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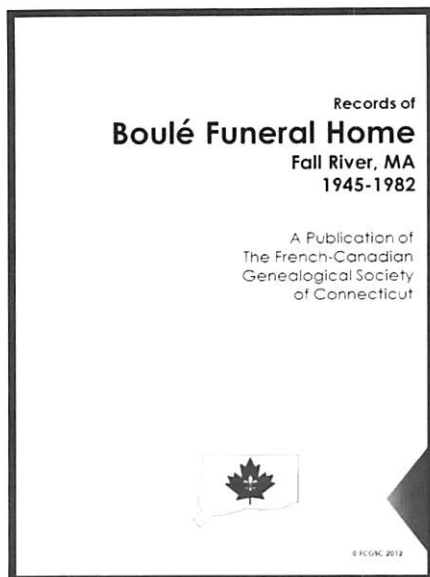
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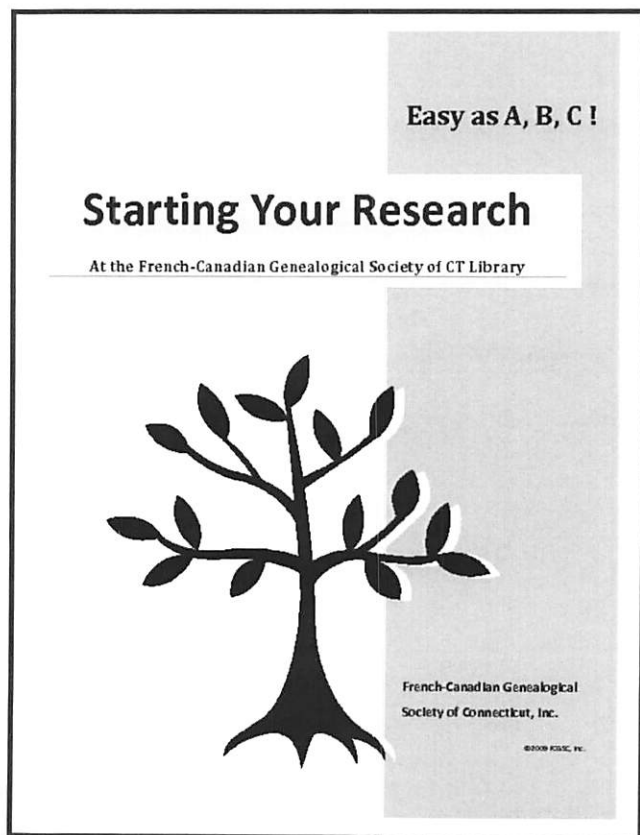
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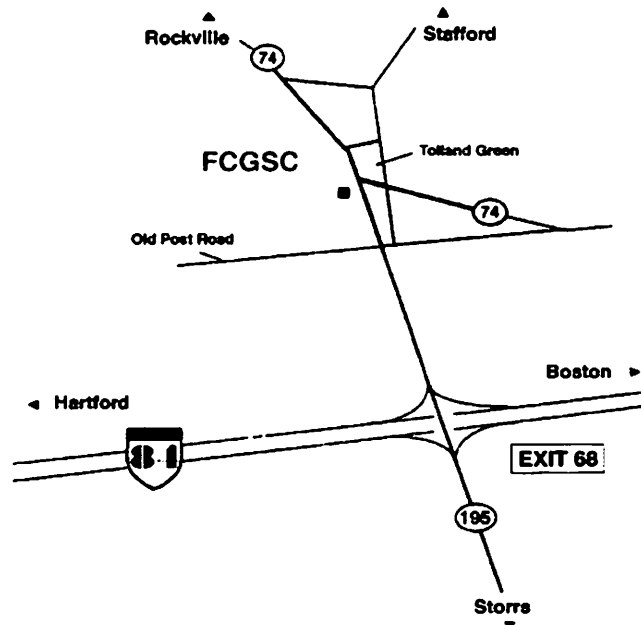
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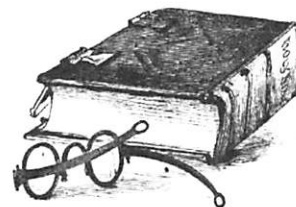
Deadlines:

- Winter issue: November 1
- Summer issue: May 1

Rev: 2014

Editor's Niche

Maryanne LeGrow, #696



Dear Cousins,

Today I'm speaking as both editor of the *CML* and president of the FCGSC. Our Society is now 35 years old – in fact we'll be turning 36 in a couple of months. After almost a year of planning and preparation we've just had a wonderful 35th Anniversary party. We enjoyed the dinner, danced to the music, visited with old and new friends, and celebrated our three and a half decades of achievements. Looking back has been fun, but now it's time to look forward. What will the next 35 years look like?

I sure wish I knew. But my crystal ball is in the shop for repairs, so I'll have to settle for telling you where I hope the Society will be at age 70.

For one thing, I hope we'll be outgrowing our quarters and in need of a new building - again. Not the one we're in now, because we've already gotten much too large for that, but I'm hoping we'll have outgrown the one I envision, wish, and pray that we will soon find to house our expanding library and meet the needs of a growing membership. Granted, lately our expansion has been slow as the national economy fell flat and then very gradually began to pick up speed. But our membership level has begun to reflect the recovery, increasing by more than 10% during the past six months, and we're confident that this upward trend will continue. To maintain membership gains and continue to improve our library, today we need a new building with additional office, work, and storage space; more room for books and computers; and ideally a space for meetings, workshops and programs. I'm hopeful that by 2051 the Society will have continued to grow its library, multiplied its workshops and training programs, and gained so many new members and additional volunteers that we will have grown out of that hoped-for new building as well!

I'm hoping that in thirty-five years our Society will also have made valuable contributions toward raising

the quality of history and heritage studies by genealogists like ourselves. We've all seen sloppy research, lineages lifted from undocumented online sources, and family trees with impossible birth and death dates. Let's hope that by 2051 the Society and our future selves will have done everything possible to encourage today's fledgling genealogists to develop competent record-keeping habits and good critical thinking skills. More than that, let's hope we will have done much to make all members of the Society aware of our responsibility to leave a foundation of sound, well-documented research for those who come after us.

Back in 1981, none of us could have envisioned the existence and power of the internet. My hope is that in 2051 the Society will be offering online access to training; library resources such as databases, forms, books and more; as well as personal assistance from experienced researchers. All of these things, now in the talking stages, are already a possibility. I hope that during the next 35 years our Society will find the financial, technical, and personnel resources to make this vision an everyday reality.

More than anything else, I hope that thirty-five years from now and for all the years in between, our Society will be blessed with numerous dedicated volunteers. Many of our members are not aware that the Society has no paid positions. Everything that is done, from making policy decisions to paying the heating bill, from mailing the newsletter to cleaning the restroom, is done by our devoted and hard-working volunteer staff. They are the heart-blood of the organization. Everything we have done or will accomplish is due to their loyal efforts on behalf of the Society. My greatest hope is that we will continue to be supported by so many of these marvelous people.

Maryanne

Queries, articles or letters to the editor may be sent by e-mail to: mlegrow@fcgsc.org
or to Maryanne LeGrow, CML Editor
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	Saturday, Apr. 22	Semi-Annual Membership Meeting <u>closed 1-3 pm</u>
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June	Sunday, June 18	Fathers' Day
July	Saturday, July 1 to Monday, July 3	Independence Day Observance
August	Sunday, August 27	Volunteer Appreciation Day Picnic
September	Saturday, Sept. 2 to Monday, Sept. 4	Labor Day Observance
October	Saturday, Oct. 14	Annual Membership Mtg. <u>closed 1-3 pm</u>
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The Scourge of Smallpox in New France in 1639-40: Did Guillaume Hébert Die of the Disease?

Susan McNelley #2367

Excerpted in part from *Hélène's World*:
Hélène Desportes of Seventeenth-Century Québec, a book by the same author

Guillaume Hébert, born in Paris, Île-de-France, was the third child and only son of Louis Hébert and Marie Rollet.¹ Guillaume was a young boy when he immigrated with his parents to New France in 1617. The family has long been considered the "First Family of Canada." Guillaume died in the settlement on September 23, 1639. Like so many deaths over the centuries, we are provided with no other details. In this case, however, the events and circumstances of the time give us some clues. It is likely that Guillaume Hébert died of smallpox.

In the fall of 1639, there were only about 200 colonists in all of New France, most of them living in or near Québec. The vast majority had been there five years or less. These French settlers were most concerned with the harvest and having enough food to sustain them over the coming winter. Nevertheless, they were certainly aware of the smallpox epidemic that was ravaging the native settlements along the St. Lawrence River.

The first recorded disease of European origin among the Native Americans north of the St. Lawrence River had struck in 1634, five years earlier. It is believed to have been measles and lasted through the winter of 1634-35. It is possible that the disease came with the arrival of Robert Giffard and a number of families from the Perche region of France in the summer of 1634. Some twenty-five children were included in their

number.² In 1637, another serious illness spread through the villages of the Montagnais and Hurons. The indigenous population died in large numbers. In recent times, researchers have concluded that the culprit of the epidemic of 1637 was scarlet fever.

In the fall of 1639, the natives were reeling from yet another epidemic; this time it was smallpox. The symptoms of the disease were terrible. The sick experienced high fever, retching and severe pain. Ugly, oozing blisters covered their body.³ It is believed that the initial outbreak of the disease that so affected the natives along the St. Lawrence River began in the English colonies to the south. In 1638, a British ship that docked at the harbor in Boston carried smallpox. The disease was then carried north by natives returning from their visit to the English communities.⁴

The only surviving accounts of the devastating smallpox epidemic of 1639 come from the reports of the Jesuit missionaries, as published in the *Jesuit Relations*.⁵

¹ *Programme de recherche en démographie historique (PRDH) Genealogical Database*, (Montréal, University of Montréal, 2005) Individual record #25064 for Guillaume Hébert; Ethel M.G. Bennett, "Hébert, Louis." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Canada: University of Toronto/ Université Laval, 2000) Web. 24 Oct 2016.

² Gary A. Warrick, "European Infectious Disease and Depopulation of the Wendat-Tionontate (Huron-Petun)," *Archeology of the Iroquois: Selected Readings and Research Sources* (Jordan Kerber, Ed. NY: Syracuse University Press. 2000) 272.

³ Charles C. Mann, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* (New York: Vintage Books, 2006) 97.

⁴ Warrick, "European Infectious Disease and Depopulation of the Wendat-Tionontate (Huron-Petun)," 273.

⁵ Mother Marie de l'Incarnation, an Ursuline nun who arrived in 1639, would write prolifically over the many years of her life in Québec. However, the majority of her writings have been lost to history. The only comments that were found alluding to the smallpox epidemic which greeted her upon her arrival in Québec

On May 27, 1640, Father Jerome Lalemant wrote,

It was upon the return from the journey which the Hurons had made to Kebec, that it started in the country, our Hurons, while again on their way up here, having thoughtlessly mingled with the Algonquins, whom they met on the route, most of whom were infected with smallpox. The first Huron who introduced it came ashore at the foot of our house . . . whence being carried to his own village, about a league distant from us, he died straightway after. . . . In a few days, almost all those in the cabin of the deceased found themselves infected; then the evil spread from house to house, from village to village, and finally became scattered throughout the country.⁶

Native peoples had not been previously exposed to these virulent diseases which were introduced to the North American population by the European immigrants. They had no immunity, no resistance, and died in droves.

In his report of what occurred in the Mission of the Hurons from June 1639 to June 1640, the missionary Father Barthelemy Vimont wrote,

We have baptized more than a thousand, most of them during the malady of the smallpox which fastened itself indifferently upon all sorts of persons . . . among them more than three hundred and sixty children under seven years, without counting more than a hundred other little children, who, having been baptized in the preceding years, have been harvested by this same disease.⁷

For the Amerindians north of the St. Lawrence River, this epidemic would end in the spring of 1640. In his visit to Huronia in the summer of

were those quoted by Father Le Jeune in the Jesuit Relations.

⁶ Reuben Gold Thwaites, Ed. *Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents(The): Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France*. XIX:87. Web 1 OCT 2016.

⁷ *Jesuit Relations*, ed. Thwaites, XIX: 77.

1615, Samuel de Champlain, the founder of the colony at Québec, estimated the population to be about thirty thousand inhabitants. The Jesuit missionaries took a census of the natives beginning in the spring of 1639 and extending over the winter of 1639-40. Father Jérôme Lalemant noted the results in his annual report,

We have had the means to take the census not only of the villages, large and small, but also of the cabins, the fires, and even very nearly of the persons in all the country -- there really being no other way to preach the gospel in these regions than at each family's hearth, whereof we tried to omit not one. In these 5 missions there are thirty-two hamlets and straggling villages, which comprise in all about 700 cabins, about 2,000 fires, and about 12,000 persons. These villages and cabins were much more populous formerly, but the extraordinary diseases and the wars within some years past, seem to have carried off the best portion: there remaining only very few old men, very few persons of skill and management.⁸

The number of people had been reduced by more than half over the course of twenty-five years.⁹ It is hard to imagine the devastation. Those who survived had lost spouses, fathers, mothers, children, and siblings. Not only were families destroyed, but the political infrastructure of the villages collapsed. The other indigenous communities along the St. Lawrence River, having developed no immunity to the disease, were equally decimated. When it came to smallpox and other diseases of European origin, the odds were very much stacked against the natives. The indigenous villages along the St. Lawrence River and beyond would never recover.

Smallpox and other diseases long known in Europe did take their toll on the French, but they were not as devastating as they were for the Native Americans. Over the centuries, Europeans had developed some natural immunity to these

⁸ *Jesuit Relations*, ed. Thwaites, XIX:125.

⁹ David Hackett Fischer, *Champlain's Dream* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2008) 325.

diseases, so that those who did become sick had more of a chance of recovering from these illnesses. Nonetheless, these diseases continued to be a problem for them as well, knowing no boundaries of age and rank in their ability to attack and kill.¹⁰

There were no trained physicians in New France in 1639 and there would be none until the end of the seventeenth century when Michel Sarrazin would be the first Frenchman to practice in this capacity.¹¹ Medicine was not a new profession for the French people. The subject had begun to be taught publicly in Paris in the twelfth century. Medications recommended by physicians were few: cassia, senna, quinine, antimony and syrup of roses. For physicians, bleeding and purging were the treatments of choice in the seventeenth century.¹²

While there were no physicians in Québec when the smallpox epidemic struck in 1639, there was at least one surgeon: Robert Giffard, seigneur of Beauport. Surgeons of that era attended the same schools as barbers and were members of the Society of Barber-Surgeons. Surgeons performed the blood-lettings, operations, amputations, and lancing of boils. Physicians and surgeons were

considered separate professions. Surgeons did not have the status of physicians; rather, they were considered to be manual laborers or craftsmen. When physicians were available, surgeons often functioned as their hired hands.¹³

Fortuitously, on August 1, 1639, three Hospitaller nuns arrived in Québec to found a hospital in the young colony.¹⁴ To them would fall the heaviest burden of caring for the unfortunate victims of the smallpox epidemic. They had come from France at the invitation of the Jesuits. While these dedicated women intended to minister to the indigenous community, they certainly understood the need to provide these services to the French-Canadian pioneers as well. Undoubtedly, they were welcome additions to the tiny community. Before the nuns came, the Jesuits had constructed a simple hospital to serve the sick of Québec.¹⁵ Upon their arrival in 1639, the hospital was gladly entrusted to the care and management of the Hospitallers of St. Augustine, who managed the Hôtel-Dieu of Dieppe in the mother country.

The missionary Paul Le Jeune, writing at Sillery on September 4, 1639, noted that it was time to end his annual report before the ships left Québec to return to France. His last few sentences:

The fleet leaves us in sadness, and in joy. The hospital is burdened with so many sick people, that they are obliged to lodge some of them outside in bark cabins. The [Native Americans] are sorely afflicted; it is said that they are dying in such numbers, in the countries father up, that the dogs eat the corpses that cannot be buried. The Hospital Nuns perform their duties with so much zeal, in these

¹⁰ In the spring of 1711, the Grand Dauphin, the healthy fifty-year-old son of Louis XIV, fell victim to smallpox and died on April 11. It was said that he was exposed to the disease when he knelt by the wayside to pay his respects to a priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament after a visit to an individual sick with smallpox. Source: Antonia Fraser, *Love and Louis XIV: The Women in the Life of the Sun King* (NY: Anchor Books, 2007) 295.

¹¹ Michel Sarrazin came to New France as a surgeon in 1685, but returned to France in 1694 where he obtained his doctorate of medicine at Reims. Returning to Québec in 1697, he practiced medicine there until his death in 1734. Ironically, his death was from a fever probably associated with a case of smallpox which had recently arrived in the colony by ship. Source: Jacques Rousseau, "Sarrazin, Michel." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Canada: University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2000) Web. 10 May 2012.

¹² W. H. Lewis, *The Splendid Century: Life in the France of Louis XIV* (Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 1953) 180-81.

¹³ Lewis, *The Splendid Century: Life in the France of Louis XIV*, 187-89.

¹⁴ Irene Mahoney, O.S.U., Ed, *Marie of the Incarnation: Selected Writings* (NY: Paulist Press, 1989) 136-40.

¹⁵ Benjamin Sulte, C. E. Fryer, and L. O. David. *A History of Québec: Its Resources and People*. Vol. 1 (Montréal: The Canada History Company, 1908.) *Google Books*. Web. 30 Oct. 2008. 35-36. Over the years, the simple hospital would go through many changes. The original building was replaced in 1646 and again in 1658. In 1672, an addition to the hospital was constructed .

*pressing needs, that they have impaired their own health. Those of our Fathers who visit and assist these poor infected people are in no better condition; this contagion alone will slip in among our French; some young women born in this country have been attacked by it. All this may cause us sadness.*¹⁶

The following year, in his report written in 1640 and entitled "Of the Nuns Recently Arrived in New France, and of their Occupation," Father Paul Le Jeune wrote:

*The Hospital nuns arrived at Kebec on the first day of August of last year. Scarcely had they disembarked before they found themselves overwhelmed with patients. The hall of the Hospital being too small, it was necessary to erect some cabins, fashioned like those of the [natives] in their garden. Not having furniture for so many people, they had to cut in two or three pieces part of the blankets and sheets they had brought for these poor sick people. In a word, instead of taking a little rest and refreshing themselves after the great discomfort they had suffered upon the sea, they found themselves so burdened and occupied that we had fear of losing them and their hospital at its very birth. The sick came from all directions in such numbers, their stench was so insupportable, the heat so great, the fresh food so scarce and so poor in a country so new and so strange, that I do not know how these good sisters, who almost had not even leisure in which to take a little sleep, endured all these hardships.*¹⁷

In addition to the Hospitaller nuns, three Ursuline nuns had also arrived on August 1, 1639. The Ursulines, under the leadership of Marie de l'Incarnation, were prepared to dedicate themselves to the education of the young French and Amerindian girls living in the vicinity of Québec. However, the Ursuline effort to establish a school for Amerindian girls was put on hold shortly after their arrival. During the smallpox epidemic of 1639, the house of the Ursulines also

became a hospital. There were not enough beds and hands to take care of the sick at the Augustinian Hôtel-Dieu, which had become known as "la maison de la mort". Conditions at the Ursuline convent and school were not much better. There was no furniture; make-shift beds were arranged on the floor, with little room in between. The nuns had to step over and around the sick in their ministrations.¹⁸

Father Le Jeune quotes Mother Marie de l'Incarnation in this report, stating that what he was about to relate to his superiors came from letters that the Mother Superior had written him:

*The patience of our sick astonishes me. I have seen many whose bodies were entirely covered with smallpox, and in a burning fever, complaining no more than if they were not sick, strictly obeying the physician, and showing gratitude for the slightest service that was rendered them.*¹⁹

Were there any French colonists who died in this epidemic? There are only two brief references to the French colonists in the missionaries' reports on the outbreak of small-pox. As noted in a preceding paragraph, in September of 1639, Father Le Jeune wrote, "This contagion alone will slip in among our French; some young women born in this country have been attacked by it."

A year later, on September 10, 1640, Father Le Jeune wrote:

All the French born in the country were attacked by this contagion, as well as the [Native Americans]. Those who came from your France were exempt from it, except two or three, already naturalized to the air of this region. In brief, from the month of August until the month of May, more than one hundred patients entered the hospital, and more than two hundred poor [Native Americans] found relief there, either in temporary treatment or in sleeping there one or two nights or more.

¹⁶ *Jesuit Relations*, ed. Thwaites, XVI: 215-17.

¹⁷ *Jesuit Relations*, ed. Thwaites, XIX:7.

¹⁸ Mahoney, *Marie of the Incarnation: Selected Writings*, 137.

¹⁹ *Jesuit Relations*, ed. Thwaites, XIX:13.

*There have been seen as many as ten, twelve, twenty, or thirty of them at a time.*²⁰

No specific individuals were mentioned in the Jesuit's reports. Nothing definitive is found in the church records of Notre-Dame de Québec. While the church records begin in 1621, there are no records of burials until March 24, 1640.²¹ The church records make clear that the primary concern of the missionaries was the evangelization and baptizing of the indigenous population. Arguably of equal importance were performing baptisms and marriages among the French pioneers. There are numerous baptisms, a few marriages, and almost no deaths and burials recorded in the early years of the colony.

When a death was recorded, the cause was generally listed only when the death was the result of an accident or when the individual was killed by the natives. Accidents included death by drowning, fires, and falls. More often than not, the victim was a young male. Apparently when death was a result of illness it was not recorded, perhaps because there was no physician to identify the exact cause of death.²²

There are ways, however, to narrow the possibilities for those French-Canadians who might have died in the smallpox epidemic. It is very instructive to look at the family records, as constructed by the *Programme de recherche en démographie historique* (PRDH). We frequently find a baptism record of a child with no marriage or death record associated with that individual. It is a good clue that the child might not have survived childhood; infant mortality was high at that time in history.²³

²⁰ Jesuit Relations, ed. Thwaites, XIX: 9.

²¹ There are a couple of exceptions. There is a burial record of sorts for Noël Guyon, son of Jean Guyon and Madeleine Goule. On his baptism record, dated August 27, 1638, is the notation that he died 15 days after his birth. Programme de recherche en démographie historique (PRDH), Baptism record #57127 for Noël Guyon.

²² Hubert Charbonneau, Bertrand Desjardins, André Guillemette, Yves Landry, Jacques Légaré, and François Nault. *The First French Canadians: Pioneers in the St. Lawrence Valley*, Trans. Paola Colozzo (Ontario: Associated University Press, 1993) 172.

²³ It is not a certainty that the child died in infancy, however, particularly in the case of males. There were a

According to the Church records, there were at least three pioneer families who might have lost infant girls in 1639. Guillaume Couillard and Marie Guillemette Hébert had a child baptized Madeleine on August 9, 1639.²⁴ Guillaume Hébert and Helene Desportes were parents of Angélique, who was baptized on August 2, 1639.²⁵ Three years earlier, Noël Langlois and Françoise Garnier had a child whom they baptized Marie on August 19, 1636. The only church records we have of these girls are their baptism records. Jacques Bourdon, son of Jean Bourdon and Jacqueline Potel, might have been another casualty. He was born on March 26, 1637; only a baptism record is found for Jacques. It is interesting to note that three of these four families (Couillard, Hébert, and Bourdon) had settled in the Upper Town of Québec, not far from the hospital where the sick were being treated.

As mentioned early in this article, Guillaume Hébert died on September 23, 1639. He would have been in his mid-twenties. There is no burial record for Guillaume in the Church archives. The date of death is given on a document of the Notary Piraube, dated October 21, 1639, which provided for guardianship of Guillaume's young children.²⁶ The cause of Guillaume's death was not recorded. It is reasonable to conclude that, in all probability, Guillaume Hébert died of smallpox. He was a young man in the prime of his life when he died. Apparently he was in good health. Guillaume and his wife had just had their third child, Angélique, seven weeks before his death; he was present for her baptism. There are no records indicating that Guillaume died from an accident. In his report to his superiors in 1640, the Jesuit missionary Father Le Jeune alluded to the fact that some "two or

number of young men in the colony who engaged in the fur trade and left the confines of the colony. Their marriages, if any, and their deaths were not recorded by the Church.

²⁴ PRDH, Family record #85 for Guillaume Couillard and Marie Guillemette Hébert.

²⁵ PRDH, Baptism record # 57136.

²⁶ *Pistard Database*. Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec (BAnQ), Québec, Canada. Accessed 20 July 2011.

three” individuals among the French pioneers had succumbed to smallpox. Robert Giffard, the settlement’s only surgeon, was a friend of Guillaume Hébert. Undoubtedly, Guillaume made the acquaintance of Robert Giffard when the latter came to Québec in the late 1620s. Robert Giffard stood as witness to Guillaume’s marriage in 1634. Giffard was treating patients at the hospital; those caring for the sick were overwhelmed and exhausted.

As observed earlier, the young Hébert family lived in the Upper Town, a short distance from the hospital. It is quite possible that Guillaume was helping his friend in attending to the sick and from this exposure became infected with the virus. While many Europeans had acquired some immunity to smallpox, Guillaume had spent most of his years in the colony and probably had no previous exposure and no resistance to the disease. He was a small boy when he arrived in Québec in 1617, and the Héberts had not returned to France during the English occupation of 1629-1632.

More on the family of Guillaume Hébert²⁷

Guillaume married fourteen-year-old Héléne Desportes, daughter of Pierre Desportes and François Langlois, in Québec on October 1, 1634. When he died five years later, he left a nineteen-year-old widow with three young children to raise.²⁸ Three months later, on December 27, Héléne married the wheelwright Noël Morin.²⁹ Guillaume and Héléne’s son Joseph and daughter Françoise would each marry and produce children. However, only the children of his daughter would grow to adulthood and marry. Guillaume’s grandson through his son Joseph died as an infant or in early childhood.

²⁷ Information on the children of Héléne Desportes and Guillaume Hébert comes primarily from the *Programme de recherche en démographie historique (PRDH)*; Baptism, marriage and burial records are also found in the *Québec Catholic Parish Registers 1621-1900*, digitized and available at Family Search.org.

²⁸ PRDH, Family record #223 for Guillaume Hébert and Héléne Desportes.

²⁹ PRDH, Marriage contract #94107 for Noël Morin and Héléne Desportes.

Guillaume left descendants but none would carry his surname on to future generations. Louis Hébert, Guillaume’s father and Canada’s “First Farmer,” would have additional descendants through his daughter Guillemette, who married Guillaume Couillard. French-Canadians who carry the Hébert surname received that name from one of the other Hébert pioneers of New France.

The children of Guillaume Hébert and his wife Héléne Desportes

1. **Joseph Hébert** was baptized on November 3, 1636.³⁰ Charles de Montmagny, the governor of the small colony at the time, was his godfather. His grandmother, Marie Rollet, was his godmother. On October 12, 1660, Joseph married Marie Charlotte Depoitiers, the daughter of Pierre Charles Depoitiers Buisson and Héléne de Belleau.³¹ A year later, Joseph was captured, tortured, and murdered by Iroquois.³² The actual date of his death in the fall of 1661 is unknown. Joseph, the only child of Joseph and Marie Charlotte, was born on October 15, 1661. It is quite possible that Joseph might never have met his son. Presumably, this child died young, as there is only a baptism record for him. After her husband’s death, Marie Charlotte remained in the household of her in-laws, Héléne Desportes and Noël Morin, for several years. She, but not her son, is listed with the other members of the family in the census record of 1666.³³ Marie Charlotte married Simon Lefebvre on January 11, 1667.³⁴

2. **Françoise Hébert** was baptized on January 23, 1638.³⁵ Her godparents were Guillaume

³⁰ PRDH, Baptism record #57112.

³¹ PRDH, Family record #1375 for Joseph Hébert and Marie Charlotte Depoitiers.

³² Jesuit Relations, ed Thwaites, XLV11:89.

³³ PRDH, Census Record #95976 for Noël Morin and Héléne Desportes.

³⁴ PRDH, Marriage record #66715.

³⁵ PRDH, Family record #223 for Guillaume Hébert and Héléne Desportes.

Hubou and Guillemette Hébert. She was thirteen when she married Guillaume Fournier on November 20, 1651.³⁶ When she was fifteen, her first child was born. In the census of 1667, the family was listed as living in the nearby village of Charlesbourg.³⁷ The couple had fourteen children, all but the last one born in Québec. By 1679, the family had moved to the settlement of Montmagny. Eleven of the children grew to adulthood and married. Two died as infants. The fate of the last child, born in Montmagny in 1679, is unknown. It seems that in her later years, Françoise followed in her mother's footsteps as midwife, at least as far as providing emergency baptisms for infants in danger of dying shortly after birth. Although she is never listed as "*sage-femme*," she is listed as having baptized a couple of infants on their baptism records in the parish records of Montmagny. Françoise died on March 16, 1716 at the age of 78 and was buried at Montmagny.³⁸ On her burial record is the notation that her husband Guillaume was the founder of the church at Montmagny. There are a number of records in the civil archives of Québec where Guillaume is listed as a litigant.³⁹ Apparently there were more than a few disagreements be-tween neighbors. Françoise lived in Montmagny for the last 37 years of her life. Many of her living children also settled in Montmagny.

³⁶ PRDH, Family record #699 for Guillaume Fournier and Françoise Hébert.

³⁷ PRDH, Census record #96974 for Guillaume Fournier and Françoise Hébert. Tanguay lists Guillaume as co-seigneur of the parish of St. Charles in his *Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes*, 239.

³⁸ PRDH, Burial record #26478. Based on her date of birth, Françoise would have been 76 years old; however, she was listed as 86 on her burial record.

³⁹ *Parchemin – Banque de données notariales (1626-1789)* and the *Pistard Database*, both located at the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ).

3. **Angélique Hébert** was baptized on August 2, 1639.⁴⁰ Her godparents were Olivier Le Tardif and Marguerite Langlois, the child's great-aunt. The only Church record we have of Angélique is her baptism record. The infant was just six weeks old when her father died. She was still living on October 21, 1639, as she was named in a document signed by Governor Montmagny appointing a guardian for the minor children of Guillaume Hébert. Presumably she died before she was five, as there is another document in the Québec civil archives, dated October 7, 1644, concerning the sale of land on behalf of Joseph and Françoise Hébert, minor children of Guillaume Hébert.⁴¹ Angélique is not mentioned. As noted above, she might well have been one of the girls who succumbed to smallpox in the winter of 1639-40.



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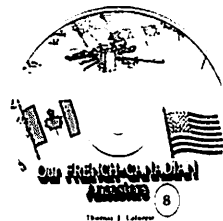


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⁴⁰ PRDH, Baptism record # 57136.

⁴¹ *Parchemin – Banque de données notariales (1626-1789)* and the *Pistard Database*, both located at the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ).

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Old Names for Diseases With Their Modern Equivalents

These are medical terms and disease names that may be encountered in old records, death certificates, newspapers and diaries. Based partly on lists in the public domain by the late Daniel H. Burrows, with additions by Penny Parker at www.pennyparker2.com/disease.html . Used with permission.

- Ablepsy:** Blindness
Acute Mania: Severe Insanity
Addison's Disease: destructive disease marked by weakness, weight loss, low blood pressure, gastrointestinal disturbances, brownish pigmentation of skin and mucous membranes
Ague: (Malarial fever) the recurring fever & chills of malarial infection
American Plague: Yellow Fever
Anasarca: Generalized massive edema
Aphonia: Laryngitis
Aphtha: The infant disease Thrush
Apoplexy: Paralysis due to stroke
Asphyxia/Asphixia – Cyanosis, lack of oxygen
Atrophy: Wasting away or diminishing in size
Bad Blood: Syphilis
Bilious Fever: Elevated temperature with bile emesis
Biliousness: Jaundice associated with liver disease
Black Plague: Bubonic Plague
Black Fever: Acute infection, temperature, dark red skin lesions
Black Jaundice: a common term for Weil's Disease. Common in northeast England near mines, farms and sewage.
Black Pox: Black Small Pox
Black Vomit: Vomiting old black blood due to ulcers or yellow fever
Blackwater Fever: severe form of malaria in which blood cells are rapidly destroyed, resulting in dark urine
Bladder in Throat: Diphtheria
Blood poisoning: Septicemia
Bloody Sweat: Sweating sickness
Bone Shave: Sciatica
Brain Fever: Meningitis
Breakbone: Dengue Fever
Bright's Disease: Bright's Disease is a catch-all for kidney diseases/disorders
Bronze John: Yellow Fever
Blue-Boil: Tumor or swelling
Cachexy: Malnutrition
Cacogastric: Upset Stomach
Cacospysy: Irregular Pulse
Carduccus: Subject to falling sickness or epilepsy
Camp Fever: Typhus aka Camp Diarrhea
Canine Madness: Rabies, hydrophobia
Canker: Ulceration of the Mouth or lips-Herpes Simplex
Carditis: Inflammation of the heart wall
Catalepsy: Seizures, trances
Catarrhal: Inflammation of mucous membrane causing nose and throat discharge from cold or allergies
Cerebritis: Inflammation of the cerebrum or Lead Poisoning
Chilblain: Swelling of extremities due to exposure to cold
Child Bed Fever: Infection following childbirth
Chin Cough: Whooping Cough
Chlorosis: Iron deficiency anemia
Cholera: Acute severe contagious diarrhea & intestinal sloughing
Cholera Morbus: Nausea, emesis, abdominal cramps, elevated temperature
Cholecystitis: Inflammation of gall bladder
Cholelithiasis: Gallstones
Chorea: Nervous disorder characterized by convulsions, contor-
tions and dancing. (St. Vitus' Dance)
Cold Plague: Ague with chills
Colic: Abdominal cramping
Commotion: Concussion
Congestive Chills: Malaria
Congestion: Any collection of fluid in an organ
Congestive fever: Malaria
Consumption: Tuberculosis
Corruption: Infection
Coryza: (or Corza) A Cold
Costiveness: Constipation
Cramp Colic: Appendicitis
Crop Sickness: Overextended stomach
Croup: Laryngitis, Diphtheria, or Strep Throat - Spasmodic laryngitis especially of infants, marked by episodes of difficult breathing and hoarse metallic cough
Cyanosis: Dark skin from lack of oxygen
Cynanche: Diseases of throat
Cystitis: Inflammation of bladder
Day Fever: Sweating sickness, fever lasting one day
Death from Teething: Teething used to (wrongly) be considered a cause of death, as many children died in the first years of life, at the same time as teething occurs.
Debility: Physical weakness
Decrepitude: Feebleness due to old age
Delirium Tremens: Hallucinations due to Alcoholism
Dengue: Infectious Fever endemic to East Africa
Dentition: Cutting of teeth
Deplumation: Eyelid tumors causing hair loss

Diphtheria: Contagious disease of the Throat
Distemper: (also Throat Distemper) 17th-19th century: diphtheria, with scarlet fever and other forms of strep throat also called by this name
Dock Fever: Yellow Fever
Domestic Illness: Euphemism for mental breakdown, depression, Alzheimers, Parkinsons, after-effects of stroke or any illness that kept a person housebound and in need of nursing support
Dropsy: Edema caused by kidney or heart disease
Dropsy: Edema (swelling), often caused by kidney or heart disease: congestive heart failure
Dropsy of Brain: Encephalitis
Dry Bellyache: Lead poisoning
Dyscrasy/dyscrasia: abnormal or physiologically unbalanced state of the body
Dysentery: Inflammation of colon
Dysorexy: Reduced appetite
Dyspepsia: Indigestion and heart-burn, symptoms of heart attack
Dysury: Difficulty of urination
Eclampsy: Convulsions during childbirth
Ecstasy: Form of Catalepsy
Edema: Nephrosis, swelling of tissue
Edema of Lungs: Congestive heart failure
Eel thing: Erysipelas
Elephantiasis: Form of Leprosy
Encephalitis: Swelling of the brain, sleeping sickness
Enteric Fever: Typhoid Fever
Enterocolitis: Inflammation of the Intestines
Enteritis: Inflammation of the bowels
Epitaxis: Nose bleed
Erysipelas: Contagious skin disease due to Strep
Extravasted Blood: Rupture of a blood vessel
Falling Sickness: Epilepsy
Fatty Liver: Cirrhosis of the liver

Fits: Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity
Flux: Excessive flow of fluids, like diarrhea or hemorrhage
Flux of Humour: Circulation
French Pox: Syphilis
Gathering: Collection of pus
Glandular Fever: Mononucleosis
Great Pox: Syphilitis
Green Fever/Sickness: Anemia
Grippe/Grip: Influenza like symptoms
Grocer's Itch: Caused by mites in flour or sugar
Gout: Any inflammation, not just in a joint or extremity, caused by the formation of crystals of oxalic acid accumulated in the body.
Heart Sickness: Condition caused by loss of salt from body
Heat Stroke: Failure of body to perspire due to excessive heat
Hectical Complaint: Recurrent fever
Hematemesis: Vomiting blood
Hematuria: Blood in Urine
Hemiplegy: Paralysis of one side of the body
Hip Gout: Osteomyelitis
Horrors: Delirium tremens
Hydrocephalus: Water on the brain, enlarged head
Hydropericardium: Heart dropsy
Hydrophobia: Rabies
Hydrothroax: Dropsy in the chest
Hypertrophic: Enlargement of organ
Impetigo: Contagious skin disease with pustules
Inanition: Physical discondition resulting from lack of food, starvation
Infantile Paralysis: Polio
Intestinal Colic: severe abdominal pain associated with malfunction in intestines, such as a blockage or air bubble
Jail Fever: Typhus

Jaundice: Condition caused by blockage of intestines, or liver disease
King's Evil: Scrofula - Tubercular infection of throat lymph glands
Kruchhusten: Whooping Cough
Lagrippe: Influenza
Lockjaw: Tetanus:
Long Sickness: Tuberculosis
Lues Disease: Syphilis
Lues venera: Venereal disease
Lung Fever: Pneumonia
Lumbago: Back pain
Lung Sickness: Tuberculosis
Lying in: Period of bed rest after childbirth
Malignant Sore Throat: Diphtheria
Mania: Insanity
Marasmus: Wasting away of body; tuberculosis
Membranous Croup: Diphtheria
Meningitis: Inflammation of the brain or spinal cord
Metritis: Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge
Miasma: Poisonous Vapors thought to infect the air
Milk Fever: Disease from drinking contaminated milk
Milk Leg: Post partum thrombophlebitis; Painful swelling of the leg beginning at the ankle and ascending, or at the groin and extending down the thigh.
Milk Sickness: Disease from milk of cattle who had eaten poisonous weeds
Mormal: Gangrene
Morphew: Scurvy blisters on body
Mortification: Infection; Gangrene of necrotic tissue
Myelitis: Inflammation of spine
Myocarditis: Inflammation of heart muscles
Necrosis: Mortification of bone or tissue
Nephrosis: Kidney degeneration
Nephritis: Inflammation of the kidneys

Nervous Prostration: Extreme exhaustion from inability to control physical or mental activity

Neuralgia: Discomfort/pain

Neurasthenia: Neurotic condition

Nostalgia: Homesickness

Palsy: Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles

Paroxysm: Convulsions

Pemphigus: Skin disease of watery blisters

Peripneumonia: Inflammation of the lungs

Peritonitis: Inflammation of the abdominal area (peritonitis)

Petechial Fever: Skin spotting with fever

Phthiriasis: Lice Infestation

Phthisis: Chronic wasting away or Tuberculosis

Plague: Highly infectious disease with high fatality rate

Pleurisy: Acute pain in breathing. Fluid in the lining of the lungs

Podaga: Gout

Potter's Asthma: Fibroid phthisis

Pott's Disease: Tuberculosis of spine with destruction of bone resulting in curvature of spine

Protein Disease: Once relatively common childhood disease: causes kidney to leak protein; secondary allergic reaction to certain strep infections.

Puerperal Exhaustion: Death due to childbirth

Puerperal Fever: fever caused by infection following childbirth

Puking Fever: Milk sickness

Putrid Fever: Diphtheria

Quinsy: Abscessed tonsils; Tonsillitis

Remitting Fever: Malaria

Rheumatism: Any disorder associated with pain in joints

Ricketts: Disease of skeletal system

Rose Cold: Hay fever and allergy symptoms

Rubeola: German Measles

Sanquincous Crust: Scab

Scarlatina: Scarlet Fever

Scarlet Fever: Disease characterized by a red rash

Scarlet Rash: Roseola

Sciatica: Rheumatism of the hips

Scirrhus: Cancerous Tumors

Scotomy: Dizziness, Nausea, dimness of sight.

Scrivener's Palsy: Writer's cramp

Screws: Rheumatism

Scrofula: TB of neck glands with abscesses and pustulas; See King's Evil

Scrumptox: Impetigo skin disease

Septicemia: Blood Poisoning

Shakes: Delirium Tremers

Shaking: Chills, ague

Shingles: Viral disease with skin blisters.

Ship/Ship's Fever: Typhus

Siriasis: Disease affecting children, inflammation of the brain and a high fever: sunstroke

Sloes: Milk sickness

Small Pox: Contagious disease with fever and blisters

Softening of Brain: Result of stroke or hemorrhage

Sore Throat Distemper: Diphtheria or Quinsy

Spanish Influenza: Epidemic Influenza

Spasms: Sudden involuntary contractions of muscles,convulsion

Spina Bifida: Deformity of spine

Spruce (or Sprue): Tropical disease with intestinal disorders and sore throat

St. Anthony's Fire: Erysipeles with bright red skin areas

St.Vitas Dance: Ceaseless rapid complex jerking movements

Stomatitis: Inflammation of mouth

Stranger's Fever: Yellow Fever

Strangery: Rupture

Sudor Anglicus: Sweating sickness

Summer Complaint: Dysentery or baby diarrhea caused by spoiled milk

Sunstroke: Uncontrolled elevation of body temperature due to environmental heat

Swamp Sickness: Used for Malaria, typhoid or encephalitis

Sweating Sickness: Infectious and fatal disease common to UK in 15th century

Teething: See Death from Teething

Tetanus: Infection of nervous system causing spasms especially of head and neck; lockjaw

Thrombosis: Blood clots in blood vessels

Thrush: Childhood disease, white rash on mouth, lips and throat

Tick Fever: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Toxemia: Eclampsia

Trench Mouth: Painful ulcers along the gum line caused by poor nutrition and hygiene

Tussis Convulsiva: Whooping Cough

Typhus: Infectious high fever, headache and dizziness

Variola: Small Pox

Venesection : Bleeding

Viper's Dance: St. Vitus Dance

Water on Brain: Brain swelling and enlarged head caused by fluid buildup

White Swelling: disease of knee-joint characterized by swelling and white color: swelling seen in tuberculous arthritis:

Winter Fever: Pneumonia

Womb Fever: Infection of uterus

Worm Fit: Convulsions associated with teething, worms, high temperature or diarrhea

Yellowjacket: Yellow Fever

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Joseph W.A. “Willard” St. Onge, Recipient of the Ordre National de la Légion D’Honneur

By Edward Lamirande #446



This is a story about a young man who grew up during the great depression and then went off to fight in a war that threatened the entire world. This, in and of itself, is not unusual. Thousands of young men and women had similar experiences. However, his acts of valor and unselfishness toward the people of

France during the war gained him France’s highest distinction, the Chevalier de la Légion D’Honneur, known as “The Legion of Honor.” He is typical of just about every man and woman in our armed services who fought in World War II, in that he never talked about his experiences after returning home. The horrors of war were best left behind. These men and women are considered “America’s Greatest Generation.” Until recently, after he received France’s highest award for valor, most of the family never knew about his exploits. His name is Joseph W. A. St.Onge, a first generation Canadian-American. He was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts on March 19, 1918, towards the end of WWI, to Ephrem St. Onge and Olivine Moineau who immigrated to the United States from St-Hyacinth, Québec, in 1907.

Joseph, Willard to his family, is the Uncle of my wife Noella (Beaupré), and the brother of my mother-in-law. He attended local schools in Holyoke and enlisted in the 26th Infantry Division branch of the Army National Guard in Springfield, Massachusetts on January 16, 1941 for a one year enlistment. The date happens to be my birthday, I was two years old on that day. The 26th was known as the Yankee Division. Little did he know at the time that the United States would be involved in a world war before his enlistment was completed. Shortly after enlisting he was sent to Fort Benning, GA for infantry training. After completing his training he received his Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. Later he entered

active duty with the United States Army on July 8, 1942 and was assigned to the 83rd Infantry Division, 330th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, Headquarters Company, S-2, (Intelligence Section). Initially he served on active duty in the Army for four years, then as a Reservist and National Guardsman for many years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

The 83rd Infantry Division arrived in England on 16 April 1944. After training in Wales, the division landed at Omaha Beach, Normandy on June 16, 1944. The 83rd Division was held in reserve for D-Day, but was delayed ten days due to severe storms at sea. Now as a 1st Lieutenant, he served as an Intelligence Officer and was in charge of patrolling combat areas with the men under his command.⁴² In addition to the invasion of Normandy, Willard participated in several campaigns throughout Northern France, Central Europe and the Rhineland.



83rd Infantry
Division Patch

The Legion of Honor, as it is more widely known, was established in 1802 by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and is exclusively awarded in cases of exemplary military and civilian services. Willard is among many others who have received this award, among them Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, Billy Mitchell, Audie Murphy, George S. Patton and Alvin York. Other awards he received during this period include the Army Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in France, the American Theater Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the European-African-Middle

⁴²Article by Erin Tiernan: *The Enterprise News*, Brockton, MA, Jun 30, 2014.

Eastern Campaign Medal with one silver service star (fifth award).

In 2004, on the 60th anniversary of D-Day, France began to recognize many American veterans of the World War II for their service during the French liberation. As part of the recognition effort, Willard St. Onge received the Legion of Honor in 2014 from Fabien Fieschi, the Consul General of France in Boston. He was awarded the honor by the President of France, François Hollande, for his bravery and heroism during campaigns while in France. The ceremony was held in the clubhouse at Spring Meadows, Hanover, MA where he lived for the past several years with his wife, Eileen.



Willard was interviewed by Gary Higgins of the Quincy, MA *Patriot Ledger*. Friends and family gathered around during the afternoon ceremony. In the photo taken by his son, above, are Willard, his wife Eileen, and the French Consulate General Fabien Fieschi, shown shortly after pinning the Legion of Honor medal to Willard's jacket, making him officially a chevalier, which is the French equivalent of a knight. In recognition of those sacrifices, the French government awarded him its highest distinction, the Legion of Honor medal, to the 96-year-old World War II veteran on Friday, June 27, 2014.⁴³

"I am very honored and very proud to become a chevalier," Willard said to everyone. Being fluent in French, Willard was a natural candidate to

become an intelligence officer. From behind enemy lines, Willard and his team of liberators pushed back Nazi forces which contributed in part to France's and eventually Europe's liberation. Along the way, Willard lost some of the 24 men who comprised his reconnaissance team. During the award ceremony he said "despite the losses we suffered, I am proud of what my platoon achieved in France". Throughout the war, he would lead his reconnaissance platoon through enemy territory in the heat and snow through the battle-ravaged villages of France. Remembering his role in the war, Willard drew his finger across a tattered map of France. Throughout his three-year mission, he carried a map of the area. Seventy years later, he still has that map. It serves as a souvenir and a way to remember the 24-man platoon he led through enemy territory. Scrawled across the back are the names of the men who followed him, some returned home after the war, but some did not.

It was still difficult for Willard to talk about the men he lost during the battle for France. Fieschi said, "Your service reminds us that this was a role played by the American people in World War II and it is thanks to their commitment along with the Free French Forces and other elite reconnaissance forces that Europeans managed to escape a brutal route and are able today to enjoy democracy and freedom". "France recognizes the tremendous sacrifices that went into its emancipation from Nazi occupation. It is our duty to honor those such as yourself who participated in freeing France and Europe. In the decades since American soldiers landed in Normandy, France and the rest of occupied Europe have flourished under freedom".

"The Legion of Honor medal, France's highest distinction, is meant to symbolize the country's gratitude for the actions of U.S. soldiers during France's liberation from German occupation," said Fieschi. "Mr. St. Onge, we are grateful to you for your heroic actions," Fieschi said. "In spite of constant and horrific danger, you and your fellow soldiers showed extraordinary courage and bravery throughout your service in France. You demonstrated the spirit of honor and sacrifice in the proud tradition of military service."

⁴³ Article by Cody Shepard, *The Patriot Ledger*, Quincy, MA, Jun 26, 2014.

The Legion of Honor is exclusively awarded in cases of exemplary military and civilian services. It is the oldest and highest honor in France. The French Legion of Honor Committee awards only a small number of medals in the U.S. every year, generally to candidates who have earned other decorations as well.

The photo below shows Willard somewhere in France in the back of his jeep with a 50 Caliber machine gun.



Shortly after landing in France, the 83rd was assigned to the First Army, VIII Corps, which was under the Command of General Omar Bradley. The 83rd was mainly made up of the 329th, 330th and 331st Infantry Regiments, including many other forces from various combat support groups. The 330th began their campaign from the beaches of Normandy by following the famous hedgerows south to Carentan. The 83rd Infantry Division was known as the Thunderbolt Division and was the spearhead from Carentan, St-Lo to St-Malo and onto the Loire Valley between July and August. In July the 330th had entered Brittany and began to clear the way to St-Malo and Dinard in a bitter house-to-house fighting, capturing and sealing off the enemy occupying the St-Ideuc-LaVarde area.

Then on July 4, 1944, a reconnaissance team led by Willard liberated a French church from Nazi forces. The church, which was built around 1500, was completely destroyed by air strikes which demolished the German positions and removed them from the area. When Willard and his platoon returned later, they found the charred remains of

the church outlined with stones and flowers and a sign that read "Liberated July 4, 1944 by American liberators." The 330th was on the left of the main column and reached St-Lo against strong opposition. Repelling repeated enemy counterattacks, they had taken the highest number of casualties of the Division. The Regiment was down to about 300 men.

Willard received his Purple Heart shortly after he was injured by sharp metal from an exploding mortar shell during the campaign of St-Lo on July 18, 1944. After a brief period of training and reinforcements, the Division moved on in August to the town of St-Malo and the heavily defended Citadel Fortress of St.Servan. After the Regiment's mission had been completed they moved on to the Loire Valley Region in August.

Below is a photo of 1st Lieutenant Joseph W. A. St. Onge being congratulated by Colonel Parker while receiving the Bronze Star, under General Order 28, in August 1944.

He was awarded the Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy while in France. During the month of



September he entered Luxembourg. The 3rd Battalion began patrolling into Germany in order to determine the enemies strength. They were moving so fast by October they had advanced to the Siegfried Line. During their campaigning through Normandy, Brittany and Luxembourg they found the people filled with hope and

heartfelt appreciation for what the Americans were doing for them. In December of 1944 the 330th went on to the Huertgen Forest which is considered a part of the Rhineland.

They were now on German soil and began a drive towards the Roer River. The German Army knew the 83rd was coming and greeted their arrival with leaflets fired from artillery shells, which read:

"Welcome to the men of the 83rd Infantry Division,

Well. Guys, things were going pretty well for you in the past. Life was so nice and quiet in the Treves area, you hardly realized there was a war going on, whilst you filled your fat bellies with good grub and dreamt of a speedy return to your sweethearts back in the states. Now, some old brass hat has made you a damnable X-mas present by transferring you to the famous Aachen sector where the fight is harder than anywhere else. It's all woods here - they are cold slippery and dangerous, death awaits you behind every tree. Fighting in the woods is hellish. The 28th, and 4th Div. have had their experiences, now it's your turn, you better write a last letter to your dear one whilst the going is still good. Tomorrow it may be too late, unless you have the good luck to become a P.O.W"

Unknown to the 83rd Division at the time, eight other Divisions had lost more than 22,000 men. On December 10th elements of the 3rd Battalion launched a surprise attack on the town of Strass, one of the most strategic points in the network of German defenses protecting the vital approaches to Duren. However, the enemy surrounded the attacking force, cutting them off from the rest of the Battalion. For three days they went without food, ammunition or medical supplies, while fighting off several enemy counterattacks. Finally they were relieved by the 2nd Battalion after breaking through the enemy lines.

From December 19th to the 25th the 3rd Battalion spent clearing the way to the west bank of the Roer River against the determined German troops.

The Battalion had made the deepest penetration of any group thus far into Germany.

This photo of Willard in the Huertgen Forest shows him carrying a captured German 9mm Automatic MP 38/40 "Machinepistole" and wearing a German winter camouflaged uniform.



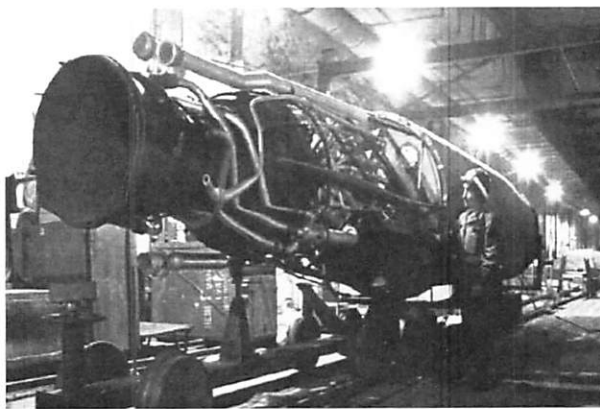
This was just a photo-op; he would never wear this outfit very long for fear of being shot as a German. This area is on the western edge of the Ardennes, a region of extensive forests located primarily in Belgium and Luxembourg, but stretching into Germany and France. The area is more widely known as the "Battle of the Bulge." The 330th Inf. Regiment was then attached to General Patton's 3rd Armored Division on January 1st, 1945.

The 330th covered Patton's left flank in order to protect his rapid advance towards the "Bulge", in an attempt to cut-off the German "Blitzkrieg," a winter breakthrough which took place on Xmas day in the Ardennes. They were not only battling the enemy but bitter cold weather, heavy snow, strong winds, overcast skies and no Air support. This was a critical situation and turning point in the war which ended successfully by forcing the German Army to retreat. In early February 1945 the 330th Infantry regiment was temporarily attached to the 29th division for the initial assault across the Roer River. Early on the morning of the 23rd of February, after an intense artillery barrage on the enemy, the 330th launched their attack and

crossed the Roer River at Julich. They quickly captured the towns of Pattern and Mersch. By the end of the day, they had advanced on to Kuntz. The next few days the 330th moved rapidly and captured Gevelsdorf and Isen-Kroidt, then later took Duren.

The regiment now raced northeast reaching the city of Neuss on March 1st. The following day the 330th began a house-to-house battle to secure the city. The 3rd Battalion began moving quickly to secure the Neuss-Düsseldorf Bridge. They returned to Germany crossing the Rhine along with the 2nd Armored Division. The mission: Clear out any by-passed pockets of resistance in the Rhur Valley. However, the Germans blew the bridge just before they began crossing.

The 3rd Battalion had taken up defensive positions for a while along the western edge of the Rhine then returned to Holland in mid-March for river crossing training. They came up against some 200,000 German troops who had been cut off in the region. The 83rd Division now reassembled joined up with the 2nd Armored and for the next two weeks pushed further into Germany. At the end of March the 330th, now detached from the 83rd, helped clean out the Harz Mountains, a pocket of resistance that had been bypassed by the fast riding 329th and 331st.



A Partially assembled V-2 rocket in a tunnel

The Harz Mountains contained deep underground factories which made V-1 and V-2 rocket bombs for use against the British Isles, along with other factories making the new German jet fighters. The

previous photo is that of a partially assembled V-2 rocket inside one of the Tunnels in 1945. By mid-April, the 83rd was in Vilshofen, Germany. The long awaited news finally came. The war with Germany had ended on May 8th 1945, V-E Day. Germany had surrendered unconditionally to the United States, Great Britain and Russia, with the 83rd Division Headquarters now assigned occupational duty in the town of Vilshofen in Bavaria, the 329th at Deggendorf, the 330th at Wolfstein and the 331 at Griebßbach.

Meanwhile, back in April, Willard and his men had continued on behind enemy lines, this time on a humanitarian mission. The insert, below, is a copy of an article published in the 83rd Division *Thunderbolt Newspaper*, Vol. 1, No.2, Page 3, May 5, 1945.

Convoy Gets Food To Allied PWs

A convoy of mercy consisting of ten trucks and a jeep, specially painted all white with huge red crosses and the words "Canti Internationale de la Croix Rouge" conspicuously lettered on each, went through Thunderbolt lines recently in the area held by the 3rd Bn of the 330th Infantry.

With the exception of Lt Joseph A. W. St Onge of Holyoke, Mass. and his driver, Pfc Larry Key of Neptune, Tenn., both from the 3rd Bn, 330th, the rest of the men were white-clad Swiss. The trucks were loaded with more than 55 tons of medical supplies, food and clothing for Allied PWs held by the Germans.

After arriving at the take-off point, it was only a matter of minutes before the convoy was on its way across No Man's Land. The American officer led the way through a specially charted lane in a protective mine field.

"It felt funny to be passing all those civilians beyond our outposts," said Key, "and they looked as if they couldn't figure it out, either."

At a pre-arranged point near the town of Flatz, the American part of the mission was completed and St Onge and Key turned back toward 83rd lines as the trucks disappeared into a thick woods held by the Jerries.

"We felt pretty helpless out there all alone," smiled St Onge, "but we got back safely -- didn't even see a Kraut."

The following is taken from the Combat Chronicle of the 83rd Division:

“The amount of ground covered by the 83rd Division from the beginning in June of 1944, from Normandy France to Central Germany in April of 1945, is difficult to comprehend—over 1,400 miles.

The 83rd had three infantry regiments, the 329th, the 330th, and the 331st. They spent 244 days in combat and suffered 23,980 casualties, 15,248 of which were combat related. Overall, the division had 170.2 percent replacements. Of the 68 Divisions deployed by the U.S. Army in the European Theater, the 83rd was ninth in the number of combat deaths. The number of 83rd Division men killed in combat totaled 3,620. The odds were that if you were on the front line, you probably wouldn't make it back home in one piece, if at all.”



1st Lieutenant Joseph “Willard” St. Onge was now detached from Headquarters, S-2, 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division.

The photo at left shows him at his last assignment as the Commander of a Displaced Persons Camp just outside Würzburg, Germany in the summer of 1945. Russian soldiers would often visit many of the Camps trying to coerce the American and British Commanders to surrender certain individuals over to them, but they were never successful. Recently my wife and I along with her two sisters were privileged in helping Willard celebrate his 98th Surprise Birthday Party.

It had been arranged by Willard's wife Eileen at their residence in Hanover, MA on March 18th 2016. The ceremony was also attended by his son, his wife, and grandchildren along with a nephew, his wife, several grand nieces and nephews including many friends and neighbors.

A personal note:

Men in combat aren't there fighting for God and Country or even Mom's apple pie. They are fighting to save the life of the men next to them. During combat there is a bond formed between them which is closer than family. Along with lifelong friendships are memories that are kept locked inside and nightmares of those who did not make it. They became Brothers in Arms. The loss of a man under your command can be devastating. Having to explain their deaths to their families in a letter can sometimes be more than a person can bear.

Sadly this heroic story ends with his final Call to Duty, the passing of this wonderful man, Joseph “Willard” St Onge on the 30th of July 2016.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Some of the previous accounts were given to me by Mr. Joseph W. A. St. Onge along with personal photographs. In addition, several accounts are taken from *The Thunderbolt Across Europe: A History of the 83rd Infantry Division*. Compiled, edited & published by the 83rd Division, I & E section, narrative by Sgt. Ernie Hayhow. Munich, 1946. Also including articles written in both *The Patriot Ledger*, Quincy, MA, and *The Enterprise News*, Brockton, MA.

(See photo of certificate, next page)



Photocopy of French Legion of Honor Certificate awarded to Joseph A.W. St. Onge

New Members June 2016-November 9, 2016

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2411 Tricia Staley | 2417 Sharron Laplante | 2422 Claudine Purdue |
| 2412 Matthew Deschampion | 2418 Cecile Miller | 2423 Lois Voisine |
| 2413 Gary King | 2419 Nancy R. Coulombe | 2424 Ann Carroll |
| 2414 Dennis R. Norman | 2420 Carol Ann Harley | |
| 2415 Darrell Gagnon | 2421 Kenneth & Joyce | |
| 2416 Frances Nadeau | Lamontagne | |

FCGSC Celebrates 35th Anniversary

Odette Manning #2364 and Maryanne LeGrow #696

The French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut (the FCGSC) celebrated its 35th Anniversary of service with a gala dinner on November 11th, 2016. Past and present members and friends of the Society met for a festive meal and an evening of traditional French-Canadian music at Maneeley's Banquet Facility, in South Windsor, Connecticut.

The Society was begun in 1981 by a group of French-Canadians and descendants of French-Canadians interested in family history who pooled their books and other resources to establish a library in a back room of the former French Club located on Park Street in Hartford, CT. Within two years, membership had grown to about 150 individuals. It continued to increase, and five years later, having outgrown the small original room, the FCGSC moved its library to the present location at the old county courthouse building on the Green in Tolland, Connecticut.

At a time when many similar organizations fail to survive their first five years, attaining the 35-year mark is a significant achievement. As part of the evening's events, the Society gratefully recognized six of the original 150 Founding Members of the Society who attended the festivities. Those members were: Member #3, Marcel J. Guerard of Hartford; Member #4, Patrick A. Lausier, of South Windsor; Member #7, Laurette Dugas Billig of South Windsor; Member #23, Helen Maxson



Ernest Laliberté presents certificate to Richard Poitras. Odette Manning in photo at left.

Morin of Charlotte, NC; Member #53, Candide Sedlik of West Hartford; and Member #115, Richard Poitras, of Tolland. Founding Members were presented with a souvenir certificate and thanked for their efforts in establishing and encouraging the early growth of the Society.



Annette Ouellet and husband David Carmel dance to the music of Daniel Boucher et Ses Bons Amis

Daniel Boucher entertained and delighted guests during the evening with his group *Daniel Boucher et Ses Bons Amis*. Daniel, a singer, fiddler, and composer of traditional French-Canadian music, has roots in both Connecticut and Québec. He is well known locally for his French folk music sessions "Jam Français," performing the toe-tapping music of Québec that he has absorbed as a bicultural product of both locales.

The event was beautifully coordinated, and thanks are due to Planning Committee members Susan L. Griffiths, Germaine Allard Hoffman, Frances A. Nadeau, Céline Rodrigue Nieliwocki, and Cécile Tremblay Miller, led by committee chair Odette Drouin Manning. Door prizes on the festive occasion included gift baskets prepared and donated by Committee members, as well as a dollhouse made and donated by FCGSC President Maryanne Roy LeGrow.

Baby Leopole

Susan Dion, #2389

Cousin Patty and I risked life and limb by allowing our bikes to gain speed on the steep hill leading from my Summit Street home down to Valley Street, Main Street, and the Willimantic River. Of course, if we survived the dangerous descent it meant a long walk home pushing our bicycles back up to the summit, as we could not sustain any momentum by pedaling. On our return slog, we'd sometimes refresh ourselves by resting upon a stone wall or a grassy shaded corner of a stranger's yard. Occasionally, we'd recuperate by stopping to see Uncle Donut (Donat) or Grandpa Dion – French relatives from my father's side and not part of Mom's Polish family. Thus they were unrelated to Patty whose dad was Mom's brother.

One warm day in the early 1960s, as we tiredly faced our upward trek, my cousin Patty and I made an unusual detour to Grandpa Dion's big house on Bellevue Street after attempting to see him at his downtown office. The office at 31 North Street, just off Main Street, was the site of frequent short visits with Grandpa, as he seemed to be in constant residence there, at least in my memory. On this steamy summer day, however, we approached his formidable Victorian home. Cousin Patty asked me which of the two front doors we should use as the corner house did indeed have two front doors and two street addresses. Feeling hot, uncertain, and timid, I motioned her to roll our bikes onto the gravel parking area toward the rear of the building.

To my surprise, Grandpa Dion was outdoors sitting on a rickety kitchen chair under a canvas tent-like covering, which provided shade on his very fair skin. "Welcome, welcome. Bonjour, bonjour," he said with laughter as he offered us cold spring water from an antique pitcher set on a small table at his side.

Grateful for the invitation and offer of water, we leaned our bikes against a tree and joined the little

group gathered near grandpa in this hidden, overgrown corner of the property.

Grandpa wiped the perspiration from his forehead and neck with a clean white handkerchief and commented on the intensity of the day's heat. "Mon Dieu," he exclaimed. The other kids begged him to continue with the story that Patty and I had interrupted. As he finished his tale, I covertly studied the other children and realized that they were cousins but barely known to me as dad couldn't tolerate their father, his sister Betty's husband. The three or four girl cousins – one may have been a boy – appeared to be from ages nine or ten to thirteen or fourteen, while Patty and I may have been age eight.

When grandpa finished his tale, the two oldest cousins asked him to name all his brothers and sisters. When Grandpa Dion's memory or speech faltered, the cousins suggested names that he'd overlooked. When one younger child volunteered "Rose," an older sister explained that Rose was not grandpa's sister but his oldest sister's child. When one kid asked about "the baby that died," a couple young voices eagerly shouted "Leopole." Grandpa, well into his seventies, nodded in agreement and repeated softly, "Yes, Leopole." Although the recitation was a messy listing with conflicting voices and a maze of material, this was the only time in childhood that I actually heard the fifteen names, some of which were pronounced with a French accent but not necessarily in French. As Patty and I later trudged up the hill with our bikes, I unsuccessfully tried to remember the names of the cousins gathered at Grandpa Dion's. It had been a rare encounter.

More than fifty years later, I studied two lists identifying Grandpa Dion and his siblings. One was a copy of the tattered remains of a faded family record kept by my grandfather. When new, the document had nine tiny colored illustrations of

the cycle of life surrounding the lined spaces where one listed the births, marriages, and deaths of family members. Grandpa Dion had printed a note on the page: "Please Take Notice This memo is important + should + must be kept for future reference such as life insurance policies + other things of importance. E.J. Dion." Another scribble stated, "This memo was made by E.J. Dion in the year of 1912 to 1913." At the top of the list of the fifteen siblings were the names of their parents with birth years of 1843 and 1853. Although difficult to identify the spellings, the names appeared to read "Bartholamaire" and "Marriane." Grandpa Dion would have been age twenty-five when he compiled his data.

The other list was my dad's one-page transcription of his father's deteriorating document. On a simple piece of ruled paper, Dad used a thin marker to make columns and print duplicate information as best he could, given the faded and sometimes smeared, illegible handwriting of the original. He tried to translate French names and months into English and he added some dates such as his father's death in January 1970. Dad identified his grandparents' names as "Bartholomew" and "Mariane."

I first saw dad's list in the early 1990s but I can't recall how that photocopy came into my possession, and whether or not it was given to me prior to dad's death in March 1994. I was unaware of the 1912-1913 document until my sister Barbara shared her discovery of it in 1996. She called it a "family tree" and said the torn decomposing fragile paper was inside a crumpled flimsy shirt-box jammed under a bureau in one of dad's apartments. A few years later, Barbara gave me a framed color copy of the fragments – a treasured gift.

On both documents, it was clear to me that there were errors. The most notable were two births in three months, but the repetition of this discrepancy confirmed that dad worked from Grandpa's earlier document in composing his list. Both noted the

birth and death of baby "Leopole,"⁴⁴ a haunting reminder of the unusual exchange in Grandpa Dion's backyard on a stifling summer day so many years ago. In 2011, I began a search for the actual birth records of Grandpa Dion, his siblings, and his parents, but with special attention to the baby boy known as Leopole. Who was he? How did he die?

The hearty Dion offspring numbered twelve on the eve of baby Joseph Alfred Leopold's birth in December 1892. The parents, Barthelemi Dion and Marie Anne Bergeron, were ages forty-nine and thirty-nine respectively at the birth of their thirteenth child. They'd been married for nineteen years and five months. Their six daughters ranged in age from twenty-three months to eighteen years, while the youngest of their six sons, our grandfather Joseph Eugene, was age five and the eldest boy was age fourteen. All six girls shared the first given name of "Marie" (Mary) while the boys were all blessed with "Joseph." This was a common baptismal naming choice in French Canada, but in practice the children were typically distinguished and referred to by one of their middle names.

At his baptism on December ninth in the village church of St.-Antoine-de-Tilley in Quebec Province, Joseph Alfred Leopold's maternal uncle Barthelemi Bergeron and his second oldest sister, sixteen-year-old Georgiana Dion, signed the parish register, as was the custom for godparents. (Almost two years earlier, the eldest Dion sibling, Marie Louise Phoebe, had similarly signed with maternal uncle Edouard Bergeron as godparents to the twelfth Dion child.) Baby Leopold's sacrament was one of fifty-two baptisms blessed by the parish priest that year, while only twenty-five burials were recorded. One wonders if the family knew that this thirteenth child would be the last to be baptized in St.-Antoine-de-Tilley. Perhaps the parents had shared their plans with the older children.

⁴⁴ As spelled phonetically in Grandpa's list, with the French silent "d" omitted. In the parish register's baptism entry, the name has the customary spelling of "Leopold."

Sometime in 1893, the Dion family departed the agrarian homeland of their ancestors for the Connecticut mill town of Willimantic.

Baby Joseph Alfred Leopold was the first and only child of Barthelemi Dion and Marie Anne Bergeron to die in infancy. His death at age nine months occurred on September 8, 1893 in Willimantic. Sadly, a baby's death confirmed the French-Canadian family's year of arrival in the United States. Leopold's cause of death was "cholera infantum"- an antiquarian diagnosis that was not the scourge of true cholera but often fatal nonetheless. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the condition was most commonly found among the poor living in congested areas of high humidity and high temperatures. In cholera infantum, an infant suffered an acute, non-contagious intestinal illness which resulted in dehydration and sudden death.

My grandfather and father incorrectly listed the month of baby "Leopole's" death as August but the date and year they recorded agreed with the death certificate. My guess is that Grandpa Dion spelled baby Leopold's name the way it was pronounced in French thus avoiding a "d" sound at the end of the word. "Leopole" was certainly the way I heard the name so many years before. I think of five-year-old Grandpa Dion living in a strange land and losing his little brother so suddenly. In a year of massive dislocation for the family, the death of Leopold was surely a sad discouraging introduction to a new country.

In July of 2016, I contacted St. Joseph's Church office in Willimantic to check for several Dion ancestors buried long ago in the church's cemetery. Although St. Mary's was founded in 1903 for the large French-Canadian Catholic population in town, the cemetery of the originally Irish parish, St. Joseph's, continued to serve as the common sacred burial ground for both parishes. A short time after my request, copies of three ledger pages from recorded burials reached me in Delaware. The earliest was that of baby Leopold Dion in September 1893. He was not identified by name but simply as the male child, age nine months, of "Barthel. Dion." This pattern of

unnamed deceased small children and infants was repeated in beautiful script almost twenty times on a page with forty burials from late July to early October of 1893.

Leopold Dion

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No. Record of Deaths.

Mo.	Day	Name	Age	Sex	Parents	Religion	Time	Place
July	22	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
July	23	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	22	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	23	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	24	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	25	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	26	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	27	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	28	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	29	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
August	30	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	1	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	2	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	3	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	4	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	5	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	6	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	7	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	8	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	9	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	10	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	11	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	12	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	13	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	14	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	15	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	16	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	17	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	18	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	19	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	20	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	21	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	22	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	23	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	24	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	25	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	26	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	27	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	28	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	29	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
September	30	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	1	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	2	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	3	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	4	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	5	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	6	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	7	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	8	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	9	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	10	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	11	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	12	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	13	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	14	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	15	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	16	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	17	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	18	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	19	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	20	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	21	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	22	Leopold Dion	9 months	M	Barthelemi Dion & Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	23	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	24	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
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October	29	Marie Anne Bergeron	30	F	Barthelemi Dion	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's
October	30	Barthelemi Dion	30	M	Marie Anne Bergeron	Catholic	11:00	St. Joseph's

**Death Register, St. Joseph Cemetery,
Willimantic, CT**

On a drizzly, dark morning in August I followed the cemetery manager to several burial sections in a cemetery that I've been familiar with since my own childhood. My parents, four grandparents, and numerous relatives rest at St. Joseph's. On this pilgrimage, however, I was viscerally reminded of the travails of the first generation of Dions and other Quebecois immigrants. All but one of the Dion dead that I was seeking were buried in

unmarked graves without precise plots (these were deaths of 1893, 1901, 1903, 1906, 1907). Baby Leopole/Leopold was in the "old" infants section, surrounded by other babies and small children whose families relied on the good Sisters of Charity in Willimantic for assistance with burial. Unknown, unmarked, unacknowledged. Barthelme Dion could only contribute two dollars toward his son's burial. Thus Baby Leopold was somewhere under an empty area of green wet grass.

Sue Lalashuis, St. Joseph, Willimantic, Parish & Cemetery secretary, and Frank Lalashuis, St. Joseph Cemetery Manager and Sexton, were able to provide only an imprecise number of burials in the old baby section, perhaps between 900 and 1000. About 240 have some type of marker. That means as many as 760 children, including baby Leopole/Leopold, have no recognition. Most of the unmarked graves are in the "empty" grassy area. According to Sue Lalashuis, the age cutoff for the baby section may have been as high as six or seven years. She believes the age limit "was probably determined by the nuns, as the graves were donated. Possibly the family of the older children couldn't afford to purchase a grave, so the nuns donated and placed the child in that section; [but] that's just a guess."⁴⁵

The haunting, empty area containing such a large number of unmarked children's graves is a stark reminder of how difficult daily existence was for Québécois who uprooted families and came to the mills of New England seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

NOTE:

A special thank you to Sue and Frank Lalashuis, for their help in locating information for this article.

⁴⁵ Email correspondence October 31, 2016, from Sue Lalashuis, St. Joseph Parish and Cemetery, Willimantic, CT.

Tangled Relationships: A Challenge to Our Readers

Today's extended and blended families can lead to some very complicated family trees, but their twists and turns are nothing new. Convolved lineages can be found even in the most sedate of New England towns during the rather staid and circumspect 19th century. For example, in August and September of 1847, the following article was copied and reprinted by a number of U.S. newspapers:

Married, in Kingston, N.H., Col. William Webster, aged 67, to Miss Martha Winslow, aged 19.

By the above union the bridegroom has married his sister's grand-daughter, which makes the bride a wife to her great uncle, sister to her grand-father and grand-mother, aunt to her father and mother, and great-aunt to her brothers and sisters. She is step mother to five children, fourteen grand children and one great-grand-child. [Haverhill Gaz.] (published Friday, August 13, 1847 in the Albany Evening Journal [Albany, NY], Volume 18, Issue 5280, Page 2.)

Can this be true? The marriage of uncle and niece is prohibited in most places, but what of a great-uncle and great-niece? This marriage apparently did take place, as New Hampshire marriage records show that Martha Winslow and Col. William Webster, both residents of Kingston, NH, were married by A. S. French, on 22 JUL 1847. No ages are given and no parents or witnesses to the marriage are listed for either party.

We challenge our readers to identify the ancestry of this couple and submit a family tree to *The Connecticut Maple Leaf*. The first acceptably documented tree we receive will be published in our Summer, 2017 issue. Everyone who submits a documented tree for this family will also be recognized. All birth, marriage and death sources must be listed, but copies of the actual documents are not required. Mail to CML Editor / FCGSC / P.O. Box 928 / Tolland, CT 06084-0928 or email to mlegrow@fcgsc.org. Deadline for submissions is May 1, 2017.

Québec Doomed

A Visitor's (French Canadian Ancestry) View of the 1759 Battle for Québec: A Synthesis of Two Excellent Books

Ronald Blanchette, #1665

INTRODUCTION

I became attracted to history in part because I was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, across the street from where Lizzie Borden may have swung her hatchet forty and forty one times according to the jingle. I was also born at a time when nuclear families and extended family members lived close by. Thus I was told that that Québec lost the 1759 battle because a "traitor" had informed the British how to get up the cliffs to get to the Plains of Abraham where the battle for Québec took place.⁴⁶

My interest in studying and understanding the 1759 Battle of Québec took on more meaning after I read Francis Parkman's *France and England in North America*⁴⁷ and George Bryce's book *The Remarkable History of the Hudson Bay Company*⁴⁸. From these books I accepted that the development of Canada was much more a French commercial venture than a serious attempt to colonize the territory, unlike the British colonies.

My initial approach to the 1759 battle for Québec was naïve. I just wanted to know who the "traitor" was and why that part of history apparently received scant attention. Thus, when I read my first book on the battle, *Northern Armageddon*, by D. Peter MacLedd, not only did it move the rumor of a traitorous Canadian to the bin of myths but exposed to me how little I knew about the 1759 battle. I just couldn't let that much ignorance stand, so I proceeded to reread *Northern Armaged*

don again but this time I underlined fact after fact and the author's analysis and opinions. I also kept copious notes on what I read that only went to the issues of preparation and the battle at the Plains of Abraham on September 13, 1759. When I went to Québec in 2016 I spent hours at the Plains of Abraham Museum in Québec, where the battle took place. I also read a second book about the siege and battle, *Québec 1759* by C.P. Stacey (originally written in 1959 and revised in 2002 with new material by Donald E. Graves). I took the same approach with *Québec 1759* as I did with *Northern Armageddon*; I read it twice, underlined everything I thought important, and again kept copious notes.

It was when I was reading *Québec 1759* that I decided to write an article about the battle for an audience of French-Canadian ancestry. What is presented in this article is not intended to be a scholarly presentation. The writing is solely intended to share what I have learned about the importance of the battle for Québec the consequences of losing that battle. Additionally, I wondered how did France find itself in the position of losing Québec and being ousted from New France and the rest of Canada by the British? The writing is a synthesis of the facts that go to answer the above questions based on *Northern Armageddon* and *Québec 1759*. At the onset I would encourage readers to read these two books and become as captured by the history of 1759 as I became and still am.

SETTING THE STAGE

The Seven Years' War was well into its fifth year when the events of 1759 took place in Québec. What was at stake was control of North America. The French controlled New France, which was a corridor along the St. Lawrence Seaway to Québec City down to Montréal. France also controlled parts of Acadia (New Brunswick and Prince

⁴⁶ Among the rumors and myths about spies and traitors the most interesting one is that there was a traitorous Canadian and that his name and the colorful details of his activities are still safeguarded in a secret file in the British War Office vaults. (Charles P. Stacey, *Québec 1759*, Ed. Donald E. Graves. Montréal: Robin Brass Studio, 2002, pp. 48-49).

⁴⁷ Francis Parkman. *France and England in North America*. Vol. 1, Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1910.

⁴⁸ George Bryce. *Remarkable History of the Hudson Bay Company*. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co., 1910.

Edward Island). Maps in this time period also displayed France's claim to the territory between Louisiana and the vast prairies located in America and Canada. However, most of the prairies were controlled by the numerous Indian tribes.⁴⁹ Keep in mind what was stated earlier, that the French interest in North America was primarily commercial.⁵⁰ That limited focus would play a critical role in the forced exit of France from North America.

A key consequence of France's use of New France and other territories as a commercial enterprise was that the population of New France (primarily Montréal to Québec along the St Lawrence River) never exceeded 60,000.⁵¹

On the British side of the territorial map were the English colonies that were just below Québec and Montréal down to the Florida territory. The British also held critical advantages over the French. First and foremost British sea power was second to none.⁵² Second, Britain could count on ever increasing numbers of troops because of the British colonies' ever increasing populations and more importantly because the highest priority of the British government was to deprive France of Canada.⁵³

The early years of the Seven Years' War went well for the French. They captured and destroyed British outposts in the Ohio valley and in New York before they could threaten Canada. However, as was stated earlier, because of the increasing population of the colonies and because of the dominance of British sea power, Britain rebuilt the forts and increased its armies to take a very determined offensive against its enemy to the north. As a result the French entered into a fatally flawed defensive posture to protect its farms and cities of New France.⁵⁴ Unfortunately, New France was economically weak and very vulnerable and required from France large quantities of food, provisions, and increasing

numbers of troops and ships for its protection.⁵⁵ It was quite evident to France, and most likely to the British, that Québec did not have the human and material resources to fight a major war on its own.⁵⁶

Before moving on to what I think were the fatal examples of France's lack of vision concerning Québec, and the negligence of its military leadership in failing to protect Québec from British conquest, I would posit the following. Was the defeat of Québec in 1759 an inevitable conclusion, just a matter of when and not if? Also, how important was the 1759 battle and defeat of the French in New France?

The tensions between the British and French were not new, they had been simmering for decades. The initial British strategy in the Seven Years' War was just to conquer and control the vast Ohio valley. That end result changed during the first five years of the war to the intent to rid North America of any French presence. Thus after securing the Ohio Valley the British moved on to the Montréal-Québec corridor and the concentration of French forces.⁵⁷ While the confrontations in the Ohio Valley did not directly involve England's sea power, when the subsequent battles involved the St. Lawrence Seaway this sea power provided the tipping point and firmly gave the British the advantage and the inevitable outcome of 1759.⁵⁸

In contrast to Britain, the Court of Versailles over the years went from supporting its commercial venture in New France to an ever-increasing attitude of disgust over what they viewed as widespread corruption in Canada and defeatism that resulted in a steady withdrawal of support for what became commonly referenced as the "bottomless pit".⁵⁹

It is interesting to note that the venerable Winston Churchill called the Seven Years' War the real First World War.⁶⁰ I'm not sure the Seven Years'

⁴⁹ D. Peter MacLedd, *Northern Armageddon* (Madeira Park, BC: Douglas & McIntyre, 2008), p.16.

⁵⁰ See Note 47.

⁵¹ MacLedd, pp.20, 26; Stacey, C.P., p. xiv.

⁵² Stacey, p. 10,

⁵³ Stacey, 3.

⁵⁴ MacLedd, p. 20.

⁵⁵ Stacey, p. xiv.

⁵⁶ MacLedd, p. 20.

⁵⁷ Stacey, p. 3.

⁵⁸ Stacey, pp.25-26.

⁵⁹ MacLedd, p. 19.

War reached the magnitude of a worldwide conflict but it did oust France from North America and increase England's world dominance. To that I would add that had the French somehow retained their hold on North America I am doubtful that the American Revolution would have occurred, at least not within the time period of the 1759 battle, because of the diminished presence of the British in North America. Also, Canada under France's control probably would have turned out to be a French speaking nation.⁶¹

QUÉBEC DEFENCES: ERRORS, OMISSIONS (EQUALS NEGLIGENCE?)

To understand the 1759 battle for Québec you first need to understand that the French truly believed that their unique geography made them almost impregnable. Some five hundred million years ago grains of sand and clay eventually turned into enormous blocks of sedimentary rock. These rocks then slammed into each other to form the Québec Promontory, a rock formation some seven miles long and just under a mile wide.⁶² The French also thought themselves secure because of their height above the St Lawrence River. At the Hotel Frontenac the elevation was 200' above the river and at the cliffs at nearby Cape Diamond (where the Citadel is located) the height above the river reached up to 300 feet.⁶³ West of Québec was the shoreline of Beauport that went to the Montmorency River and the famous Montmorency Falls. Because Beauport did not have the heights and cliffs of Québec and Cape Diamond it was well fortified.⁶⁴

The French complacency on their geography contained a fatal flaw. The French either underestimated or were grossly negligent regarding the strategic use of British sea power in the persistent belief that British ships just could not pass below Québec City.⁶⁵ The following were the strategies that the French should have known about and put into operation that cumulatively might have saved Québec but only in 1759:

1. The French failed to establish batteries and naval capabilities on the Île aux Coudres.⁶⁶

This island was about 60 miles from Québec and close enough to the shipping lanes to both monitor and intervene and possibly block passage of the British fleet.⁶⁷ The historical antecedent to the British fleet decision to move up the St. Lawrence Seaway was the 1758 annihilation of the fortress of Louisbourg. Louisbourg was located on Cape Breton Island north of Halifax and was the effective monitor of ship movements coming into the St. Lawrence Seaway. The British erroneously believed that with Louisbourg out of the way they could effectively blockade provisions going to Québec. They quickly realized their error because the St. Lawrence proved to be too wide to prevent shipping into Québec.⁶⁸

As a result of the failure of the British to blockade the St Lawrence Seaway, the British now knew they had to move their fleet to Québec. There was genuine hesitation by the British to move up the lower St. Lawrence River. In 1711 the British attempted a landing east of Québec that resulted in some 900 sailors and soldiers drowned. The British then plotted the St. Lawrence with great precision and without any serious intervention by the French. This charting of the St. Lawrence proved to be yet another key weapon in moving the British fleet to Québec without interference and with no loss of troops and war materials.⁶⁹

2. The Île d'Orleans should have been fortified to prevent any landing of British forces, and the northern tip of the island should have had sufficient batteries to intervene and block passage of shipping through the Traverse.

In order for the British fleet to pass Québec it had to travel through the river channel called the "Traverse" which is just off the northern tip of Île d'Orleans. Because the French did nothing to prevent shipping through the Traverse, the British fleet easily passed by Québec City, and this

⁶¹ MacLedd, p. 12 (Preface).

⁶² MacLedd, p. 19.

⁶³ Stacey, p. 24.

⁶⁴ MacLedd, p. 21.

⁶⁵ Stacey, p. 79.

⁶⁶ (The same argument could be made for Cape Tourmente, thirty miles closer to Québec City as was made for fortifying Île Aux Coudres). See Stacey, p. 42.

⁶⁷ Stacey, p. 42.

⁶⁸ MacLedd, p. 28.

⁶⁹ MacLedd, p. 30.

among other omissions proved to be another cumulative fatal weakness in properly defending Québec.⁷⁰ Moreover, when the British landed troops on Île d'Orleans the French made no attempt to oppose the landing and instead withdrew what few forces they had on the island. Therefore, not only was there free passage for the British fleet to pass by Québec City but they also exposed the entire Beauport shore line to enemy batteries.⁷¹

3. There was complete failure to establish batteries at Pt. Levis to protect Québec City and deny passage and anchorage to the British fleet in the Québec Basin.⁷²

The location of Pt. Levis was directly across the St. Lawrence from Québec City, a mere 1100 yards from shore to shore, and 1,200 yards to a mile from the entire city in 1759.⁷³ It was another French fundamental failure not to occupy the south bank of the river opposite the city.⁷⁴ As a result of the French failure to fortify Pt. Levis, in July 1759 General Wolfe ordered that Pt. Levis be occupied and batteries be put in place for the sole purpose of destroying Québec City⁷⁵ and thus allowing the British fleet to enter the Québec basin unchallenged, thereby making a landing above Québec more practical.⁷⁶ The bombardment that started on July 6 went on week after week and reduced almost the whole of Québec City (both the upper and lower towns) to a wasteland.⁷⁷

To some extent the French in Canada and the French Crown's mind set were imbued with a false sense of security⁷⁸ that led to a lack of necessary protections for Québec aside from Beauport. Two earlier British attempts to capture Québec

had been failures.⁷⁹ The first attempt, in 1690, was just inept and was quickly defeated by the Canadian militia and the troupes de la marine.⁸⁰

The second attempt, in 1711, did not take into account the tides and currents of the St Lawrence and resulted in the drowning of 900 troops and sailors some three hundred miles short of Québec City. The attempted invasion was appropriately called off.⁸¹ It is also worth noting that there was a feeble attempt to fire back on Pt. Levis battery from Québec City⁸² but there was so little powder available that guns were not permitted to fire except for special reasons.⁸³ I could not find anything in my readings that listed what those special reasons might have been. The only other tactics the French deployed – unsuccessfully – during the siege of Québec City were fire ships and rafts. On June 30 and July 27, fire ships and rafts were crammed with combustible materials, lit, and pushed out to destroy British ships. The British easily towed them out of the way with little or no damage to British ships.⁸⁴

On July 12 there was one French attempt to take Pt. Levis but the small expedition sent to destroy the British battery returned the next day. Apparently the advance guard and the main body collided in the dark and the effort to dislodge the British collapsed in confusion. In fact, the British did not become aware of the aborted and humiliating attempt for five days.⁸⁵ One additional consequence of the French failure to take Pt. Levis was that it reinforced General Montcalm's perception that large parts of the French forces (particularly the militia) were useless except for holding prepared positions.⁸⁶ However, some fault lies with Montcalm's critical observation of his Canadian troops. Montcalm had three months prior to the September 13 battle on the Plains of

⁷⁰ Stacey, p. 39.

⁷¹ Stacey, p. 60.

⁷² Stacey, pp. 57, 60.

⁷³ MacLedd, p. 40.

⁷⁴ Stacey, p. 37.

⁷⁵ (Actually the batteries were placed close by at Pointe-aux-Peres but both sides referred to the batteries as Pt. Levis). See MacLedd, p. 39.

⁷⁶ Stacey, p. 73.

⁷⁷ MacLedd, p. 40; Stacey, pp. 71-73.

⁷⁸ Stacey, p. 38.

⁷⁹ Stacey, p. 37.

⁸⁰ MacLedd, pp. 74-75.

⁸¹ Stacey, pp. 37-38.

⁸² (Québec City had guns aimed at Pt. Levis but none in the direction of the Plains of Abraham). See Stacey, p. 72.

⁸³ Stacey, p. 71.

⁸⁴ Stacey, p. 51; MacLedd, p. 36.

⁸⁵ Stacey, p. 70; MacLedd, p. 83.

⁸⁶ MacLedd, p. 213.

Abraham to conduct basic training and did no training during that period of time.⁸⁷ Montcalm never tried offensive movements again until the last desperate and ill-fated attack on the Plains of Abraham.⁸⁸

4. The French failed to place defenses on the St. Lawrence River to facilitate and protect the critical provisions required by the military and the citizens of Québec City.

Once again the French held fast to the conviction that no British ships were going to be able to get past Québec. This erroneous French assumption that provisions were not going to be a problem resulted in their primary reliance on slower land routes.⁸⁹

5. The following two major events occurred prior to the final battle on September 13 on the Plains of Abraham. They are included here because of their importance and immense impact on the citizens of Québec City and those living in the countryside of Québec.

Another major event that took place shortly after the defeat of the British at the Battle of Montmorency (also referred to as the Battle of Beauport) was the destruction of the Québec countryside. The French defeated the British on July 31, 1759 in no small part due to Wolfe's miscalculation that Montcalm would come out of his superior positions along the Beauport shoreline and fight the British. He did not and the French prevailed.⁹⁰ However, even with the French victory at Montmorency, Montcalm accurately reflected that the worst was yet to come.⁹¹ After the French victory Wolfe ordered the destruction of the Québec country along both sides of the St. Lawrence River for a distance of 30 to 50 miles above and below Québec City.⁹² Both the bombardment of Québec City and the utter destruction of the Québec countryside were viewed as brutal tactics, but Wolfe had come to conquer Québec with a

reputation for such tactics. Earlier, when he was engaged in the total destruction of Louisbourg, he stated clearly that the city and fortress should be totally demolished and all the inhabitants sent to Europe. Wolfe's wish came to pass. Every last resident and soldier were sent back to France and the entirety of Louisbourg was destroyed and fell into ruin.⁹³ Wolfe's actual orders, below, for the destruction of the Québec countryside display the antipathy he held and brutal strategy that he alone ordered:

If, by accident in the River, by the Enemy's resistance, by sickness, or slaughter in the Army, or from any other cause, we find that Québec is not likely to fall into our hands (persevering however to the last moment), I propose to set the town on fire with Shells, to destroy the Harvest, Houses, & Cattle, both above and below, to send off as many Canadians as possible to Europe, & to leave famine and desolation behind me; belle resolution, & treschretienne! But we must teach these Scoundrels to make war in a more gentlemanlike manner.⁹⁴

Throughout July and August 1759 Wolfe unleashed his campaign of destruction against the Québec countryside. It is estimated that the rampage resulted in between 1,000 and 1,400 homes and farms burned to the ground. The destruction included barns, farm buildings, all crops and most animals. Wolfe ordered that there was to be no scalping unless except when the enemy were Indians or Canadians dressed as Indians. In like manner there were to be no churches burned but an exception was made regarding the parish church at St. Joachim located on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, east of Québec City. The exception was made because the parish priest of St. Joachim led raiding parties against the British. The priest and many of the parishioners were killed by the British.⁹⁵ Once again, Wolfe hoped that his brutal savagery of the Québec countryside would draw Montcalm out to protect farms and

⁸⁷ MacLedd, p. 214.

⁸⁸ Stacey, p. 71.

⁸⁹ Stacey, p. 46.

⁹⁰ MacLedd, pp. 46-47.

⁹¹ Stacey, p. 91.

⁹² Stacey, pp. 93-106; MacLedd, pp 46-47.

⁹³ MacLedd, p. 33

⁹⁴ (As a further background to Wolfe's Québec's countryside destruction, he also claimed there were atrocities committed against British troops in the Ohio territories) See Note 86; Stacey, p .53; MacLedd, pp 31, 46-47.

⁹⁵ Stacey, pp. 96-97.

Québec citizens, and once again he miscalculated as Montcalm maintained his siege position along the Beauport shore line, on the cliffs west of Québec City (inadequate as they were) and in Québec City.⁹⁶

6. “The toxic relationship between Louis-Joseph de Montcalm and Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil seriously undermined the army and the people of Québec. The consequences of their deteriorated relationship were decisions and inactions with fatal results for Québec and Montcalm.”⁹⁷

At Montcalm’s arrival in Québec in 1756⁹⁸ he commanded only the regular troops (*troupes de terre*).⁹⁹ The reason for this military bifurcation was that Montcalm was initially subject to the authority of Vaudreuil, the first native born civil governor of New France. By 1757 the relationship between the two men, while never a compatible one, became a serious detriment to the defense of Québec.¹⁰⁰ The French Crown was well aware of that Montcalm and Vaudreuil had become bitter enemies. On one hand, Montcalm did not hesitate to put his negative opinions of Vaudreuil into writing to junior officers.¹⁰¹ Vaudreuil, on the other hand, told Montcalm that he was excessively harsh with the Canadian militia, his behavior marked by tantrums,¹⁰² and with Canada’s Native allies. One of Montcalm’s tantrums resulted in his telling the Native allies that the French did not need the Indians to defeat the British.¹⁰³

At some point Montcalm requested permission to return to France, which Vaudreuil wholeheartedly endorsed. The French Crown, instead of dealing with the two adversaries realistically, dealt a further blow to the future of Québec by promoting Montcalm, who thus became Vaudreuil’s colleague rather than a subordinate. Now Vaudreuil,

based on orders from the French Crown was required to defer to Montcalm on military matters. It is questionable whether Vaudreuil ever shared or even showed those orders to Montcalm, thus continuing the distrust and disdain for each other. There is almost no evidence that Vaudreuil lived up to the orders.¹⁰⁴

MARCH TO THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM: Defenses Mattered, or Did They?

Initially Wolfe’s plan to conquer Québec was to land on the Beauport shore, then cross the St. Charles River just north of Québec City, and then march to the Plains of Abraham. Once secure on the Plains, Wolfe’s army would either storm or lay siege to Québec City.¹⁰⁵ Both Montcalm and Vaudreuil anticipated this predictable movement and Beauport was quickly fortified.¹⁰⁶ The French also fortified Québec City and along the Montmorency River and established a chain of outposts between Québec City to Cape Rouge guarding avenues to the cliffs.¹⁰⁷ While these fortifications were effective in the area of Beauport, the real failure was in not dealing with the British fleet and their successful movements down the St. Lawrence River. Albeit that success came as a result of French neglect. Although it is very possible that even if all the defenses that have been presented here were done Québec might have fallen, but not doing them it made the loss more likely.¹⁰⁸ The French Crown also was complicit in not adequately protecting Québec. The French navy refused to escort shipping down the St. Lawrence Seaway destined for Québec because of the strength of British sea power, and because any buildup of the French navy in New France lessened France’s ability to protect its own coast that was so close to England.¹⁰⁹ The Frenchman, Joseph Michael Cadet, under contract with the French Crown to provide provisions for the French military, took over the task to protect

⁹⁶ MacLedd, pp. 46-47.

⁹⁷ Stacey, p. 20.

⁹⁸ Stacey, p. 18.

⁹⁹ Stacey, p. 19.

¹⁰⁰ Stacey, p. 20.

¹⁰¹ MacLedd, p. 98.

¹⁰² See Notes 84 and 85.

¹⁰³ MacLedd, p. 99.

¹⁰⁴ MacLedd, pp. 99-100; Stacey, pp. 24-25.

¹⁰⁵ MacLedd, p.37.

¹⁰⁶ MacLedd, p. 38.

¹⁰⁷ MacLedd, p. 21.

¹⁰⁸ Stacey, p. 42.

¹⁰⁹ MacLedd, pp. 64-65

French shipping in the St. Lawrence but it had to be much more difficult without the presence of the French navy.¹¹⁰ Even an anonymous French supply clerk made an accurate unsigned journal entry that he worried that the French had deployed too many resources in the Beauport area and too few to the West of Québec. He felt the British had the ability to go anywhere they chose.¹¹¹ Even the British commented that the French seemed to have neglected the defenses above Québec City.¹¹²

The defenses west of Québec City consisted of an artillery battery at Samos, just to the west of Anse au Foulon, that consisted of three 24 pound cannons and one 13-inch mortar protected by thirty soldiers. Another detachment guarded the road leading up the promontory from the beach. Some of the 100 militia in this tent encampment also served as a chain of sentries along cliff ridges. The encampment was commanded by Louis Du Pont Duchambon de Vergor, a captain in the troupes de la marine. There was also a small group of 15 or 20 men at Anse des Meres.¹¹³

The French critical error of judgment was that no reserves were stationed near the cliff top outposts. If the road was the only way up at Foulon then Vergor's camp would have been the reinforcements. But it wasn't the only way up Foulon.¹¹⁴ Even Montcalm's judgment comes into question because he believed that the 100 or so troops at Anse des Meres located between Foulon and Québec City could stop a whole army and give sufficient time for reinforcements to march in and repel the invaders.¹¹⁵ Again our anonymous supply clerk's journal entry found that the protections around Anse au Foulon were too exposed to the enemy.¹¹⁶ Overall, the new defenses were essentially ineffective and only a little more formidable than the old ones.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁰ MacLedd, p. 65.

¹¹¹ MacLedd, p. 111.

¹¹² MacLedd, p. 129.

¹¹³ Stacey, p. 124; MacLedd, pp. 136-137.

¹¹⁴ MacLedd, p. 152.

¹¹⁵ MacLedd, p. 151.

¹¹⁶ MacLedd, p. 116.

¹¹⁷ Stacey, pp. 48-49.

Probing and the Decision for Anse au Foulon

Wolfe's arrival at Île d'Orleans on June 26, 1759¹¹⁸ commenced three months of failed attempts to take Québec which was protected by 264 cannons and mortars on city walls and another 39 artillery at Beauport.¹¹⁹ There is considerable conjecture as to when Anse au Foulon became a plan of landing troops and to launch the attack on Québec City through the Plains of Abraham just west of the city.¹²⁰

Wolfe actually had eight plans of attack from May to September to take Québec but only the disastrous attack directly across the Montmorency was carried out prior to the September 13th landing at and about Foulon.¹²¹ One of the planned attacks was to be on July 18-19 on Saint Michael just west of Anse au Foulon. As the British were assembling their forces at Pt. Levis, the British frigate, *Squirrel*, came under cannon fire from a newly erected battery at Samos, overlooking Foulon and just downstream from Saint Michael. The plan to attack at Saint Michael was abandoned.¹²²

Wolfe's probing for an effective and successful attack on Québec included positions west of Québec City. In July he traveled to the Etchemin River, which was on the opposite shore to Foulon. Wolfe's observers reported back to him that people in the area were able to climb up and down the cliffs. The next day Wolfe took a group of staff to show them the places thought to be the most accessible. It was also noted that the Foulon was only a twenty minute walk to Québec City. Wolfe may have posted observers to monitor other potential landing sites but his conclusion regarding Foulon was that this was his last resort. Wolfe's obstacles to victory were the Québec Promontory, Québec's eastern city wall and Montcalm's army. An attack through Anse au Foulon would succeed or fail in a matter of minutes. Wolfe was confident that the small outposts could be overwhelmed in a short period of time, and most critically, British

¹¹⁸ MacLedd, p. 31.

¹¹⁹ MacLedd, p. 21; Stacey, p. 81.

¹²⁰ Stacey, p. 122.

¹²¹ Stacey, p. 138.

¹²² MacLedd, p. 40; Stacey, pp. 64-65, 138.

troops could be reinforced or withdrawn quickly before other French troops could arrive.¹²³

Others made similar observations that the cliffs of Anse au Foulon were passable. The supply clerk's unsigned journal spoke of the cliffs west of the city that were formidable but accessible with slopes in some areas gradual enough to climb. He also wrote that both Anse au Foulon and nearby Anse des Meres contained coves and ravines leading upward and were passable.¹²⁴ The French officer Jean-Guillaume Plantavit de Lapause de Morgan inspected Anse au Foulon and found it very suitable for a landing and noted that there was a good road up the cliff. The road, he reported, although steep was suitable for marching troops and hauling heavy artillery with easy access to Québec City.¹²⁵

In the end, the final tactical decision on where to land was made by Wolfe.¹²⁶ It is apparent also that he had sufficient intelligence to make a reasoned and rational decision for Anse au Foulon as the entry point for the forthcoming battle at the Plains of Abraham without the requirement for any alleged spy or treasonous French soldier.

Wolfe, in addition to probing the defenses above Québec, also interrogated deserters. Interrogation of deserters, most of whom were foreigners, was routine for both sides, certainly in hope of learning strategic weaknesses or plans of the other side. The key piece of information the British learned was how desperate the French were for provisions.¹²⁷ That information played an important role in the success of the British landing at Foulon.

The Flat Boats

Rather than using the ships' boats to land troops and materials at Foulon, The British used flat boats. The landing required more carrying capacity and maneuverability in shallow water than ships' boats could provide. The British developed a craft know as a flat bottom boat that carried 40-

60 troops moved efficiently in shallow water. The 40-60 troop units were from the same company so upon landing could fight as a unit. One hundred thirty-four flat boats were developed in 1758. The British advantage with flat boats was a rapid and safe deployment or if need be the removal of its forces.¹²⁸

The Beauport Feint & Other Diversions

During the actual landing of British forces at Anse au Foulon, the British conducted a military feint at Beauport. Boats filled with sailors and soldiers making as much noise as was thought reasonable rowed back and forth from ships at Beauport. At Cap Rouge, British ships drifted up stream to create a distraction and some British ships fired on the French outpost at Sillery, west of Anse au Foulon, to confuse the French. It worked to the extent that the French still expected the main attack to be on Beauport and then to proceed across the St. Charles River to the Plains of Abraham for the eventual battle.¹²⁹ Montcalm, in fact, maintained his presence in Beauport until he was convinced that the Foulon landing was actually taking place. The evidence of the actual landing at Foulon by the British that then prompted Montcalm to proceed to the Plains of Abraham to command the French forces came from two Canadians who escaped and reported to the French that the enemy was on the heights west of the city. The first escapee was not believed but the second escapee reported the same information to a different French officer and was believed.¹³⁰

Provisions and a Lack of Communications

Joseph Michael Cadet, the purveyor general of Canada, was responsible for supplying the French armed forces with provisions.¹³¹ He notified Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, the French officer in charge of the defense of Anse au Foulon and the north shore of the St Lawrence, that he had 19 boats of provisions for Québec and would attempt to float past the British and be at Québec at the

¹²³ MacLedd, pp. 13-132.

¹²⁴ MacLedd, p. 111.

¹²⁵ MacLedd, p. 135.

¹²⁶ Stacey, p. 119.

¹²⁷ Stacey, p. 109.

¹²⁸ MacLedd, p. 35.

¹²⁹ Stacey, p. 131; MacLedd, p. 140.

¹³⁰ Stacey, p. 131; MacLedd, pp. 119-120.

¹³¹ MacLedd, p. 63.

first light (5:30 A.M.) on September 13.¹³² In turn, Bougainville told the outposts about the provisions and warned them that they must challenge any boats but not in a way that would alert the enemy.¹³³ Subsequently the order was canceled because of winds and swift currents. That cancellation was communicated to Bougainville, a Colonel in the troops de terre and a senior aide-de-camp to Montcalm. However, that vital information was never passed on to the sentries on the Foulon cliff ridges.¹³⁴ By way of background, Montcalm had sent Bougainville to the area on August 9th with a powerful force of 2,200 troops, 280 for outposts, 820 for the promontory at Cap Rouge and the Jacques Cartier River. The balance of the force, or 1,200 elite troops, was ready to reinforce threatened positions and fight off British attacks.¹³⁵ Unfortunately those elite troops never made it to the Battle at the Plains of Abraham.

The Landings, The Bluffs, Luck Equals Success

When the first two flat boats carrying British troops to Foulon were passing by the French sentries high above the St Lawrence River, the sentries believed them to be provisions destined for Québec. The flat boats were challenged as ordered by Bougainville and a Scot with sufficient fluency in French merely stated that they were French. The boats were allowed to proceed. Four different sentries allowed the boats to proceed based on the same meager challenge.¹³⁶ The negligence here is that the French had not arranged for any passwords. There is some credence given for the lack of French sentries' concern for security given that they thought the campaign by the British was finished and all the British were doing were useless attacks.¹³⁷

The British strike force consisted of eight flat bottom boats containing 400 light infantry. They carried just their weapons, 70 rounds of ammunition, two days rations and canteens filled with rum and

water.¹³⁸ It is plausible that the tide carried a number of boats farther east of Foulon (now known as Wolfe's Cove). The boats that landed further east were somewhat challenged by a sentry. However, this sentry's caution was allayed when a French speaking officer represented himself as commanding a French detachment to take up the post at Foulon. The sentry was further ordered to call off the other sentries.¹³⁹

Another detachment of British troops landed below Foulon and rather than heading left and up to Foulon road, Colonel Howe (later in his career to be part of the British forces in the American Revolution) made the decision to scale the cliff directly in front of him. The result of that decision was to surprise and rout Vergor's troops from the rear. The British detachment then took the French battery at Samos out. With Vergor's men routed, the remainder of the British forces were able to move up the path along with two six pound cannons and commence the march to the Plains of Abraham.¹⁴⁰ Thus a series of wrong landings, French speaking British troops, and a decision to take a different path were turned into complete successes. Another way of putting it is so much luck does not make a good plan.¹⁴¹

It is argued that the encampment might not have been overrun if there had been proper supervision of the sentries and if the passage of the boats and troops had some level of password protection.¹⁴² It should also be considered that the French leaders did not believe that large scale landing was possible at Foulon and that if there was a landing there would have been sufficient time to bring about reinforcements to repel the landing.¹⁴³ What is fact is that the British navy was probably the only navy in the world in 1759 to possess the ability to conduct an amphibious assault thousands of miles from its home base.¹⁴⁴ It is also clear that Montcalm had been outwitted and out-generaled.¹⁴⁵

¹³² MacLedd, p. 113.

¹³³ MacLedd, pp. 117-118.

¹³⁴ MacLedd, p. 142; Stacey, p. 135.

¹³⁵ MacLedd, p. 136.

¹³⁶ MacLedd, pp. 117-118; Stacey, pp. 135,140.

¹³⁷ MacLedd, pp. 117-118.

¹³⁸ MacLedd, p. 140.

¹³⁹ Stacey, pp. 141-142.

¹⁴⁰ Stacey, pp. 146-147.

¹⁴¹ Stacey, p. 195.

¹⁴² Stacey, p. 147. See Note 137.

¹⁴³ Stacey, p. 151.

¹⁴⁴ Stacey, p. 134.

¹⁴⁵ Stacey, p. 153.

Reinforcements Oh Reinforcements Where Art Thou?

As stated earlier, on August 7th Montcalm sent Bougainville to the north of Québec City. After dispersing numbers of troops to different assignments he still had 1,200 elite troops, quite capable of reinforcing any threatened positions or fighting off British attacks.¹⁴⁶ As of September 5 the troops under Bougainville were camped overnight close to Foulon. On September 6 this powerful force was moved back to its original position and former camp near the St. Charles River. There is no agreement as to who and why Bougainville's command relocated back to its original encampment. It is agreed, however, that the position it occupied near Foulon could have ruined Wolfe's plan to take Québec.¹⁴⁷ The only rationale that would make sense of having Bougainville return to the St. Charles area is that the French still believed the true British attack was going to be at Beauport and that Bougainville would be close enough to Beauport to support the battle.¹⁴⁸ Unfortunately, we know that these elite French forces never took part in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.¹⁴⁹

The Plains of Abraham

The French assembled their troops on the heights of Buttes-a-Neveu, not far from the walls of Québec City.¹⁵⁰ The French spent the morning of the 13th of September preparing for battle as more battalions from Beauport arrived to defend Québec. The French position atop Buttes-a-Neveu was a strong one and would have required the British forces to make a dangerous uphill charge over rough terrain. What that should have meant to Montcalm was that his forces were under no pressure to attack immediately or to attack at all.¹⁵¹

Even though Vaudreuil was no longer Montcalm's superior and was ordered to consult with him on

military matters,¹⁵² he ordered Montcalm to hold the high ground on Buttes-a-Neveu and the British should be attacked simultaneously by the army, the 1,500 troops from the city and with Bougainville's elite force of 1,200 men.¹⁵³ The order, despite the obvious question of the authority to have issued it, made sense. The British would have grown weaker as the French troops to north and south together with the artillery on the Buttes would have increased British casualties.¹⁵⁴

Montcalm made the decision to leave Buttes-a-Neveu and attach the British going downhill over the same rough terrain the British would have had to go up on.¹⁵⁵ It was a fatal decision for the battle of Québec and for the future of France's presence and influence in North America. It was also the last battle Montcalm would ever fight. Montcalm honestly believed that if he gave Wolfe the chance to dig in then the French would never be able to attack with the kind of troops they had. Montcalm continued to harbor mistrust of the Canadian forces. His characterization was to label them as old men or boys not fit to march and fight a war.¹⁵⁶ Montcalm also believed that even he did not attack the British would continue to throw up earth works and bring up cannons to open fire on Québec City, only a half cannon shot away.¹⁵⁷

As soon as the last regular battalion arrived, Montcalm ordered the downhill assault on the British positions. Montcalm did so without consulting Vaudreuil or waiting for the additional 1,500 troops marching with Vaudreuil, probably because they were Canadians. Since Montcalm had no idea when Bougainville's elite might show up, he felt he just could not wait any longer.¹⁵⁸

¹⁴⁶ MacLedd, pp. 136-137.

¹⁴⁷ Stacey, p. 129.

¹⁴⁸ Stacey, pp. 130-131.

¹⁴⁹ Stacey, pp. 132-133.

¹⁵⁰ MacLedd, p. 173.

¹⁵¹ MacLedd, pp. 172-73.

¹⁵² See Note 58.

¹⁵³ MacLedd, p. 169, 172.

¹⁵⁴ MacLedd, p. 173.

¹⁵⁵ MacLedd, p. 176.

¹⁵⁶ MacLedd, p. 213; See also p. 8, discussion of Canadian militia.

¹⁵⁷ MacLedd, p. 176.

¹⁵⁸ MacLedd, p. 177.

Montcalm could not have known that Wolfe had ordered his troops to double load their muskets to make their fire devastating at close range.¹⁵⁹

Shortly after 10:00 a.m. on September 13, 1759, Montcalm ordered his troops forward, not in a slow and careful formation, just forward.¹⁶⁰ Instead of marching into battle with some sense of order, the French forces just ran downhill. They ran through brush, tall wheat, into small ravines, climbed fences. They went through puddles of water and mud; they went through wet grass. They went in different directions from each other and at different speeds. Within moments of the order to move forward Montcalm no longer had an army. The charge downhill had turned into complete chaos – a complete catastrophe.¹⁶¹ The French were no longer an army; they turned and ran.

Québec capitulated three days later.

NOTE:

The later battle of St. Foy was not a relevant post script to the Québec loss on September 13, 1759. The French did not have the resources to sustain a siege against Québec City and return Québec to the sphere of France.¹⁶²

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¹⁵⁹ Stacey, p. 154.

¹⁶⁰ MacLedd, p. 177

¹⁶¹ MacLedd, p. 181.

¹⁶² MacLedd, pp. 276-280.

A Mélange of Current Periodical Selections

Germaine Allard Hoffman #333

L'Estuaire Genealogique, No. 138, Summer 2016

- 1) De la France au Canada, origine de Louis Saint Jorre dit Sergerie et Jeanne Lebuffe
- 2) Notaires District de Kamouraska

Connecticut Ancestry, Whole #274, Vol. 50, #1, August 2016

- 1) DNA Testing: How Can It Help Your Genealogy Research? Nora Galvin, CG

American-Canadian Genealogist, Issue #145, Vol. 42, #1, 2016

- 1) Etoile d'Acadie – Grand-Pre: A Personal Awareness-Building and Life-Changing Experience, Barbara LeBlanc, Ph.D.
- 2) Dupont Duvier, François (Canadian Biography)

Issue #146, Volume 42, Number 2, 2016
Alternative Ascending Lineage from Catherine de Baillon to Charlemagne

Michigan's Habitant Heritage, Vol. 37, #3, July 2016

- 1) Sergent-major Lambert Closse, Guardian of Montreal, by Michael Burke
- 2) Antoine Roy dit Desjardins: a Notorious Ancestor with Many French-Canadian and American Descendants, by Gail Moreau-DesHarnais

Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne-française, Vol. 67, #1, cahier 287, Spring, 2016

Les origines de Romain Destrepagny ancêtre de la famille Trépaner, by Roland-Yves Gagne (continued in Vol. 67, #2, cahier 288, Summer 2016, pp.113-125)

Sent By The King, Vol. XIX, Issue II, Fall 2016

- 1) The Degons: From the Pyrenees to Malone (Degon/Dugas/Ducas)
- 2) Immigration to Quebec by French Province – (Population chart, The Provinces of France Under The Old Regime)

Looking Back On the Society's Anniversaries – Part II

Ivan Robinson, #326 with additions by Maryanne LeGrow, #696

Volumes 9 and 12 of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* contained articles by Ivan Robinson that marked the 20th and 25th anniversaries of the FCGSC. Until his death in 2014, Ivan served as the Society's historian, faithfully recording the organization's activities, events and significant decisions. We reprint here the remainder of his account of the FCGSC's founding and first twenty five years, beginning in 1998, with additions to complete this history to the end of 2016.

In March of 1998, Charles Pelletier resigned from the presidency of the Society because of other obligations. Pelletier had been elected Vice-President in the fall of 1997 when Elizabeth Kelley was elected President. Sadly, Kelley died in August 1997, two days before taking office, and Pelletier had stepped in to fill the position. The following March he was replaced by Vice-President Ivan Robinson, who was elected President in his own right at the General Membership Meeting two months later. At that same meeting, members voted to change Society bylaws so that installation of officers would occur immediately after they are elected, doing away with the time gap that prevented Elizabeth Kelley from taking office as president. Another significant bylaw change put Board meetings on a regular monthly schedule instead of at the call of the President.

The five years from 2001 to 2006 showed many improvements in the Society and in the ways it serves its membership. As always, there were changes in personnel, with new people bringing fresh ideas. But there also was also a worrisome decline in membership and in visits to the library. Reasons were not entirely clear, but many had begun to suspect that the decline might be a result of increasing use of research via the Internet.

Regarding personnel changes, Arthur J. Corbeil, a Hartford School System retired math and computer teacher, was elected in 2001, succeeding Robinson. In turn, Raymond G. Lemaire, a retired manager of engineering operations for Pratt and Whitney, became president in 2003 and was re-elected in 2005. Germaine Allard Long Hoffman, was elected library director in 2001, succeeding Maryanne LeGrow, and Leo W. Roy became treasurer at the same time, taking over the books

from Henry Lanouette. Donald Brown succeeded Leo Roy as treasurer in 2006. Andrea Scannell was elected recording secretary in 2002, following a few short-timers in that position. Paul Labossiere resigned as editor of the *Maple Leaflet* newsletter and was succeeded by Ivan Robinson.

Improvements to the library, occurring under the leadership of Presidents Corbeil and Lemaire and Library Director Hoffman, included upgrading the computers and putting them on a high-speed DSL connection to the Internet. Also important was the rebinding of the well-used Drouin (Male) Marriage Index books and the New England Historical and Genealogical Register collection. Other improvements included acquisition of new copying machines, installation of a window air conditioner to make summertime research more pleasant, putting a microwave oven and small refrigerator in the break room and a new phone at the librarian's desk with a cordless set that can be carried to the bookshelves to answer a caller's question (better than hauling heavy books back to the phone). The latter was a far cry from the old Ma Bell rotary phone that was a heavy black lump on the librarian's desk for many years. Those who didn't use the library were served in other ways. The society put up its own website (www.fcgsc.org) with information maintained by webmaster Joe Terrien. Also, its publications took on a new look and offered more useful material under the editorship of Sherry Chapman (*Connecticut Maple Leaf*) and Ivan Robinson (*Maple Leaflet*).

Other changes during those years concerned the nuts-and-bolts operations of the society. The membership year was changed from a fixed one beginning each September 1st to a "floating" one running from the day a member joined or

renewed, thus giving a full year's membership to all, no matter when they paid. The bylaws were changed to make an outgoing president an automatic member of the Board of Directors, thus preserving the experience that person has gained. And, finally, the "FCGSC Annex," the shelves of duplicate books on loan at the Killingly Historical Center in Danielson, was renamed the "FCGSC Collection" to better reflect its true nature.

A few changes also occurred in financial operations. Individual dues were increased in 2001 to \$25 a year after staying at \$20 for nine years. The society got its own credit card, finally making it easier to pay for books ordered from Canada. Society members had the opportunity to take part in extramural activities, all initiated under the presidency of Arthur Corbeil. These have included the annual Volunteer Appreciation Day cookout, annual used book sale (masterminded by the tireless Germaine Hoffman), group trips to Québec and Nova Scotia (organized by member Barbara "Bobbie" Paradis), and participation in the town of Tolland's yearly Memorial Day parade.

By 2006, there began to be signs that the hobby of genealogy was changing, maybe because of waning interest generally and more likely because of the Internet. Instead of joining our society for advice and other benefits, and visiting our library to do their research, many people were surfing the Web to look for answers, however untrustworthy those may sometimes be. The society's membership had dropped from a high of 713 in mid-2001 to 508 in mid-2006. The number of visitors to the library each year dropped from a high of 2,073 in 2002 to 1,328 in 2005, with visitors during 2006 totaling 983. Evening hours were cut back because of low patronage but otherwise, the society's services remained as extensive as ever and its finances were in good shape.

In January of 2007, new Library computers were installed, with the office computer offering remote access capability permitting some information such as membership data to be updated from off site by authorized persons. On-site use of the library continued to decline. In March 2006, Shirley Morin was appointed membership coordinator,

succeeding Bernadette Meunier who had moved to New Hampshire. The 2006 annual summer trip to Québec allowed members to participate in the 400th anniversary celebrations there.

Through the years, changes in library and Board personnel continued. The *Maple Leaflet's* March issue noted the death, on December 17, 2006, of Charles Pelletier, longtime Board of Directors member, volunteer librarian, research chairman, seminar presenter, and President of the Society 1997-1998. In May of that year, Treasurer Sam Wolkon resigned for health reasons, with President Ray Lemaire temporarily filling in for him, and July brought the signing of a new five-year lease on the Courthouse building. The following month, Robert D. Lessard was appointed Treasurer. In September 28 people attended the annual Volunteer Appreciation Day picnic at the home of Ralph & Maryanne LeGrow. Turnout was so successful that it was decided to hold future picnics in September. New monthly public seminars were scheduled from October through June. At the Fall Membership Meeting in October, Sue Paquette was elected President, with Robert Lessard, appointed Treasurer in August to fill a vacancy, elected to continue in that office.

Society members were again saddened in March 2008, by the death of Marcel Roy, longtime Board member and volunteer librarian, and Society President 1995-97. A memorial fund in his honor received over \$1000 for purchase of books. Monthly public seminars continued to be offered through the spring and summer. In June, tour organizer Barbara "Bobbie" Paradis announced 2009 trips to Trois Rivieres and Becancour in Québec and to Louisburg and Halifax in Nova Scotia for 2010. That July, heavy rains caused a cave-in of the ground around a basement window, leading to leaking in the cellar. Fortunately, there was no damage to Society property, and the Tolland Historical Society, the building's owner, arranged to have cellar walls sealed and the outside area re-graded to solve problem. More people were calling the library with research requests rather than visiting in person, apparently because of high gasoline prices. At the October Membership Meeting, notice was given of a proposal to

raise dues from \$25 to \$30 per year, effective July 1, 2009, to compensate for declining membership and increased operating costs. At the May Membership Meeting, that proposal was defeated in voting by members. Opponents cited the poor economy and fear of losing members, but a year later the increase was approved, the first raise in membership fees since 2001.

Severe weather in January 2009, for the first time in many years, caused cancellation of the Board of Directors' monthly meeting. An electrical upgrade and repairs in the library were completed that month, although the library continued to have trouble with its Internet service. By March, membership stood at 502, and in April, the Board decided not to take part in the 2009 Tolland Memorial Day parade because too few members were willing to march. Also that year, 49 books of parish birth, marriage and death records were purchased on CD-ROM and installed on library computers. The CD format was chosen to make better use of the new library computers and to conserve scarce shelf space. In June, Richard Blais resigned as mailing director, and Albert Marceau took over. A booklet, "Getting Started in French-Canadian Genealogy," by Maryanne LeGrow, was offered for sale. Library Director Germaine Hoffman reported in July that the library was running out of space for repertoires, and Internet connection problems persisted. After ten years as editor of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf*, Sherry Chapman resigned in September. Maryanne LeGrow took over with help from Raymond Cassidy as associate editor. By year's end, data input of 3,000 pages of Boulé Funeral Home records from Fall River, MA was finished and the book ready to print. The following spring, it joined the list of FCGSC publications for sale.

The year 2010 saw continuing internet access problems; removal of the inactive microfilm machine to make space; and several generous book donations. Contributions of books and genealogical materials came from the estate of Professor Delmer E. Deslandes of New Bedford, MA; from Peter Wivagg of Tolland, who donated genealogical materials from his late father's collection; and from the estate of Richard Bourque, longtime Society volunteer and expert on Native American

and Acadian history who passed away in October of 2010.

In the same year, lifetime memberships were discontinued because of low demand and increasing costs, though existing lifetime memberships continue to be honored. The April 2010 membership meeting saw approval of the Society's participation in the 2011 New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Springfield, MA and dues increased to \$30 per year. In September, Joe Terrien resigned as webmaster, with Ray Cassidy filling in temporarily. In November the position was again vacant, and Ivan Robinson agreed to serve as webmaster. At the October meeting Ernest Laliberté was elected President, replacing Susan Paquette who had resigned before completing her term of office. At year's end, Carol Askwith took the job of Research Director and Jeanne DeLarm-Neri won the CML best article contest with "DeLarm: A Single Tear or an Elm Tree."

January 2011 saw membership drop to 477. Long-standing internet problems at the library were finally solved by a switch in internet providers, and FCGSC members staffed a booth at the NEHGS Conference. In April, the Society's new web site came on line, after months of dormancy. Monthly seminars continued through the spring and summer with an average of 15 or more attendees. On October 26, 2012, discovery of flaws in the furnace chimney led the Tolland Historical Society, owner of the library's building, to turn off the heat for fear of carbon monoxide leaks. Without heat, the library was forced to close; the November seminar by Ray Cassidy was cancelled, and in December, for the first time since the Society moved to Tolland in 1986, the Board meeting was held off site, in the Tolland Public Library.

January of 2012 found our library still closed and the Board again meeting in the Tolland Library. The old courthouse building needed a new furnace, and the existing chimney vent was found to be too narrow to meet building code requirements. Access to the 1822 chimney, located in the cellar behind a massive stack of granite blocks, made compliance impossible without invasive and very expensive renovation of the building. In the end, oil heat was ruled out and a modern propane fur-

nace venting directly to the outside was installed. On March 13, after over four months of inactivity, the library reopened. A still unsolved problem was \$1200 of fuel oil which had been delivered to the Society just before the furnace problem surfaced. Efforts to sell the fuel and recover its cost took many weeks and were only partially successful, with the Society sustaining a financial loss.

The Society noted with deep regret the passing on February 1, 2012 of Raymond Lemaire, president from 2003 to 2007 and always a prominent figure in Society affairs. Modernization of our operations continued, with the purchase of a digital projector to facilitate workshops and presentations. In April, William Martel of Tolland was appointed treasurer, ending a long search that began with the resignation of Robert Lessard in October 2010. April membership stood at 438, and declining library use, with loss of volunteers, led to Board discussion of a move to an area of greater French Canadian population such as Bristol, and discontinuing Sunday hours. In the end, neither action was approved. By June the Society's revised web site was getting 150 visitors a week, mostly from the U.S. and Canada but also from former French colonies in Africa. In July the Society extended its lease of the Courthouse building, though lack of shelf and work space continued to be a problem.

The year that started so badly ended on a very positive note. In December 2013, the Society received a substantial bequest from the estate of James W. Dutton of Titusville, FL. A search of our records failed to show that either Mr. Dutton or his wife had ever been members. His connection to the Society remained a mystery until Ivan Robinson spoke with Mrs. Dutton. He learned that she had grown up in Tolland and on a trip home had taken her husband to see the old Courthouse building that she remembered as being the town library in her childhood. A tour of the building by the librarian on duty that day so impressed Mr. Dutton that he remembered the Society in his will.

In January 2014 Ivan Robinson announced his resignation, effective May 1st, from duties as Vice President, editor of the *Maple Leaflet*, web master, publicity director, librarian, and other responsi-

bilities. December-February operating expenses had exceeded income, and February membership totaled 359. June of 2014 brought a bright note with the celebration of an official State of Connecticut day recognizing contributions of citizens of French-Canadian descent. June 24th celebrations began with a Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, followed by raising of the Québec flag over the state capitol in Hartford, and a gathering with French music and foods. Attendance at the event was large, with 500-600 coming by bus for the event. Gov. Dannel Malloy, Sen. Gary LeBeau and Rep. Russel Morin spoke to the crowd. The FCGSC presence included a table with handouts, poster, and pictures of Society events.

In August 2014, Society members were shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Ivan Robinson. His contributions to the organization over the years were immense, his influence equally so, and his presence is still greatly missed.

Membership in January 2015 had begun to show signs of a small but steady increase, standing at 368 members. The year began with a fundraiser to help cover operating costs. Two hundred copies of a cookbook with French-Canadian recipes in both French and English were ordered, with Odette Manning in charge of publicity and sales. 2015 proved to be a year of transitions and changes. William Martel resigned in April and was succeeded in May by Leo Roy who again assumed the duties of Treasurer. Also at that time, Shirley Morin announced that she would be moving away and had to resign as Membership chair. Germaine Hoffman agreed to cover the position temporarily, and Natalie Ryan assumed editorship of the *Maple Leaflet* newsletter. Recognizing that many of to-day's generation have roots that combine French Canadian with other nationalities, in May the Board approved purchase of an Ancestry Library subscription to extend the range of materials available for patron use. Other changes included purchase of new logo items for resale, with the addition of a knit winter stocking hat embroidered with the Society logo; launching a Society Face-book page; and printing a new color brochure to advertise the organization. With mid-year membership hovering about the

365 member mark, the Board voted not to participate in the NERG 2017 conference because of a shortage of personnel to cover the number of volunteer hours we would be required to provide. Bernadette Meunier, long-time member and database expert who is also an officer and volunteer at our sister society in Manchester, NH, installed her much-needed update of our Membership Database.

January of 2016 found the Society's cookbook sales continuing, and total membership at 352. Workshops on using genealogical computer programs had been well received during the previous summer, and plans for new additional programs were underway. Panning for a gala 35th Anniversary event had begun. During the fall of 2015, the Board began to explore sponsoring a spring trip to Québec, but in February the bus trip proposal was tabled for possible future consideration, as there was not enough time to properly plan and advertise one for the spring/early summer of this year. The Board sadly accepted Andrea Scannell's resignation after 14 years as Recording Secretary, welcoming Susan L. Griffiths as her replacement.

In an exploration of cost-cutting measures, an online survey of members' views on electronic delivery of *CML* and *Leaflet* showed that 58% of respondents were interested in receiving the *Leaflet* by email, and 36% would prefer to receive the *CML* electronically. A test of online delivery began with the Winter issues of both publications and will continue if it proves successful. In April, membership bottomed out at 343, then began another gradual rise. By early November, the tally stood at 378, a sign of the recovering economy and hopefully an indication of further additions to our membership roll. The cookbook fundraiser showed a profit of \$1496, thanks to hard work put in by volunteers led by Odette Manning.

In November 2016, a gala Anniversary Celebration marked 35 years since the Society's founding. Past and present members and friends of the Society enjoyed dinner and dancing to traditional French-Canadian music provided by Daniel Boucher et Ses Bons Amis. Attendees included six

of the 150 original Founding Members of the Society who were honored during the proceedings and presented with commemorative certificates. They were members #3, Marcel J. Guerard; #4, Patrick A. Lausier; #7, Laurette Dugas Billig; #23, Helen Morin Maxson; #53, Candide Sedlik; and #115, Richard Poitras.

What the future holds for the Society remains to be seen. With the past year's small but steady rise in membership, operating costs are being met from current income. The addition of a few much-needed new volunteers is also encouraging, though more are always wanted. Library space is still inadequate, and a new building seems as far from becoming a reality as it did when Ivan Robinson wrote his history of the Society ten years ago. The hobby of genealogy has undergone even more changes since then. The internet, for good or ill, is still changing the way research is conducted. Today our Society is working to adapt to the needs of a new generation of family historians, planning ways to make library resources available at a distance and to offer the help of experienced researchers to those just entering the field. Let us, along with Ivan, hope that the year 2031 will see our Society celebrating its golden anniversary of service to people of French-Canadian descent.

Sources

Connecticut Maple Leaf, Vol. 1 -Vol. 16, #3 (1983-2014), especially the president's messages, which provided valuable synopses of events and an insight into some activities, and Ivan Robinson's "The Year in Review" series.

Connecticut Maple Leaflet, issues from 1991 to 2016. Minutes of FCGSC Board of Directors meetings, 1991-2016.

FCGSC files of news releases and news stories through the years, particularly on newly elected presidents and deaths of society members.

Conversations by Ivan Robinson with Henri Carrier before he died, Lorraine Harlow, Patrick Lausier, Lionel "Lee" DeRagon, and other early members.

Surnames of Interest to Our Members

Members who share similar research interests are listed below. **Only those members who have given permission for publication of their street addresses are listed here.** Space limitations prevent us from printing both email and street addresses in this journal, so please also visit our web site, www.fcgsc.org, for contact information for members who have listed an email address for publication.

Alix

#965 Richard Snay
1463 Riverside Dr
N. Grosvenordale CT 06255-0112

Allaire

#1752 Joel Cohan
7 Volpi Rd
Bolton, CT 06043-7563

#1636 Louis Fox

10 Camden St.
South Hadley MA 01075-2319

Alphonse / Alphonsine

#1481 Rita Roy
61 Churchill Dr.
Norwood MA 02062-1644

Archambault

#1426 Estelle Gothberg
83 Cedar Swamp Rd
Tolland CT 06084-3608

Ballard

#634 Lawrence Marion
63 Burnt Hill Rd
Farmington CT 06032-2039

Baril/Barrie

#1873 Corrine Wiggins
9780 Simpson Canyon Rd
Klamath Falls OR 97601-9364

Barre

#53 Candide Sedlik
196 Brace Rd
West Hartford CT 06107-1813

Berthiaume

#54 Diane LeMay
209 Wells Rd.
East Windsor CT 06088-9714

Brulé

#54 Diane LeMay
209 Wells Rd.
East Windsor CT 06088-9714

Caron

#435 Therese Grego
7610 E 21 Pl.
Tulsa OK 74129-2428

Chaput

#762 Helen Bernier
52 Robbie Rd
Tolland CT 06084-2210

Choinier

#965 Richard Snay
1463 Riverside Dr
N. Grosvenordale CT 06255-0112

Corriveau

#760 Marie Langan
3813 West Rose Lane
Phoenix AZ 85019-1729

Courtemanche

#1969 Loretta Przyborowski
600 Lee Ann Dr SW
Smyrna GA 30082-3529

Cyr

#1666 Phyllis Nedorostek
16 Savarese Lane
Burlington CT 06013

#53 Candide Sedlik

196 Brace Rd
West Hartford CT 06107-1813

Daigle

#1666 Phyllis Nedorostek
16 Savarese Lane
Burlington CT 06013

Duval

#54 Diane LeMay
209 Wells Rd.
East Windsor, CT 06088-9714

Gendreau

#1666 Phyllis Nedorostek
16 Savarese Lane
Burlington CT 06013

Gervais/Jarvis

#54 Diane LeMay
209 Wells Rd.
East Windsor, CT 06088-9714

Girard

#1873 Corrine Wiggins
9780 Simpson Canyon Rd
Klamath Falls OR 97601-9364

Giroux

#685 Estelle Sawtelle
210 Green Manor Terrace
Windsor Locks CT 06096-2714

Goodhue

#1812 Gary Potter
370 Lake Ave.
Bristol CT 06010-7328

Guilmitt / Guilmitte / Gullmett

#885 Jeanne Miller
34 Main St PO Box 233
Versailles CT 06383-0233

Guimond

#1969 Loretta Przyborowski
600 Lee Ann Dr SW
Smyrna GA 30082-3529

Henri (e)

#2097 Roger & Phyllis Lapierre
46 Lakeview Dr.
Coventry CT 06238-2823

LaPointe

#435 Therese Grego
7610 E 21 Pl.
Tulsa OK 74129-2428

Larose

#1969 Loretta Przyborowski
600 Lee Ann Dr SW
Smyrna GA 30082-3529

Larouche

#2418 Cecile Miller
11 Barnsbee Lane
Coventry CT 06238

Lauretta

#1969 Lauretta Przyborowski
600 Lee Ann Dr SW
Smyrna GA 30082-3529

Lavallee / Lavallie

#2293 Conrad Sansoucie
116 Ball Farm Rd
Oakville CT 06779

#435 Therese Grego

7610 E 21 Pl.
Tulsa OK 74129-2428

Leblanc

#760 Marie Langan
3813 West Rose Lane
Phoenix AZ 85019-1729

Lebrun

#319 Mildred Roberts
71603 180th St
Albert Lea MN 56007-5461

LeMay

#54 Diane LeMay
209 Wells Rd.
East Windsor, CT 06088-9714

Monty

#1358 Irene Schott
15 Tunnell Hill Court, Lot 14
Lisbon CT 06351-3239

Moquin

#319 Mildred Roberts
71603 180th St
Albert Lea MN 56007-5461

Morin

#1873 Corrine Wiggins
9780 Simpson Canyon Rd
Klamath Falls OR 97601-9364

Nosek

#762 Helen Bernier
52 Robbie Rd
Tolland CT 06084-2210

Oliver/Olivier

#1862 Janice Livermore
PO Box 222652
Chantilly VA 20153-2652

Paquet

#1358 Irene Schott
15 Tunnell Hill Court, Lot 14
Lisbon CT 06351-3239

Petit

#1812 Gary Potter
370 Lake Ave.
Bristol CT 06010-7328

Piette

#1481 Rita Roy
61 Churchill Dr.
Norwood MA 02062-1644

Provost

#54 Diane LeMay
209 Wells Rd.
East Windsor, CT 06088-9714

Rousseau

#54 Diane LeMay
209 Wells Rd.
East Windsor, CT 06088-9714

Sabourin

#965 Richard Snay
1463 Riverside Dr
N. Grosvenordale CT 06255-0112

Sanasac

1426 Estelle Gothberg
83 Cedar Swamp Rd
Tolland CT 06084-3608

Sansoucie

#2293 Conrad Sansoucie
116 Ball Farm Rd
Oakville CT 06779

Sarazin

#1940 David Pease
889 Inman Rd
Niskayuna NY 12309

Senet / Snay

#965 Richard Snay
1463 Riverside Dr
N. Grosvenordale CT 06255-0112

Sevigny

#1969 Lauretta Przyborowski
600 Lee Ann Dr SW
Smyrna GA 30082-3529

Smith

#1812 Gary Potter
370 Lake Ave.
Bristol CT 06010-7328

St. Pierre

#2016 Joseph Duval
125 Sawmill Brook Ln
Mansfield Center CT 06250-1685

St. Amand

#1666 Phyllis Nedorostek
16 Savarese Lane
Burlington CT 06013

Tessier

#1358 Irene Schott
15 Tunnell Hill Court, Lot 14
Lisbon CT 06351-3239

Tetreaut

#1358 Irene Schott
15 Tunnell Hill Court, Lot 14
Lisbon CT 06351-3239

Thomas

#480 Joan Wood
403 W Center St Apt
305Manchester CT 06040-4723

Throwe

#247 Deborah Pirie
156 Gager Rd
Bozrah CT 06334-1316

Thuot

#760 Marie Langan
3813 West Rose Lane Phoenix
AZ 85019-1729

Towner

#576 Bernard Doray
734 AV Pratt
Outremont PQ H2V 2T6

Tremblay

#2418 Cecile Miller
11 Barnsbee Lane
Coventry CT 06238

#247 Deborah Pirie
156 Gager Rd
Bozrah CT 06334-1316

Valley

#1812 Gary Potter
370 Lake Ave.
Bristol CT 06010-7328

Valois

#435 Therese Grego
7610 E 21 Pl.
Tulsa OK 74129-2428

Vegiard

#2097 Roger & Phyllis Lapierre
46 Lakeview Dr.
Coventry CT 06238-2823

Viau

#2139 Louise & Richard Baker
17 Hyvue Dr
Newtown CT 06470-170

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B = Baptisms, M = Marriages, S = Burials, A = Annotations, R = Census

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Beauce, Dorchester, Frontenac			
• <i>Recueil de Genealogies des comtes de Beauce, Dorchester & Frontenac</i> (M) 1625-1946. Paperback.			Covers worn, all pages intact and in good condition
Vol. III: Champion-Dubois	#61	\$15.00 each	
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Vol. V: Garneau – Jacques			
Vol. IX: Pérusse – Routhier			
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Vol. XI: Thibodeau- Zarem			
Beauharnois			
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• Lavaltrie (M) 1732-1980. Paper, 218 p.	#8	\$40.00	Good
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• Sutton Township Quebec (BMS) Births Marriages & Burials in Protestant Civil Registers) 1850-1899. Comb binding, 316 p.	#71	\$40.00	Good
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NOVA SCOTIA

- Punch, T. *Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia* (3rd ed.) Paper, 135p. #109 \$10.00

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- Godbout, A. *Origines des familles Canadiennes-Française*: 3 Vol, hardbound #46,47 & 48 \$80.00 Good
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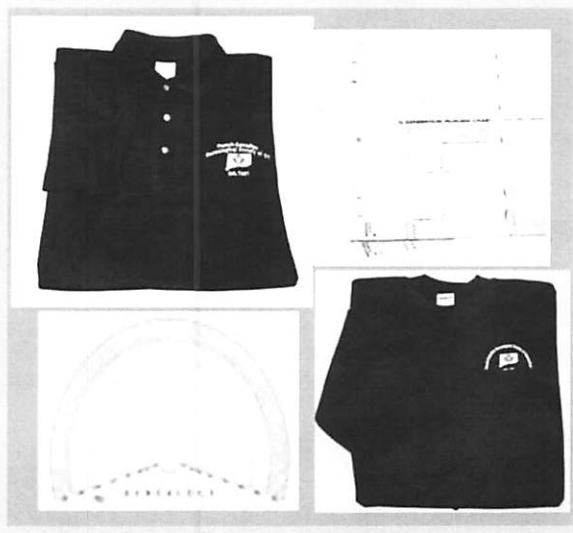
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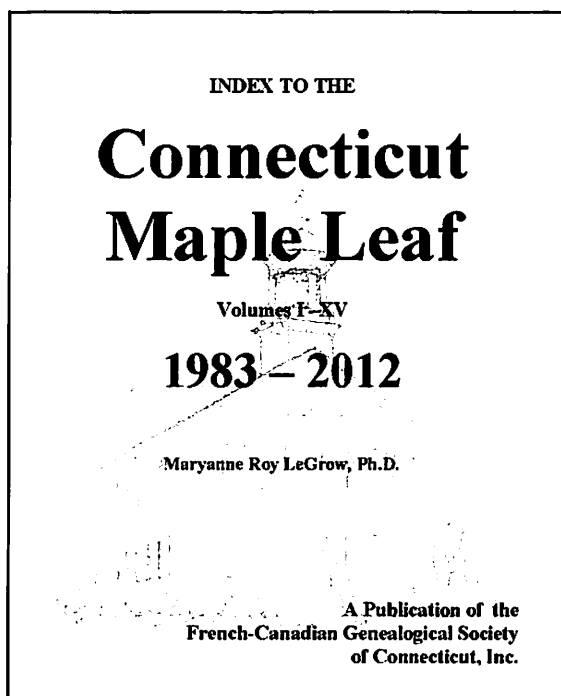
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