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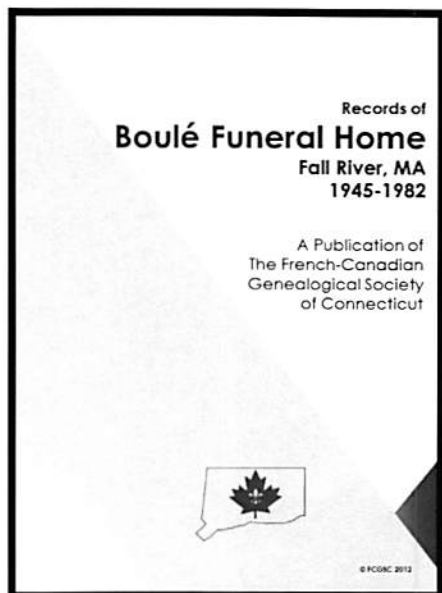
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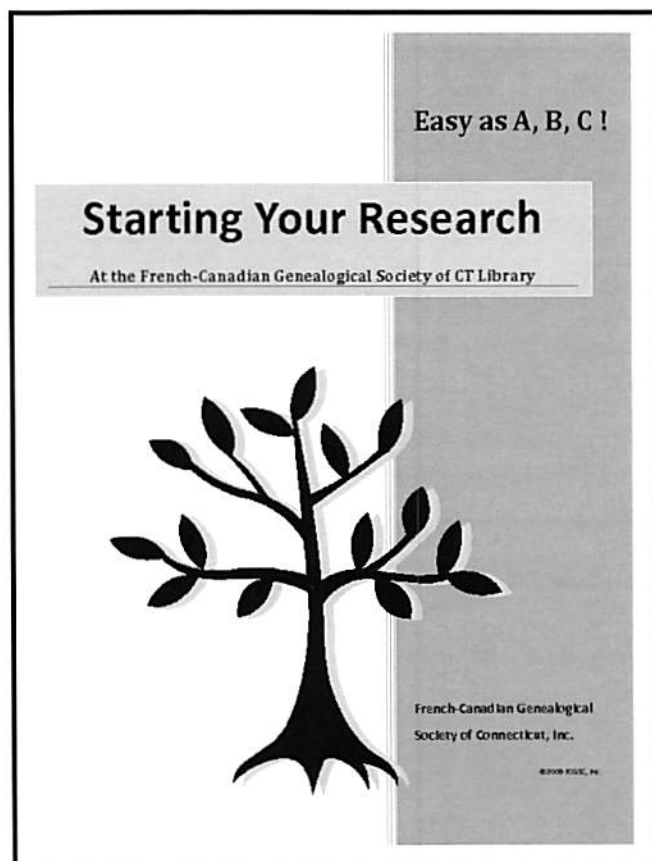
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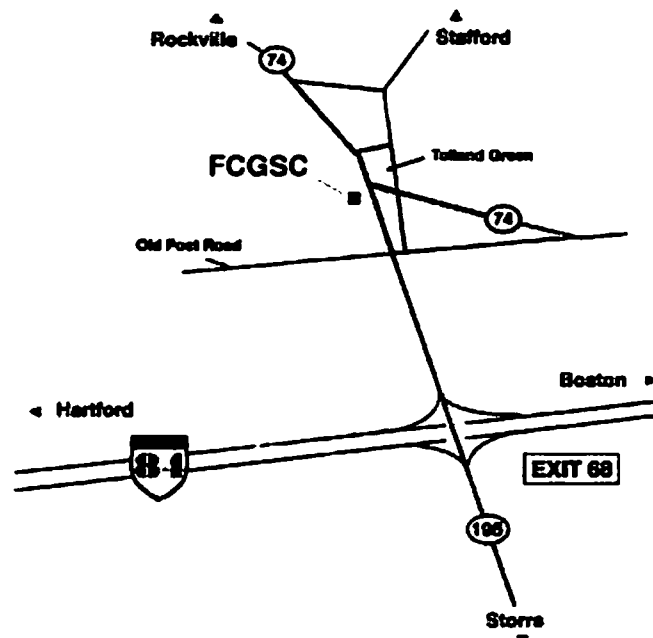
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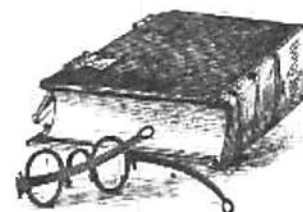
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- Length should be dictated by the topic and its scope. Very long articles may have to be published in two or more parts.

Deadlines effective January 1, 2018

- Winter issue: October 1
- Summer issue: April 1

Editor's Niche

Maryanne LeGrow, #696



Dear Cousins,

Truth – or reality, if you will – is a kaleidoscope. The historical record is one thing, but individuals' lived experiences may be something slightly or even entirely different. Three people who view an event may each describe it in such dissimilar ways that we wonder if they are all talking about the same thing. What we see depends on many very different variables. If you are writing a family history that includes an attempt to record both the historic events and personal experiences of your ancestors' lives, at times it can feel as though you are chasing reality with butterfly net.

For example, I am one of eight siblings who, at the time of our father's death, ranged in age from six to nineteen years old. Our individual memories of that difficult period include a wide range of emotions and incidents, and none of us remembers it in exactly the same way. Our lived experiences, even within our close family group, were very different.

If you, like me, are of the Boomer generation, you likely grew up hearing your parents' stories about the Depression. I knew that my father and grandfather, both trained as tool and die makers, looked for work painting houses to keep the family going. And my maternal grandmother, widowed with six children at the height of the Depression, went out at midnight to scrub office floors and clean spittoons, walking dark city streets on many a cold night to save the five cent trolley fare. So it was with a feeling of unreality that I once heard a classmate's mother describe – with a clear sense of deprivation – how she and her sisters, during the Depression, were the only ones among their group of friends who didn't have a car to take with them to college. This wide panorama of experiences,

perceptions, and personal memories constitutes the bewildering kaleidoscope we think of as reality.

And if it sometimes feels as though your butterfly net has gaping holes, you are not alone. No one family historian can capture the full range of what happened and what it felt like for even one individual during the course of a single day. As surely as it takes a village to raise a child, we need that same village to create a comprehensive record of our ancestors' lives and experiences. The intent of this periodical is to serve both as a gateway to historical and "how-to" information for family researchers and as a repository of those individual family stories and events that are pieces of the grand kaleidoscope of the French-Canadian experience in Canada and the United States.

Over the past four decades, our Connecticut Maple Leaf magazine has published many such family narratives, but we know that they are only the tip of a very big iceberg. To encourage members to preserve family anecdotes that reflect the everyday reality of their ancestors' lives, we have initiated Project Cousin Connect. Starting in this issue is "Cousin Connect" a column of family stories that we will incorporate into an index linked to family surnames from past issues of the Connecticut Maple Leaf. What about your own family? Do you have tales of family struggles, comic incidents, achievements or events that you would like to preserve? Would you be willing to archive your stories with the FCGSC? We can work with you by phone, email or Zoom meeting to help you get them down on paper. For more information or to request help, you can contact me at info@fcgsc.org with Cousin Connect in the subject line.

Stay safe and keep writing,

Maryanne

Queries, articles or letters to the editor may be sent by e-mail to: info@fcgsc.org
or to Maryanne LeGrow, CML Editor
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of the COVID-19 Emergency**

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As this journal goes to print, we remain uncertain about when conditions will allow us to reopen our library. We hope that sometime in late spring or summer of 2021 we may be able to do so safely. That announcement will be made on our web site at www.fcgsc.org and on the library's telephone message (860-872-2597) when we are sure of a reopening date. Please check our web site frequently for updates and feel free to email us at info@fcgsc.org with any questions.

In the event that we are unable to meet in person, the **Spring, 2021 General Membership Meeting** will take place on **Saturday, April 24th**, via Zoom conference. Please watch your email, our web site, and the March issue of our *Maple Leaflet* newsletter for further information.

Also, be sure to look for announcements in these pages about **Free Ancestry.com** access and our new **"Ask A Librarian"** service during the current COVID-19 emergency.

The continued generosity and support that our members have shown during this difficult time is greatly appreciated. We hope that you and your family will remain safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you in person again soon.

Edouard Davignon / Edward Devaneau and Family: Immigrants to New York, Connecticut & Beyond

Paul R. Keroack, #157

Edouard Davignon was born in St-Mathias, Quebec in 1821, a son of Joseph Davignon dit Beaugard and Angelique Payan dite St. Onge. He was married at St-Athanase-de-Bleury on 12 February 1844 to Clemence Lareau of that parish. Their first child, Edouard, was baptized the 19th of September that year at St-Jean Evangeliste across the Richelieu River and was buried three days later at St-Athanase. Son Joseph was baptized on 21 August 1845, also at St-Jean. Daughter Rosalie was born and baptized 30 May 1847 at St-Athanase.¹

After the birth of Rosalie in 1847, the Davignons relocated to the Eastern Township of Stanbridge, where Salime, born in 1849, Marie Virginie in 1851, and Alexis at the end of 1853, were all baptized at the parish of Notre-Dame. In the 1851 Quebec census, their surname was spelled Deveneau.²

Late in 1854, the family moved to the U.S. town of West Seneca, New York, adjacent to the thriving city of Buffalo where "... in 1855 almost two-thirds of the city's population was foreign-born immigrants."³ The state census of that year lists "Edward Deveneu" as a farmer in West Seneca with a wife and four children.⁴

Nelson, baptized as Narcisse, born in May 1856, and (Marie) Phoebe in August 1858, were baptized at St. Peter's French Roman Catholic church in Buffalo, New York. Not found in the 1860 U.S. census, the family is listed in Stanbridge in the 1861 Quebec census, which was enumerated in January. Salime and Alexis were not among the children, presumably having died. Edouard worked as a farm laborer, perhaps for Joseph Lareau, a farmer in the next household, who was probably his brother-in-law.⁵

Louis Bruno Davignon was baptized in Stanbridge on 16 July 1861, and Marie Delphine on 05 June 1863. The family returned to New York about 1865, Edward being listed in the 1867 and 1869 Buffalo city directories. He worked as a laborer, living at several addresses in the next few years. Buffalo directory entries from 1861 on, and parish records from 1855-1866, show several Lareau / Larreau families. It may be that Edward was influenced in his moves by his in-laws.⁶

Son Guillaume Noel was born 26 November 1865 but lived less than one year. Mary Louise Josephine was born 21 April 1867. Delphine died at the end of 1867, aged four years. Not long after their last child, Victoire Lille, was born in August

¹ Quebec Catholic Parish Registers, 1821, 27 April, B [not numbered], image 297/659. PRDH-IGD.com, Family #228072. St-Jean l'Evangeliste, B166, Edouard, image 117/783. St-Athanase, S67, Edouard, image 675/798. St-Jean l'Evangeliste, B137, Joseph, (born 20 Aug) image 148/783. St-Athanase, B127, Rosalie, image 80/735.

² Notre-Dame de Stanbridge, 1849, B142, image 185/758; 1851, B104, (b. 29 Dec) image 229/758; 1853, B110 (b. 2 Dec) image 258/758. Ancestry.com 1851 Census of Canada East &c, Missisquoi, Stanbridge, ED 2, p. 145. Enumerated Jan. 1852.

³ Goldman, Mark, *High Hopes: The Rise and Decline of Buffalo, New York*, Albany, N.Y., State Univ. of New York, Press, 1983, p. 72-74, citation [76], en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo,_New_York#CITEREFGoldman1983

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo,_New_York. Ancestry.com. 1855 New York State Census, Erie Co., West

Seneca, p. 9. The 9 June census reported the family had resided in New York for eight months.

⁵ Familysearch.org. New York Births and Christenings, 1640-1962; Buffalo, St-Pierre, Book A, 1850-1857, not on film. Index cites p. 154 for Narcissam, 07 June 1856; birth date of 17 May from an obituary. St-Pierre, Book 1 (1858-1894), p. 27, 17 October 1858, Marie Phebe (b. 10 October). 1861 Census of Canada, Missisquoi, Stanbridge, p. 253.

⁶ Notre Dame de Stanbridge, 1861, B92 (b. 14 July) image 409/758; 1863, B68 Marie Delphine, (born 02 June), image 460/758. The Deveneaus are not found in the 1865 NY census. Ancestry.com, City Directories of the United States, 1822-1995; Buffalo directories begin with the 1861 edition.

1869, they relocated to Plainfield, Connecticut and were enumerated there in the 1870 census.⁷

One Davignon sibling remained in Buffalo. Eldest daughter Rosalie had married Cuban-born immigrant Francisco Gonzales on 04 June 1867. Frank, as he was known, was a veteran, having served in New York's 12th Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War. In the 1870 Buffalo census, Frank and Rosalie were parents of two children. Frank's place of birth, listed as "Spain," may simply reflect the fact that Cuba was then a territory of that nation.⁸

Edward may have chosen to live in Plainfield, Connecticut, because of connections to Maurice Menard who moved there about 1867 with his large family. In 1874 Frank X., son of "Morris Maynard," married Edward's daughter Virginia.⁹ Frank became successful in the bakery trade, later also becoming a prosperous dairy farmer. Joseph Davignon, known as Joseph P., worked as a clerk before moving to Webster, Massachusetts, where in 1873 he married a young widow, Osilda Contara. He spent much of his career as a sewing machine salesman throughout Southern New England.¹⁰

⁷ Buffalo, St-Pierre, Book 1, p. 176, B89, 25 December; p. 181, S11, 17 April 1866, Joseph Noel, 5 mos., 15 dys; p. 203, B20, 21 April 1867, Maria Ludovica Josephina, (born 20 April); p. 217, S20, 23 December 1867, Delphine, 4 years. I found no baptismal record at St-Pierre for Victoire Lille. In the 30 June, 1870 U.S. Census, Plainfield CT, p. 104, she was noted as born in NY the previous August.

⁸ Buffalo, St-Pierre, Book 1, p. 206, M12. https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/cavalry/12thCavCW_Roster.pdf. (scan of original roster). Also, web.cortland.edu/woosterk/roster_G.html: Gonsales, Francisco, 21, enl. 19 December 1863, NYC. Private, 3 yr. M.O. 19 July 1865, Raleigh NC. 1870 Census, Buffalo NY, Ward 1, p. 243.

⁹ In the Marieville 03 November 1846 marriage (M40) of Maurice Menard to Onesime Menard, Edouard's brother Amable, along with two other men, signed the register as "oncles de l'epouse." Maurice and three of his sons are the subjects of entries in the *Commemorative Biographical Record of Tolland and Windham counties, Connecticut*, J.H. Beers, 1903, vol. 2, www.familysearch.org/library/books. Also, Lena, daughter of Frank X.'s brother Joseph H. later married A. Noel Lareau, a son of Jenny Davig-non's brother Salime.

¹⁰ Plainfield marriage records, 1873-1879, 6 September 1874, p. 362. MA Marriage Records, 1840-1915,

Nelson joined Joseph in Webster, where a young naturopathic physician, George A. Adams, influenced him to convert to Protestantism. Nelson left for Montreal, completing his ministry studies in 1879. About 1877, Edward's younger brother Amable, or Amos, and his wife Cesarie Menard / Maynard had also settled in Plainfield, where he, like most residents, worked in the large cotton mill in Wauregan.¹¹

Among these workers was Edward's youngest son Louis, who in 1885 married Josephine Kerouack, one of several siblings who had recently emigrated from Stanbridge. Edward's three youngest daughters, Phoebe, Louise and Victoire Lille, remained with their parents, working in the Wauregan Mills.¹²

Nelson's mission ministry in the U.S. took him to Illinois in the early 1880s where he organized and pastored French-speaking Methodist churches in the Kankakee area. He traveled by railroad to Connecticut where he visited his family in Plainfield and arranged for some of his siblings to visit the Midwest. Although Nelson persuaded his brother Louis and his father to convert to Methodism, the rest of the family remained Catholic. They did not seem to let religious differences divide them. Nelson married fellow Illinois Protestant Lydia A. Savoie on 25 June 1886.¹³

Webster, 23 February 1873, [no p.#], performed by Father A.A. Landry. Osilda's family name was Dozie / Dosie.

¹¹ Webster and Southbridge City Directory, 1875-6 lists Dr. George A. Adams. Nelson was not included but he may have by then moved to Oxford MA. An 1880 obituary noted, "Dr. Adams was a man of generous and pleasing personality ... he was a member and constant attendant at the Congregational Church ..." www.oldewebster.com/history/doctorsofDudley, Webster.htm.

¹² Plainfield marriage records, v. 6, 1879-1891, 15 November 1885, p. 154. 1880 U.S. Census, Plainfield CT, ED 130, p. 440D. The Edward Deveneau family lived adjacent to the Morris Maynard family. The latter's two youngest children were noted as born in CT.

¹³ Excerpts from N.W. Deveneau's diary, 1882-1886 were published in *Connecticut Maple Leaf*, v. 7, no. 2, Winter 1995, p. 144-148. Biographical details from an obituary article in the [Journal and Yearbook ...] *Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, [no page number], 1928.

About 1885, Edward, Clemence and their single daughters moved to Bedford, Quebec, a larger town not far from Stanbridge. There, Victoire Lille - "Lillie" - married Emery Depelteau in October 1887. Phoebe died before the end of that year. Edward died in 1897 and was buried in the Bedford Protestant Cemetery. Louise married in 1899 Leon McGrath from New Brunswick. They later lived in Worcester and Springfield, MA. Clemence Lareau Deveneau died in 1904 and was buried from the Catholic church of St. Damien, Bedford.¹⁴

In the U.S., Frank and Rosalie Gonzales left Buffalo, first to Cleveland and then Chicago. Frank was a boilermaker, later a cigar maker, perhaps associated with other Gonzales men listed in the cigar trade. Although his family remained in Chicago, Frank was hospitalized in Cleveland and died there on 26 January 1897.¹⁵

Louis and Josephine moved to Norwich, CT, in 1892 where he worked as a trolley motorman. They had seven children, though all except one died in infancy or early childhood. Louis died 03 November 1903 at age 42, three years after a workplace accident left him paralyzed. His

¹⁴ St-Damien, Bedford, 1887, M8 10 October. Edward who was present was noted as "bourgeois," rather than "de cette paroisse," presumably due to not being a Catholic. Phoebe: St-Damien, Bedford, 1887, S19, 06 December (died 4 December), age 29. Drouin Collection, Methodist Church, Bedford, 1897, burial 09 November, Bedford [Protestant] Cemetery; (d. 7 Nov) image 14/20. St-Damien, Bedford, 1899, M2, 09 October. Leon was a house painter, born in Tracadie, son of Joseph McGrath and Angele Brideau "de Boston."

St-Damien, Bedford, 1904, S20, Clemence Lareau, 29 December, (d. 27 December) image 18/20.

¹⁵ 1900 U.S. Census, Chicago IL, ED 745, p. 7A.

Of the six living of their eight children, the older three at home were born in New York and the younger two in Cleveland, OH. The eldest were employed in white-collar jobs. U.S. Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934: Frank Gonzales, application for an invalid pension, Ohio, 13 June 1892.

Familysearch.org, Ohio County Death Records, 1840-2001, Cuyahoga Co., v. 9-10, 1894-1897, p. 373, age 53; buried Woodland Cemetery.

obituary described him as "for eleven years a popular motorman on the local street railway ..."¹⁶

The emigration process of the Davignon / Deveneau family members took a winding path, with frequent moves to, from, and within the United States, following their desires and ambitions, and aided by the vast 19th century growth in rail transportation.



Nelson W. Deveneau & sister Lille

¹⁶ Ctstatelibrary.org/databases, CT Death Records Index, 1897-1969. Funeral of Louis B. Davignon, *Norwich Bulletin*, 06 November 1903. His only surviving adult son, Saul S. Davignon (1896-1949), led an unusual life, described in an article, "Count D'Avignon, a Connecticut Original," by this author, in *Connecticut Maple Leaf*, v. 12, #4, Winter 2006-2007, p. 21-25.

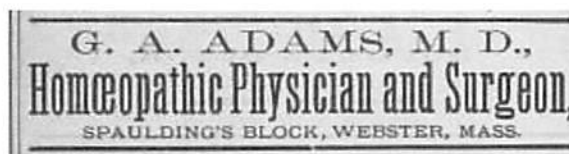
Davignon Family Photographs



Rosalie Davignon Gonzales



Virginie Davignon Maynard



Webster & Southbridge City Directory, 1875-6



From left: Dorilla Depelteau, her mother Victoire Lille, Clemence Davignon, Henri Depelteau, Rosalie Gonzales, Virginie Maynard, her daughter Corinne. – photograph taken ca. 1904, Bedford, Québec

All family photographs courtesy of John A. Deveneau, 1990, with permission to publish

[For more about this family see "Some Cantara Family Descendants" on page 169]

We gratefully recognize our
**Sustaining & Patron Level
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In addition to Individual, Family, and Student membership levels, we offer Patron (\$100/year) and Sustaining (\$150/year) Level memberships. These two levels recognize individuals whose financial sponsorship provides significant support to our Society and the programs that promote our mission.

Benefits of Patron and Sustaining memberships include a 10% discount on logo merchandise and FCGSC sponsored day trips, name listing in the *CML*, invitations to the yearly Volunteer Picnic and occasional social events, and two hours (Patron), or four hours (Sustaining) of free staff genealogical research each membership year. Current members can change their membership level by contacting the FCGSC or indicating the change on their renewal card.

What's A Wicki?

If you are familiar with some of the many Wikis on line, then you know how useful they often can be. Wicki is a Hawaiian word that means “quick,” and as used for online materials it means a web page or site that is developed through the collaborative editing of its content and structure by users. Anyone who can access the site can add to or edit it, usually under the watchful eyes of site editors or mentors who ensure that edits are legitimate improvements to the body of knowledge it contains. The wiki that is familiar to most people is Wikipedia, a comprehensive online accumulation of content about nearly anything you can imagine. Because this content is edited by users, it can sometimes be inaccurate, though in the case of Wikipedia, readers can generally trust volunteer monitors to ensure that what is posted is verifiable, free of copyright violations, and adheres to the Wikipedia standards regarding content such as personal opinions and entries about living people.

The great value of this type of knowledge aggregation site is that it is constantly being built and refined by the very people who use it; information is often added almost as soon as it is developed or discovered, so something that might take weeks, months, or years to appear in standard print sources can be uploaded within days to a wiki. Content is current, and knowledge becomes available as rapidly as people are aware of a need for it. Genealogy wikis, for instance, are a great resource for keeping up to date on fast-moving knowledge developments in the field of DNA research as it applies to tracing family lines.

Of course nothing comes without a warning these days, and genealogy wikis are no exception. Because anyone can supply information, it's wise to always investigate the origins of the family data that you may find on line. Check the sources themselves to be sure that their

information has been accurately transcribed, and never rely on any unsourced content.

Wikis are good places to look for useful genealogical web sites and for research hints, links to free online databases, and helpful research tools. Probably the most well-known site for good background information on how to do research in the United States, especially for beginners in the field, is the FamilySearch wiki at familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Genealogy .

Cyndi's List is another well-known wiki with excellent links for personal genealogy research: cyndislist.com/wikis/personal-research-wikis/

A lesser known but equally useful wiki is the Ancestry.com Family History Wiki (free) at wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

One especially good source for helpful background information on French genealogy research is the French-language Geneawicki at fr.geneawiki.com/index.php/Accueil . This site is in French, but there's no need to panic if you don't read the language: just right click and go to Google's "Translate to English." The "Situations particulières" page offers information on adoptions, military, Protestant genealogy, noble families, naturalizations and research in Paris, among other helpful links. The "Sources généalogiques" page offers links to wiki pages on national, departmental, and municipal archives as well as military, diplomatic and other archival sources.

The following list of acronyms and abbreviations that you might find in French (as distinct from French-Canadian) genealogical research is taken from the Geneawicki page at fr.geneawiki.com/index.php/Symboles_de_g%C3%A9n%C3%A9alogie .

Acronyms in genealogy

Sign	Meaning	Sign	Meaning	Sign	Meaning
°	Birth	(°)	Illegitimate birth	° +	Stillborn
b	Baptism	ö	Born and baptized	fa or fe	girl
fs	Son	P	Dad	M	Mother
pnd1	Unnamed father	not	Unknown parents	NN	Unnamed child
NOT	natural child	adpt	adopted child	recognize	recognition
t	Witness	pa or p	Godfather	ma or m	Godmother
Px or PX	Promise of marriage	(x)	Engagement		
x	Wedding	x 2 / x3	Remarriage		
xR	religious marriage	xC	civil marriage	xx	Second marriage
cm	Wedding contract	sc	without contract	x =	Married
epx	husband	epse	wife	marr	spouse
her	Without alliance	-x-	Illegitimate union) (Divorced
x (Marriage dissolved by the Church	Vf	Widower	Vve	Widow
+	Death	(+)	Burial	inc.	Incinerated
obs.	Death	obs.	Funeral	++ or ††	Death on the field of honor
ttt or test	Will	N ° or not.	Notary	PD:	Sharing and division
! 1820 or fl.1820	Cited in 1820	/ 1820	Before 1820	1820 /	After 1820
it	Around (circa)	y	Same place as previous act	?	Doubtful
dcp	From this parish	L	Location	~	Towards
HF	Honorable woman	HH	Honorable man	HPs	Honorable people
rel. cat.	Catholic religion	rel. prof.	Protestant religion	rel. mus.	Muslim religion
rel. isr.	Israelite religion	rel. ort.	Orthodox religion	RPR	So-called reformed religion

Month	Abbreviation
January	J ^{er}
February	F ^{er}
July	J ^{and}
September	7 th
October	8 th
November	9bre
December	10bre or Xbre

From fr.geneawiki.com/index.php/Symboles_de_g%C3%A9n%C3%A9alogie

**NEW
FEATURE !**

Cousin Connect

In this issue we begin a new column, **Cousin Connect**. In it we plan to publish short anecdotes and family stories that reflect the many dimensions of our ancestors' lives. Our ongoing Project Cousin Connect will gather these and similar previously published pieces from past issues of the CML into a database of stories, searchable by surname, that will be made available on our web site.

What about your own family? Do you have brief tales of family struggles, comic incidents, achievements or events that you would like to preserve? Would you be willing to archive your stories with the FCGSC for publication on line? We can work with you by phone, email or Zoom meeting to help you get them down on paper. For more information or to request help, you can contact Maryanne LeGrow

at info@logic.org, with Cousin Connect in the subject line

Whalen/Lamirande

My Mother, maiden name Whalen, used to walk around the House and would sometimes sing that song [Bing Crosby's "Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder?"], along with other Irish tunes. She was one of five girls and three boys of Irish parents. Traced back to early 1700's Waterford, Ireland. As was my Father's Mother and both her parents being Irish. They also are traced back to the early 1700's in Sligo, Ireland. I'm ¾ Irish and have over a dozen different Irish Ancestral Surnames in my Family line. We seemed to have more fun when all the Irish families got together. Especially on Saint Patrick's Day and also on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade weekend. I was born in Holyoke, Mass, as were my six siblings, both parents and their parents. The Saint Patrick's Day Parade week-end is a big event in Holyoke. Our families attended it for as long as I can remember, even for many years while living in Connecticut. My Cousin Edward Sullivan was one of the organizers of the Parade for many years. One year I even had a cousin who was a Parade Colleen.

In 1655 Colonists had claimed lands in the area and early accounts mention John Riley as the first permanent settler of Holyoke. The growth of the Irish community then began to increase. Holyoke, according to the first map, was identified as "Ireland, 3rd Parish of Springfield." Senator John F. Kennedy rode in the Parade and received the Inaugural Parade Award as a Distinguished American of Irish Descent in 1958. The Shea

brothers, Rev. Michael and John, of Holyoke, both graduated from Notre Dame University. They set out to provide their beloved alma mater with a fight song that would rival every Collage University. They both wrote and published the Notre Dame Victory March which was performed for the first time in 1908, on an organ in the Second Congregational Church in Holyoke, Mass.
Ed Lamirande, #446, September 2020

Conway/Roy

My maternal grandmother, Mary Magdalen Conway Morris, was, as she would not hesitate to tell you, as Irish as Paddy's pig. A child of the 19th century, she lulled her grandchildren to sleep with songs of the gay nineties. One particular song, "Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder?" [published in 1898, later recorded by Bing Crosby], never failed to open the floodgates to family storytelling and reminiscing. The song was a real one, though I never heard it sung, but mention of it in gatherings of Grandmom's extensive Irish clan triggered the "Do you remember" button. That was when it was a real advantage to a child to be a quiet mouse in the corner, neither seen nor heard, as aunts, uncles, cousins and family friends recalled escapades of their younger days. They were matched in sheer bravado and hilarity only by the storytelling sessions of my paternal French Canadian relatives. How I wish I had written down a few of those sometimes funny, sometimes sad, sometimes hair-raising stories that I listened to as a girl.

Maryanne Roy LeGrow, #696, August, 2020

NEW! Ask A Librarian

Our library facility remains closed out of concern for the safety of our patrons and volunteers. During this difficult time we are also very much concerned with maintaining the value of your membership in this Society. While our building is closed to members, we are working to offer you as much research assistance as can be accomplished from a distance. These efforts include:

- Offering free access to Ancestry.com to current members via the Members Only page on our web site at www.fcgsc.org
- Continuing to print and post on line our publications, the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* and the *Maple Leaflet* newsletter, on their normal schedules.
- Conducting the October, 2020 and May, 2021 General Membership meetings via Zoom conference
- Continuing to provide our normal paid services such as lineage research; Verification Certificates; sales of charts, maps, and FCGSC logo items (T-shirts, tote bags, lapel pins, etc.); and reproduction of copies of articles from back issues of genealogical and historical publications such as the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* (available in paper or pdf format)
- Posting our *Geni for Kids* booklet in the Members page on our web site. Great way for adults to share a learning activity with children, either online or in person. Designed for ages 8-12.

To these services we are pleased to be able to add a brand new offering to current members, our “Ask A Librarian” service. Beginning December 15th, 2020, current members may use this free option to:

- **Request a lookup** in materials on hand in the library. Those materials include the Drouin marriage indexes (male and female); parish and county birth, marriage and death (BMS) repertoires; the Loiselle marriage index; Jetté, Tanguay, the PRDH up to 1799; Arsenault, Bergeron, Drouin *Dictionnaire Généalogique*, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, and more.
- **Verify a fact.** Library volunteers will check a BMS date, confirm a parish location or name, or verify a fact in any of the US or Canadian materials in the library. (Unfortunately, we can't do research in outside locations such as town or state records archives.)
- **Talk with a librarian.** Members may make a phone appointment to discuss a research problem with an experienced library volunteer.

Request lookups or verify a fact by emailing info@fcgsc.org, with Lookup in the Subject line, or by leaving a voice mail request at 860-872-2597. Please be sure to:

- 1) identify yourself by name and member number (if you know it);
- 2) tell us how to contact you
- 3) clearly state the information you are requesting, including approximate date and parish or county of the event;
- 4) limit your lookup request to no more than three (3) marriages, baptisms, or burials at a time. We do not have baptism and burial records for all parishes, but will do our best to find the information you require.

Request a phone appointment with a researcher by emailing info@fcgsc.org with “Appointment” in the Subject line, or leave a message at 860-872-2597. Be sure to leave your name, member number (if you know it) and phone or email address where you can be reached to schedule the appointment.

Go With the Flow: Genealogy is Good for You

There's an old saying that you know you're a genealogist when you get locked in a library overnight and don't notice. Not many people have actually done that, but haven't we all at one time or another been so engrossed in researching a family tree that we have lost track of the hours and become unaware of what is happening around us? According to a recent news article,¹⁷ a state of intense concentration, to the point of becoming unaware of anything else, may actually have beneficial effects during these stressful times.

That state of blissful unawareness, where the mind focuses on a task at hand to the exclusion of everything else, has been named "flow" by psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi¹⁸. According to his theory, a person in the flow state,

- Is completely focused on the task at hand;
- Loses awareness of themselves, others, and the world around them;
- Loses track of time;
- Feels happy and in control; and
- Becomes creative and productive¹⁹

And isn't that a good description of a genealogist at work?

Experts note that levels of stress-induced disorders, insomnia, and general anxiety have risen as the pandemic-imposed isolation takes a toll on our mental and physical wellbeing. In August, the Centers for Disease Control reported that more than 40% of U.S. residents complained of increased mental or behavioral health issues due to pandemic stay-at-home orders²⁰. An anticipated cold-weather surge in infections this season and

¹⁷ Pearson, Catherine. "New Research Says 'Flow' Is Crucial During The COVID-19 Pandemic." *HuffPost*. 17NOV2020. at <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/flow-covid-19-pandemic-mentalhealth-15fb3e7b5c5b6aad41f7361a8>.

¹⁸ See positivepsychology.com/theory-psychology-flow/

¹⁹ Babauta, Leo. "9 Steps to Achieving Flow." *zenhabits.net/guide-to-achieving-flow-and-happiness-in-your-work/*

²⁰ Stephenson J. "CDC Report Reveals 'Considerably Elevated' Mental Health Toll from COVID-19 Stresses." *JAMA Health Forum*. Published online 25 August 2020. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2020.1078 .

the re-imposition of social constraints paints a bleak picture for the current winter.

However, a recently completed study has shown a positive relationship between flow and better mental health during this pandemic. In the study, 5115 residents of Wuhan and other cities in China affected by COVID-19 completed a survey asking, among other things, about their experiences of flow while isolated. "They answered online survey questions about how many times in the prior week they'd felt utterly absorbed by whatever they were doing, and to what extent they'd felt simultaneously stimulated and challenged — all elements of flow."²¹ While the study does not prove that flow is a direct cause of better mental health, it does indicate that the two are strongly related. Study results associated longer quarantine times with poorer mental well-being, while ". . . people who experienced high levels of flow showed little or no association between quarantine length and poorer well-being. These findings suggest that experiencing flow . . . may be a particularly effective way to protect against potentially deleterious effects of a period of quarantine."²²

What kinds of activities tend to induce flow? Hobbies that engross our attention and require our active participation tend to be flow-inducing. So, unfortunately, binge-watching *Gilligan's Island* won't work, though cooking, woodworking, knitting, and combing a new database for missing family members could get you there. Thinking through a research question might do it. Organizing your notes, entering data into a genealogical program, plotting your relationship to a new DNA match – all these help to cultivate a state of flow that may ease the stress of isolation this winter. So grab your notes, boot up the computer, indulge your genealogical proclivities – it's good for you!

²¹ Pearson, C. Ibid.

²² Sweeny, K., et al. "Flow in the time of COVID-19: Findings from China". *PLOS ONE*, Published 11 November 2020. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0242043 .

HELP WANTED

We always need volunteers.

Do you have skills that we could call on when needed?

Would you like to know about occasional tasks for which we need volunteers?

Do you have a suggestion for a project that would help the library, the Society, or add value to our collection?

If so, we want to hear from you.

Our present need is for volunteers to transcribe information from various sources into Excel spreadsheets. A computer with Microsoft Excel, at least 97-2003 or later, is required for the first two projects. For Project #3, some familiarity with genealogical software would be helpful. You can work at your own speed and do any of these from home. Proof readers are also needed for each of these projects.

Project 1: Transcription of family stories from back issues of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* to new "Cousin Connect" database

Project 2: Transcription of vital statistics from back issues of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* into an Excel database

Project 3: Transcription of information from Family Group Sheets to database.

For more information or to volunteer, email info@fcgsc.org with Help Wanted as Subject.

HELP OFFERED

FREE ANCESTRY.com:

Through March 31st, 2021, current FCGSC members have free remote access to the worldwide Ancestry database through the Members pages of our web site. This is a great bargain! Individual Ancestry subscriptions can cost up to \$389 per year, so take advantage of this resource, available only to current members, while you can. Access may be extended by Ancestry beyond the end of March, so be sure to check the FCGSC web site frequently for updates.

PATRON & SUSTAINING MEMBERS:

Don't forget that you are entitled to two hours (Patron), or four hours (Sustaining) of free staff genealogical research each membership year. Send requests for help to info@fcgsc.org with Staff Research in the Subject line or leave a message on the library phone (860-872-2597).

ALL MEMBERS:

While our library is closed, you can explore the resources on the Members Only page at www.fcgsc.org and take advantage of our "Ask a Librarian" service. See page 160 for details.

While we have your attention: During these uncertain times, we still have to pay building rent and utilities, as well as printing and mailing costs for publications. Every penny matters, and when the Post Office returns an undeliverable *Connecticut Maple Leaf* or *Maple Leaflet*, it costs us money that we can ill afford for address correction and for re-mailing the item. PLEASE be sure that we have your current mailing address so that our expenses can be kept to a minimum and your publications will reach you in a timely manner.



French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut

LeGrow Family Scholarship Program

We are very pleased to announce that the recipient of the Spring, 2020, FCGSC Scholarship Award is



Benjamin Jacobsen

Congratulations to Ben Jacobsen, son of William and Brenda Jacobsen of Bolton, CT, on his receipt of the LeGrow Family Scholarship. Ben graduated from Bolton High School in June of 2020; he was a member of the National Honor Society and the French Honor Society. Among his many credentials and recommendations is the following quote from his French teacher, "As a student of French, Ben has an aptitude and passion for learning languages, and his confidence in using these skills has truly been an inspiration in the classroom. He is curious about other cultures and customs and has a genuine love of the French language and Francophone cultures around the world."

Ben commented that he spent a lot of time with his grandmother, when his parents were working. She shared with him about what her life was like when she was living in New Brunswick. His interest grew from there and eventually he participated in an optional project about family history while in middle school. He found out that he was a descendent of Robert Caron, an original Québec settler who married Marie Crevet in October, 1637.

Ben will attend Western New England University in the Fall of 2020. He plans to major in Electrical Engineering. Ben is well deserving of this scholarship and we wish him much success in his education and subsequent career

A List of Franco-American Social Clubs, Genealogical Societies, Libraries, Museums, et Cetera, in New England

Albert J. Marceau, #766

Social Clubs

Franco-American Civic and Social Club
116 Club Rd., Willimantic, CT 06226
(860)-423-7095

<https://www.facebook.com/frenchclubwindham/>

Franco-American Club
95 Liberty St., Meriden, CT 06450-5616
(203)-634-9814

www.facebook.com/FrancoAmericanClub

Franco-American Social Club Inc.
55 Store Ave., Waterbury, CT 06705-1444
(203)-754-6269

www.francowaterbury.com

Robert R. Bisailon included a 28-page club history titled "The Franco-American Social Club, Incorporated," in his *Franco-American Biographies of the Greater Waterbury Area*, published on the 75th anniversary of the club in 1993. The book contains over 1,200 biographies.

French Social Circle, Inc.
P.O. Box 280921, East Hartford, CT 06128
No phone number until Spring 2021.

www.facebook.com/FrenchSocialCircle/

FSC will move from 373 Main Street, East Hartford, to 341 Kelly Road, Vernon by Spring, 2021.

Jacques Cartier Club
79 Wilson St., Jewett City, CT 06351
(860)-376-9872

jcfrenchclub@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/jcfrenchclub

La Société de St-Jean Baptiste
209 Smalley St., New Britain, CT 06051-2047
(860)-223-9610

www.facebook.com/StJeanBaptisteSociety

Le Club Calumet
334 West River Rd., Augusta, ME 04330
(207)-623-8211

www.calumetclub.com

[facebook.com/Le-Club-Calumet-601143463331826/](https://www.facebook.com/Le-Club-Calumet-601143463331826/)

Acadian Social Club
193 Parker St., Gardner, MA 01440-3703
(978)-632-9830

<http://acadienclub.com>

Beverly Franco-American Club
44 Park St., Beverly, MA 01915-4217
(978)-922-1950

[facebook.com/pg/beverlyfrancoamericanclub/posts/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/beverlyfrancoamericanclub/posts/)

Centralville Social Club
364 West Sixth St., Lowell, MA 01850-1001
(978)-452-8416

Club Passe-Temps
371 Moody St., Lowell, MA 01854-3928
(978)-453-3741

Franco-American Club
55 West Prescott St., Westford, MA 01886-2349
(978)-392-0748

www.francoamericanwestford.com

Franco-American National Club
592 South St., Athol, MA 01331-2234
(978)-249-9840

www.facebook.com/AtholFrenchClub

Franco-American War Veterans
300 Water St., Leominster, MA 01453-3731
(978)-534-6409

[facebook.com/Franco-American-War-Vets-702430303232432/](https://www.facebook.com/Franco-American-War-Vets-702430303232432/)

French-American Victory Club
193 Elm St., Waltham, MA 02453-5356
(781)-899-8195

www.favclub.org/

Pawtuckville Social Club
123 University Ave., Lowell, MA 01854-2431
(978)-452-8326

www.facebook.com/PscLowellMa/

Club Canadian

128 South Main St., Manchester, NH 03102-4410
(603)-623-9019

<https://clubcanadianinc.com/>
www.facebook.com/ClubCanadian/

Club Mont Royal

594 Somerville St., Manchester, NH 03103-4532
(603)-623-8353

[Club Mont Royal - Home | Facebook](#)

The Rimmon Club, Inc.

595 Dubuque St., Manchester, NH 03102-3133
(603)-623-9197

www.facebook.com/Therimmonclub/

The Canadian Club

414 East Montpelier Rd., Barre, VT 05641
(802)-479-9090

canadianclubincvt@yahoo.com
<http://thecanadianclub.co/index.html>

[The Canadian Club - Home | Facebook](#)

Cultural Society

French Heritage Center

60 Haven Ave., Chicopee, MA 01013-3436
(413)-594-9332 – Jeanne Hebert
(413)-592-4946 – Marie Meder

frenchconnection104@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/FrenchHeritageCenter

French Language Bookstore

La Librairie Populaire

18 rue Orange, Manchester, NH 03104-6060
(603)-669-3788

Roger Lacerte, owner
libpopulaire@yahoo.com

Specializes in French-language books, greeting cards, LP records, compact discs, and audio-cassettes. The bookstore sells all types of books in French, from language instruction and dictionaries to mysteries, popular fiction, religious literature, and poetry. Preferred source for purchase of books published by the National Materials Development Center for French – see under Franco-American Centre, Manchester, N.H.

Genealogical Societies

American-Canadian Genealogical Society

1 Sundial Ave.,
Suite 317N, Manchester, NH 03103
(603)-622-1554

www.acgs.org

www.facebook.com/ACGS.Society

Journal, quarterly since 1975: *The Genealogist*

American French Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870
(401)-765-6141

www.AFGS.org

facebook.com/AmericanFrenchGenealogicalSociety/

Library located at 78 Earle St., Woonsocket, R.I.

Journal, semiannual since 1978: *Je me souviens*

Franco-American Genealog. Soc. of York County

P.O. Box 180, Biddeford, ME 04005-0180
(207)-205-0830 – Pres. Raoul Goulet

www.mcarthur.lib.me.us/franco-american_genealogical_society.htm

Society meets and has its collection in McArthur Public Library, 270 Main Street, Biddeford, ME.

French-Canadian Genealogical Soc. of CT, Inc.

P.O. Box 928, Tolland, CT 06084-0928
(860)-872-2597

www.fcgsc.org

facebook.com/French-Canadian-Genealogical-Society-of-Connecticut-Inc-1444798972427422/

Library located in Old Tolland County Courthouse at 53 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT.

Journal, semiannual since 1983: *CT Maple Leaf*
Newsletter, semiannual: *CT Maple Leaflet*

Killingly Historical and Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239-0265
(860)-779-7250

www.killinglyhistorical.org/

Includes French-Canadian Genealogical Society of CT Annex, approximately 200 genealogical books owned by the FCGSC.

Journal: *The Killingly Historical Journal*

Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society

217 Turner St., Auburn, ME 04210
(207)-786-3327

info@mfgen.org

<https://mfgen.org/>
www.facebook.com/MFGSLibrary
Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 65128, Burlington, VT 05406-5128
(802)-871-5647
Library at Pinewood Plaza, Suite 1027, 57 River
Road, Route 117, Essex Junction, VT 05452.
Journal, semiannual, since 1996: *Links*
<http://vt-fcgs.org/>
[www.facebook.com/Vermont-French-Canadian-
Genealogical-Society-404424079689628/](http://www.facebook.com/Vermont-French-Canadian-Genealogical-Society-404424079689628/)

Historical Societies

Frenchville Historical Society
309 U.S. Rte. 1, Frenchville, ME 04745
(207)-543-7390 – Alice Carpenter
frenchville.org/about-frenchville/society.html
www.facebook.com/FrenchvilleHistoricalSociety/
French-Canadians, Franco-Americans, are the one
ethnic group who arrived in the U.S. by railroad,
not by boat. The Society maintains outdoor ob-
jects associated with the railroad, such as a ca-
boose housing railroad artifacts, water tower, sta-
tion house, the Wylie Bouchard House, and stor-
age shed for farm and woodcutting implements.

Greater Grand Isle Historical Society (Société
Historique Régionale de Grand Isle Maine)
P. O. Box 124, Grand Isle, ME 04746
www.gimehistorical.org/Home_Page.php

Madawaska Historical Society
393 Main St., Madawaska, ME 04756-1165
(207)-728-3606
[ware.facebook.com/Madawaska-Historical-
Society-137899379687439/](http://ware.facebook.com/Madawaska-Historical-Society-137899379687439/)
Address and telephone number are for Mada-
waska Public Library, the public center of the
MHS. The MHS owns the Acadian Landing Site
and the Acadian Cross Historic Shrine. Located in
the Tante Blanche Museum.

Sainte-Agathe Historical Society
P.O. Box 237, Ste. Agathe, ME 04772
(207)-543-6911
<https://ste-agathehistoricalsociety.com/>

Sanford-Springvale Historical Society
P.O. Box 276, Springvale, ME 04083

(207)-490-1028
(207)-324-2797
heastman@metrocast.net
www.sanfordhistory.org/
Library located at 505 Main St., Springvale, ME.
Holds bound copy of French-language newspaper
published in Sanford, *La Justice de Sanford*
(1929-1942).

Franco-American Institute of Salem
40 Nahant St., Lynn, MA 01902-3305
(781)-592-1425
francosalem@yahoo.com
Journal: April, August & December, since 1999:
La revue de Salem

Société Historique Franco-Américaine
c/o Roger Lacerte, Présidente
La Librairie Populaire, 18 rue Orange,
Manchester, NH 03104-6060
(603)-669-3788
Archives of the SHFA are held by the current
President, Roger Lacerte. SHFA established in
1899 in Boston, Mass., and has published eight
books, twelve monographs, and an annual period-
ical, *Le Bulletin de la Société Historique Franco-
Américaine* (1935-1939, 1941-1973), last pub-
lished in October 1994, for 1992-1993. Boston
Public Library digitized its collection of *Le Bulle-
tin de la SHFA*, located in the Americana section
of the library's website. (See article: "A List of
Publications of the SHFA" by Albert J. Marceau,
in *Le Forum*, Franco-American Center, Univ. ME
at Orono, Vol.36, No.3, Summer 2013, pp. 18-19.)

Rhode Island Historical Society
110 Benevolent St., Providence, RI 02906
(401)-331-8575 – main office
(401)-273-8107 – Robinson Research Center
www.rihs.org
Robinson Research Center of RIHS at 121 Hope
St., Providence. Has French language newspapers
on microfilm: eight published in Woonsocket: *La
Tribune* (1895-1934), *Le Progrès* (1898-1913),
L'Union (1902-1996), *La Sentinelle* (1924-1928),
La Bataille (1928), *La Vérité* (1928), *La Défense*
(1928-1929), and *L'Indépendant* (1935-1942).
Also *L'Espérance* (1891-1899), published in Cen-
tral Falls, and *Le Jean-Baptiste* (1897-1933),
published in Pawtucket.

Museums

Acadian Village

879 Main St., Van Buren, ME 04755
(207)-868-5042
(207)-868-2691 – Anne Roy, Director
Mailing address: Acadian Village, P.O. Box 194,
Van Buren, ME 04785-0194.
vbacadianvillage@gmail.com
<https://acadianvillage.mainerec.com/>
www.vanburenacadianvillage.org/

The Acadian Village was created by the Historical Society of Living Heritage, (La Société Historique Héritage Vivant), in 1975. It has a total of 17 buildings, four original from Acadian families who lived in the region, dating from the late 18th Century through the 19th Century. Listed on National Registry for the Preservation of Historical Landmarks. Outdoor museum open daily from noon to 5PM, Jun. 15-Sept.15, but is available for special tours of ten people or more from May 31-October 1. Adult admission \$7.00, children \$4.00.

Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel

P.O. Box 150, Lille, ME 04746-0150
(207)-895-3339 – Don Cyr, Founding President
info@museeculturel.org
<http://museeculturel.org/>
Located in the former Roman Catholic church of Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, 993 Main Street, Lille, Maine.

Museum of Work and Culture

42 South Main St., Woonsocket, RI 02895-4274
(401)-769-9675
www.rihs.org/locations/museum-of-work-culture/
Museum recreates the immigration experience from the village farm house to the textile city of Woonsocket. One exhibit recreates life within the city as a child in the schoolroom, with a dialogue between grammar school students and a parish priest, with pre-recorded questions and answers on the controversial 1920s Sentinellist Affair.

College Programs, Departments, Collections and Cultural Affairs

Acadian Archives

University of Maine at Fort Kent

23 University Dr., Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207)-834-7535
acadian@maine.edu
www.umfk.edu/archives/

Assumption University – French Institute
500 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609-1265
(508)-767-7415 – Leslie Choquette, Ph.D.
(508)-767-7495 – Libby Lipen, archivist
https://library.assumption.edu/french_institute

The French Institute has at least 14 collections, plus a collection of sheet and recorded music. One important collection is the Mallet Collection, once owned by Union St-Jean-Baptiste (USJB) in Woonsocket, R.I. Extensive collection of French-language newspapers on microfilm, five published in Worcester [*L'Etendard National* (1872-1874), *Le Foyer Canadien* (1873-1874), *Le Travailleur* by Ferdinand Gagnon (1874-1891), *L'Opinion Publique* (1893-1931), *Le Travailleur* by Wilfred Beaulieu (1931-1978)] and two published in Woonsocket, R.I. [*La Tribune* (1895-1934) and *L'Union* (1902-1996)]. French Institute published several monographs and books under Claire Quintal, Ph.D., the most comprehensive being *Steeple and Smokestacks: ...Essays on the Franco-American Experience in New England*, 1996.

Bisaillon Collection, French-Canadians in CT
Archives and Special Collections, UConn Library
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

405 Babbidge Rd., Unit 1205, Storrs, CT 06269
(860)-486-2524
archives@uconn.edu

<https://lib.uconn.edu/research/collections/>
The Bisaillon Collection of French-Canadians in Connecticut comprises eight archival boxes of the papers of Robert R. Bisaillon, M.A., genealogist and historian. Bisaillon left an extensive collection of books to the CT State Library.

Center for Lowell History

Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center
50 French St., Lowell, MA 01852
(978)-970-5000 – main office
(978)-934-4997 – library

www.nps.gov/lowe/learn/historyculture/mogan-cultural-center.htm

Center for Lowell History is part of the UMass Lowell complex of libraries. Houses seven French-language newspapers published in Lowell: *L'Echo du Canada* (July-Nov. 1874), *La Republique* (Feb.-July 1876; March 1901-June 1902), *L'Independence* (April-Sept. 1890), *La Revue de Lowell* (Aug. 1902-Jan. 1904), *La Reveil* (Sept. 1908-Jan. 1909), *Le Journal* (April-June 1916), and *Le Journal de Lowell* (1976-1995).

Franco-American Programs
University of Maine at Orono
Orono, ME 04469, (207)-581-3789
<https://umaine.edu/francoamerican/>

Journal, quarterly, since 1972: *Le Forum*
Franco-American Programs at the University of Maine at Orono host programs and events for the general public as well as structured programs of study for undergraduate students; offers French classes as an after-school program for students K-5; offers an undergraduate minor Franco-American studies; and houses a Franco-American Oral History Archive. Since 1972, it has been publishing *Le Forum*, which is written in French and English.

The Franco-American Centre
100 Saint Anselm Dr., No. 1798, Manchester, NH 03102-1310
(603)-641-7114
execdirector@facnh.com – John Toussaint,
Executive Director
www.facnh.com

Sponsors French classes and Franco-American cultural events for the general public through the re-sources at St. Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. Houses the many books published by the National Materials Development Center for French (NMDC) from the late 1970s to the early 1980s. Books by the NMDC are based in the teaching of Franco-American literature and culture in French, and range in difficulty from grammar school to early college.

Franco-American Collection
University of Southern Maine
51 Westminster St., Lewiston, ME 04240

(207)-753-6345

<https://usm.maine.edu/franco-american-collection>
The Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine has the archives of the former Centre d'Heritage Franco-Americain of Lewiston, Maine, as well as a second Mallet Collection that was once owned by USJB, which consists of duplicate books already held by the French Institute at Assumption University.

Franco-American Collections
Geisel Library, Saint Anselm College
100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester, NH 03102
(603)-641-7300
anselm.edu/geisel-library/archives-special-collections/special-collections/franco-american-collections

The ACA/Lambert Collection, formerly known as the Collection Lambert, was once owned by the Association Canado-Americaine, Manchester, N.H.

Santerre Franco-American Collection
Special Collections and University Archives
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
DuBois Library, 25th floor
154 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003
(413)-545-7282
<http://scua.library.umass.edu/umarmot/santerre-franco-american-collection/>

The collection is a gift to UMass Amherst from Rev. Richard Santerre, Ph.D. The collection contains 113 items pertaining to the Franco-American experience in New England, many being rare imprints.

Performance and Art Centers

Gendron Franco Center
46 Center St., Lewiston, ME 04240
(207)-783-1585
<https://www.francocenter.org/>
The Gendron Franco Center houses a performance center; banquet hall, and a collection of artifacts called Le Musee d'Heritage de Rita S. Dube.

St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center
P.O. Box 79, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0079
(401)-356-0713
<http://www.stannartsandculturalcenter.org/>

Former Franco-American Roman Catholic church, located at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, R.I. In 2011, *Yankee Magazine* called the center "the Sistine Chapel of America" for its beautiful murals.

Public Libraries

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116
(617)-536-5400
www.bpl.org/

BPL microtext department has a microfilm collection of over 200 19th and 20th century French language newspapers published throughout the U. S. It also holds the papers of Wilfred Beaulieu, the editor of *Le Travailleur* that was published in Worcester, MA, from 1931 to 1978.

Connecticut State Library – Bisailon Collection
History and Genealogy Unit
231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106
(860)-757-6500

The Bisailon Collection consists of over 900 books on the genealogy and history of French Canada, a legacy to the Library from Robert R. Bisailon. A catalog of the Bisailon Collection, "An Introduction to the Bisailon Collection" by Richard C. Roberts, Head of the History and Genealogy Unit, is reprinted in the *Connecticut Maple Leaf*, Vol.7, No.4, Winter 1996, pp. 324-332.

Fall River Public Library
104 North Main St., Fall River, MA 02720
www.fallriverlibrary.org/

The library has microfilm of two French-language newspapers published in Fall River – *Le Castor* (Nov. 1882-Nov. 27, 1884, Feb. 2, 1885-March 20, 1885), and *L'Independent* (Nov. 1885-Aug. 1894, Jan. 1911-Dec. 1912, April 1930-Nov. 1962).

Fitchburg Public Library – Acadian Collection
610 Main St., Fitchburg, MA 01420
(978)-829-1780
www.fitchburgpubliclibrary.org

Acadian Collection comprises the archives of the defunct Acadian Cultural Society, formerly based in Fitchburg, MA.

Haverhill Public Library
99 Main St., Haverhill, MA 01830
(978)-373-1586

<https://haverhillpl.org/>

The library has two French-language newspapers on microfilm that were published in Haverhill – *Le Citoyen* (1905-1939) and *Le Journal* (1928-1955).

Holyoke Public Library
250 Chestnut St., Holyoke, MA 01040
(413)-420-8101

www.holyokelibrary.org/

Has microfilm of one French-language newspaper published in Holyoke – *La Justice* (1909-1944).

Lawrence Public Library
51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA 01841
(978)-620-3600

www.lawrencefreelibrary.org/227/Public-Library

Has microfilm of two French-language newspapers published in Lawrence, *Le Progres de Lawrence* (1898-1908), and *Le Courier de Lawrence* (Jan. 1938-Dec. 1943, April 1944-Dec. 1952). Also has bound copies of *Le Courier de Lawrence* for the years 1913, 1914 and 1918.

Lewiston Public Library
200 Lisbon St., Lewiston, ME 04240
(207)-513-3004

<http://lplonline.org/>

Has microfilm of French-language newspaper *Le Messenger* (1880-1968), published in Lewiston.

Madawaska Public Library
See Madawaska Historical Society.

Manchester City Library
405 Pine St., Manchester, NH 03104
(603)-624-6550

www.manchester.lib.nh.us/

Has microfilm of French-language newspaper *L'Av-enir Nationale* (1895-1949), published in Manchester.

[Continued on page 177]

French-Canadian Christmas Web Sites



"Habitants going to Christmas Market", 1842 watercolor by Millicent Mary Chaplin (Library and Archives Canada)

For a nostalgic look at some French-Canadian Christmas traditions across the years, see the beautiful web site maintained by Kim Kujawski at tfcg.ca/french-canadian-christmas-traditions. There you will find explanations, in English and in French, of the religious underpinnings of the holiday along with secular customs of the festive season. Listen to French Christmas carols, among them a recording of the Huron Carol, the first Christmas song to be written in the new country. Heather Dale's inspirational rendition is performed in the original Wendat (Huron), as well as in French and English. Holiday traditions and music wouldn't be French without food: you can also read about what dishes were served and how they were prepared. The site has a liberal sprinkling of old photos and drawings, including a slide show of Christmas cards and book illustrations from years gone by.

Some other nostalgia-inducing web sites are dedicated to the drawings of Canadian artist



Frederick Coburn (1871-1960), known for his paintings of Eastern township winter scenes, as well as for illustrations of William Henry Drummond's book of poems, including *The Habitant*, published in

1897, and Louis Frechette's *Christmas in French Canada* in 1899 and the French edition of *Christmas in Canada* in 1900. Among them are the web sites of the Galerie Cosner at galeriecosner.com/en/artists/76-frederick-s-coburn.html, the Eastern Townships Resource Centre at etrc.ca/depicting-christmas-folk-tales-illustrations-frederick-s-coburn/, and Klinkhoff Gallery at klinkhoffart.com/coburn-frederick-s

It is worth accessing sites about French Canadian Christmas food if only for their gorgeous pictures of tourtière, tarte au sucre, and bûche de Noël. You'll find those and more at www.greatbritishchefs.com/recipes/yule-log-buche-de-noel-recipe; at thepantedpuffin.wordpress.com/2011/12/14/5-days-of-french-canadian-christmas-traditions-le-reveillon/ and at tvo.org/article/why-french-canadians-kick-off-christmas-with-an-all-night-feast



The season wouldn't be complete without well-worn and beloved Christmas and New Year's fireside stories. You'll find links to La chasse-galerie, and others at thepantedpuffin.wordpress.com/2011/12/15/5-days-of-french-canadian-christmas-traditions-la-chasse-galerie/ and at virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/expositions-exhibitions/noel-christmas/expositions-exhibits/intro-eng.html

Some Cantara Family Descendants from Southern France to Québec and New England

Paul R. Keroack, #157

In 1880, Joseph P. Davignon, 35, sewing machine agent, and his wife Azilda, 35, lived in Killingly, Connecticut, with Azilda's daughter Marie Azilda Cantara, 17, and her great-niece Henrietta Cantara, 14. That is not exactly how the U.S. Census entry looked, however:²³

US Census, 1880, Windham, Danielsonville

Davenous, Josph P.	35	Canada
" , Ocilda	35	"
Contara, Matilda	17	MA
" , Etta	14	MA

Azilda Desy, widow of Francois Tiburce Cantara, was married (as Osilda) to Davignon in 1873 in Webster, Massachusetts. She had come to Massachusetts with other Cantara family members who settled in the growing mill towns of Spencer and Southbridge in the late 1860s.²⁴

Joseph Davignon's business necessitated periodic moves to new sales territories. From Danielsonville he moved with his family to Norwich, Connecticut, where they appeared in the 1900 census, returning to Webster by 1910. The Davignon couple did not have children of their own.²⁵

²³ Ancestry.com. 1880 U.S. Census, Killingly, Windham Co., ED 127, p. 8D [stamped 352, verso], dwelling 75/family 106.

²⁴ Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts Marriage Records, 1840-1915*, 23 February 1873. Her parents' names are listed as Onezime & Catherine Dosie. The Quebec pioneer was Pierre Desy Montplaisir.

²⁵ 1900 U.S. Census, Norwich, New London Co., ED 479, p. 9A, [stamped 30], dwelling 167/family 207, lines 14, 15.; 1910 U.S. Census, Webster, Worcester Co., ED 183, p. 4A, dwelling 13/family 64, lines 3, 4.

The Cantara emigrant families had lived in Yamaska and in Sorel, the former a settlement on the Yamaska River, and the latter at the Richelieu River outlet into the St-Laurent, north-east of Montréal, Québec.

Their story in Québec and in the U.S. provides some twists, turns and mysteries.

The Québec pioneer of all Cantaras was Bernardin Cantara dit Deslauriers, born about 1665 in Mazerès, diocese of Agen, Guyenne province in southwestern France. He was a soldier under Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Du Luth (or Du Luth), in a compagnie des marines sent to strengthen the colony against Iroquois attacks and expand the fur trade. From 1678-82 and again in 1684-88, Du Luth led expeditions to negotiate with western tribes and to explore the territory around Lake Superior. The city of Duluth, Minnesota, is named for him. Cantara may have served in some of the later expeditions.²⁶

Bernardin Cantara was married on 08 October 1696 at Notre-Dame, Montréal, to Marie Petronille Danis, a widow with one child. Bernardin gave his parents' names as Vido (or Vito) Cantara and Marguerite Forpe. Linguistically, the names Vido/Vito and Cantara suggest a Spanish influence. The name Tiburce used later by some descendants as a first, middle or dit name may indicate a connection to the French Basque region, south of Guyenne province.²⁷

²⁶ Prdh-igd.com. Pioneer, Bernardin Cantara Deslauriers. Ancestry.com. Quebec, *Dictionary of Canadian Families, 1608-1890* (Tanguay Collection) v.2, Sec. 2, p.537; vol. 1, p.101-102, image of Cantara entry, displayed on www.wikitree.com/photo/png/Cantara-3. Waters, Thomas F., *Superior North Shore*, p. 52-54: expeditions of Sieur Du Luth.

²⁷ Prdh-igd.com. Family #7686. Familysearch.org, *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Notre-Dame-

Bernardin, his wife, and their six children who lived to marry, relocated to Yamaska, about 60 miles downriver from Montréal. Their son Joseph, born in 1700, was the immediate ancestor of the family in this study. Joseph Cantara married Marie Louise St-Laurent on 12 September 1729 at St-Francois-du-Lac, adjacent to Yamaska.²⁸

Of Joseph and Louise's four sons who married, Pierre was the eldest but second to the last to marry. Pierre was 48 at the time of his 21 January 1782 marriage in Yamaska to Rosalie (Rose) Miville dite Deschenes. His 25-year-old bride was born in St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, 300 miles north-east of Yamaska. She was a middle child of a large family, the last to marry except for the two youngest.²⁹

The Miville dit Deschenes family was a notable one in the lower St-Laurent River valley. Rose's great-grandfather Jacques, a Swiss in the French king's service, married Catherine de Baillion who descended from royalty. Most of their numerous descendants remained in that area of Québec. However, some relocated west, one to Berthierville and another was a pioneer French settler in Detroit (Michigan).³⁰

Francois Xavier Cantara, Pierre's youngest brother (by 15 years), was living near Detroit

de-Montreal, 1696, image 67-68/826. The meaning of the name.com/tiburce/

²⁸ Prdh-idg.com, Family #7686. Bernardin and Petronille lived into old age, dying one day apart in Yamaska, on 17 and 18 March 1753, respectively.

²⁹ Prdh-idg.com, Family #16822. *Quebec Parish Registers, St-Michel de Yamaska*, B, 07 November 1733 (birth 22 October) image 30/268; M, 21 January 1782, image 116/710. Prdh-igd.com, Couple #86603 [Miville Deschenes= Morin]

³⁰ *Quebec Parish Registers, Ste-Genevieve, Berthierville*, M 27 NOV 1780, Joseph Miville (natif de Ste-Anne de Québec), to Catherine Durant, image 506/617; *Quebec Parish Registers, Montreal*, M, 20 February 1706, Jacques Meinville to Catherine Lecuyer, image 631/862. "Min-ville (or Miville), Jacques, came (to Detroit) 29 May 1706. He, with Paul and Jean Lecuyer, brought ten cattle and three horses from Fort Frontenac to Detroit, for Cadillac. His wife was Catherine Lecuyer, of Mont-real." p. 110, *Landmarks of Wayne County and Detroit*, Robert B. Ross. U. Mich., Collection: Making of America Books.

when he married Madeleine Saint-Germain at Ste-Anne-de-Detroit on 25 February 1794.³¹

Pierre and Rose had five children in Yamaska after their marriage. The second, third and fourth died in infancy. Their fifth child was baptized in St-Roch-des-Aulnaies – Rose's home parish – in 1790.³²

Children of Pierre Cantara and/or Rose Miville-Deschenes – married 1782

Baptism	Name	Marr.
1779-04-29	Catherine	1801
1782-11-05	M. Josephe	1814
1784-03-03	Pierre Ant.	
1785-03-25	Isabelle Archange	
1786-08-07	M. Chaste	
1790-01-23	Genevieve	1809
1791-10-23	Marguerite	
1795-04-12	[Frs.] Tiburce	1817

This was probably the Pierre Cantara who signed on as a voyageur at Montréal 09 January 1779 with the fur trading firm of John & William Kay. His duties at Michilimackinac on Lake Huron would likely have been to receive furs brought to sell. At the age of 46, Pierre would seem old for a canoe voyage of many hundred miles. But he was then unmarried (although about to be a father), the pay was good, and perhaps he was told in his youth by his grandfather Bernardin about his service in the west. Pierre seems to have signed on as a voyageur for a second time, in 1786, while Rose was pregnant with Marie Chaste.³³

³¹ Ancestry.com. "U.S. French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1695-1954," Detroit, 1780-1801, p. 414, image 215/625.

³² Tiburce Quebec Parish Registers, Yamaska, B, 06 NOV 1782, Marie Josephte, image 129/710; Pierre Antoine, B, 03 March 1784, S 09 March, image 148/710; Isabel Archange, B, 25 March 1785, S, 17 June; Marie Chaste, B, 08 August 1786, image 192/710, S, 1788, 27 January, image 223/710; St-Roch des Aulnaies, B, 23 January 1790, Marie Genevieve, image 143/752, Surname given as "Dalcantara."

³³ Ancestry.com. "Quebec, Canada, Notarial Records, 1637-1935." Montreal. Notarial index of Antoine Foucher, #4016, 09 January 1779, "Engage de Pierre Cantara, voyageur de Mas-Ka-ai" [Yamaska], image 357/514. I have not found any other likely Pierre Cantara. *Québec*

Before their marriage, a daughter, Catherine, was born to Rose Miville in April 1779, the baptism stating "le pere inconnu," although at Catherine's marriage her father was stated to have been Pierre. Rose gave birth in 1791 to Marguerite, also by an unknown father. That child was buried five months later. Her last child, baptized on 14 April 1795, again with an unknown father, was a male given the name Tiburce. Through all of this, Pierre and Rose presumably remained married.³⁴

According to the wording of a notarial index entry dated 24 May 1794, Pierre was alive at that date (Rose was cited as femme "de Pierre," not "de feu Pierre"). When a few years later, their eldest, Catherine, resident in Trois Rivieres, was married there on 01 June 1801 to Michel Des-saint St-Pierre, a soldier, the marriage record shows the bride as daughter of the late Pierre Cantara and of Rose "des Chenes" of St-Michel (Yamaska). I have not found Pierre's burial record.³⁵

The only surviving son in this series of births, Tiburce (a rare name in France, associated with the Basque population), was married on 01 July 1817 as Francois Cantara, son of "the late Jacques" and of the late Rose Miville Deschenes, to Marie Josette Lefebvre at St-Pierre, Sorel (about 12 miles west of Yamaska). Rose had died two months before the marriage. Did the priest mistakenly write "Jacques" instead of the late Pierre? It is known that Jacques Cantara, Pierre's first cousin, lived in Yamaska until 1833.³⁶

Parish Registers, Yamaska, B, 30 April 1779, Catherine, image 70/710.

Quebec, Montreal. Notarial index of Francois Leguay, pere, #1580, 12 January 1786, "Engage de Pierre Cantarat [sic], voyageur," image 136/194.

³⁴ Quebec Parish Registers, Yamaska, B, 23 October 1791, Marguerite, image 273/710; S, 19 February 1792, image 280/710; B, 14 April 1795, Tiburce, image 333/710.

³⁵ Quebec, Kamouraska, Notarial Index of Louis Cazes, #4258, 24 May 1794, "Certificat par Augustin Miville a Rosalie Miville, les soeur, femme de Pierre Cantara." Quebec Parish Registers, Trois Rivieres, M, 01 June 1801, image 98/749.

³⁶ Quebec Parish Registers, St-Pierre, Sorel, M, 01 July 1817, image 348/722; S 15, 01 April, Rose, image 344/722; Prdh-idg.com, Family #63599; Jacques (1752-1833)

Francois and Josette had a daughter, Marie, in 1819, who died after 5 months. Josette herself died in 1820 at the age of 26, recorded as the spouse of Francois "Thibus" Cantara. At his remarriage in 1822, Francois's parents were not named, as he was a widower. His second wife was Rosalie Arsenault, widow of Jacques Sanderson, with two surviving children. She and Francois then had six children, the first in Yamaska and the others in Sorel. He was by this time a mason (bricklayer) and, coincidentally or not, began to sign his name in the baptismal register.³⁷

Stepchildren of Francois Thibus Cantara, born to J. Sanderson and Rosalie Arsenault

1815-06-09	Rosalie	
1817-07-27	M. Emerance	

Children of Francois Thibus Cantara & (2nd wife) Rosalie Arsenault – married 1822

1823-08-15	Henriette	
1825-07-09	Francois	V. Blette
1828-01-04	Eleanore	
1830-07-04	Olivier	E. Blette
1832-08-17	Joseph	
1834-12-05	Pierre	A. Blette

In the 1825 Census of Québec, the family was enumerated in the Borough of William Henry, the then official name for the town of Sorel. Tibus Cantara headed a family of six – 3 under 6 years, 1 under 14 years, 1 male under age 40 and one female under age 45.³⁸

was the only Cantara of that name in the era being studied. He and his first wife Angelique Larocque had five children in close succession from 1788-1796, so he seems an unlikely candidate to have fathered [Francois] Thibus.

³⁷ Quebec Parish Registers, St-Pierre, Sorel, B 71, 05 June 1819, image 413/722; S, 02 November 1819, image 426/722; S, 16 September 1820, Josette Lefebvre, image 464/722; M, 30 April 1822, (Cantara / Arsenault), image 516/722.

³⁸ Ancestry.com. "1825 Census of Lower Canada," Richelieu County, MC31C1, p. 562.

Interestingly, on 27 July 1830, less than a month following his son Olivier's birth, a male infant born to unknown parents was baptized Tiburce, the godfather being Francois Tiburce Cantara. With no mother's name indicated, it was probably abandoned – perhaps Francois was feeling empathy for another fatherless child.

Their daughter Henriette married Augustin Lefebvre 07 November 1843, on the same day her brother Francois married Victoire Blette (or Bilette). Several years later, Olivier married Victoire's sister Emerentienne (or Emerance) and Pierre married another sister, Adeline.³⁹

Francois Tiburce Cantara died in Sorel on 18 July 1846, at age 51. I have not located the family in the 1851 census. Births of children to Francois Tiburce Cantara, fils, also a mason, and Victoire Blette follow:

The first was baptized Francois Xavier on 12 September 1844. Several did not survive to adulthood, as indicated in the table. At the 1857 baptism of their last child, M. Sophie Eugenie, "Tibus Contaras" was described as a "master mason."⁴⁰

The name Cantara was mentioned in several notarial documents in the 1850s and 1860s involving construction contracts. In 1863, a contract was signed in Montréal between F.T. Cantara "& son" and a Mr. Wm. Duglass. In 1864, before a notary in Richelieu, Francois

Cantara, both father and son, signed an "act de société," a partnership between them.⁴¹

Births of children to Francois Tiburce Cantara & (1st wife) Victoire Blette, m. 1843

1844-09-12	Francois X.	
1846-04-07	J. Hercule	
1847-05-30	Victoire	
1848-08-17	Edouard	
1850-02-28	Robert A.	d. 22 Dec 1863*
1851-12-03	M. Henriette	d. 13 Aug 1854
1854-06-03	Catherine	d. 28 Dec 1854
1856-09-10	Lucie	d. 28 Jan 1857**
1857-11-17	M. Sophie E.	

* As Guillaume

** In Montréal

Birth of child of Francois Tiburce Cantara & (2nd wife) Azilda Desy, m. 1862

1863-03-02	Marie Azilda	
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In the 1861 census, "Roselle" Arsenault, widow of F.T. Cantara, lived with her single daughter Eleanore, Henriette Cantara, widow of Augustin Lefebvre, and the Lefebvre children Henriette and Francis. In the next household lived Olivier Cantara, also a mason, his wife Emerence and their five children.⁴²

Francois Tibus's wife Victoire Blette died on 13 February 1861, leaving seven children, some in their teens. One year later the widower married 21-year-old Azilda Desy of Berthierville, across the St-Laurent from Sorel. Their daughter Marie Azilda was born 02 March 1863.⁴³

³⁹ Quebec Parish Registers, Yamaska, B 22, Henriette, 15 August 1823, image 366/616; St-Pierre, Sorel, M 53, Henriette 07 November 1843, image 244/626; Francois, B, 09 July 1825, image 616/722; Francois, M 54, 07 November 1843, image 244/626; Olivier, B 109, 04 July 1830, image 111/766; Olivier, M 28, 24 August 1847, image 532/626; Tiburce, B 124, 27 July 1830, image 114/766; Pierre, B, 05 December 1834, image 370/766; M 63, 20 October 1856, image 604/630.

⁴⁰ Quebec parish registers, St-Pierre Sorel, S 158, Frs. Tiburce, 20 July 1846, image 450/626.

Citations only for surviving children: St-Pierre, Sorel, 1844, B 210, Francois Xavier, image 300/626; 1846, B 85, Joseph Hercule, image 432/626; 1847, B 128, Victoire, image 511/626; 1848, B 183, Edouard, image 611/626; 1857, B 319, M. Sophie Eugenie, image 57/822.

⁴¹ Quebec, Montreal. Notarial Index of J-B Houle, #11046, 03 February 1863, "Contrat et agreement." Quebec, Richelieu, Notarial Index of J. George Crebassa, #6995, 20 APR 1864, "Acte de societe."

⁴² Ancestry.com. "1861 Census of Canada," Richelieu Co., Ville de Sorel, p. 22. (Rosalie Arsenault died at the age of 99 - Quebec Parish Registers, St-Pierre Sorel, S 156/57, 13 September 1890, image 2029/2177).

⁴³ Quebec Parish registers, St-Pierre Sorel, S 24, 13 February 1861, image 335/822; Ste-Genevieve, Berthierville, M 10, 24 February 1862, image 121/618; St-Pierre, Sorel, B 64, 02 March 1863 image 544/822.

On 10 October 1864, in St-Roch-de-Richelieu, Francois Tiburce Cantara, age 20, a "briqueleur" domiciled in Montréal, son of Francois T., and the late Victoire Blette, married Henriette Dublois, daughter of a baker.⁴⁴ Although I have not found a burial record, the notarial act cited below makes clear that the elder Cantara died sometime before 27 March 1867, when Francois Thibus Cantara [fils] made a "renonciation" "es noms et qualité," to the succession of the late Francois Thibus Cantara "pere."⁴⁵

Within a few years the surviving adult children of Francois & Victoire had relocated to central Massachusetts, along with the family of their uncle Olivier. The men worked as bricklayers or at the brickyard in Spencer.⁴⁶

In Southbridge, MA, Marie A. Cantara was born on 25 February 1868, the first child of Francois and Henriette. Their next child, Marie Henriette, was born on 19 May 1869. On 05 May 1871, Francois' wife died in Spencer MA. Six months later he married Cesarie Dupuis. They apparently had no children and on 02 July 1874 Cesarie died of tuberculosis.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Quebec Parish registers, St-Roch-de-Richelieu, M 4, 10 OCT 1864, image 72/244.

⁴⁵ Quebec, Richelieu. Notarial index of J. George Crebassa, #8181, "Renonciation ..." The index wording suggests that Cantara fils formally dissolved the business partnership set up in 1864 with his late father. "Ês (with a grave accent on the e), is an archaism. It comes from the contraction of "en les": the expression is therefore always in the plural. It is used to indicate that a person is designated in a contract or in a procedure, either in demand or in defense, as legal, institutional or contractual representative of another person.": www.dictionnaire-juridique.com/definition/es-qualites.php

⁴⁶ 1870 U.S. Census, Southbridge, Worcester Co., MA, p. 93, [348] stamped, family 533, dwelling 712, household of Oliver Cantara; family 537, dwelling 716, household of Frank Cantara.

⁴⁷ Ancestry.com. Massachusetts Birth Records, 1840-1915, 25 February 1868, line 15; 19 May 1869, line 65. Massachusetts Death Records, 1841-1915, 05 May 1871, line 17. Massachusetts Marriage Records, 1840-1915, Spencer, 06 October 1871, p. 311, line 29; Massachusetts Death Records, 1841-1915, Spencer, 02 July 1874, line 26.

On 15 February 1876, in Worcester County Probate Court, Francois T. Cantara, guardian of his daughter "Ata T. Cantara," gave bond, with F.X. Marchessault, father of her late mother, and F.T.'s brother Hercule T. Cantara, to sell real estate for the child's maintenance.⁴⁸

In the 1880 census, as noted above, "Etta," was living with Osilda (Cantara) & Joseph Davignon and Osilda's daughter Azilda. Was Etta Frank's younger daughter Marie Henriette - whose name would seem a nickname for Henriette or was she Marie A. whose age suggests she was the elder? The name Etta seems to fit the subject of the probate document described above.⁴⁹

"Francois T. Cantara" may be the Frank Cantara married in Haverhill MA on 15 November 1879 to Sarah King, a native of Vermont, by a justice of the peace. I have not located him in either the 1880 U.S. or the 1881 Canadian census.⁵⁰

Later in the decade, there is a Frank T. Cantara, mason, listed in the 1885 and 1887 Chicago, IL city directories.⁵¹ Frank appeared in the U.S. naturalization records in Pierce Co. Washington where he filed a declaration in 1891 and was granted citizenship on 13 March 1894.

In the 1900 census of Tacoma Washington, Frank T. Cantara, widower, age 55 was a building contractor, having emigrated in 1866 from

⁴⁸ Ancestry.com. "Worcester County MA Probate Records, 1731-1925," Case 9842, images 377/389.

⁴⁹ Ancestry.com. "U.S. Census, Killingly, Windham Co.," ED 127, p. 8 D [stamped 352, verso], household 75, family 106.

Ancestry.com. "City Directories of the U.S., 1822-1995," Tacoma WA City directory, 1892 (the earliest complete edition online) lists "Etta T. Cantara" boarding with Frank T., p. 204.

⁵⁰ Massachusetts Marriage Records, 1840-1915, Haverhill, 15 November 1879, #215, p. 194. The question remains where the other of his daughters was living in 1880. I have found no death or (later) marriage record in Massachusetts which might fit.

⁵¹ City Directories of the U.S. "Annual Directory of the City of Chicago," 1885, p. 286; 1887, p. 309. In the latter year he lived with James H. Cantara, who cannot be identified as a relative, but both were described as bricklayers

Canada. Living with him was his daughter Marietta, 33, single and a milliner.⁵²

Cantara was registered as a voter in Los Angeles County, 70th Assembly District. He died 15 March 1917, age 72, in Los Angeles County CA. His daughter had married a few months earlier in Ocean Park CA to Carl D. Starr, a native of New London, Connecticut. His age was listed as 31 and hers as 39, but she was really 46 years old. She was buried as Marietta Starr (1869-1946) in Santa Monica CA.⁵³

Epilogue

We may never know for sure whether the Tiburce Cantara born in 1795 was a genetic descendant of the French emigrant. I find it interesting that his siblings and members of the next generations used Tiburce as a middle name (or T. as a middle initial). The first F. T. Cantara seemed to be the leading force in his extended family, raising them from habitants to skilled craftsmen, some of whom in the next generations reached entrepreneurial status.



⁵² Ancestry.com. "Washington. Petitions for Naturalization, 1860-1991," Superior Court, Pierce Co. WA, Declaration of Intentions, 1891-1904, 31 July 1891 #2724, p. 433. "U.S. Naturalization Records, 1840-1957," Washington District Court; Declaration of Intentions, 1907-1913 [sic], 13 MAR 1894, p. 306.

1900 U.S. Census, Tacoma, Pierce Co., ED 133, p. 5B.

⁵³ Ancestry.com. "California Voter Registrations, 1900-1968," 1912, 1914, 1916, Los Angeles Co., Frank T. Cantara, contractor.

Ancestry.com. "California Death Index, 1905-1929," #10032; Ancestry.com. "California Marriage Index, 1850-1952."

www.findagrave.com/memorial/198644056, Santa Monica, CA, Woodlawn Cemetery, Frank T. Cantara, [his birth date was exactly one year off]; memorial/171258901, Marietta Starr.

H. (Hercule) T. Cantara (born Joseph Hercule)
1846-1906, brother of Frank T.

H. T. CANTARA,
Mason, Builder, Plasterer,
AND MASTIC AND STUCCO WORKER.
Ornamental Cornice and Centre Pieces, of
various patterns constantly on hand.
Orders promptly attended to.
MECHANIC STREET,
Spencer, Mass.

City Directory, Worcester County, MA 1874-75
Advertising Department, p. 133, image 515/554

(printed horizontally at bottom of page)
Ancestry.com. City Directories of the U.S., 1822-1995

Types of Early French-Canadian Notarial Acts

Maryanne LeGrow, #696

The local notary in French Canada performed tasks perhaps second in importance only to that of the priest. His primary – in practical terms almost his only – function was to act as a representative of the French government in drawing up deeds and contracts. Notarial records began to be kept within the first years of New France’s existence, with contracts known to have been written as early as 1626. The oldest surviving notarial records are land transactions drawn up in 1637 by the notary Jean de Lespinasse⁵⁴.

A notarial record is a private agreement between two or more persons that is made in the form of a contract. A notarial contract, once properly written, signed and witnessed, was a legally binding agreement. Should the parties later decide not to follow through with its terms, they would have to initiate another legal document to cancel the original agreement.

An amazing number of notarial records have survived from the earliest days because the contracts were drawn up in duplicate. The parties to the contract got original copies, and the notary kept a duplicate for his files. These duplicate copies, called “minutes” constitute the majority of surviving early documents.

Like the parish records of baptisms, marriages and burials, each type of notarial document follows a prescribed format with set contents. Every document drawn by a notary includes at a minimum:

- Notary’s name
- Date and location where document was signed
- Names and residences of parties to the agreement
- Names and residences of witnesses

⁵⁴ *Finding Your Family in Notarial Records*. Ancestry. Accessed 09 November 2020 at cms.ancestrycdn.com/media/dam/acom/PDF/Content/quebec-notarial-us.pdf. This very useful site contains more detailed explanations of some of the more common types of contracts.

- Sometimes ages, occupations, and relationship of contracting parties or witnesses are given.

Notarial records are usually indexed by the names of the notaries, their location, and the dates when they were active. Although some online records are beginning to be indexed by the names of the parties to the contract or record, the majority are not. However, if you know the dates and places of residence of your ancestors, it should not be difficult to determine the name of the notary who practiced in that area and time period. Since records are generally arranged chronologically, scanning through them to locate your ancestors’ names should not be too difficult. If you are lucky, you may find that the notary’s alphabetical index or catalog to his collection also survives.

The Archives Nationales du Québec (BAnQ) is the common repository for notarial records from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and most of the nineteenth centuries. You can access records in that collection at banq.gc.ca/archives/genealogie_histoire_familiale/genealogie_banq/guide/archives-notariales/index.html?language_id=1

Among the most common types of notarial documents that you may encounter are marriage contracts, wills, estate inventories, leases, and sales contracts. As more and more notarial documents are made available on various internet sites, there is a good chance that you will find records related to your ancestors that contain terms and contract types unknown in the United States.

The following is a list of some of the more common terms that you may encounter in early French Canadian notarial records:

Accord: An agreement made between two or more individuals.

Achat: Purchase of property. Similar to a bill of sale.

Bail: A lease or rental agreement on a given property. May be for a farm, house, or even just a room in a house.

Cens: Payment or service reserved to an owner of an estate as a recognition of the owner's title. See Concession.

Cession: Transfer or assignment of property.

Codicille: An addition or amendment to an existing will.

Concession: The giving of land in a seigneurie in return for cens and rente. Sometimes referred to as a habitation.

Constitution: Establishment or settlement of something.

Convention: Agreement.

Déclaration: A statement; usually made to acknowledge an act which took place in the past.

Don Mutuel: An agreement between husband and wife which leaves the surviving spouse the heir to property.

Donation or Donation entre vifs: Donation record between living persons. Giving of property, prior to death, in return for a stated condition or conditions. Some elderly parents make "early wills." While living, they divide their property among their children, or sometimes giving it to unrelated persons. Usually the contract specifies provisions for their support in old age by one or more of the recipient.

Engagement: Labor contract, indenture record. An agreement between indentured servant or apprentice and his/her master. Also used in fur trade contracts with voyageurs. Agreement to hire a person for a specific job. French men contracted to labor in Canada for a specific length of time in exchange for compensation. Notaries in French ports such as La Rochelle drew up the earliest engagements.

Exchange: An agreement between two or more persons to exchange land.

Inventaire, sometimes Inventaire après décès: Itemized inventory and estimate of the value of estate of a deceased person. Similar to probate record. Often prepared prior to the re-marriage of the surviving spouse to protect the interest in the estate of children from the first marriage.

Marché: Business agreement or contract between two or more persons.

Mariage or Contrat de mariage: Agreement between two parties to marry, signed prior to the religious ceremony. May describe bride's dowry and the division of property if the marriage is dissolved. often include names and places of residence of the spouses' parents. This did not constitute an actual marriage, which had to be performed at the date specified in the document, but it was a binding legal contract. If the parties decided not to go through with the marriage, they would have to legally nullify the contract.

Obligation: Agreement between two or more persons that states an amount of money borrowed and the conditions of repayment.

Partage: Settlement or division of property. Partage records list family members who will receive a share of the estate. Especially references the division of land among heirs.

Procès-verbaux: An official statement.

Procuration: Power of attorney.

Quittance: A release from an agreement once the conditions of the agreement have been met. In effect, a receipt, discharge from debt.

Ratification: Statement made by a second person in accepting a decision. For example, if a guardian sold the property of a minor, the child, upon reaching the age of majority, may ratify the guardian's decision.

Renonciation: Surrender of a claim.

Rente: A form of annual income, allowance, annuity. See Concession.

[Continued on page 195]

[Continued from page 167]

New Bedford Free Public Library
613 Pleasant St., New Bedford, MA -2740-6203
(508)-991-6275

www.newbedford-ma.gov/library/

www.facebook.com/newbedfordlibrary/

Has microfilm of one French-language newspaper published in New Bedford – *Le Messager* (May 29, 1927-Jan. 25, 1953).

Pollard Memorial Library
401 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852
(978)-674-4120

<https://lowelllibrary.org/>

Has six French-language newspapers published in Lowell: *L'Étoile* (Sept. 1886-Aug. 1957), *L'Union* (May 17, 1889-Mar. 21, 1890), *La revue de Lowell* (Aug. 7, 1902-Jan. 8, 1904), *Le Réveil* (Sept. 14, 1908-Jan. 1, 1909), *La Vérité* (Aug. 15-Nov. 19, 1910), *Le Supplément* (May 1, 1913-Dec. 1915).

Springfield City Library
Genealogy and Local History Department
220 State St., Springfield, MA 01103

(413)-263-6828

www.springfieldlibrary.org/library/local-history-and-genealogy/

Genealogy department has extensive collection of indexes of marriages from Province of Quebec.

Woonsocket Harris Public Library
303 Clinton St. Woonsocket, RI 02895-3214
(401)-769-9044

<https://woonsocketlibrary.org/>

Has microfilm of four French language newspapers published in Woonsocket: *La Tribune* (1896-1934), *Le Progres* (1898-1919), *La Sentinelle* (1924-1928), and *L'Independent* (1935-1942).

Worcester Public Library
3 Salem St., Worcester, MA 01608
(508)-799-1655

<https://mywpl.org/>

Has microfilm of two French language newspapers published in Worcester, both named *Le Travailleur*, the first published by Ferdinand Gagnon from 1879 to 1892, the second published by Wilfred Beaulieu from 1931 to 1978.

We extend a warm Bienvenue and Joyeux Noël to our new members

2508 Anne Boyle
2509 Anne Renaud-Jones
2510 Carol Schile-Meyer
2511 Gordon Duhane
2513 David Duff
2514 Sherri Pelletier
2515 Susan & Maurice Dion
2516 John Louis Lavoie

Recipes with a French Flair



Our holidays may be quieter this pandemic year, and family gatherings smaller, but people will still need to eat. And as every French person knows, good food offers comfort in the present and hope for better days in the future. We offer here two recipes that you may like to add to your collection of holiday dishes. With



many thanks to Germaine Hoffman, member #333, and best wishes from everyone at the FCGSC to you and your family for a happy, safe, and healthy Christmas and New Year.

RAGOUT (Served on New Year's Day)

8 Pig hocks
1-cup flour
1 ½ pounds hamburger
¾-teaspoon ground cloves
1 small onion chopped
1-teaspoon cinnamon
6 potatoes cut in quarters
Salt and pepper to taste

Place pig hocks in a large kettle and cover with water. Add chopped onions, salt and pepper and bring to a boil. Simmer covered for about 2 hours. During the last half hour, add spices. Remove hocks from broth and de-bone.

Meanwhile mix hamburger with ¾ teaspoon of ground cloves 1 teaspoons of cinnamon form into small meatballs and cook. Set aside.

Add potatoes during the last half hour of cooking hocks.

Lightly brown 1-cup flour and mix with water to make a liquid for gravy. Add this gravy mixture to bubbling broth and simmer for another 5 minutes or so until mixture thickens to gray. Add meatballs, de-boned pig hock meat to gravy, and cook another 2 or 3 minutes. Serve.

RAPPIE (RAPEE) PIE

An old Acadian dish still widely served in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

Oven temperature: 375 degrees
Cooking time: 1 hour
Yield: 8 to 10 servings

8 large potatoes, grated
1 three (3) pound chicken, cooked
1-2 onions, chopped
½-cup butter
6 strips bacon
Poultry seasoning, salt and pepper

Two hours ahead, cook chicken in water, seasoned with onion, salt and pepper. When chicken is done, remove from pot; cool, debone and shred. Peel and grate potatoes; place in a tea towel or a double thickness of cheesecloth and wring out thoroughly over a mixing bowl to remove liquid; save liquid for measurement. Replace potato water with the same amount of chicken broth and return potatoes and broth to a heavy pot. Add seasoning to taste. Cook and stir until broth is absorbed and potato mixture resembles jelly. Remove from heat. In a 9" x 13" casserole dish, place one-half of the potato mixture; cover with all of the chicken, and on half of the onions and the butter. Layer the remaining half of potatoes, onions and butter on top. Pat down, smooth the surface, and lay bacon strips over all. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 1 hour. Serves 8 to 10.

**FCGSC Gratefully Acknowledges Financial Contributions to the Society
May 31, 2020 through November 20, 2020**

We thankfully recognize the generosity of all the members and friends whose donations have helped to maintain our Library and further the work of the Society through the years. Now, more than ever before, we are grateful for the generosity of all those whose kind contributions are helping us to keep our Society operating during these difficult times. The following members and friends have generously added an extra amount to their membership renewal payments. Their thoughtfulness will help us keep the lights on and our spirits up as we wait out the days ahead.

Don & Dee Belleville

Ron Blanchette

Ann Carroll

Richard Caouette

Anne & Robert Cross

Frances Curtin

Maurice Dion

David Duff

Ronald Gaudet

Luann Hamm

Germaine Hoffman

Ernest Laliberte

Sharron LaPlante

Odette Manning

Celine Nielwocki

Gerard Perusse

Helen Maxon

Edward Perron

We appreciate and rely upon your ongoing financial support. Please consider making a charitable donation to the benefit of the French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut.

**All contributions to the Society are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law,
and may be eligible for your company's matching gift program**

Using Periodicals in Your Research

Maryanne LeGrow, #696

Readers of previous issues of this journal will be familiar with Germaine Hoffman's *Mélange* column, in which she presents a sampling of current articles from other U.S. and Canadian genealogical publications. Although Germaine has not been able to compile the column for this issue, in the pages that follow we have provided a collection of recommended articles to fill the temporary gap, and we look forward to having her back as a columnist in our next issue.

The FCGSC library holdings include a good many genealogical journals. They are, unfortunately, among the least used resources in the collection. Probably the majority of our patrons aren't even aware of their existence. This is a loss to many researchers, because genealogical periodicals are a gold mine of information that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Like practitioners in most other do-it-yourself fields, family history researchers tend to be largely self-educated. Webinars, print manuals, advice columns, formal classes and online information of varying levels of quality are all available to those who seek them. But as a group we tend to learn mostly by doing. We also learn by talking through problems that we encounter and by listening to the experiences of others. In other words, we learn how to do genealogical research by hearing and seeing how others found answers to their genealogical problems.

In educational circles, this is known as the case study approach. Budding lawyers and doctors examine case studies; student architects, social workers, and business students all learn by solving case study problems. The technique is ubiquitous. Most significantly for us, genealogical journals educate their readers through the case studies they record.

In addition, such journals frequently include indexes and abstracts of various local records. Back issues of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf*, for instance, contains a significant number of extracts from Connecticut towns' marriage, birth, and

death records, city directories, and cemetery inscriptions.

Our library holds bound volumes of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, beginning with its first issue in 1847. This journal contains multigenerational genealogical studies of New England families, many of whose lines connect with those of French-Canadian immigrants.

Journals provide a valuable service by printing corrections to mistakes in published lineages. As an example, Kathleen W. Hinckley, CGRS, points to the July, 1997, issue of *The American Genealogist* in which appears the following article:

“. . . "Margery (Maude) Fisher, Quaker Immigrant to Delaware: A Correction of Her Lineage" by Charles M. Hansen, FASG. Margery Maude was born in 1671 and married Thomas Fisher in 1692 in Lewes, Delaware. The incorrect lineage of Margery (Maude) Fisher was published in Count d'Angerville's *Living Descendants of Blood Royal*, 5 vols., (London: 1959-73, 1:46-47) and again in Gary Boyd Roberts' *The Royal Descents of 500 Immigrants*, (Baltimore: 1993), 180⁵⁵. If you are a descendant of Margery (Maude) Fisher, this article will be critical to your research."⁵⁶

In addition to compiled genealogies and corrections, journals publish "How-to" articles, queries and book reviews. They tend to contain more up-to-date content than do books. For example, the newest information in the fast-evolving field of DNA research is more likely to be found in a genealogical article than in a published book. Use of DNA testing has opened the field to discoveries of what are called NPE or sometimes MPE (Nonparental Events or Misattributed Parental Events) – branches in a lineage that do not

⁵⁵ Review of this book in *CML* Vol.19, No.1, pp. 23, 28, 30.

⁵⁶ Hinckley, Kathleen W. *Why Are Periodicals Important to Research?* Accessed 23 November 2020 at www.genealogy.com/articles/research/34_kathy.html

conform to descent from the presumed common ancestor. This can happen when a child is adopted, is attributed to the wrong sibling, or is simply not the child of a purported father.

In French Canadian research, families with known MPEs include:

Baudreau dit Graveline
Biron
Choret/Charest
David
Demers
Désautels
Destroismaisons / Picard with Fauchon
Doucet/Gagnon
Fournier⁵⁷
Guérin / St-Hilaire, with Gervais
Lamothe / Lamont
Lebel, with Saint-Pierre / Dessaint
Lefebvre (Pierre m. 1673 Marguerite Gagné)
Lévesque
Martineau / St-Onge
Patenaude
Robertchaud
Rousseau (Jean m 1699 Marie Destroismaisons)
Thibault, with Doré
Veilleux⁵⁸

For the most up to date information on DNA discoveries, the genealogist must go to articles in journals. Waiting for such content to appear in a book or corrections/explanations to make their way into published lineages could take years.

A journal's content is often focused on solving specific research problems, sometimes shedding the light of new techniques or recent findings on problems of long standing. Many journals record family stories, events, and data from personal records that may be found nowhere else.

Genealogical journals contain historical content that puts events in our ancestors' lives into perspective. They can enlarge our understanding of time periods and lead to insights, explanations of

existing data, and to suggestions of where to look for further information.

Journals often publish articles that concern specific individuals or families. Unlike databases, family stories in journal articles can go beyond dry names, dates and places to include personal descriptions, reasons for immigration/emigration, photos, or anecdotes. They can provide leads to new sources, to contacts with subject experts or to persons who are knowledgeable about specific families. Even stories about unrelated families can teach us new techniques and suggest new approaches to our existing research.

It is clear that golden nuggets are there in the journals. But how do we access them? Obviously the limited scope of articles such as our *Mélange* can only show the tip of the iceberg. However, each journal issue has an index to its contents, and most publish the occasional cumulative index. This may be done yearly, by volume, or in some other fashion. Paging through several issues will usually reveal the timetable for cumulative indexing in a particular journal.

A more convenient way to search the contents of older publications is through the index commonly known as PERSI, the Periodical Source Index. A project of the Allen County (Indiana) Public Library, this index covers more than 5,000 United States and Canadian genealogical publications issued from 1847 through the present. Articles can be searched by locality (both state and county), publication date, family name, and article subject. The indexes were at first issued yearly in print volumes, and then on CD. The FCGSC Library has a CD copy that is current through the late 1990s. The current PERSI is searchable at search.findmypast.com/search-worldRecords/periodical-source-index. Results of an index search are free to the public. To see any online images of the periodicals, you must subscribe to FindMyPast or purchase pay-per-view credits. But anyone may visit a library and page through back issues of a journal.

The gold is out there if you are willing to dig a little for it. There's no telling what treasures you may turn up. Good luck and happy prospecting!

⁵⁷ As an example, see discussion of a Fournier family MPE in Gendreau-Hetu, Pierre. "Nom d'un chromosome! La généalogie des Québécois réécrite par l'ADN" ["Name of a chromosome! The genealogy of Québécois rewritten by DNA"]. *L'Ancestre*, Summer, 2019.

⁵⁸ See "Québec ADN / Quebec DNA" on Facebook.

A Brief List of Some Genealogical Periodicals in the Collection of the FCGSC Library

Presented below is a sampling of the current periodical holdings of the FCGSC Library. There are others, including some that are no longer in publication, like the late Joy Reisinger's *Lost in Canada*. As you can see, half of the journals in this list are French language publications. Don't let the inability to read French stop you from looking through these periodicals for articles that may be of interest. If a name, a photograph, or a reproduced document catches your eye, if you happen to find something that looks interesting, we can help you with translation.

American-Canadian Genealogist. American Canadian Genealogical Society, Manchester, NH. Issued quarterly. English. [Note: Beginning December, 2021, this will be available only in electronic format. Print version is being discontinued.]

Les Argoulets. Société d'histoire et de généalogie de Verdun. Verdun, Québec. French.

Au pays des chutes. Société d'histoire et de généalogie de Shawnigan. Shawnigan, Québec. Published biannually (?) French.

Cherchone. Société de généalogie de la Beauce. Saint-Georges, Quebec. Published quarterly. French.

Connecticut Ancestry. Connecticut Ancestry Society. Stamford, CT. Published quarterly. English.

Connecticut Genealogy News: For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage. Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Glastonbury, CT. Published quarterly. English.

L'Entraide généalogique. Société de généalogie des Cantons-de-l'Est. Sherbrooke, Québec. Issued quarterly. French.

L'Estuaire Généalogique. Société de Généalogie et d'Histoire de Rimouski. Rimouski, Québec. Published quarterly. French.

Generations. New Brunswick Genealogical Society. Fredericton, New Brunswick. Published quarterly. English.

Institut Français Nouvelles. Assumption College French Institute. Worcester, MA. Published biannually. English.

Je Me Souviens. American French Genealogical Society. Woonsocket, RI. Published quarterly. English.

Links. Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society. Burlington, VT. Published biannually. English.

Le Louperivois. La Société d'histoire et de généalogie de Rivière-du-Loup. Rivière-du-Loup, Québec. Published quarterly. French.

Mémoires. Société généalogique canadienne-française. Montréal, Québec. Published quarterly. French.

Michigan's Habitant Heritage. French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan. Royal Oak, Michigan. Published quarterly. English.

Nos Sources. Société de généalogie de Lanaudière. Joliette, Québec. Published quarterly. French.

L'Outaouais généalogique. Société de généalogie de l'Outaouais. Gatineau, Québec. Published quarterly. French.

Par Monts et Rivière. La Société d'Histoire et de Généalogie des Quatre Lieux. Saint-Paul-d'Abbotsford, Québec. Published monthly. French.

La Revue de Salem. Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc. Salem, MA. Published April, August, and December. English.

A Mélange of Current Periodical Selections

Connecticut Genealogy News. Vol. 13, No. 1-4. Ongoing series of articles spotlighting the history of local towns. The Spring, 2020 issue (Vol.13, No. 1) focuses on Mansfield, CT. Succeeding issues in this volume treat the histories of Guilford, Enfield, and Coventry.

Par Monts et Rivière. “Les patriotes Louis Renault Blanchard et son fils Louis-Patrice arpenteur.” [The patriots Louis Renault Blanchard and his son Louis Patrice, surveyors]. Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 12-13:

Generations: Vol. 42, No. 1 of this journal has several articles on New Brunswick cemeteries:

- Art DeWolfe & Barbara Pearson: Salt Springs Cemetery, Kings County, Part 14, pp. 33-37.
- Daphne Wetmore: “Acadian Loyalist Cemetery,” French Village, Kings Co., pp. 43-46.
- Knox United Church Cemetery, Markhamville, Kings County, p. 46.

L’Estuaire Généalogique: Émile Audy: “Siméon Leroy-Audy, un Huguenot? Est-il possible d’établir des preuves circonstanciées? (Simeon Leroy-Audy, a Huguenot? Is it possible to establish circumstantial evidence? Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 3-11.

L’Entraide généalogique:

- Francine Saint-Laurent: “Histoire de Pierre Laurent dit Saint-Laurent.” Part I: No. 154, Summer 2020, pp.27-34; Part II, No. 155, Autumn 2020, pp.54-58.
- Pierre Rioux: “Les origines et la généalogie de Dominique Martinet.” No. 55, Autumn 2020, pp. 66-68

Links. Peter Crosby: “When Linear Genealogy Research is Not Sufficient: Irish Brick Wall Breached or Bypassed.” Vol.23, No.1, pp. 31-36.

Le Luperivois. Vol. 32, No. 1-2

- Ouellet, Jeannine: “Amérindiens au Bas-Saint-Laurent en 1871” [Native Americans in the Bas Saint-Laurent in 1871]. (6th part), pp. 8-9.
- Lindsay, Jocelyn: “Des tâches supplémentaires pour les gardiens de phare en temps de guerre

- . . . chaude ou froide,” [Additional duties for lighthouse keepers in wartime. . . hot or cold], pp. 10-17.

Nos Sources. Robert Lapointe: “Paternité de François Bibeau.” Vol. 40, No. 3, pp. 94-99.

Mémoires.

- Marcel Fournier: “Les recrues des troupes de la Marine arrivées au Canada en 1750 sur la navire *Madame L’Infante Victoire*.” [The Navy recruits who arrived in Canada in 1750]. Vol. 71, No.1, pp. 51-59.
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The Story of a Special Building FCGSC's Home: The Tolland Old County Courthouse

Ivan Robinson #326

[Editor's Note: The Tolland County Courthouse building, where the FCGSC Library is located, is fast approaching its 200th year. We reprint here an article by the late Ivan Robinson, newspaperman, Tolland resident, member of the Tolland Historical Society, and a past president of the FCGSC. The article appeared twenty-five years ago in the Summer, 1995, issue of the *CML* (Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 23-26), not such a long time ago as history is measured here in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut, but long enough for significant events to have happened and changes to have taken place that should be noted. We append to the original article a brief word of correction by Ivan that was published in the succeeding *CML* issue, and a note to bring matters up to the present time.]

Old buildings, like family lines, have an origin in the distant past. They've descended from generation to generation to what they are today. They've survived different times and shifting needs. And they've often played key roles in their communities.

Of the many old buildings in Connecticut, few can claim a prouder pedigree than the Old County Courthouse on the Green in Tolland. This noble white, two-story Federal-style heirloom with its green-topped belfry is recognized as one of only five architecturally outstanding civic buildings in Connecticut and is listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings. Its first floor has been the base for the French Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut since 1986. FCGSC members interested in history as well as genealogy may find the story of our home an interesting one.

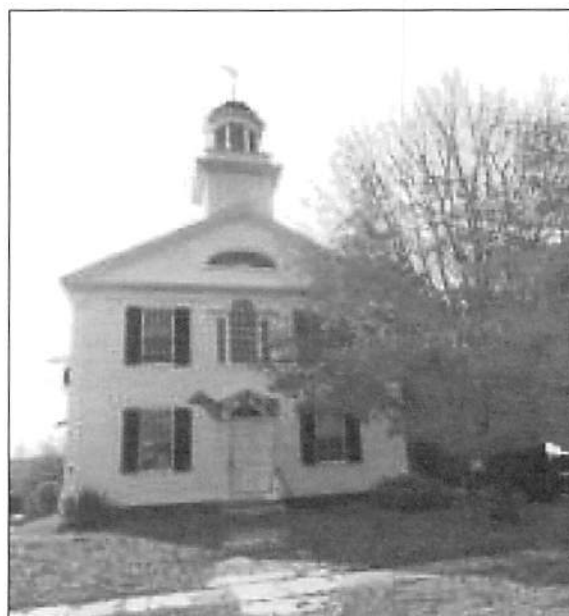
At One Time, A Witness to Bustle

Dating from its authorization by the General Assembly in 1822, when the Revolution was history still as fresh in some people's minds as World War II is in our time, the Old County Courthouse in Tolland has not always looked out upon a quiet scene, as it generally does now.

For seven decades, it was the scene of all major trials in Tolland County, since it served as the base for both the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas. The trials took place on the second floor, a huge room remarkable for its clear-span construction (no interior supporting posts to

block the view) and still preserved today in its original layout. The front hall, on court days back then, was noisy with lawyers and litigants waiting to go upstairs before the judge. Court officials presided downstairs. Prisoners awaiting trial were kept in a room now known as the "vault," behind that mysterious door next to our lending library, and were brought up into the courtroom in chains via the small staircase near our back door.

The building, in addition, faced out on a busy, ever-changing scene because the village of Tolland was a bustling place in the 1800s. If you stand on the rough granite steps at the Courthouse's front door and use a little imagination, you may get a sense of being back in those times.



When Lafayette Stopped By

Townpeople strolled along the Green between stores and offices and wayfarers' taverns. Children played and ran errands. Mail coaches and freight wagons thundered in and out of town. Farm wagons brought produce from outlying areas. The whinnying of nervous horses undoubtedly carried up from the horse sheds behind the Courthouse. Prisoners and their guards shuttled back and forth between the Courthouse and the County Jail across the street. A blacksmith a few hundred yards up the road toward the present-day St. Matthew Church never lacked for work.

In 1824, while the Courthouse was still under construction but almost ready to open, Lafayette stopped by. Then 67, he was on a visit from France to see his old Revolutionary War buddies, beside whom he had fought when he was in his 20s. He and his entourage paused in their trek for refreshment in the Elijah Smith Tavern two doors down from the Courthouse. (The tavern is long gone. A home now stands on the site, on the other side of the law office next door.)

The Other Courthouse – And a Murder

The Old County Courthouse, despite its antiquity, was not Tolland's first. Another had been built in 1785, the year that Tolland County was created and Tolland was designated the county seat.

This predecessor was a two story, gambrel-roofed structure, 40 by 30 feet in size. It occupied the center of the Green, slightly north of the present courthouse. At one outside corner stood a whipping post and stocks for two people, daily reminders that justice would be administered locally and publicly.

The town leaders, it seems, were so happy about getting a new courthouse that they tore down the old one before the new one was ready. So when the only murder in the town's history occurred in the spring of 1824, the trial had to be held in the town's Congregational Church.

The accused was a transient ne'er-do-well who, in a drinking bout with his wife, hit her on the

head with his oak cane and killed her. The trial resulted in a verdict of guilty and a sentence of death by hanging. The man, represented by one of the town's leading lawyers, turned down a chance to have the sentence commuted to life, saying he preferred the quick way out.

One local history reports that before the day of execution, the sentencing judge paced the floor throughout the night, unable to sleep.

A long religious service preceded the hanging. On hand was a throng of hundreds, drawn from miles around to see the execution. A minister led the prayers from the front steps of the new Courthouse, while the condemned man sat stoically in a wagon nearby. Finally, everyone proceeded to Bald Hill, just north of the Green, and there the man was hanged and buried near the gallows.

Why A Courthouse in Tolland?

Why did rural Tolland deserve to be the county seat and the site for the courthouse?

Chartered in 1715, the town was first methodically settled in that year by 59 men and their families from Windsor, among them an ancestor of Ulysses S. Grant. For the nearly one hundred years following, Tolland enjoyed a bucolic isolation.

But the pace of life changed as the 1800s dawned. Thanks to ancient Native American trails and the colonists' patterns of traveling between settlements, Tolland found itself at the junction of several major new toll roads and post routes. There was, for example, the "middle" Boston Post Road of interior Connecticut. It ran east and west across the bottom of Tolland Green, carrying mail between Hartford and points west and Worcester and points east. Another major road came up from Norwich to the south and went on to Stafford and western Massachusetts to the north. Today's web of roads leading away from the Green remains as evidence of these once important connections.

In the early 1800s, consequently, Tolland life in front of the Old Courthouse was active if not

downright hectic. The first stage coaches arrived in town in 1807. Three years later, the town was about a quarter the size of Hartford in population (1,510 vs. 6,003) and had more than a third of the dwellings (300 vs. 850). There were plenty of jobs, too, in those days of local self-sufficiency. Accounts say that, in the booming period of the early 1800s, Tolland had one iron casting furnace, three grain mills, two fulling (wool-finishing) mills, two distilleries, three tanneries, four stores and three church societies.

By the 1820s, the mail routes through Tolland had become major thoroughfares. Post coaches drawn by four horses clattered into town daily. The Norwich-to-Springfield coach arrived three times a week. Fast trotting horses dashed through in a flurry of gravel. Freight wagons carried goods between Tolland and the Hartford docks. So, you can see, it made as much sense for Lafayette to use this popular route through Tolland as it does for us today to use Interstate 84.

First Blow: Jilted by the Railroads

The heyday of the stages was relatively short. Around 1850, the railroads began replacing them. Tolland, situated on the high, ledgy eastern lip of the Connecticut Valley, was bypassed in favor of the more reachable Rockville, below and to the west, where the fast-dropping Hockanum River had sprouted a chain of water-powered mills eager to be served by the new rail lines.

Tolland was still the county seat, however, and the Courthouse continued to be the hub of legal activity. Court sessions opened in the spring and fall. Horse sheds behind the Courthouse filled up, as usual. And so did the County House (now the site of the historical museum across the street). It was there that the judge, out-of-town lawyers and jurors lived during the court sessions. In the 1850s, the Courthouse was witness to big fairs on the Green, complete with a cattle show and exhibition of horses, a plowing match and a horse race on a half-mile track around the Green. In the late 1800s, the Fourth of July was celebrated with noise and devilment. Church bells began ringing at midnight and clanged incessantly

throughout the day. Town boys saw the holiday as a time for pranks. One night, a group of them hoisted a calf into the belfry of the Courthouse. The poor animal was up there bawling when the town awoke. By the 1880s, the east-west Old Post Road had become "the back road" to Rockville. The main road to Rockville now ran north and south through the Green (what is now Route 195 blending into route 74 at the Green).

One elderly man looking back at Tolland in the 1880s remembered plenty of activity in the village. He recalled traveling tradesmen announcing their coming with horns, bells or bugles, a tinkerer showing up on a predictable schedule to mend pots and pans, a drover and his dog arriving once a year to buy and sell livestock, gypsies camping by a brook at the west edge of town, German brass bands parading along the Green on their way to their next engagement, a Tyrolean with a dancing brown bear, and the inevitable Italian organ grinder with his monkey. Even P. T. Barnum stopped by once to show off Tom Thumb and his wife, traveling in their own miniature coach drawn by ponies.

Second Blow: The Courts Leave Town

But Tolland was about to suffer another blow. In 1888, the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas followed the example of the railroads and transferred to Rockville. The last major court session in the Old County Courthouse took place in 1892.

By then, Tolland had returned to its bucolic nature. Many of the picturesque houses on the Green became vacant most of the year, serving as summer homes only, as their owners had to make their living elsewhere.

Town and Courthouse Bound Back

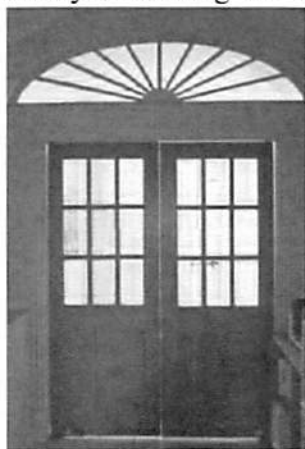
But the town and the Courthouse eventually bounded back. The town, thanks to the advent of the automobile and new highways to serve it, became a prized residential community for people working in the insurance and governmental offices of Hartford and on the aircraft engine assembly lines in East Hartford in one direction

and on the main campus of the University of Connecticut at Storrs in the other.

The Courthouse, on the other hand, found new life as the town's public library. The library opened in it on January 1, 1899, sharing the first floor with the Probate Court for the district. In 1930, through the initiative of the state representative from Tolland, the Tolland Public Library Association became the owner of the historic building and remains so today, serving as the FCGSC's landlord. It's interesting to note that the building was a library longer than it was a courthouse (94 years as a library versus 70 years as a courthouse). The library, eventually bursting at the colonial seams, moved in 1986 to new, modern quarters behind the present Town Hall down the road.

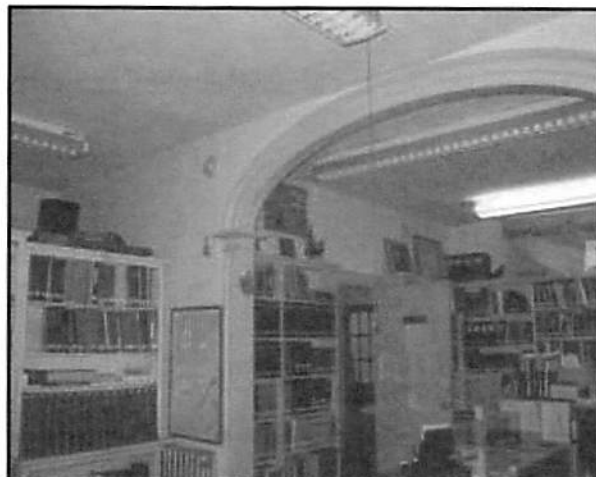
FCGSC Now a Part of Its History

The French Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, at about the same time, had also outgrown its original site, the French Club on Park Street in Hartford (more specifically, a tiny room which you reached by passing through the club's dimly lit bar and in which you did your research in a heady atmosphere of malt vapors). The late Henri Carrier, one of the club's founders, had recently moved from Manchester to Tolland and found out that the Courthouse had become home to the Tolland Genealogical Library. One thing led to another and soon the



FCGSC had a new home. The lease with the library association was signed on October 9, 1986, and the society's new home was launched with a two-day open house, November 1st and 2nd, 1986.

The Courthouse's old Yankee walls began resounding for the first time with strange French phrases – at least for the first time since Lafayette's visit in 1824 – as the FCGSC welcomed people to examine its "repertoires" and its “



Drouin” and “Loiselle.” Visitors began showing up who spoke French or could whip out a few well-chosen words from their childhood. Significantly, as a result of being in the historic Old County Courthouse, we FCGSC members not only walk in the footsteps – literally – of the thousands who have used the building over the past 170 years or so but we are now forever a part of this ancient Courthouse's proud history.

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Addendum from CML Vol. 7, No.2, p. 124.

Setting the Record Straight

To keep the history of the society straight, I must correct a mistake I made in my article. . . which appeared in the last issue of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* . . .

Toward the end of the article, I gave undue credit to Henri Carrier, one of the society's founders, for initiating our move into the Courthouse. The proper credit should have gone to Richard R. Poitras, a Tolland resident then and now. It was he who learned that the Courthouse space was available through a newspaper article in which Prescott Brown, librarian of the Tolland Genealogical Library, then located in the northern half of the first floor, said he would welcome a neighbor in the other half to share expenses.

Mr. Poitras contacted Mr. Brown, who put him in touch with Paul Olafsen, the acting head of the Tolland Public Library Association, owner of the building. On Mr. Poitras' initiative, two meetings took place to negotiate a lease. Attending those meetings were Mr. Poitras, Mr. Carrier, Mr. Olafsen and Mr. Brown. The lease was signed on October 9, 1986, as stated in the article. Mr. Carrier moved from Manchester to Tolland about six months later and so was not an earlier part of the local scene, as I thought.



Upstairs courtroom, Old Tolland County Courthouse

Mr. Brown and Mr. Olafsen both confirmed Mr. Poitras' key role. Mr. Carrier himself, in his message as president in the December 1986 *CML*,

noted: "Richard Poitras, #115, a Tolland resident, first learned of the new facility's availability and served as intermediary in arranging the initial meeting with town officials. Rich also donated many hours of labor at the site to help paint and perform other necessary chores."

I extend my apologies to Mr. Poitras for overlooking his important contribution to the society and its future. He deserves the credit due him.

[Editor's Note: Since the publication of Ivan Robinson's history of the Old Tolland Courthouse in 1995, some things have changed. Around 1994, the library of the Tolland Genealogical Society ceased operation. The FCGSC now occupies the room on the northwest side of the building that they had previously occupied, in addition to the original rooms that accommodated our collections when we moved into the building. In 2001, ownership of the Courthouse was transferred by the Tolland Public Library Association to the Tolland Historical Society, who became our landlords. The upstairs courtroom now houses an enhanced exhibit of the Historical Society's artifacts and furniture appropriate to the period of its construction.

Time has been kind to the old Courthouse building, but it is coming up on its 200th birthday. The year 2022 will mark the start of the Courthouse's third century. According to the Tolland Historical Society web site, "On October 14, (2020) the Tolland Historical Society launched a capital campaign to repair and restore the cupola atop the Old Tolland County Court House Museum on the Tolland Green.

The Tolland Historical Society is hoping to raise more than \$100,000 toward this important project. When the project is completed, the bell in the tower will ring out across the green once again." They invite their members, Tolland residents and supporters of local history to make a tax-deductible donation of any amount for the cupola project. Checks can be made out to the Tolland Historical Society, P.O. Box 107, Tolland, CT 06084.]

What are the Drouin Marriage Indexes?

If you've heard of the "Blue Drouin" and the "Red Drouin" and are wondering what the difference may be, you're not alone. Both works are from the former Drouin Institute, copies of both are in the collection of the FCGSC Library, and both are enormously useful to French-Canadian genealogy.

The Drouin *Dictionnaire national*, [Drouin, Gabriel, ed. *Dictionnaire national des Canadiens-Français* (1608-1760). Institut Généalogique Drouin: Montréal, 1977. 3 vols.], familiarly known as the "red Drouin" because of the color of the books' covers, is a listing of early French Canadian marriages, from 1608-1760, arranged alphabetically by the groom's surname. The books index marriages only by the surname of the groom, which does not facilitate finding the marriage of a woman if you don't already know who she married. Entries give the name of the groom, his parents, the name of the bride, her parents, and the date and place of the marriage. It is easy to understand and presents few problems.

The "Blue Drouin" [Drouin, Claude, ed. *Répertoire alphabétique des mariages Français de 1760 à 1935*. Services Généalogiques Claude Drouin: Ottawa, 1989], also named for the books' color, is actually two separate marriage indexes. Both index marriages in French Canada from 1760-1935, with one set of books arranged alphabetically by the surname of the groom, the other by the surname of the bride. Oddly enough, while both sets index the same records, the male index has 49 volumes while there are 63 volumes in the female index. That is because the female set was published later than the male index and includes a significant number of additional entries compiled after the male index was printed.

The Blue Drouin indexes are very useful for finding 19th-century Québec marriages of individuals who emigrated to the U.S. Most late 18th-century marriages and many from the first years of the 20th century are also included. These provide the same information as in the Red Drouin. They use a Soundex system which groups all names that sound alike, regardless of spelling, something that is helpful in the case of Anglicized names. Virtually all extant marriage records from French Canada to 1935 are indexed, and where marriage records are lost, many marriage contract dates and notaries' names are listed in their stead.

The books are arranged alphabetically by bride's or groom's surname, then by the first name, then alphabetically by the surname of the spouse. The first line of each two-line entry contains (from far left): the person's surname, given name, spouse's surname and given name, and marriage place. The second line shows the given name of the person's father, maiden and given names of the mother, the same information for spouse's parents, and the date of the wedding.

Second marriages give the deceased spouse's name, not the names of the person's parents. To locate the parents' names, find the record of the person's previous marriage.

Drouin Example: The example below is from the male index. The notations explain how to read it.

Example:

¹ roy	² pierre	³ saindon- ⁴ félicité	⁵ cacouna
	⁶ paul- ⁷ levasseur	⁸ chs- ⁹ coté félicité	¹⁰ 7 mai 1849

First Line	Second Line
¹ Surname of groom is Roy	⁶ Given name of groom's father is Paul
² Given name of groom is Pierre	⁷ Name of groom's mother is Louise Levasseur
³ Surname of bride is Saindon	⁸ Given name of bride's father is Charles
⁴ Given name of bride is Félicité	⁹ Name of bride's mother is Félicité Coté
⁵ Place of marriage is Cacouna	¹⁰ Date of marriage is 7MAY1849

It's great to have significant historical individuals in your ancestry,
but aren't all ancestors important?



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Confirms a single line of your research. Provides proof that your research has been vetted and verified.



The FCGSC will verify your research but will not perform original lineage research as part of the certification. (Payment for original research by the FCGSC is separate from this process and does not include a Verification Certificate.)

- Please submit marriage dates and places for each couple in a direct line. Birth and death dates are requested but not required. Copies of the actual documents need not be submitted. Where marriage date and place are not known, you must provide alternate documentation or describe in detail your reason(s) for including said persons in your direct line.
- We reserve the right to reject lineages found to be incorrect or unproven, and to decline to issue verification for such research. Where an error has been found, our Research Department will explain the problem and if possible suggest a correction at that point in the lineage only, but will not complete the lineage.
- On approval of your lineage research, we will issue:
 - An **official certificate** stating “*This is to certify that documentation of research submitted by [name of applicant] has been reviewed and is found to be accurate in all particulars. He/she is hereby certified to be a ___th generation descendant in direct line from [names and place(s) of origin of original ancestor(s), with brief significant facts, e.g. carpenter, Captain of Militia, Fille du Roi, member of Carignan Regiment, etc.] The descent of [name of applicant] from [name of ancestor], as documented in Québec archival records, is certified to be as follows:*” with the direct line ancestors following.
 - A **document listing each couple in the direct lineage**, with names of their parents if available; their birth and death dates, if known; and the date and place of the couple’s marriage.

Members: \$25 first lineage certificate; \$15 second certificate same lineage (you may substitute the name of a sibling of the original starting person).

Non-members: \$30 first lineage certificate; \$15 second certificate same lineage (may substitute sibling of original starting person)

French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.

P.O. Box 928, Tolland, CT 06084-0928

860.872.2597 info@fcgsc.org

FCGSC LINEAGE VERIFICATION REQUEST FORM

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY. PROVIDE BIRTH/MARRIAGE/DEATH/PARENTS/NAMES OF SPOUSE'S PARENTS FOR EACH PERSON IN YOUR **DIRECT LINE**. BEGIN WITH THE **MOST RECENT** GENERATION AND WORK BACK IN TIME TO THE EARLIEST ANCESTOR. FILL IN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN. IF ACTUAL DATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE INDICATE AN APPROXIMATE DATE OR DATE RANGE.

MOST RECENT GENERATION (YOU OR THE PERSON WHOSE LINEAGE YOU HAVE RESEARCHED)

(1) _____ Born at _____ Date _____

Died at _____ Date _____

Married to (2) _____ Born at _____ Date _____

Died at _____ Date _____

Marriage date _____ Place _____

Parents of (1) _____

Parents of (2) _____

NEXT GENERATION

(1) _____ Born at _____ Date _____

Died at _____ Date _____

Who married (2) _____ Born at _____ Date _____

Died at _____ Date _____

Marriage date _____ Place _____

Parents of (1) _____

Parents of (2) _____

Please continue as above for each generation in your lineage

Connecticut Maple Leaf Volume 19 (Summer 2019 – Winter 2020) Author / Title / Subject Index

Articles in Volume 18 of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* are indexed here by author, title and subject. To minimize confusion where an author may have published multiple articles or where there may be several references to an individual subject, articles are listed by volume number, with the issue number in parentheses, followed by the numbers of the pages on which an article appears. For example, an article in Volume 18, Issue Number 1, Pages 22 to 26 would appear as: 18(1)22-26. Multiple articles by a single author or on a single subject in different issues are separated by a semicolon.

Reprints of all articles are available for purchase. Cost is \$1.00 per page plus postage by surface mail or \$1.00 per page if emailed as a pdf. Please address requests to info@fcgsc.org, with ATTN: M. LeGrow in the Subject line.

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French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut

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**Spring, 2021 applications
must be received by 4 P.M. on April 24, 2021**

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Requête: A petition.

Société: Partnership or association.

Testament: Will

Transport: Transfer of property or of an amount of money.

Tutelle et curatelle: Guardianship. These are records about orphans and the conservation of their property. Often filed when the father is deceased to confirm the child's mother as the legal guardian.

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IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION Registration for NERGC 2021 hasn't begun yet but will start soon. However, you can start making plans now.

Go to NERGC <https://nergc.org/> for more complete information and to get information on registration.



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French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.

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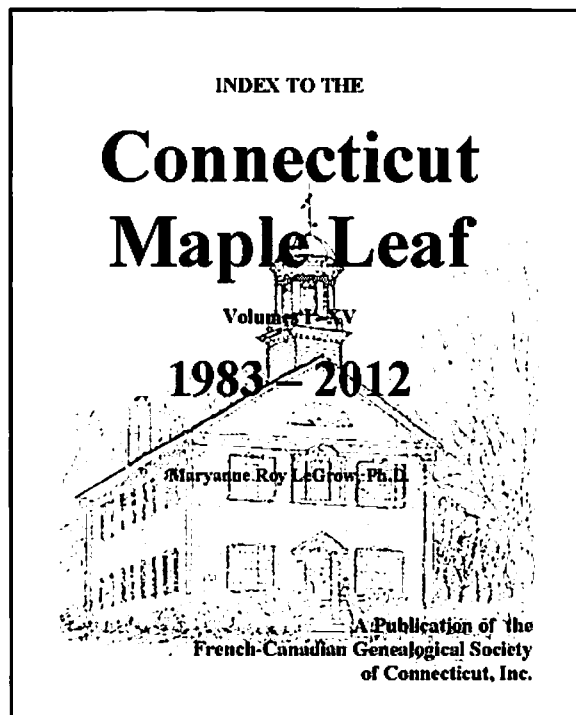
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