catholics" populated the New World. A number of ancestral relatives left France in the 1600s, after becoming Catholic, and settled in Acadie (Acadia), now known as Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia (Acadia) had been given to the British in 1713 by the Treaty of Utecht, along with Newfoundland and the Hudson Bay Territory.

In 1755, after more than forty years of non-cooperation on the part of the French inhabitants, the English occupied Acadia, took over the land, burned the farms and villages, gave the French settlers the choice of becoming English and Protestant, leaving, or being killed.

My relatives again showed their adaptability and left! Some went to the Quebec area and were welcomed with open arms by their fellow French habitants. Some went south to the English colonies and were treated shabbily by distrusting American colonists, some of whom were Huguenots who had left France three generations earlier. Others went to the French territory of Louisiana, hoping to find the land of milk and honey, and instead were shunted off to the worst bayou jungle areas of the territory. Thus the Acadians became the "Cajuns" of Quebec, Louisiana and the Northeastern United States.

My ancestors were many times subjected to religious persecution and threats of death. First by the Romans, then the zealot Christians, then the Protestants, then by the Catholics and finally by the Anglican English. Several times they lost their livelihood, their land and their homes because of being on the wrong side of a particular religious war. All "In The Name Of God".

***The past actually happened
but history is only what some-
one wrote down.***

**A. Whitney Brown
"The Big Picture"**

Index to The Kings Daughters

By Joy Reisinger

Editor's note: *The King's Daughters* is a book narrating the story of the French women who entered into a marriage contract to sail to Quebec to become the wife of a settler. Since that era required every woman to possess a dowry (usually provided by either the father or the bride) in order to marry, the King of France offered to give them a dowry as an incentive for them to travel to the new world. Thus such a woman was known as *Fille du Roi* or King's Daughter.

The women came from all social classes and mostly from the western and northern regions of France, mainly from the provinces of Ile-de-France and Normandy, as they existed at that time. The first contingent of these women began arriving at Quebec in 1663; the last arriving in 1673.

The King's Daughters authored by Joy Reisinger and Elmer Courteau (revised edition ©1988 by Joy Reisinger, C.G.R.S.) brings to us the most recent biographical data on these women, where they came from, what was their dowry, who they married, and when they arrived. It also includes corrected information to the previous edition and to source books written by L'Abbé C. Tanguay, Silvio Dumas, René Jetté, and the Institut Généalogique Drouin, to mention only a few of those more frequently cited.

Although *The King's Daughters* is out of print it is available in the MGS library. I hope that this index will help family historians identify the names of possible ancestresses and add the story of a *fille du roi* to their family history.

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It is almost impossible to be of French-Canadian descent and not have among one's ancestresses at least one with the somewhat mysterious notation that she was a *fille du roi*, a daughter of the king.

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"Each year the ships carried hundreds of the *filles du roi* to Quebec, where they were cared for by the Ursulines and hospital sisters until they found husbands. This rarely took more than a fortnight.."

William J. Eccles
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At no time was there ever the vast movement of peoples to New France that there was between England and its thirteen colonies. So even one or two hundred persons from a province was a huge total. The *filles du roi* themselves were to provide some fifteen percent of all the ancestors of French-Canadians in North America today.

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One of these poor women died in Quebec just after her arrival and before she was married.... The inventory of her humble belongings tells us more about these ancestors than many words could tell. Madeleine Fabrecque, 23 years of age, was probably buried in her best outfit and the only stockings and shoes she had. The remaining possessions of this young lady were: two outer dresses, one of Holland fabric in satin weave style and made of wool, the other of hard-finished wool; a sorry petticoat made of silk and wool; a really miserable green petticoat; a morning dress or wrapper made of rough woolen cloth; a morning jacket of serge; some linen handkerchiefs; six head dresses of linen; four black head coverings, two of taffeta and two of crepe; a muff made of dog's skin; two pairs of sheepskin gloves....

That is all this poor girl possessed to bring to her marriage.

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Not all of the women...
would have been wel-
comed in a convent, but
for the most part the
group was an excellent
cross section of the
women of France who had
one major thing in com-
mon. They were extremely
poor.

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...the hundreds of *filles du roi* arriving in New France were a decisive and major migration. The women came from every economic and social class. Many were... orphans or widows. Many were penniless. The majority were from larger towns and the adaptation to the very primitive living conditions of the wilderness must have been extremely difficult

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A French-Canadian Royal Line

By Elmer Courteau

Editor's note: This article first appeared in *Cousin et Cousines*, newsletter of the NWT&FHC, Volume 6 Number 4, July 1984.

In tracing their family history, most French Canadians are probably unaware that they have notable European ancestors among their grandparents along with all of their outstanding Canadian historical grandparents.

Plato put it best a few thousand years ago when he wrote, "Every man has had kings and slaves, barbarians and Greeks among his ancestors."

Few French Canadians have bothered to link their lines with European notables. They have been content to press their ancestral lines principally along the one paternal line and since the majority of those lines go directly back to hardy French peasants, soldiers, and lower-middle class artisans, the lines are generally lost among the destroyed records of France's wars, rebellions, and the French Revolution.

But there has been a start made to push some fragments of our French-Canadian lines to more distant points and this can only be done if we can link one of our ancestral lines to a noble, or better, a royal line.

One such line has been written about by Aime Trottier in the April-May-June 1981 issue of the "Memoires" of the Societe Genealogique Canadienne-Francaise.

Trottier's short but notable article will be of interest to many family historians because if they can produce an ancestral line that connects to Louis d'Amours, d-1640, who was married to Elizabeth Tessier, they can claim among their ancestors William the Conqueror; Simon de Montfort, chief of

the army sent against the Albigensians (The Albigensian Crusade), and King Louis the VI. That is just for starters.

There are probably other lines that will now be produced from among the minor nobility that were among French Canada's first settlers. But Trottier will deserve a great amount of the credit for producing some new excitement among cousins et cousines happy to find a way to push a family line back several centuries.

We all know, and Trottier, repeats, that we are all related to many of the historic figures of French Canada but when we are talking about family lines with English genealogists, the major thrust is to the historic figures of Europe. Trottier's article will probably point the way to a whole new line of investigative endeavor among French-Canadian family historians.

Here is Trottier's material, the lineage compiled by him and repeated from his article in the "Memoires."

1-Simon de Montfort, 1150-1218 (killed at the siege of Toulouse in 1218) who was married to Alix de Montmorency

2-Amicie de Montfort, d-1253, who was married to Gaucher de Joigny, a younger son of Comte Renaud V de Joigny

3-Pernelle de Joigny who was m1 -Pierre de Courtenay, and m2-Henri II de Sully

4-Jeanne de Sully, d-1306, m-Vicomte Adam IV de Melun

5-Charles de Melun who m-Agnes d'Issy

6-Yolande de Melun who m-1338, Guillaume de Vaudetar, valet de chambre to King Philippe VI

7-Jean I de Vaudetar, d-1414, valet de chambre to King Charles V and King Charles VI, who m-Pemelle des Landes

8-Pierre I de Vaudetar who m-Marguerite de Chanteprime

9-Jean II de Vaudetar who m Marguerite Claustre

10-Pierre II de Vaudetar, d- 1521, m Antoinette Baillet

11-Jean-Catherine de Vaudetar who m 1522, Jean LeClerc

12-Anne LeClerc, d-1590, who m Jean LePrevost

13-Jeanne LePrevost, d- 1599, who m Pierre d'Amours

14-Louis d'Amours, d-1640, m Elizabeth Tessier.

If one has access to books of French royalty and nobility, it is possible to link the earlier persons in the above line to any number of historic figures. Trottier has listed two lines:

1-Louis VI of France, 1077-1157, and Adele of Maurienne, 1095-1154

2-Robert, comte do Dreux, 1131-1168, who married Harvise de Roemar

3-Adele de Dreux, 1145-1210, who married Raoul II de Nesle, d-1235

4-Eleonore de Nesle who married Etienne II of Sancerre, d-1252

5-Comtesse (a prenom not a title) de Nesle who m-Adam IV de Melun

6-Adam IV de Melun, d-1304, who married Jeanne de Sully, d-1306

7-See #4 in first chart

And again:

1-William the Conqueror, 1027-1087, who m Mathilde de Flanders

2-Adele of England, 1062-1137, who married Comte Etienne-Henri de Blois

3-Thibault IV, Comte de Blois, 1090-1152, who married Mahault de Sponheim

4-Etienne, comte do Sancerre, d 1191, who married Mathilde de Donzy

5-Etienne II do Sancerre, d 1252, who married Eleonore de Nesle

6-See #4 of second chart above.

We are certain this is only a start.

A lot of our members are sure to carry on from here. Let us know the further lines you uncover.

From the editor:

This is the first issue of the *Canadian-American Journal of History and Genealogy for Canadian, French and Metis Study* since members of the NorthWest Territory, Canadian and French Heritage Center, the publisher, decided to re-vitalize itself as an organization. This journal is a benefit of membership and in fact the membership period is based on the number of issues one receives.

Please look at your address label. If you see the number "5" it means this is the last issue you will receive and that your membership renewal is now due.

Please send in your renewal membership. A viable organization need membership and a viable membership means a viable program. Thank you.

Erv Chorn, editor

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WITHIN THE NWT&FHC

ACADIANS— are best described as French colonists that originally settled primarily in what is now Nova Scotia in the years 1604 to 1713. Our collection includes materials to help those interested in tracing their Acadian ancestors.

AMERICAN INDIAN— records deal mainly with those people native to the western hemisphere before the arrival of the European colonists. The Center has been collecting information and records on this group of people for many years.

CANADIANS NOT FRENCH— This group includes all those Canadians not covered by the other interest groups. This part of our collection is the fastest growing and with continued member support we will continue to enhance the collection as funds allow.

FRENCH GLOBAL— This group covers all French other than those in Canada and the United States. Our collection is limited, however, more and more is being published. This group is in need of an enthusiastic person who can make recommendations for purchases.

FRENCH CANADIANS— French Canadians have been active since that first round table. It has been largely the efforts of the French Canadians that have amassed the collection of the Center. When Msgr. Cyprien Tanguay gathered together the Catholic Church records from the small historic parishes along the St. Lawrence River in Quebec in the nineteenth century, he started a tradition of family consciousness that carries down to the present day among persons of Quebecois descent, whether they live in Quebec or in other parts of the world. Many books of genealogy, registers of baptisms, marriages, burials, and other historical documents published since Tanguay's time have made French-Canadian families some of the best researched in the world. The *NorthWest Territory Canadian & French Heritage Center* is simply one of a long list of societies founded to assist persons of French-Canadian descent in the researching of their ancestors.

HUGUENOTS— are most easily described as French Protestants. Some of our French Canadian members may find that their ancestor was a Protestant in France, and converted to Catholicism by the Jesuits after their arrival in New France. Our Huguenot collection is small but useful. The collection is expanding as more publications are found.

METIS(SE)— records are related to those covering the American Indian. The word Metis or Metisse signifies that the individual was a person who descended from Native American and white or black parents. During the early years of the fur trade, the traders did not have access to women of their race and cohabited with the native Indian women. Many fur traders married Indian women and had children with them. These children were called Metis or mixed bloods. Many of these mixed blood children remained in the woods and became trappers themselves helping the white fur traders. Others went to the white man's school and then returned to work at the fur trading posts.