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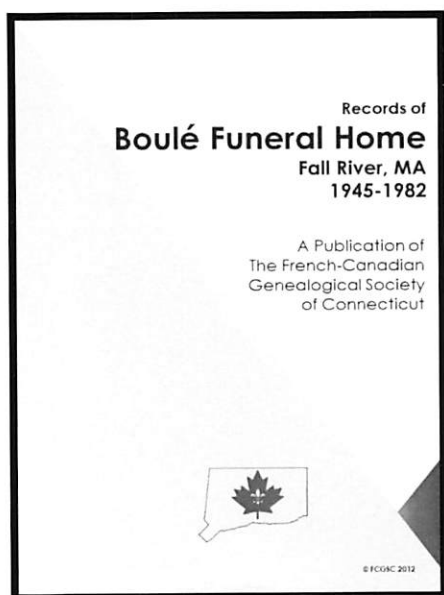
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**Journal of the
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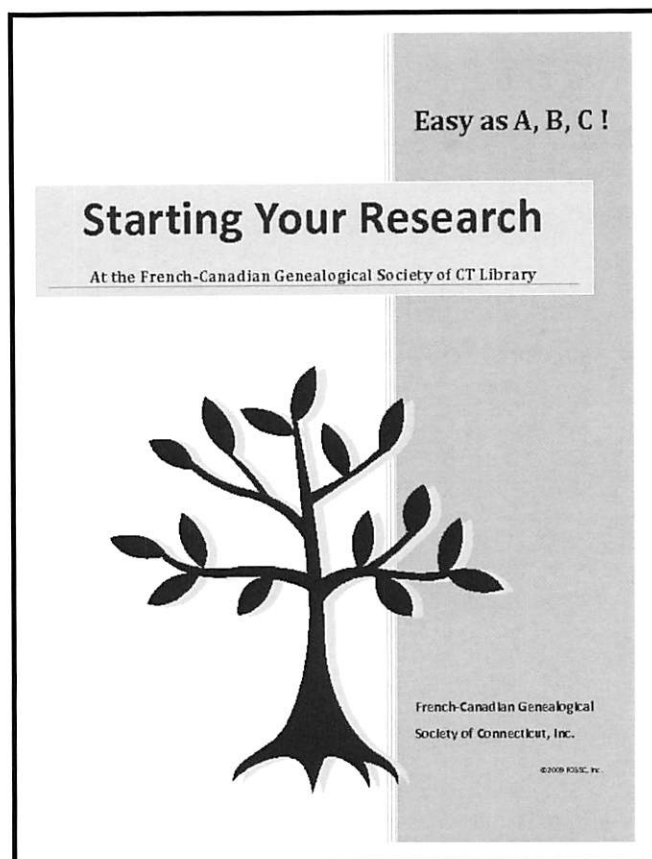
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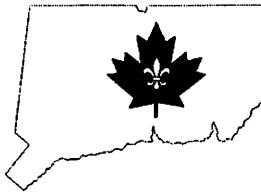
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CONNECTICUT MAPLE LEAF

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Contents

Features

- 53 **Georgianna's Story**
Paul G. Lajoie, #1402
- 57 **The Connecticut Maple Leaf of 25 Years Ago**
Search for Jeremy DeRagon, by Lionel V. Deragon, #8
- 62 **FCGSC Auction A Success**
- 63 **Some French Names and Their Equivalents**
- 65 **Abraham Bodo dit Thibodeau FCGSC**
Helen Morin Maxson, #23
- 77 **A Quebec Reeves Family in Southern New England**
Paul R. Keroack, #157
- 84 **Child Mortality Among French Canadian Mill Workers in 1890's Salem, Massachusetts**
Maryanne LeGrow, #696

Departments

- 3 **Editors' Niche:** *Maryanne LeGrow, #696*
- 73 **Financial Contributions to the Society**
Annette Ouellet, #1761
- 74 **Materials Contributed to the Society**
Germaine Hoffman, #333
- 75 **A Mélange of Current Periodical Selections**
Germaine Hoffman, #333
- 76 **Patron and Sustaining Members**
- 76 **New Members**
- 89 **Used Repertoires for Sale**
- 96 **Membership Application**

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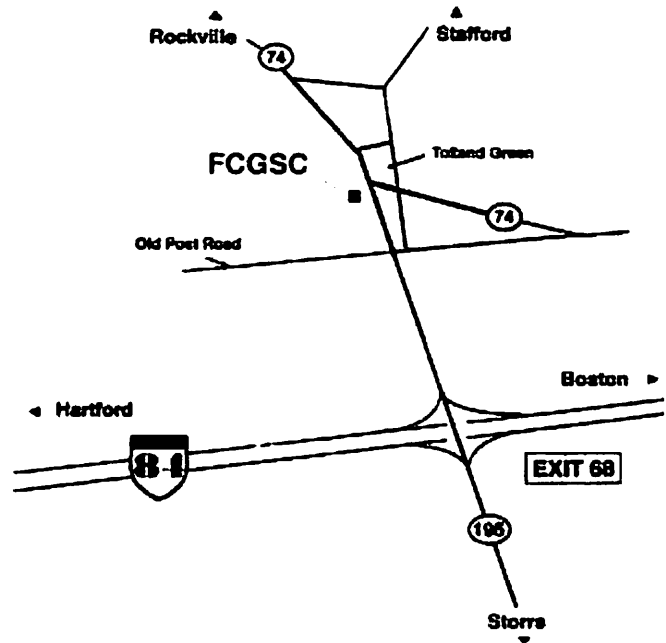
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- Length should be dictated by the topic and its scope. Very long articles may have to be published in two or more parts.

Deadlines effective January 1, 2018

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

Editor's Niche

Maryanne LeGrow, #696

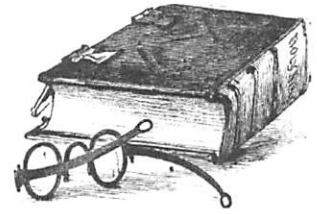
Dear Cousins,

It seems as though everyone these days is jumping on the DNA bandwagon. (Disclosure: Me too. I have done the Ancestry test but haven't submitted a tree or made my results public.) If you've been following news stories about DNA breakthroughs, you've probably seen a number of articles about cold cases that law enforcement personnel have solved with the use of DNA information. Then there are the tabloid type of headlines: "Discovering My Dad is Not My Biological Father"; "DNA Test Led One Woman To Discover Her Secret Family History"; "Chinese Wife Finds Out She's NOT CHINESE!"; and "Twins Get 'Mystifying' DNA Ancestry Test Results" (Really! I didn't make these up!) And of course there are heart-warming reunion stories too: "76-year-old Woman Finds Her Birth Family" and "DNA Sleuthing Reveals Biological Grandparents."

These stories are laughable or heartening, inspiring or maybe just silly, depending on your point of view.

But like it not, we need to recognize that DNA testing is causing a revolution in so many fields, not least of them the field of genealogical research. And like it or not, we in the field need to prepare ourselves for a shock or two, even if we do not intend to become personally involved with DNA testing. There are going to be more twists and turns down that road than simply finding things we didn't expect or not finding things we were sure were there. The fact is that other people's DNA outcomes could very likely at some point affect the validity of our own research results. And it has already started to happen. DNA testing can't prove that someone is your ancestor, but it definitely is capable of proving that someone could not be.

As far back as 1981, a geneticist found that a branch of my own Roy-Lausier line was not actually descen-



ded from its supposed progenitor, Antoine Roy, but instead was descended from an "obliging godfather" (Genest, Paul. "Les Roy-Desjardins, une lignée familiale remarquable, mais issue d'un ancêtre singulier." *L'Ancêtre*, Société de généalogie de Québec, Vol.7, 9 mai 1981: 287).

More recently, in the Summer, 2019 issue of *L'Ancêtre*, we find the article: "Nom d'un chromosome! La généalogie des Québécois réécrite par l'ADN" ["Name of a chromosome! The genealogy of Québécois rewritten by DNA"]. Award winning author, Pierre Gendreau-Héту, describes a "non-paternity event" relating to Charles Fournier (1677-1739). According to Gendreau-Héту, about a third of the estimated 22,000 Fourniers in Québec today are descended through Jean Gaudreau, a neighbor of the Fournier family, or through Gilles Gaudreau, his brother, one of whom who appears to have been the biological father of Charles Fournier, not his recorded father, Guillaume Fournier (1623-1699). According to the Facebook *Québec ADN* page, similar results have also been found for some Robichaud and Doucet/Gagnon family lines as well as others.

What does all this mean? At present, for us as family historians, it means that we need to be aware of and understand what is happening. We need to develop an open-minded approach to what science may tell us and prepare ourselves for the possibility that such discoveries may turn up in our own cherished family lines. We have to be willing to revise our findings as necessary, when and if such "non-paternity events" are conclusively proven.

The world changes and moves on, and we must be prepared to change and move with it. C'est la vie!

Maryanne

Queries, articles or letters to the editor may be sent by e-mail to: info@fcgsc.org
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May	Sunday, May 10	Mother's Day
	Saturday, May 23	Memorial Day Observance
	Sunday, May 24	Memorial Day Observance
	Monday, May 25	Memorial Day Observance
June	Sunday, June 21	Father's Day
July	Saturday, July 4	Independence Day Observance
	Sunday, July 5	Independence Day Observance
September	Saturday, Sept. 5	Labor Day Observance
	Sunday, Sept. 6	Labor Day Observance
	Monday, Sept. 7	Labor Day Observance
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October	Saturday, Oct. 24	Annual Membership Mtg. <u>closed 1-3 pm</u>
November	Wednesday, Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Observance
December	Wednesday, Dec. 23	Christmas Holiday Observance
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	Sunday, Dec. 27	Christmas Holiday Observance
	Monday, Dec. 28	Winter Break
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January	Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021	New Years Day Observance
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Georgiana's Story: Georgianna Viens (01 November 1850 – 26 November 1931)

Paul G. Lajoie, #1402

One of the joys I derive from genealogy is that with enough research and discovery I feel that I actually get to know one of my ancestors personally. By following every potential lead or available record, I can place him, or her, in a very specific place, at a very specific time. Such is the story of my great grandmother, Georgianna VIENS, my father's paternal grandmother.

Once I got through the obvious records of censuses from 1860 to 1930, and the City Directories in New Bedford, and Fall River, Massachusetts, relating to her husband François Napoleon DROGUE-*dit*-LAJOIE¹, I was placed in a perplexing situation.

I could not verify her actual date of birth. I could not locate her in the 1900 and 1910 censuses even though I knew where she lived in those years. I was unable to determine her exact burial site. Well, persistence finally paid off, I think, culminating with the discovery of her whereabouts in the 1910 census.

The 1900 United States Census is crucial for the researcher who has nothing much else to go on because it usually contains the person's month and year of birth. Napoleon Drogue/Lajoie's

¹ Jean Drogue-dit-Lajoie was a soldier in the French Army commanded by the Marquis de Montcalm during the French and Indian Wars, also known as The Seven Years' War. His Company Com-mander was Captain Louis duBleau, (Chevalier de L'Ordre de St-Louis), his Regimental Commander was Major DeLa-pause, with the entire Regiment command-ed by Lt Colonel Foubonne. Jean joined the army in 1752, and arrived in Canada in June of 1756. His Company saw action at Fort Niagara, Fort Ticonderoga, the Plains of Abraham, and the Battle of St-Foy. Jean was born in Tarascon on 11 DEC 1731. He died in Beloeil, Canada at age 53, on 22 SEPT 1785. We trace his ancestry back to about 1637 in Livron sur-Drôme, France.

location and census record was located easily, but his wife and three daughters were not living with him, as they should have been. I panicked! They obviously were still in the area because she was in the 1900 Fall River City Directory, listed as living at 30 Bogle Street as Mrs. Georgianna Lajoie.

A careful and diligent search of the census on a street by street basis revealed that Georgianna, and her daughters, Maria, Eva and Rose were now living in rented quarters at 102 Irving Street, and listed under the name AJJOY. The simple omission of one letter of her name caused me so much grief. November, 1852, was described in the document as great grandmother's date of birth. I felt so relieved that not only had I found her: I reasoned that I now had a substantial lead to her birth record in Canada.

The 1866 marriage record at St-Charles Catholic Church in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, caused me to question this 1852 year of birth, which would have made her only fourteen years old at the time of her marriage. I suspected immediately that there was a mistake in the year of birth listed. Nevertheless, I researched the St-Jean Baptiste-de-Rouville records for November 1852, and for two years back. By this time I had discovered that she was the youngest of four female siblings, and that her parents had also moved to the Fall River area, so I had plenty of corroborating evidence that she was most likely born in Rouville. The 1851 Canadian Census became key to my thinking. She most certainly was not born in 1852 because this census listed her at 2 years of age. Still, I was unable to find the exact birth record.

Sometimes it is best to just sit back and work some other avenue of genealogy, and that is what I did. I was convinced that she was baptized at St-

Jean-Baptiste, and I was equally certain that it was around the first week of November 1850. By then I had developed information on her three siblings and both of her parents. So once again I travelled to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Research Center in Bloomfield, Connecticut, took out the reel of microfilm I had become so familiar with, and slowly rolled through the tape.

This time I must have been going slow enough to realize that there was, in the upper left hand corner of a page, scribbled and inserted by the priest, probably after creation of the actual act, the official report of the baptism of Georgianna VIENS. Anyone who does this research can understand my glee and good fortune that I had located the very document that identifies her introduction to the Church, her parents, to life itself, and, three generations later, to her great grandson. She was indeed born and baptized in the parish of St-Jean-Baptiste-de-Rouville on 01 NOV 1850.

I suspect that in the early years of the 20th century Napoleon and Georgianna had a misunderstanding and parted ways. He died in 1906, and there is really no indication that Georgianna attended to him or was even present at his passing. His death record shows that his departure from life was reported by his son, my grandfather, Amedee, not his wife.

At this point in my research I was very pleased with the biographical information I was finding on Georgianna. She lived another twenty-five years after the death of her husband, Napoleon. Two of her daughters married in New Bedford in the next ten years, and her daughter Rose lived with her for several years before marrying in 1929. Georgianna lived with her father, Charles, for a short period in New Bedford. In trying to establish a sort of timeline, however, I hit a stone wall in my attempts to locate her whereabouts in 1910. She was in the New Bedford City Directories for 1909, and 1911, but was not listed in the 1910 census under any variation of the Drogue, or Lajoie name.

Once again I resorted to the page by page search for dear great grandmother. Painstakingly, I tried every trick I knew to turn up her location. No luck. Every now and then I would trace the same documents trying to find her. I could not find daughter Rose either, so it became obvious that they were together, but where?

Duty as one of the Society's Librarians is sometimes very busy and sometimes almost boring, thus requiring a bit of ingenuity. I put my brain to its best use in searching the FCGSC Library's collection on one of the slow days.

I don't recall that I needed any notes to go by because I had most of it in my head, so I set about getting all of the names and addresses of neighbors from the New Bedford City Directory for 1910, checking those that were anywhere near Georgianna's listed address for 1909 and 1911, which was 1108 Acushnet Avenue.

Then I began a census search of those names, hoping I would find her somewhere along the way. Well, after about ten or twelve name searches I came upon the name of Melville Delavalle, M.D., with Georgianna, and Rose, listed as his wife and daughter. To say that I was shocked, cannot describe my reaction. There was simply *no* justification for this. I knew her so well, that I could not entertain the fact that she had *married* this man, and Rose most certainly was not his daughter. What on earth was going on here?

Georgianna and daughter Rose developed some sort of affection for doctors as was evidenced by their occupations as live-in servants, listed in the 1920 U.S. Census in Fall River, to a Dr. Gaudiose Duhaime and his wife. Rose eventually married Dr. Duhaime in 1929! I had this information in my research and it led me to some very awful thoughts about great grandmother's character. So, nothing else would do, I began to research Dr. Delavalle's ancestry.

Fortunately his death occurred in New Bedford, and soon after the 1910 census taking. The Death Certificate contained a wealth of information,

indicating his date and place of birth, plus his mother's maiden name. I was so relieved when I recognized that her name was Ducharme, which coincidentally was also the maiden name of Georgianna's mother. Just a little digging revealed that they were first cousins. So, with all due apologies to great grandmother, it turns out that Georgianna was simply caring for an ailing second cousin. My basest fears were unfounded!

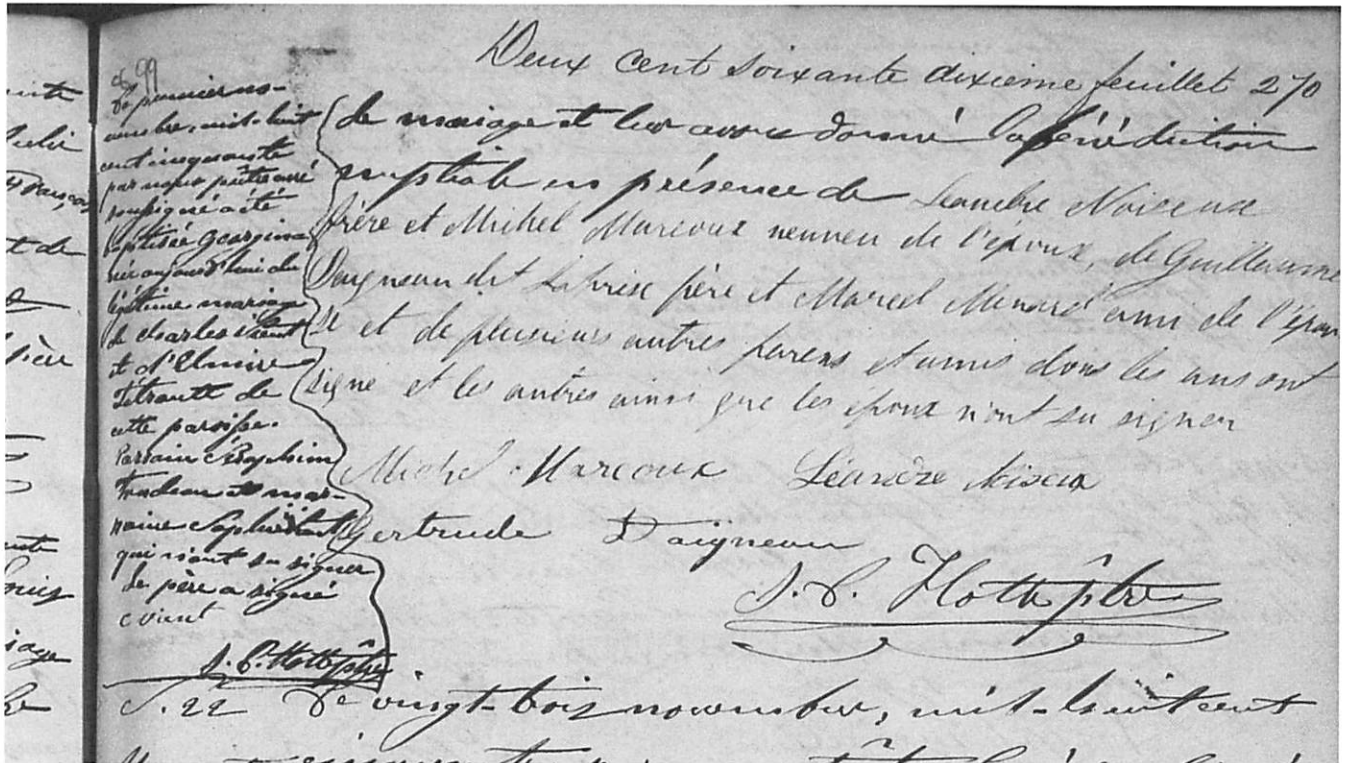
Previously I had written to Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fall River to inquire about my great grandfather Napoleon's burial site, but was unsuccessful. At first, I met with the same result for Georgianna, but since she remarried to Oliver Boissy in 1922, I had a second avenue to pursue,

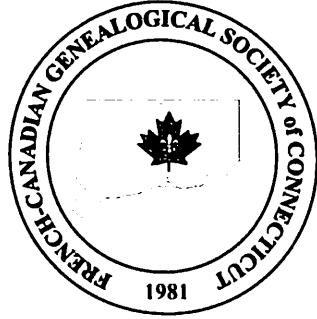
which determined the name under which she was buried. Some sort of cross-referencing in the cemetery's records helped to locate both burial sites for Napoleon and Georgianna.

I think that since she was buried with her second husband, Oliver, and the fact that Napoleon, the father of her eleven children, is only about one hundred yards away, is testament to the fact that my two great grandparents were not on the best of terms at the end of their marriage.

Hopefully, this short essay will encourage someone to persevere when the proverbial *stone wall* was encountered. It worked for me.

**Baptismal Entry for Georgianna Viens
St-Jean-Baptiste, Rouville, Québec
01 NOV 1850
(Entry is the insertion at left of page)**





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**Spring, 2020 applications
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From the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* of 25 Years Ago

Twenty-five years ago, the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* was completing its sixth volume of articles, lineages, and records gleaned from a variety of sources. Some of that information was the result of unique research that, even in these days of DNA, Ancestry and online records, is still available nowhere else. One such distinctive piece is the story of Lionel V. “Lee” DeRagon’s search for his great-uncle Jeremie Deragon dit Lafrance. Lee and his wife Arlene, both skilled researchers, were among the founding members of our society who devoted many hours to establishing our library. They served for many years as Board members and library volunteers. We reprint Lee’s article here in the hope that it will help another generation of family historians to find clues to locating their ancestral heritage.

Search for Jeremie DeRagon/Lafrance

Lionel V. DeRagon, #8

Originally published in Vol. 6, No.4, Winter 1994 of the *Connecticut Maple Leaf*

The search for Jeremie Deragon-dit-Lafrance, son of François Deragon and Agathe Viau, born 02 FEB 1843 in Chambly, PQ, began in earnest during the summer of 1990. You see, Jeremie had been a younger brother of my grandfather Narcisse – a great uncle of long ago whom I had never met. Where had he lived? Had he ever married and had children? When had he died?

My first step was to study the old notebooks and address books, kept so faithfully by my mother, Alexina Marcoux DeRagon, and given to me by my sister, Stella. The small books contained not only addresses but bits and pieces of our family history. Viewed altogether they almost made a miniature genealogy book. Whenever Alexina had purchased a new address book she would copy most of the old data into the new book but she never threw away the old ones.

It was from these treasured keepsakes of my Mother that I had first learned about Jeremie and Alfred whom I had never met. They were listed with the rest of my father’s uncles and aunts whom I knew and remembered fondly. No information except for their names was given as to what had become of [my father’s] two lost uncles.

Next I checked the 1851 Canadian Census for Chambly County, Province of Québec. I found Jeremie, aged nine, listed as one of the sons of François and Agathe (Viau) Deragon in Chambly Basin. Further research into numerous Canadian

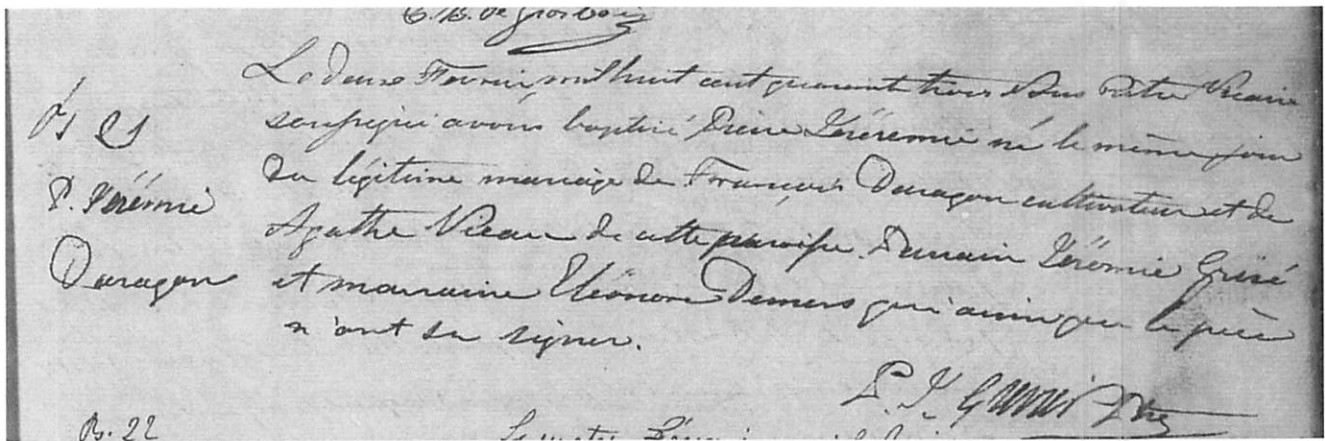
and United States Census records, Québec Marriage Repertoires, city directories and many other documents failed to uncover any additional information on Jeremie.

Finally help came in a letter from my cousin, Hélène Lafrance Ringuet, of Montreal, PQ. She sent me a new list of “Daragon and Lafrance Descendants of Francois Daragon-dit-Lafrance and Marie Guilmet.” Hélène and I exchange family names for our genealogy files. She had recently completed some additional research in Québec. Among the new names that she sent was a “JERRY LAFRANCE son of François and Aiget” who had married a KATE COLE in Pittsfield, MA. “Aiget”? Could this be “Agathe” misspelled?

With this new clue in hand, my wife, Arlene, and I immediately went to the Pittsfield [MA] Public Library and Atheneum where a wonderful local genealogical research room is located. We soon found the marriage record:

Pittsfield, MA. Marriage Records: (card file index) 23 SEPT 1867 – JERRY LaFRANCE son of François & Aiget, married KATE COLE, dau of Joel Cole & Catherine Dupry. Both of Adams, MA.

The age of the groom was within reason, so we tentatively presumed that this was our missing Jeremie. A further check of the Berkshire County Vital Records uncovered another item of interest.



Baptismal Record of Pierre Jeremy Daragon, 02FEB1843m St-Joseph de Chambly, Quebec

Births in the Town of Adams, Mass. for the Year 1868: 26DEC1868 – MARIE LAFRANCE dau of Jerry Lafrance & Catherine Charbonneau (“Kate Cole”)

Cordelie	06 FEB	1884	
Marie E. A.	12 JAN	1886	
M. Valeda	19 MAY	1887	21 MAY 1887
M. Blanche	04 OCT	1888	30 OCT 1888

It appears that no other children were born to Jerry Lafrance and Catherine Charbonneau in either Adams or Pittsfield, Mass. Another letter from my cousin, Hélène Ringuet, was received with the additional information that I needed.

Catherine (Charbonneau) Lafrance, born 13 MAR 1851, daughter of Joel Charbonneau and Catherine Dupry, died 04 OCT 1888, age 36, at St. Ours. It may be assumed that cause of death was due to childbirth. (Note birth date of last child, above.)

Around 1869 Jeremie, Catherine and baby Marie had moved to St. Ours, Richelieu County, Québec, the same town where Catherine had grown up. Baby Marie died at St. Ours on 14 SEPT 1869 at the tender age of only eight months. Jeremie and Catherine continued to live in St. Ours for many years where they raised a large family. His occupation was that of local merchant/butcher.

Eight months after Catherine’s death Jeremie married again. His second marriage was to Arthemise Lamoureux of St. Ours.

The Vital records of St. Ours registered ten more children born to Jeremie and Catherine (Charbonneau) Lafrance within the next 19 years.

IMMACULEE-Conception Catholic Church, St. Ours, Québec: Pierre Jeremie Deragon, widower of the late Catherine Charbonneau, to Arthemise Lamoureux, daughter of Bruno Octave Lamoureux and Delina Lachombre, on 04 JUN 1889.

CHILDREN:

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH
Catherine	04 MAR 1872	
Joseph	11 SEPT 1873	
Antoine	09 MAR 1875	
Victoria	12 AUG 1876	29 SEPT 1877
Exilda	19 OCT 1879	
Roseanne	09 MAR 1881	
M. Louise	18 FEB 1883	22 APR 1883

This marriage document helped to confirm that “Jerry/Jeremie LFRANCE FROM Adams, Mass. and St. Ours, PQ” was, indeed, the same Jeremie of our search, and brother of my grandfather, Narcisse.

In June, 1890, at St. Ours, a son was born to Jeremie and his second wife, Arthemise. They named him “Ulderic.” Less than one year later, on 15 APR 1891, Arthemise (Lamoureux) died at age 29 years. It was a sad occasion. Jeremie was a

Le quatre Juin Mil huit cent
quatre vingt-neuf, après la
publication d'un seul ban de
Mariage, fait au préne de notre

N^o 4. Quasi-publique, ob on les dispense
Deragon des deux autres bans ordinaires
P^{re}mière au troisième degré d'affinité
acceptés par Monseigneur l'Evêque
Lamoignon de St-Ours, entre Pierre
Arthemise Jérémie Deragon, communément
domicilié en cette paroisse, veuf
veuf de Catherine Charbonneau
d'une part, ob Artemise Lamoureux
aussi domicilié en cette paroisse
fille veuf de Bruno Lamoureux
la fille de de Delina Lechambre.
D'autre part, on s'étant dénombré
aucun empêchement, sous pain
de cette paroisse soussigné, sont
venu leur mutuel consentement
de mariage et leur sont donné
la bénédiction nuptiale en
présence de Caliste Charbonneau
beau frère de l'époux et de Bruno
Lamoureux, père de l'épouse
qui sont que les époux ont déclaré
en savoir signer après lecture
faite

R. Lamoignon

Marriage of Jeremie Deragon to Artemise Lamoureux at St-Ours, 04JUN1889

widower for the second time with several small children to raise by himself.

Between April and May 1891 Jeremie came back to Adams, MA, with several of his older children. Before he could return to St. Ours for his younger children, Ulderic, his baby son died on the 29th of May, 1891, at St. Ours, PQ. That very same day, on May 29, 1891, according to the "Register of Deaths for Adams, Mass. for the Year 1891," JEREMIE LAFRANCE also died. He was buried in Adams. A triple tragedy for the whole family!

During December, 1991, we went to the Adams Town Hall to check the Vital Records of the Town of Adams in an effort to find out what had happened to the surviving children of Jeremie and Catherine. We requested permission of the Town Clerk to search for information on Jeremie Lafrance/Catherine Charbonneau and their family. She was very willing to assist us in every way. She explained their filing system and allowed us to search their BMD Card Index Files by ourselves. The names were indexed in alphabetical order on 3" x 5" cards for each separate category of births, marriages and deaths. Each card held a brief summary of the event: date, principal parties, volume and page number of the

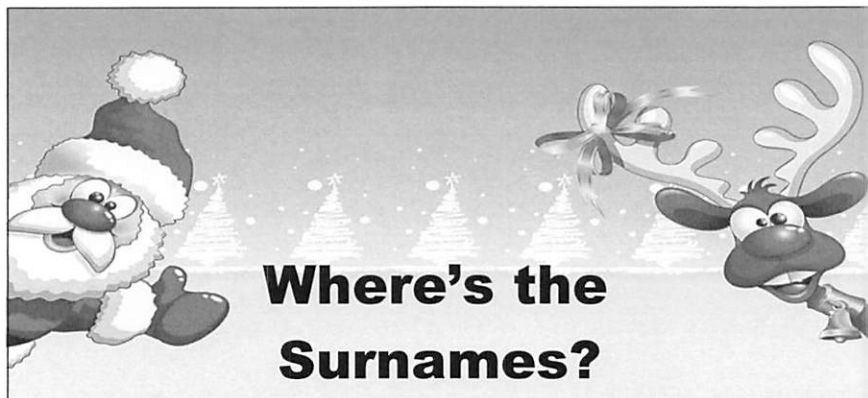
book where the event was recorded. The Town Clerk brought each original volume to us as needed. We already knew the name, age and birthplace of each child so we started checking the Marriage Index for each child and then requested the correct volume. The results of our research follow:

Marriages from Vital Records, Adams, MA:

Antoine	25 NOV 1895	Rosanna Charbonneau
Joseph	14 JAN 1896	Alice Demaris
Catherine	12 AUG 1895	Charles Giroux
Exilda	10 OCT 1897	Moses Lebeau
Cordelia	23 JUN 1902	Pierre Demaris
Marie E. A.	25 NOV 1905	Maxime Giroux

Further research revealed that the children of Jeremie and Catherine and their descendants remained in Adams for at least four generations. All used the surname "LaFrance." Many of them still live in and around Adams, Massachusetts today.

Our search for Jeremie Deragon/Lafrance has come to an end. Next project --- what happened to Great-Uncle Alfred?



Because of privacy concerns, we are discontinuing our printed "Surnames of Interest" feature in this publication. You will still be able to find names, street addresses and emails of members who share your research interests in the Members Only section of our web site at www.fcgs.org

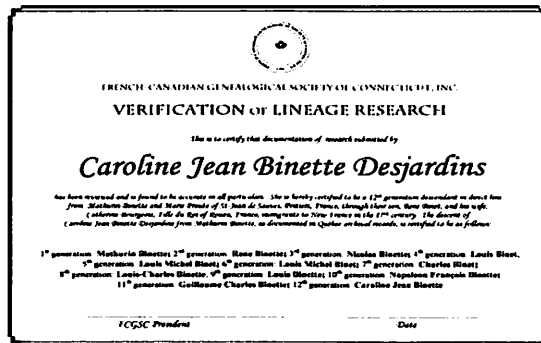


It's great to have significant historical individuals in your ancestry, but aren't all ancestors important?

**Get official certification
that your direct line research is correct**

LINEAGE VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE

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



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

- ❖ 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, 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 a lineage.
- ❖ On approval of your lineage research, we will issue:
 - An **official certificate** stating that your research has been reviewed and found to be accurate
 - A **document listing each couple in the direct lineage**, with names of their parents if available; their birth and death dates, if provided; and the date and place of the couple's marriage.

Members: \$25 first lineage certificate; \$15 second certificate same lineage.

Non-members: \$30 first lineage certificate; \$15 second certificate same lineage

(The name of a sibling of the original starting person may be substituted in the second and subsequent certificates)

Application form is available at www.fcgsc.org or contact the Society at

French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.

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

860.872.2597 info@fcgsc.org

FCGSC Auction A Success

Our November 10th auction was a tremendous success. Great food, good music and excitement combined to create a fun afternoon. As Board member Ron Blanchette points out, the foundation of a smooth-running event is a huge amount of hard work by a lot of people: “It did take a village to bring it off” said Ron. Thanks to the French-Canadian community’s support, generous gifts and donations from local businesses and FCGSC members, and the tireless work of so many dedicated volunteers, the auction netted \$2,000 for the FCGSC scholarship and library operating funds.



In back, from left: Anna Ryan, Kaya Nichols, and Benoit Simoneau get a yodeling lesson from Les Deux Amies

Merci beaucoup to everyone who contributed their time, materials, know-how and hard work to make the event a success. Special thanks to Phyllis Bonneau and Sue Griffiths for the countless hours of gathering, sorting and labeling auction items, putting the auction booklet together, and for running a smooth auction day. A gigantic thank you to Fran Nadeau for taking on the feeding of auction bidders. Bravo to you and to Carol Askwith for the beautiful presentation of appetizing finger foods. Kudos to Odette Manning, our marketing genius, who supplied an energy that few people have and who always gives 110 percent. Sharron Laplante, our newest Board member, stepped up and put in lots of time, graciously doing anything asked of her. Natalie Ryan “floated” through the audience presenting auction items, and also brought along her daughter who served as one of our “runners.” Anna Ryan and Kaya Nichols, runners extraordinaire, lent us their energy and saved older feet many steps during the afternoon. Paul Lajoie braved the cold to keep us organized and safe in the parking lot. Germaine Hoffman and Ron Blanchette, project mastermind, together coordinated, pushed, cajoled, guided, encouraged and kept the planning moving and the rest of us on our toes. Thank you, merci mille fois to one and all!

Some French Names and Their Equivalents

(and a few with no equivalent)

Shakespeare's Juliet asked "What's in a name?" For most people, the answer is "Everything." Names do matter. Our first response to the question "Who are you?" is our name. What we do, where we live, the team we cheer for, all these help to describe us but only our name tells who we are. Unlike in English, where we usually say "I am called . . .", in French we say "Je m'appelle . . ." Not "I am called Sam," or Sue, or Joe, but the vastly more personal "I call myself . . ." Names are the hook on which we hang our ancestors' identities, so they have a lot of significance for us. Consciously or unconsciously, as we research our ancestors we find that their names tend to become a large part of our mental pictures of the persons themselves. We wonder where the names came from and what they mean. We look for names that are repeated down the generations and we ask what the English equivalent might be. Surprisingly, many names commonly used in French Canada have no corresponding English version. The following is a small sampling of the enormous variety of names used by our French ancestors.

Male		Female	
<u>French Name</u>	<u>English Equivalent</u>	<u>French Name</u>	<u>English Equivalent</u>
Adélard	No equivalent	Adélaïde	Adelaide
Adrien	Adrian	Adèle	Adela
Airard	Erhard	Adrienne	Adriana
Alain	Alan	Adwige	Hedwig
Alexandre	Alexander	Agathem, Agace	Agatha
Ancelin	Anselm	Aglæ	No equivalent
André	Andrew	Agnès	Agnes
Antoine, Anton	Anthony	Aimée	Amy
Auberi	Aubrey	Albina	No equivalent
Auguste, Augustin	Augustus	Alexandrie, (Alix)	Alexandria, (Alex)
Bastien	Sebastian	Amélie	Amelia
Benoist	Benedict	Anaïs	Nancy, Annie
Benoît	Bernard	Anastasié, Anaïs	Anastasia
Christophe	Christopher	Andrée	Andrea
Chretien	Christian	Angele, Angéline	Angela
Clovis	No equivalent	Anne	Ann, Anna
Denis	Dennis	Apolline	Apollonia
Damase	No equivalent	Arthémise	Artemis
Dominique	Dominic	Aurélié, Aurore	Audrey
Donatien	No equivalent	Brigitte	Bridget
Édouard	Edward	Cécile, Céline, Céline	Cecilia
Elzear	No equivalent	Celanire	No equivalent
Éric	Eric	Christelle	Christine
Étienne	Steven	Claude, Claudine	Claudia
Emelien	No equivalent	Cleopée	No equivalent
Eugène	Eugene	Delima, Delina	Derivative: (St) Rose of Lima
Ferrand	Ferdinand	Desange	Derivative: (Mary) of the Angels
Floriant	Florian	Dominique	Dominica
François	Francis	Dorothée	Dorothy
Franck	Frank	Éléonore	Eleanor
Frédéric	Frederick	Élisabeth	Elizabeth

Gaspard	No equivalent	Élise	Elisa
Georges	George	Émerence	No equivalent
Gérard	Gerald	Euphémie	Euphemie
Gervais	No equivalent	Exilda, Azilda	No equivalent
Grégoire	Gregory	Flavie	No equivalent
Guillaume, (Guy)	William, (Bill)	Françoise	Frances
Henri	Henry	Georgianna, Georgette	Georgine, Georgia
Hugolin	Hugh	Hélène	Helen, Ellen
Hugues	Hugo	Héloïse	Louise
Isaïe	Isaac	Henriette	Henrietta
Jacques, (Jacquot)	James, (Jimmy)	Inès	Inez
Jean, (Jeannot)	John, (Johnny)	Isabelle	Isabel
Jérôme	Jerome	Isala	No equivalent
Jules	Julius	Jeanne	Joan, Jean, Jane
Julien	Julian	Jeannine	Janine
Laurent	Laurence	Josephte	Josephine
Léon	Leon, Leo	Juliette	Juliet
Louis	Lewis	Laetitia	Latitia
Luc	Luke	Laure	Laura
Lucas	Lukas	Luce, Lucie	Lucy
Ludger	No equivalent	Lumina	Lumina
Marc	Mark, Marcus	Madeleine	Madeline
Matthieu	Matthew	Marguerite, Margot	Margaret
Maurice	Morris	Marthe	Martha
Méderic	No equivalent	Mathilde	Matilda
Michel	Michael	Malvina	Malvina, Melvina
Moïse	Moses	Mélanie	Melanie
Nicolas, Noël	Nicholas	Monique	Monica
Noé	Noah	Noémi	Naomi
Octave	No equivalent	Océane	No equivalent
Olivier	Oliver	Olivie	Olivia
Omer	Homer	Philomene	No equivalent
Onfroi, Humfroy	Humphrey	Scholastique	No equivalent
Patrick, Patrice	Patrick	Solange	Selina
Pierre	Peter	Sophie	Sophia
Rémi	No Equivalent	Susanne	Susan, Suzanne
(Robin)	Robert (Robbie)	Sylvie	Sylvia
Sébastien	Sebastian	Thérèse	Theresa
Stéphane	Stephen	Thersile, Tarsile	No equivalent
Théodore	Theodore	Valentine	Valentina
Théophile	Theophilus	Valérie	Valerie
Thibaut, Thibault	Theobald	Véronique	Veronica
Thierry	Terry	Victoire	Victoria
Timothée	Timothy	Virginie	Virginia
Trefle	No equivalent	Vitaline	Vitalina
Yves	Ives	Ydoine	Iodine
Zéphirin	No equivalent	Zoé	Zoe

Abraham Bodo dit Thibodeau of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut

Helen Morin Maxson, #23

INTRODUCTION

For many years, I have been trying to find the line of Abraham Bodo dit Thibodeau, son of John and Eliza, born in Canada. I have not been successful. But I have collected much information on his children. This may help others connect to this family. Abraham was married at least three times. He had children with his first and second wives but not with the third. The children of the first wife (Jane [Adel] Gallipo) are easier to follow than the children of his second wife, Mary Galioph. There are gaps in some census records and variations in names and ages. Besides variations in the first names, there are also many name variations in the surname.

I have two clues to where Abraham may have been born. One source said he was born in Riviere-du-Loup. This source was the Worcester card file in the library of the French Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut. It said that Abraham Bodeau, merchant, born at Riviere-du-Loup in 1824, lived at 83 Lamartin St., Worcester, MA. In the 1886 city directory of Worcester, I found Abram Bodo, grocer, who had a house at 83 Lamartine. Boarding with him was William Bodo. Abram lived there through 1892. Another source, the birth record of Abraham's son Samuel (#1) said that he was born in Derby, VT, a town on the border of Canada. If he was born there, he may have been baptized just over the border in Stanstead County, Québec, Canada. Perhaps some one will find his baptismal record. I did not. If anyone finds it, please share the information.

I am a descendant of Abraham Bodo's daughter Adeline Bodo who married Joseph W. Dupuis (Wells). So I have more information on that family than I do on the other families. I suggest that those of you who descend from another of Abraham's children search for many baptismal

records and obituaries. They often show relationships between relatives. Then, please share the information you find.

I have more information on this BODO family on my family tree on Ancestry. To find my Morin public family tree, click on public family trees and search for the marriage record of my great-grandmother Adeline Bodo. She married Joseph Walter Dupuis on 17 Aug 1870 in Burrillville, Providence Co., RI. That should get you on the correct family tree.



ABRAHAM BODO SR.

- son of John and Eliza
- b. ca. 1827 Canada or VT.
- d. after 1892, possibly in 1895 RI.
- An Abraham Bodo, age 68, died 05 DEC 1895 in Ashaway, RI and was buried on 08 DEC in North Grosvenordale Cemetery, CT. (From *Ballard & Clarks Funeral Home Records 1894-1933*, in the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society Library, Danielson, CT.)
- He m^l Jane (Adel) Gallipo, dau of Sophie and Joseph Gallipo on 16 DEC 1845 in West Boylston, MA. Abraham was 20 and Jane was 18.
 - Jane died 23 APR 1860 at Plainfield, Windham Co., CT. Listed as Ardelia Bodo died 23 APR 1860, age 32, congestion of the brain, married, born Canada, house-keeper, resident Plainfield. (Record found at the Killingly Hist. & Gen. Soc., Danielson, CT.) The maiden name of her mother, Sophie, is Remy
 - Jane appears in Census record of 1850.

- Abraham m² Mary (Orelie, Aurelie) Galoiph about 1860, possibly in CT.
 - She married Abraham after the 1860 census since she was not listed as married to Abraham in that census.
 - Mary was born about 1828 (from the birth record of her son Telles.)
 - Mary died before 30 OCT 1867.
- Abraham m³ Marian (Marie, Mary) Perham (Marie Louise Perron) widow of a LeClare.
 - Married 30 OCT 1867 in Uxbridge, Worcester Co., MA. (Further research showed that her first husband was Pierre Leclerc, whom she married in 1830 in Contrecoeur. She had at least 5 children with Pierre.)
 - Marian (Marie) is listed in census records of 1870 and 1880.
- Abraham may have married a fourth wife. In Plainfield, CT, in All Hallow's Church, on 12 DEC 1894, an Abraham Bodo, age 59, (3rd widower), born Canada, married Elmira Mathieu, about age 60, born Canada, (2nd widow). (Source: Town Records in library of Killingly Hist. & Gen. Soc., Danielson, CT.) An Elmira Bodo died 18 JAN 1907 in Plainfield, CT. Age not listed in the death index. (Source: Killingly Hist. & Gen. Soc. Plainfield Death Index)

Abraham Bodo in Other Records:

Census Records:

- 1850: Holden, Worcester Co., MA. BORDO
 - Abraham Bordo, 23, b. Can;
 - Jane, 22, b. Can.;
 - Delia, 4, b. RI;
 - Abraham, 2, b. MA;
 - Adeline 1, b. MA. Living next to family of Joseph Galipo, age 75, and wife Sophia, 47. (These were the parents of Jane [Adele] Galipo.)
- 1860 Franklin, New London Co., CT. BODOW
 - Abraham Bodow, 33, b. CAN
 - Adelia, 12, b. CAN
 - Abram 11, b. CAN
 - Adeline, 10, b. CAN
 - Alfred, 9, b. CAN
 - Samuel, 7, b. CAN
 - Salina, 5, b. CAN
 - Wm., 2, b. CAN
 - Matie, 8 months, b. CT

- 1870 Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA BORDEAU (BORDEAN by indexer)
 - Abram Bordeau, 48, b. CAN
 - Marian, 55, b. CAN
 - Alfred, 17, b. MA
 - Samuel, 15, b. MA
 - Selina, 14, b. MA
 - Wm., 12, b. MA
 - George, 10, b. MA
 - James, 8, b. MA
 - Peter, 5, b. MA. They were living next to family of Albert Laclare (Norbert Leclerc, Leclaire, Leclare), 24, b. CAN. (Albert was found to be Norbert Leclerc, the son of Marian who had married Abraham Bodo.)
- 1880 Worcester, Worcester Co., MA BEAUDREAU
 - Abram Beaudreau, 55, b. CAN
 - Marie, 60, b. CAN

City Directories: Abraham Beaudreau appears in city directories for Worcester, MA, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892.

Military:

- U.S. Civil War Registration 01 JUL 1863, Killingly, CT. Abraham Bordo, a resident of Killingly, CT, in Class 2, Congressional District 3rd; age on 1 July 1863 was 36, born about 1827, white, born in Canada.

Notarial Records:

- Abram Bodo Sr., in Richelieu, PQ, Canada Records
- Richelieu 18 APR 1872, record # 539. Discharge by Augustin Langlois dit Germain, farmer of St-Jude to Abraham Thibeau, day worker of Wealsters (sic) [Worcester], Mass.
 - Richelieu 26 MAR 1878, record # 865. Obligation and mortgage by Norbert Leclerc, farmer at Contrecoeur, to Abraham Thibeau, day worker of Mass., U.S.A.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM BODO SR. AND WIFE JANE (ADEL) GALIPO

1. DELIA BODO

b. ca. 1846, RI. d. ?, mar. ?

Census :

1850: with her father, in Holden, Worcester Co., MA as BORDO.

1860: with her father, in Franklin, New London Co., CT as BODOW

2. ABRAHAM BODO JR.

b. ca. 1849. d. 1920, CT
 m. MATILDA FORTIER (1849-1925) on 18
 AUG 1867 in Webster, Worcester Co., MA.
 Listed as Abram BODRAU of Webster, 19,
 operative, born Canada, son of Abram and
 Delia. Matilda's maiden name was listed as
 Fallie or Falke, 18, born Canada, dau. of
 Louis and Julia.

Children:

Mary, 1876-1879
 Mary-Rose-Ann, 1880-1960
 Joseph, b. 1884;
 Louis-Alfred, 1888-1940
 Lena, 1890-1977
 Annie, b. 1891
 Walter, b. 1905

Census:

1850 -with his father in Holden, Worcester
 Co., MA as BORDO.
 1860 -with his father in Franklin, New
 London Co., CT as BODOW
 1870 ?
 1880 Putnam, Windham Co., CT as
 BORDEAUX
 Abram Bordeaux, 31, b. MA
 Matilda, 28, b. CAN
 Elderic, 17, b. CT, (brother)
 Sophia Bailey, 63, b. CAN, (servant)
 Fred Bordeaux, 26, b. MA, (brother).
 1900 Putnam, Windham Co., CT as BADO
 Abram Bado, 55, b. CAN
 Matilda, 51, b. CAN
 Joseph, 15, b. CT
 Fred, 12, b. CT
 Lena, 10, b. CT²
 Annie, 8, b. CT
 Fredb. CT (brother)
 Abram's occupation was barber.
 1910 Putnam, Windham Co., CT as BODE
 Abram Bode, 60, b. MA
 Matildy, 58, b. CAN
 Walter, 5, b. CT
 Fred, 57, b. MA (brother)
 1920 Putnam, Windham Co., CT as

² Lena died in 1977 in Attawaugan, CT, according to records of the *Gilman-Valade Funeral Home, Vol. 2, Putnam and No. Grosvenordale, CT 1970-1990*, found in the Killingly Hist. Soc. Lib. in Danielson, CT.

BODEAU

Abraham Bodeau, 78, b. Nova Scotia
 Matilda, 71, b. Can
 Walter, 15, b. CT
 William Funk, boarder, 50, b. CAN
 Jean Berneault, boarder, 45, b. CAN.
 Land Records of Putnam, CT. 1882 -
 Abram Bodo and/or Matilda were listed in
 land records of Putnam, CT in 1882,
 1883, 1884, 1887, 1892, 1893 and 1894.
 City Directory Records: Check Putnam, CT
 and Worcester, MA.
 State Birth certificate of Rose Anne THIBO-
 DEAU, born 24 MAY 1880 in Putnam, CT,
 daughter of Abraham Thibodeau and
 Matilda Fortier.

3. ADELINE BODO,

b. 1850 MA. d. 1934 CT. Adeline Bordeau, b.
 29 MAR 1850 in Holden, MA, daughter of
 Abraham Bordeau and of Jane. Parents listed
 as both born in Canada (Source: MA birth
 certificate)
 d. Adeline Bodo Dupuis, widow of Joseph Du-
 puis, died 20 NOV 1934 in Wauregan village,
 township of Plainfield, Windham Co., CT.
 Parents listed as Abraham Bodo and Adel
 Galapai, both born in Canada. (Source: death
 certificate. Informant was son Walter Dupuis.)
 m. JOSEPH WALTER DUPUIS (WELLS³)
 (1852-1934). Joseph Dupuis and Adeline
 Beaudreau were married on 17 AUG 1870 in
 Burrillville, RI. Joseph was born in Canada;
 Adeline was born in Holden, MA. (Source:
 State Marriage Record)

Children:

Delima, 1872-1931
 Joseph-Adelard, 1874-1968
 George-Abraham, 1876-1947
 William-Franklin, 1880-1946
 Wilfred-Telesphorum, 1882-1952
 Henry, 1885-1908
 Marian R. Cora, 1887-1981
 Walter-Joseph, 1890-1961
 Arthur-Abram, 1893-1976
 Clara B. 1897-1897
 Alboma, 1898-1898.

³ Dupuis means of the well. This family used the English name Wells except for church records where Dupuis was used.

BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF CHILDREN OF ADELINE BODO AND JOSEPH WALTER DUPUIS⁴:

- Delima (Adeline)
 - b. 26 JUN 1872 in Meriden, CT, Baptized on 28 JUL 1872, Child of Joseph Dupuis and Adeline THIBODEAU. Godparents; Joseph Phoenix and....?
- Joseph-Adelard
 - b. 01 MAR 1874 in Meriden, CT, baptized 08 Mar 1874, child of Joseph Dupuis and Adeline THEBODEAU. Godparents: Adelard Bibeau and Elmira DeRosie
- George-Abraham
 - b. 21 Jan 1876, Moosup, CT, baptized the same day, child of Joseph ? Dupre and Adeline ?Gobouire. Godparents: GEORGE-JOSEPH BODEAU and Adelade ?Bodeau. (Possibly the maiden names of the mother and the godmother were switched?)
- William-Franklin
 - b. 06 FEB 1880 Moosup, CT, baptized 08 Feb 1880, child of Joseph Dupuis and Adeline Bodeau. Godparents: Francisco Pare and Marie Fortier. (Record in Latin)
- Wilfred-Telesphorum
 - b. 12 JAN 1882 Moosup, CT, baptized 22 JAN 1882, child of Joseph Dupuis and Adeline Bodeau. Godparents: TELESPHORO BODEAU AND ELISA LOSEAU. (Record in Latin)
- Henry
 - b. 01 OCT 1885 Moosup, CT, baptized 08 Oct 1885, child of Joseph Dupuis and Adeline Bodeau. Godparents: ALBERICO BODEAU AND ROSANNA MORRELL. (Record in Latin)
- Marian Rose Cora
 - b. 11 OCT 1887 Moosup, CT, baptized 23 OCT 1887, child of Joseph Dupuis and Adeline Bodeau. Godparents: Napoleon Letourneau and Marie Loseau. (Record in Latin)
- Walter-Joseph
 - b. 22 OCT 1890 in Wauregan, CT, baptized 25 OCT 1890, child of Joseph Dupuis and

Adeline Bodeau (Bodo). Godparents; Joseph Dupuis and Adeline Dupuis, (? his siblings?)

- Arthur-Abram
 - b. 07JUL 1893 in Wauregan, CT, baptized 09 JuUL 1893, child of Joseph Dupuis and Adeline Bodeau (Bodo). Godparents: Abraham Bodeau and ? Mevancia Coderre.
 - Clara B.
 - b. ca.1897, d. 14 NOV 1897 in New Bedford, MA at age 10 months and 22 days. She died of Cholera Infantum.
 - Alboma
 - b. ca. 1898, d. 19 AUG 1898 Plainfield, CT.
- Census:
- 1850: with her father in Holden, Worcester Co., MA, as BORDO
 - 1860: with her father in Franklin, New London Co., CT. as BODOW
 - 1870: ?
 - 1880: Plainfield, Windham Co., CT as WELLS
 - Joseph Wells, 28, b. VT
 - Idalens (Adeline) 29, b. MA
 - Valma (Dalima) 7, b. CT
 - Joseph 6, b. CT
 - Abraham 4, b. CT
 - Frank 3 months?, b. CT.
 - 1900: Plainfield, Windham Co., CT as WELLS
 - Joseph Wells⁵, 50 b. VT
 - Adeline 49, b. MA
 - William 20, b. CT
 - Wilfred 18, b. CT
 - Henry 14, b. CT
 - Cora 12, b. CT
 - Walter 9, b. CT
 - Arthur 6, b. CT.
 - 1910 Killingly, Windham Co., CT as WELLS
 - Joseph Wells, 61, b. VT
 - Delina, 59, b. MA
 - Cora 22, b. CT
 - Walter 19, b. CT
 - Arther 16, b. CT.
 - 1920 ?
 - 1930 Killingly, Windham Co., CT as WELLS

⁴ The name of Thibodeau appears twice and three brothers of Adeline Bodo appear in these records.

⁵ Joseph's occupation was carpenter

Joseph W. 80, b. CT
Delia R. 80, b. VT
Walter J. 39, b. CT.

4. ALFRED (FREDERICK) BODO

- b. 1852.
- d. 1918. (Single, lived with brother Abraham.) His death certificate listed him as Frederick Bodo, b. 14 JAN 1858 in Gardner, MA. He died on 11 JUN 1918 in Putnam, CT. His parents were listed as Abraham Bodo and Adele Galipo. The informant was Mrs. Felix Caplet. (Mrs. Felix Caplette was Lena Bodo, daughter of Abraham Bodo and Mathilda Fortier.)

Census:

- 1860: with his father: Franklin, New London Co., CT as BODOW
- 1870: with his father in Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA as BORDEAU (BORDEAN by Ancestry indexer)
- 1880: Putnam, CT, with his brother Abram; Listed as Fred Bordeaux, 26, b. rother)
- 1900: Putnam, CT, with his brother Abram, Listed as Fred Bado 30, b. CT (brother) Occupation of Fred: cotton mill carder.
- 1910: Putnam, CT, with his brother Abram. Listed as Fred Bode, 57, b. MA (brother)

5. SAMUEL BODO #1

- b. 1853. d. 1854. Born at Holden, MA: "Samuel Bordeau, male, born on 02 JUN 1853 at Holden, son of Abraham and Adelia Bordeau. BIRTH PLACE OF FATHER: DERBY, VT. Birth place of mother: Canada. Abraham was a laborer (Source: Holden town hall records.)
- d. at Holden. Samuel Bordeau, male, age 1 year, 3 months and 4 days; died 05 SEPT 1854, of Cholera Infantum. Birth place: Holden, MA. Parents: Abraham and Adelia Bordeau. (Source: Holden town hall records.)

6. SAMUEL BODO #2

- b. about 1854 in MA.
- d. 15 APR 1879 in Thompson, CT at age 24 years and 5 months and zero days. Listed as the child of Abraham Bodeau and Adele.
- m. MARIE ANNE LAMOTHE.
- d. 1879. He was buried in St. Joseph Cemetery, N. Grosvenordale, CT on 18 APR 1879

(Source: *Burials of St. Joseph Catholic Church in N. Grosvenordale, CT 1872-1990*, p. 71.)

Census:

- 1860: with his father in Franklin, New London Co., CT as BODOW
- 1870: with his father in Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA as BORDEAU (BORDEAN by Ancestry indexer)

7. SALINA BODO

- b. 1856, d. ?
- A Selina Bodo married EDWARD LEANNA and had son Edward Leanna who married Abbie M. (Lamphrey) Emisch in Worcester, MA in 1909. When he married, Edward was 32. He was born in Attleboro, MA. Abbie was 19, a widow. (Note: Leanna may be the name Lyonnais.)

Census:

- 1860: with her father in Franklin, New London Co., CTm as BODOW
- 1870: with her father in Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA as BORDEAU (BORDEAN by Ancestry indexer)

8. WILLIAM BODO

- b. about 1858
- d. 11 OCT 1905, Providence, Providence Co., RI. He was listed as the SON OF ABRAHAM AND OF AURELIE BODO, married to Marie, born abt 1856. (Source: familysearch.org.)
- m. MARIE TURCOTTE (1869-1939) on 22 AUG 1886, at Providence, Providence Co., RI in St. Charles Church. (Source: *Early Franco-American Marriages, 1850-1900*.) Information is also on familysearch.org. William was listed as Jos. William Bodeau , SON OF ABRAHAM & ADELAIDE.

Children:

- William, 1887-1887
- Mary 1888-1888
- William-Louis jr., 1891-1940
- Lena, 1892-?
- Arthur, 1894-1914
- Fred, 1897-?
- Eva-Clara, 1901-?
- Rose-Alma, 1903-?
- George, 1905-1906

Census:

1860: with his father in Franklin, New London Co., CT as BODOW

1870: with his father, Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA as BORDEAU (BORDEAN by Ancestry indexer)

1880: Lincoln, Providence Co., RI; BODEAU, William Bodeau, 21, b. CAN, single, a boarder living with the family of Nazaire Gilbert.

1900 - Burrillville, Providence Co., RI:

BODEAU

Wm 40, b. CAN⁶

Mary 31, b. CAN

Willie 9, b. RI

Lena 7, b. RI

Arthur 6, b. RI

Teddie 3, b. RI

Four of William's children (William, Mary, Lena [Adele] and George) were listed under Thibodeau in their birth records. Others were listed under Bodo. Their birth records were found using familysearch.

City Directories: Check city directories for William in Worcester, MA' Putnam, CT; and Providence, RI.

9. **MATIE BODO** b. 1859. Listed as Celina Bodo⁷ born 12 NOV 1859, daughter of Abraham Bodo, age 34, and Jane Bodo, age 32, resident of Plainfield, CT. (Record found at Killingly Hist. & Gen Soc., Danielson, CT. d. ? Probably died before the 1870 census since she was not listed with her father in that census.

Census:

1860: Franklin, New London Co., CT as BODOW. Listed with her father as Matie, 8 months, b. CT.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM BODO AND HIS SECOND WIFE MARY (ORELIE) GALOIPH

The census records do not clearly show these children. Some are on one census but not the next.

⁶ Occupation of Wm.: weaver.

⁷ Why they had 2 children named Celina is not known. Matie may have been the name of Marie.

Others are not on one they should be on but show up on the next. Birth years are approximate except for Telles. His birth record was found in CT.

1. **GEORGE BODO** b. ca. 1860, d. ? Mar. ? May have been GODFATHER TO NEPHEW GEORGE-ABRAHAM DUPUIS who was baptized 21 JAN 1876, at Moosup, CT.

Census:

1870: with his father in Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA as BORDEAU (BORDEAN by Ancestry indexer)

2. **JAMES BODO** b. ca. 1861, d. ? (May be Henry ?)

Census: 1870, with his father in Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA as BORDEAU (BORDEAN by Ancestry indexer)

3. **MALE BODO** b. and d. 1862.

3. **HENRY (Elderick) BODO**, b. about JUN 1863, Dayville, Windham Co., CT. Henry was born at Chestnut Hill, CT according to the death records of his son Alderick and of his daughter Lora M. Bodo and birth records of four more of his children. (Chestnut Hill, also called East Killingly, is in Windham Co., CT.)

Henry died on 31 May 1954 in Leominster, MA. His death certificate said that he was born in Dayville, CT. His parents were not listed.

Married ROSANNA MORRELL (1864-1941) about 1883, probably in CT. Rosanna died 22 FEB 1941 in Leominster, MA.

Children:

Rose, b. 1886

Aldrick, 1887-1887

Laura-Mary, 1888-1888

Henry (? Elderick-Joseph), b. 1889

Joseph-Alfred, 1890-1943

Lora, 1891-1892

Joseph-Oliver, b. 1893

George-Joseph, 1897-1948

Louis-Joseph, b. 1899

Regina-Mary, 1901-1982

Census:

1870 ?

1880: Putnam, CT, with his brother Abram Bodo jr. Henry was listed as Elderick (Eldin

by Ancestry indexer), age 17, b. CT
 1900: Leominster, Worcester Co., MA as BODO
 Bodo, Henry⁸ 35, b. MA
 Rose 36, b. CAN
 Rose 14, b. CT
 Henry A., 10, b. MA
 Fred 9, b. MA
 Joseph 6, b. MA
 George 3, b. MA
 Louie 1, b. MA.

1910: Leominster, Worcester Co., MA as BODO
 (BODS by Ancestry indexer)
 Henry 47, b. CT
 Rosanna 45, b. CAN
 Henry 20, b. MA
 Alfred 19, b. MA
 Joseph 16, b. MA
 George 13, b. MA
 Lewis 11, b. MA;
 Regina 9, b. MA
 Clarence 1 yr, 8 mo, b. MA (grandson).

1920: Leominster, Worcester Co., MA as BODO
 (Baslo by Ancestry indexer)
 Henry 57, b. CT
 Rossina (Rosanna) 54, b. CAN
 George J. 23, b. MA
 Louis J. 21, b. MA
 Clarence H. 11, b. MA

1930: Leominster, Worcester Co., MA as BODO
 George J. 33, b. MA
 Bertha ?19, b. CAN
 George 7, b. MA
 Henry (father) 68, b. CT
 Rosanna (mother) 65, b. CAN

Miscellaneous Records:

Baptism, 04 OCT 1885 in Moosup, Windham Co., CT: Henry was the godfather to his NEPHEW HENRY DUPUIS, son of Adeline Bodeau and of Joseph W. Dupuis. Godparents were listed as ALBERICO BODEAU and ROSANNA MORELL. Record was in Latin.
 Obit. of his half-sister Adeline Bodo Dupuis, 20 NOV 1934, Wauregan, CT. ADELINE'S OBITUARY listed her surviving brothers as HENRY BODO OF LEOMINSTER, MA and Peter Bodo of Woonsocket, R.I. They were her half brothers. Her father was Abraham Bodo.

⁸ Occupation of Henry: barber.

Henry and Peter also were sons of Abraham Bodo.

Wedding: 55th anniversary article, *Fitchburg Sentinel* newspaper, 15 AUG 1938 in Leominster MA.

Cith Directories: Check city directory records for Henry (Elderic or Alberico?) in Putnam, CT, and Leominster, MA

4. PETER (NAPOLEON) BODO b. about 1864 in Dayville, Windham Co., CT. (Source: familysearch.org)

d. 23 FEB 1936 in Howard, Cranston Co, RI. Listed as Peter Bodo or Alias Napoleon Bodo (1864) son of ABRAHAM BODO AND OF ORELIE.

Married Ellen / NELLIE BENOIT (1864-1937) on 4 Sep 1893 in Fitchburg, Worcester Co., MA. Listed as Petter Bodo of Litchfield, age 28, barber, born Dayville, SON OF ABRAM & MARY GALOIPH. Nellie Benoit was from Fitchburg, age 29, mill operative, born Webster, daughter of Augustus and Ellen.

Children:

Laura-Ellen, 1894-1982
 Ida. M., 1896-1990.

Census:

1870: with his father in Northbridge, Worcester Co., MA as BORDEAU (BORDEAN by Ancestry indexer)
 1880: Putnam, Windham Co., CT, single.

Listed as Leon Bordeaux, age 15, born Can, a boarder with the family of Richard Hoyle.

1900: Fitchburg Ward 1, Worcester Co., MA as BODO (BODA)

Napoleon T.⁹ 34, b. CT
 Mary E. 36, b. MA
 Laura E. 5, b. MA
 Ida M. 4, b. MA

1920 - Woonsocket Ward 1, Providence Co., RI as BODO

Napoleon¹⁰ 54, b. CT
 Nellie 58, b. MA
 Laura 25, b. MA
 Ida 24, b. MA.

Obit. of his half-sister Adeline Bodo Dupuis, 20 NOV 1934, Wauregan, CT. ADELINE'S

⁹ Occupation of Napoleon: barber

¹⁰ Occupation of Napoleon: weaver

OBITUARY listed her surviving brothers as BODO OF WOONSOCKET, R.I. They were her half brothers. Her father was Abraham Bodo. Henry and Peter also were sons of Abraham Bodo by a different wife.

City Directories: Check city directory records for Peter (Napoleon) in Fitchburg, MA, Leominster, MA, Woonsocket, RI and Howard, RI.

6. TELLES (TELESPHORE) P. BODO

b. 29 JUL 1865, Killingly, Windham Co., CT. Killingly Vital records show a Tillis Bordeaux, b. this date, son of ABRAHAM BORDEAUX, age 34 and MARY, age 37. He was the 7th child of his parents. (Record from the Killingly Hist. & Gen. Soc. in Danielson, CT.)

d. before 1920 census. (In that census, his wife was listed as a widow.)

m. ELIZA LOSEAU Loseau (BIRD¹¹) (1862-1928) on 29 MAY 1880 in Northborough, MA. Record said TALLAIS BOUDREAU, SON OF ABRAHAM AND AURELIA, married Eliza Bird, daughter of Joseph & Emerence. Eliza was 18 and Tallais was 20.

Children:

Telles (Telesphore), 1884-1971

Joseph 1885-1962

Walter-Wilfred, b. 1887

Arthur-Abram, 1889-1973

William-Eustice, 1892-1974

Eva-Nellie, 1894-1973

Census:

1870 ?

1880: Northborough, Worcester Co., MA as BODO

Teleste 19, b. CT

Eliza 18, b. CAN. Both Teleste and Eliza worked in a Shoddy¹² factory. They were living next to the family of Joseph and Mary Bird who also worked in a Shoddy factory and who

were born in Canada.

1900 Fitchburg Ward 3, Worcester Co., MA as BODO?

Eliza 31, b. CAN

Tellir (Tellis) 16, b. MA

Joseph 15, b. MA

Walter 12, b. MA

Arthur 10, b. MA

William 8, b. MA

Eva 5, b. MA

(Eliza's husband Telles (Telesphore) was not listed.) Son Tellis worked as a shearer in a cotton mill. Son William worked as a band machine tender.

1910: Fitchburg Ward 3, Worcester Co., MA as BODO

Eliza 48, b. CAN

Telesphore 26, b. MA

Joseph 25, b. MA

Walter 22, b. MA

Arthur 20, b. RI

William 17, b. MA

Eva 15 MA

(Eliza was listed as married but her husband Telles was not listed.)

1920 -Fitchburg Ward 2, Worcester Co., MA as BODO

Mrs. Telesphore, a widow, 57, b. CAN

Telesphore 35, b. MA

William 27, b. MA

Eva 25, b. MA

Louis Lozeau, nephew, 15, b. MA.

Living next to Mrs. Eliza Telesphore's family was the family of her son, Joseph Bodo.

Miscellaneous Records

TELLES AND ELIZA WERE GODPARENTS for his nephew Wilfred-Telesphorum Dupuis, b. 12 JAN 1882 in Moosup, Windham Co., CT. Godparents were listed as TELES-PHORO BODEAU AND ELISA LOSEAU.

Military:

1898: Newspaper Article. Telles wrote a letter to his wife Eliza which was published in the *Fitchburg Sentinel* Newspaper. It said that he wrote from Camp Alger (Falls Church, VA).

1898: Military Service Records, RI: Tellis P.

¹¹ In French, Bird is L'oiseau.

¹² Editor's Note: Shoddy was a type of loosely woven woolen fabric. "Many mills in New England in the 1800s produced shoddy; a recycled or remanufactured wool material that was considered inferior in quality to that of original wool but was able to be produced from recycled materials, ones that were loosely woven." From *Mills and Village Histories* on Town of Norfolk, MA web site at <http://www.virtualnorfolk.org/boards-committees/historical-commission/mills-village-histories.htm>.

Bodo was listed as a private in the Muster Roll of Co. K, 1st Rhode Island Infantry, under the command of Capt. E.D. Slyne (See Dowding, George R. *Military History of Westerly: 1710-1932*. Westerly, R.I.: Blackburn & Benson, 1932. Also see Ancestry, U.S., *Spanish American War Volunteers Index to Compiled Military Service Records, 1898*.)

14 Apr 1900: Telles was in Cuba in the Spanish-American War.

City Directories: Check city directory records for Telles in Fitchburg, MA, Leominster, MA, and Providence, RI.

ABRAHAM BODO AND MARIAN (MARIE, MARY) PERHAM (MARIE LOUISE PERRON)
Abraham Bodo had no children with his third

wife, Mary Perham (Marie Louise Perron), but she had children with her first husband, Norbert Leclare (Leclerc, Leclaire).

NAME VARIATIONS FOR BODO

Thibodeau, Thebodeau, Thibeau, Bodo, Bordo, Badow, Bordeau, Bodur, Bordeaux, Bode, Bodeau, Beaudreau, Bodar, Boddreau, Boda, Bordeaux, Bedar, T.Bodo, and Ancestry indexer errors: Bordean, Bobo, Bods and Baslo.

ORIGINAL NAME OF BODO WAS THIBODEAU

Thibodeau was the name given on the baptismal certificate of two children of Adeline Bodo and Joseph Dupuis, on the birth record of a child of Abraham Bodo and Matilda Fortier and of four children of William Bodo and Mary Turcot.

FCGSC Gratefully Acknowledges Financial Contributions to the Society May 2, 2019 through November 14, 2019

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Material Contributions to the Society, January - December 2019

Compiled by Germaine A. Hoffman #333

Lachapelle, Terri #1808

- Stiles, Henry R. *Families of Ancient Windsor Connecticut: The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut, Including East Windsor, South Windsor, Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, and Ellington*. Volume II.
- Dubay, Guy. *Dube/Dubay: The Story of Germain Dube of Hamlin and of some of His Descendants as told by them*.

Thomas and Anne Marie Skarbek #35

- Brault, Gerard J. *The French-Canadian Heritage in New England*. University Press of New England, 1986.
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- Washington County [NY] Planning Department. *An Introduction to Historic Resources in Washington County, New York*. Washington County Planning Board, 1976.
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- Ministere du Tourisme, Canada. *Inviting...La Province de Quebec Vous Accueille*. 1967.
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Brunelle, David M. #526

- LaForest, Thomas J. *Our French-Canadian Ancestors*, Volume XXIX,

Susan Paquette #369

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Continued on page 74

A Melange of Current Periodical Selections

Germaine A. Hoffman #333

Je Me Souviens – American-French Genealogical Society

Volume 42, Number 3, July-Sept. 2019

- *The French Genealogy Blog*, by Fran Tivey. Visit Anne Morrdels website for vast amounts of information about our French-Canadian ancestors in France.
- *Acadian Tour de France 2019*, by Sindi roussard Terrien

Michigan's Habitant Heritage- French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan

Vol. 40, #4, October 2019

- *Beaudin-Bodoh-Bodeau, Using DNA Evidence to Solve a Genealogical Roadblock Caused by Anglicization of a French-Canadian Name*, by Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.

Memoires – Societe genealogique canadienne-française

Volume 70, Number 3, Book 301, Fall 2019

- *Jean Lavalee, dit Petit-Jean, un essai de*

- *clarification*, by Alain Lavalee
- *Les Minet dit Montigny De Quebec, aux Iles-de-laMadeleine, jusqu'a la Cote-Nord*, by Jacques Boisseau and Serge Tremblay

Generations – New Brunswick Genealogical Society

Volume 41, No. 3, Fall 2019

- *Henry Josiah DeForest (1855-1924) A Largely forgotten New Brunswick Born Artist*, by Graham M. Segger

Par Monts et Riviere – Societe d'Histoire et de Genealogies des Quatre Lieux

October 2019, Volume 22, Number 7

- *L'ancetre de la famille Pigeon Pierre Pigeon 1636?-1678*, by Jean-Claude Pigeon

Connecticut Genealogy News – Connecticut Society of Genealogists

Fall 2019, Volume 12, Number 3

- *Voter Registration Applications*, by Diane K. LeMay

Materials Contributions – Continued from page 74

- Thompson, Mary P. *Landmarks In Ancient Dover New Hampshire*. Durham, NH: 1892.
- Canney, Robert S. *The Early Marriages of Strafford County, New Hampshire 1630-1850*. by Robert S. Canney.(2 copies)
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Carol Snyder Heubeck

- Snyder, Jane Auger, assisted by Mary Auger Royal and others. *Ascendants and Descendants: AUGER-DAIGNEAU GENEALOGY, from Early Records in France, Canada, New England and elsewhere, to 1972 in the United States and Canada*. Collected and Compiled 1968-1973.

Ben Simoneau #838

- *Les Frechette d'Amerique, Nos Origines et Notre Histoire, Tome 1*
- *Les Frechette d'Amerique, Dictionnaire Genealogique, Tome 2*

Dr. Elizabeth Blood

Gatineau, Felix. *History of the Franco-Americans of Southbridge, Massachusetts*. Reprint 1919 ed.

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A Québec Reeves Family in Southern New England

Paul R. Keroack #157

Pierre Pascal Reeves, who with his family immigrated to Connecticut in the early 1850s, was only the fourth generation of this line in North America. Known in Canada as Rives or Reeves dit Langlois, the surname was an indication of an unusual English connection.

According to a 1978 article by Chs-L. Reeves in *L'Ancêtre*,¹³ Joseph Rives, a boy born about 1727 in the Atlantic off Newfoundland to a French fishing family from Normandy, was baptized by Jesuits in the colony of Maryland. Joseph was apparently also raised in Maryland, becoming bilingual and learning the carpentry trade. He made his way to St-Sulpice on the north shore of the St. Lawrence in Québec where in 1749 he joined an expedition to Detroit.

Upon his return to Québec, he married Catherine Perrault at Notre-Dame, Montreal, on 09 FEB 1750. The register names his parents as Jean Rives and Jeanne Crine, of “Port-aux-Basques, Nouvelle Angleterre,”¹⁴ He supported his family as a master carpenter. Catherine died 30 JUL 1760, leaving three surviving children. Joseph remarried on 17 JAN 1763 to Charlotte Gaudry, widow of Francois Piquet, who bore him no children. This register entry states that Joseph’s parents, “J.B. Riewies et

¹³ Les familles Rives ... et Reeves en Nouvelle France, Chs-L. Reeves (fr. Damien, O.F.M.), *L'Ancêtre*, 1978, No. 5-3, p. 93-. English translation found at sites.rootsweb.com/~mcdanielshowland/html-fr/rives.txt. Translator is cited as Gail Moreau in wiki.tre.com/wiki/Reeves-3207. Although the Reeves article states that Jesuits constituted the Catholic clergy of colonial Maryland, after 1704 they were no longer allowed a public role. However, as explained in americamagazine.org/issue/american-jesuits-buried-and-brought-back-part-ii: “Nevertheless the Queen allowed Catholics to worship privately, so a network of private chapels [was] set up on Jesuit farms and estates in Maryland.” This arrangement may have allowed for Joseph Rives’ baptism and residence after 1727.

¹⁴ prdh-igd.com, Union 22789, Joseph Langlois Reeves & Marie Catherine Perrault St Pierre. Details found at Familysearch.org, *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Notre-Dame, 1734-1754, image 462/626 (hereafter *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*). The Port-aux-Basques settlement was located in English-occupied Labrador.

Jeanne Grinn,” reside in the “paroisse de Ste-Marie la Merlande en le Nouvelle Angleterre,” as well as including the authorization by “son excellence Thomas Gage, gouverneur de cette ville ...”¹⁵ Americans would later know General Gage as the British commander at Bunker Hill.

Charlotte died on 18 JUN 1773. While his older children married and began families, Joseph married again, on 6 JUN 1774 at Point-aux-Trembles, to Josephe Beauchamp. Josephe survived him, raising their six children after his death on 16 MAY 1786.¹⁶

Their youngest son, Etienne, was the progenitor of the emigrant family whose history is described in this article. He was born 27 NOV 1782 and baptized the next day at Pointe-aux-Trembles, the fifth of six children of Joseph and his third wife, all of whom lived to marry. His step-brothers and step-sister had married, or soon would.¹⁷

Etienne, a journalier (laborer) resident in Pointe-aux-Trembles, was married in Boucherville on 04 OCT 1802 to Josephe Robert, daughter of Alexis and of Josephe Marcil.¹⁸ Of their children who

¹⁵ Authorization of the marriage by Gage, the military commander, was required because at that time Montréal was under British martial law.

¹⁶ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Notre-Dame, 1751-1761, image 396/463, burial of Catherine Perrault.

Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979, Notre-Dame, 1762-1775, image 45-46/637, marriage to Charlotte.

Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979, Notre-Dame, 1762-1775, image 556/637, burial of Charlotte “Gaudri, epouse de Joseph Rif dit Langlois.”

Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979, Pointe-aux-Trembles, 1727-1786, image 537/660, marriage to Josephe Beauchamp, daughter of Pierre Beauchamp and Marie Content; also prdh-igd.com, Union 83922.

Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979, Notre-Dame, 1786-1795, image 30/795, died at l'Hotel Dieu, buried as “Joseph Jesse Rives, 69,” 17 May.

¹⁷ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Pointe-aux-Trembles, 1727-1786, image 617/660; also prdh-igd.com, Union 99651 (Reeves-Robert), Union 83922 (Reeves-Beauchamp) and Union 22789 (Reeves-Perrault)

¹⁸ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Boucherville, 1772-1804, image 510/563.

married, all did so in Boucherville. Pierre Pascal was the couple's youngest son, born and baptized on 25 JAN 1811. In the baptismal record, Etienne was now described as a cultivateur (farmer). Unusually, only a marraine (godmother) was listed – Genevieve Schinller, who signed along with the priest.¹⁹

Pierre was thirty at his marriage on 22 NOV 1841 to Marie Celeste Aubertin, daughter of Jacques Aubertin and Celeste Leduc. Both men were farmers – cultivateurs. In this record the groom's family surname was spelled Reeves.²⁰ Pierre's elder brother Eugene was a witness. Pierre's in-laws, the Aubertins, would continue to be an important part of his life in unexpected ways.

Pierre and Celeste had two children, Marie Celeste and Jacques Octave, before they relocated south to Christieville, since renamed Iberville (in the parish of St-Athenase-de-Bleury), about halfway to the U.S. border, where their third child, Marie Hortense Zoe, was baptized.²¹ The move may have been triggered by the 1843 fire which destroyed much of Boucherville. They may have chosen their destination by following their Aubertin in-laws. The Richelieu River valley towns and the nearby Eastern townships were areas of increasing economic growth during those decades.

Pierre and Hortense's (as she became known) next child, Henri Hermenegilde, was baptized 01 JUL 1847 at St-Jean l'Evangeliste, and named after his grand-uncle Henry and an uncle who signed as Jacques Hermenegilde Aubertin. That town, later

called St-Jean sur Richelieu, was across the river from Christieville, where the Reeves resided.²²

Two years later (on a quite regular schedule), Pierre Salime was baptized in Stanbridge, in the eastern townships. The baptism took place more than a month after his 13 MAR 1849 birth, perhaps delayed because of the distance from Stanbridge to the family's residence in Sutton, a township closer to the U.S. border, which as yet had no parish church.²³

The census of several Canadian provinces, known as the 1851 Census, was taken in early 1852. Pierre Reeves and family were enumerated in Sutton, apparently by an English-speaker, given the strange spellings of some of their names.

1851- Canada East, Missisquoi, Sutton, p. 65

Peter [Pierre]	Rivea	44
Ashawa [Hortense]	"	34
Aurilla [M. Celeste]	"	11
Oxeab [Octave]	"	9
Zoa [Zoe]	"	7
Aurear [Henri]	"	5
Salime [Pierre Salime]	"	4
Alexander [Alex]	"	1
Sylvanus	"	15
Marcelea	"	18

The newest child was Alex, baptismal location as yet unidentified. The elder youths were likely cousins.²⁴

Soon after, Pierre and his family relocated in the United States, according to later accounts either to Massachusetts or northern Connecticut. The birth place of next child, formally known as Rose Delima may have been either in Massachusetts, as noted in the table below or "Danielsonville" (Killingly), Connecticut, as cited in her marriage

¹⁹ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Boucherville, 1805-1827, image 129/576, his second name spelled Paschal.

²⁰ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Boucherville, 1820-1843, image 451/493, also prdh-igd.com, Family 217051.

²¹ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Boucherville, 1820-1843, B14, image 459/493; baptized as "Marie _____ Celeste," her mother named as Celeste Hortense.

Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979, Boucherville, 1843-1864, b92, image 9/569. Jacques Octave's Aubertin grandparents were sponsors, Celeste Leduc signing.

Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979, St-Athenase, 1832-1846, b101, image 722/798. Zoe's grand-uncle, a notary, signed as "Henry Aubertin, Ecuyer."

²² *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, St-Jean-l'Evangeliste, 1841-1861, image 226/183.

²³ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge, image 176/758, bap-tized 29 April.

²⁴ Ancestry.com. *1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick & Nova Scotia*; Missisquoi, Sutton, image 66/118. His birth date was listed as May 1851 in the 1900 U.S. Census, CT, Windham Co., Killingly, p. 142A.

record.²⁵ Several more children were born, as shown in the U.S. Census of 1860, at their residence in the town of Brooklyn.

1860 CT Census, Windham Co., Brooklyn

Peter	Reves	PQ	49
Mary [Hortense]	“	“	40
October	“	“	17
Sophia [Zoe]	Reves	“	15
Henry	“	“	13
Peter	“	“	11
Alix	“	“	9
Delia	“	MA	7
Joseph	“	CT	5
Stephen	“	CT	3
Maria [Hortense]	“	CT	1

Missing from the family roster was the eldest, then known as Aurelia, who was married about 1859 to Nelson (Narcisse Jolicoeur) Hart. They soon returned to his native Vermont. Ellen, the eleventh and last child of Pierre and Hortense, was born about March 1861.²⁶

On 20 SEPT 1852 at St-Athanase, Hortense Reeves' brother Jacques Hermenegilde Aubertin, a “notaire,” married Corinne Bardy.²⁷ His career in this profession began in May of that year in the village of Christieville (St-Athanase parish).

His uncle Henry Aubertin, a notary from 1838 to his election as Christieville's mayor in 1849, had died 13 MAY 1851 at the age of 41. In the 1861 census, it is clear that Jacques was supporting his widowed aunt as well as his own family. He ended his notarial career in 1865, moving his family,

²⁵ At his 50th wedding anniversary, Pierre Salime Reeves was quoted as saying he “when he was four years of age his parents moved to Webster, MA, after which they came to Baltic,” in *Chronicle America*.loc.gov, *Norwich Bulletin*, 30 October 1916, p. 2.

²⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, CT, Windham Co., Brooklyn, p. 98. 1860 U.S. Census, CT, Windham Co., Killingly, p. 121, (Hart). The date and place of Aurelia's first marriage are unknown. Not all vital records of likely Eastern CT towns are yet online. For the same reason, a birth date for Ellen can only be estimated from her 1900 census entry.

²⁷ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, St-Athanase, M13, image 387/735.

with his now widowed mother, to Sprague, Connecticut, perhaps at the urging of his sister and brother-in-law.²⁸

By 1870, the Reeves family as well as “James H.” Aubertin's extended family resided in Sprague. The men as well as older children were employed at the large A.W. Sprague cotton mill recently erected in Baltic village.

1870 CT Census, New London Co., Sprague, p.15

Rives	Peter	59	CA
“	Hortense	50	“
“	Rose D.	17	MA
“	Joseph	15	CT
“	Napoleon [sic]	13	“
“	Hortense	11	“
“	Ellen	9	“

1870 CT Census, New London Co., Sprague, p. 65

Fontaine	Louis	20	CA
“	Aurelie	28	“
Jolicoeur	Elisa	8	VT
“	Malvina	6	“
Fontaine	Louis	6/12	CT

M. Hortense Reeves, wife of Pierre, died 16 JAN 1872, age 51 years, 10 months. She was buried in Sprague.

Aurelie, widowed, married Louis Fontaine in Sprague 18 OCT 1868. He was employed as a clerk. The Jolicoeur girls were Aurelie's children by her first marriage (see note 24). They were identified in the 1880 census as step-children of Louis (but surnamed Hart).²⁹

²⁸ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, St-Athanase, S28, image 328/735, (Henry) buried 16 MAY 1851.

Ancestry.com. 1861 Census of Canada, Canada East, Iberville Co., Iberville, p. 24-25.

Québec, Canada Notarial Records. *Repertoire et index de notaires*. Iberville: Aubertin, H.; Aubertin, J.H.

CollectionsCanada.gc.ca/obj/001075/f2/nlc003645.pdf, *The Canada Directory*, 1851, p. 60, Christieville: “Aubertin, Henry, notary public, mayor and county registrar.” The town was renamed Iberville in 1859.

²⁹ 1870 U.S. Census, CT, New London Co., Sprague, p. 15, p. 65.

In 1880 Louis Fontaine and Aurelia operated a grocery on Providence Street in Taftville, Norwich. Along with the Hart daughters were three of their own children. Next door lived his partner in the grocery, his brother-in-law, October Reeves, wife Josephine (Trudeau) and their six children. Like his parents, Reeves eventually had eleven children, though not all of them survived to adulthood.³⁰ He gradually took on John as his primary name, along with or instead of Octave/October.

Aurelie Reeves Fontaine died 27 MAY 1882, in childbirth, at age 40. A few years later the partners abandoned the grocery business in favor of a saloon, jointly operated as before until about 1890, when John went to work as a watchman at Ponemah Mill and Louis relocated to Worcester MA.³¹ One of John's sons, George P., a painter by trade, enlisted in the 3rd Regiment, Co. C, Connecticut Volunteers, during the Spanish-American War in 1898. His youngest son, Alexander E., was employed as city assessor for Norwich from about 1907 to 1920.³²

The 1900 census included the Reeves family's younger children, all adults living at home in Taftville. Daughters Elise N. and Ethel B. began careers in music, while Corinne remained single.³³

Ancestry.com. *CT, Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934*; Sprague, 318-3, St. Mary's Cemetery (hereafter Hale Collection) Pierre was buried with her in 1893 (see note 25).

Familysearch.org. *Sprague CT marriages, 1861-1905*, (hereafter Sprague marriages), p. 21, image 369/726.

³⁰ 1880 U.S. Census, CT, New London, Norwich, p. 305D. Sprague marriages, p. 9, image 357/726 (Reeves-Trudeau). Josephine Trudeau, great-grand aunt of this author. was born 29 JUL 1846, St-Cesaire.

³¹ Familysearch.org. *Norwich CT deaths*, v. 16, p. 82 (hereafter Norwich deaths). Buried as "D'Aurelie, wife of Louis," Hale Collection, Sprague, 318-3, St. Mary's Cemetery, p. 22.

Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* Norwich, 1884-1908 (hereafter Norwich City Directory).

³² Spanamwar.com/Connecticut.htm#3rdCVI. George's unit was training in Savannah, GA when the war ended.

³³ 1900 U.S. Census, CT, New London Co., Norwich, p. 24A. Elise was born 03 APR 1878 (*Norwich births*, v. 14, p. 248), married (as Elsie) Hugh Kinder, a church organist, 22 SEPT 1907 at Ledyard (*Norwich marriages*, v. 22, p. 16) in a

John Reeves worked into his seventies as a watchman and was also town constable for Taftville. He remained vigorous, affirming in the 1917 state military census, that at age 73, he was employed as a policeman, had no serious disability and could handle a team of horses.³⁴

Zoe, at age 19, married John B. Benoit of Windham in Sprague on 15 JUN 1865. John was a mill worker. I have not found them in any census under the Benoit name but they were listed as John and Eliza Bellman in Ripton, Vermont in 1880, and also in Mansfield, CT in 1910. "Eliza Bellusan" died 28 AUG 1915 in Mansfield. "John "Bellmar" died 15 JUL 1918. Their Coventry, CT headstone reads John B. Bellman, 1840-1918 and Zoe Reeves, 1845-1915.³⁵

Henri, or Henry J., as he became known, married Hedwige Bourque in Sprague on 01 JAN 1868. They raised nine children in Norwich and later in Sprague. Henry was overseer of spinning at Baltic Mill. He died 14 OCT 1920.³⁶

Protestant ceremony. They are buried in Yantic Cem., Norwich, Findagrave.com, memorial #104580543.

Corinne was born 16 MAY 1882 (*Norwich births*, v. 14, p. 362). She was a mill employee. After her mother's death in 1924, she lived with a fellow worker, Olive Anderson. In the 1940 (*U.S. Census*, CT, New London Co., Norwich, ED 6-91, p. 6A), both retired, they described themselves as "partners." Corinne died 25 MAY 1958 in Preston, ctatellibrarydata.org/death-records.

Note misspelling in web link cited here, and hereafter. Choose CT deaths or marriages index from following link: <https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/az.php>. Ethel was a musician and a piano teacher. She died in 1916 at age 28, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov, *Norwich Bulletin*, 31 MAR 1916, p. 7.

³⁴ Ancestry.com. *CT Military Census, 1917*, 2 Feb. 1917, #226080. He was noted as 6 feet tall, 180 lbs.

³⁵ *Sprague marriages, 1861-1905*, p. 11, image 359/726.

A brief newspaper notice stated that "Alexander Reeves has gone to Eagleville ... to visit his aunt and uncle Mr. and Mrs. John Bellman," in [Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/Norwich Bulletin](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/NorwichBulletin), 30 July, 1910, p. 11.

1880 *U.S. Census*, VT, Addison Co., Ripton, p. 209B.

1910 *U.S. Census*, CT, Tolland Co., Mansfield, p. 1A.

Findagrave.com, memorials #81799690, 81799708.

www.ctatellibrarydata.org/ Eliza Bellusan; John Bellmar.

³⁶ *Sprague marriages*, p. 20, image 368/726; Hale Collection, Sprague, 319-3, St. Mary's Cemetery, p. 23.

Pierre S. (Salime) married Priscilla Moreau in Sprague 28 OCT 1866. They moved to Norwich where they raised their family. Known there as Peter, he worked as a section hand at the mill, and later as a baker with his son Arthur before relocating to Willimantic in 1906, where he worked as a clerk, listed there as Pierre S. He died 31 MAY 1919.³⁷

Alex, as Paul Alexander, married Marie Louise Cote in Sprague on 29 FEB 1873. By 1880 he and Marie had moved to Rhode Island. The 1885 Rhode Island state census lists Paul A. as a clerk in a variety store in the town of Lincoln. Living with him was his father Peter, age 74, with a notation that the older man was “deaf and dumb.”³⁸

In 1889 and for several years thereafter, P. Alexander Reeves was a shopkeeper in Taftville, listed as “boot and shoe dealer and gent’s furnishings.” By 1900 he moved to Danielson where, as Paul A., he was a grocer. Of the couple’s six children, only one was living in 1910. He was employed as an insurance agent. He died in Preston 16 October 1928 and is buried in Danielson.³⁹

Rose Delima was born about 1853, probably in Connecticut, exact place unknown. In some censuses she is known as Delina or Rose D. As Emma Rives, age 19, she married Louis Lambert on 01 JAN 1873 in Sprague. They had one son later that year but on 31 DEC 1875 Delima died of smallpox in Sprague. Her age was listed as 22

³⁷ Sprague marriages, p. 14, image 362/726.

Ctataelibrarydata.org/death-records/

³⁸ Sprague marriages, p. 40, image 388/726. Ancestry.com.

Rhode Island State Censuses, 1865-1935; 1885, Lincoln, ED 148, lines 11, 13, images 225-226/594. According to Stephen's biographical sketch, his father Pierre died in Norwich in 1892, but I have not found any death record. According to my earlier notes, Pierre was buried in Sprague 08 JAN 1893, but the relevant burials pages are not yet online to confirm this.

³⁹ Norwich City Directory, 1889-1893.

1900 U.S. Census, CT, Windham Co., Killingly, p. 142A.

1910 U.S. Census, CT, Windham Co., Killingly, p. 18A.

CT Military Census, 1917, 23 Feb. 1917, #482810. He was noted as 5 feet, 6 inches tall, 155 lbs. Ctataelibrary data.org/death-records/ (as Alexander). Findagrave.com, memorial #33204028 (as Paul Alexander).

years, 5 months.⁴⁰ Louis remarried 28 DEC 1878 to Celina Barris [ie., Baril].⁴¹

Joseph W. was born 20 JAN 1855 in Plainfield, CT. He was married in Sprague 19 FEB 1876 to Nancy Hull of New Jersey (or New York). At first working in the Sprague mill, he moved to Norwich, employed variously as a janitor and bartender, and briefly as manager in a business owned by his brother Stephen. The couple shared lodgings with Stephen and his wife. Their three children died in childhood and were buried in Sprague. Nancy died 30 August 1902 in Norwich. As a widower Joseph lived with Stephen and Ida, working as a clerk, dying 27 OCT 1907. He and Nancy were buried in Yantic Cemetery.⁴²

Stephen H. (Herbert) Reeves was born in Brooklyn, CT, on 25 FEB 1857. His career details were published in an early 20th century “mug book.” Without dwelling on the hyperbole typical of these publications, we can report that he worked in the Sprague cotton mill as a young teen to help support the family, but soon took a job on a farm in Canterbury and availed himself of public education. At 19, he began work as a clerk in a general store in Wauregan. Moving to Norwich he clerked in a men’s furnishings shop, later opening a similar shop with a partner. He was then a traveling salesman for G. Spaulding Co. From 1901 he ran the Norwich branch of the “State Free Employment Bureau.” He then moved on to become district manager of the Sperry & Hutchinson Green Trading Stamps Co.

Outside of his profession he was active in fraternal lodges and the local Republican Party. He was elected Norwich City Treasurer in 1919. He had

⁴⁰ Sprague marriages, p. 40, image 388/726. Familysearch.org, Sprague CT deaths, 1861-1879, (hereafter Sprague deaths), p. 44, image 496/726.

⁴¹ Sprague marriages, p. 55, image 403/726.

⁴² Sprague marriages, p. 48, image 396/726.

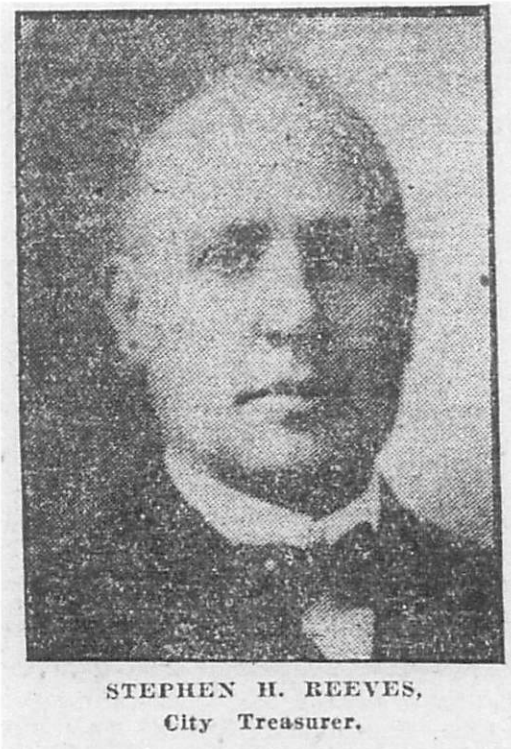
1880 U.S. Census, CT, New London Co., Sprague, p. 562D.

Norwich City Directory, 1880-1907.

Hale Collection, Sprague 318-3, St. Mary's Cem., p. 32.

1900 U.S. Census, New London Co., Norwich p. 9B.

Familysearch.org, Norwich CT deaths, v. 20, p. 24; v. 23, p. 9 (hereafter Norwich deaths); his date and place of birth as recorded in death register. For his burial, see note 31.



Stephen H. Reeves, *Norwich Bulletin*, 8 June 1920, p. 8.
Accessed at Chronlingamerica.loc.gov.

married Ida Louise Guile on 05 NOV 1882 in Norwich. They adopted a daughter, Lucie Isham Crouch, who died in 1906. Mrs. Ida Reeves died 30 APR 1916.⁴³ Stephen died 09 JUL 1929 and is buried with his wife in Yantic Cemetery.⁴⁴

Stephen's nephew Alexander E. Reeves, son of John O., was elected as a town tax assessor of Norwich in 1907 on the Republican ticket. After leaving the post in 1911, he was employed by the Metropolitan Insurance Co. He later managed their office in Portland, ME. After a few years there, he relocated to Bristol, CT,⁴⁵ where he and

his wife Edna settled, joined by his father John, who had been widowed in 1924. John Octave died 29 MAY 1927, aged 83. Alexander died in Bristol 03 MAY 1939 at the age of 63.⁴⁶

Marie Hortense Reeves was born, probably in Killingly, CT, about March 1859. She married Fabien Chevalier in Norwich on 25 DEC 1875. He was a resident of Griswold, age 19. She was 17. They had one child, Fabien E., born 11 APR 1876 in Norwich, who apparently died in infancy. The 1880 census lists Frank Chevalier, 24, wife Mary, 18, and an adopted infant daughter, Lieva. They boarded with another family in Taftville, where Frank worked in the cotton mill.⁴⁷

In the 1890s, known again as Fabien, he operated a saloon in downtown Norwich, at first in partnership with Romeo Dupuis. In the 1900 census, Fabien is listed with wife Hermanne, age 38, and daughter Eva, 21. The couple married in 1878, she having emigrated from Canada in 1882.

However, some of the above facts do not match earlier given information. Fabien and Hortense, who was born in the U.S., were married in 1875. Was Hermanne a variation of Hortense?⁴⁸

With the indication that there had been a Canadian marriage, I checked the Drouin index on Ancestry. On 04 JUN 1878, in Lavaltrie, Québec, there was recorded a marriage between Francois Xavier Chevalier and Hermine Robitaille. His parents resided in St-Sulpice and she lived in Lavaltrie. There was no notation that he was a widower.

Going back to the unindexed Norwich death records, I found listed on 19 JAN 1878 the death of "Arcance" Chevalier, resident of Killingly aged

⁴³ *Modern History of New London County*, by B.T. Marshall, Lewis History Publishing Co., 1922, p. 56.

Norwich City Dir., 1892, p. 199; "Reeves & Branche."

⁴⁴ Findagrave.com, memorial #98445163; memorial #48442095 (for Joseph). Inscriptions are on opposite sides of the same stone.

⁴⁵ *Norwich City Directory*, 1908, Town officers, p. 432.

[Chronlingamerica.loc.gov/Norwich Bulletin](http://Chronlingamerica.loc.gov/NorwichBulletin), 14 Nov. 1911, p. 5.

Ancestry.com, *Portland City Directory*, 1921-1927; *Bristol City Directory*, 1927-1939.

⁴⁶ Josephine Trudeau Reeves died 17 March 1924, Ctatalibrarydata.org/death-records. Deaths of John and Alexander found in same source.

⁴⁷ *Norwich marriages*, v. 12, p. 427. Familysearch.org, *Norwich CT births*, v. 14, p. 196; 1880 *U.S. Census*, CT, New London Co., Norwich, p. 313D.

⁴⁸ *Norwich City Directory*, 1895, p. 63.; 1900 *U.S. Census*, CT, New London Co., Norwich, p. 27A.

18-10-14. She died of tuberculosis and perhaps had been staying with relatives there.⁴⁹

Fabien died 5 MAY 1908, at age 51. His saloon at 256 Main Street was sold to Charles Connell and his widow moved to Plainfield soon after. Late in 1909, Eva Chevalier was married in West Warwick, RI, to George Raboin. In a newspaper article on the wedding party's visit to Norwich family and friends, her step-mother was not mentioned. Fabien's estate, which included Norwich properties, was awarded to Hermine in 1910.⁵⁰

Ellen Reeves was born in March 1861, probably in Killingly. She married Frederick King in Norwich 23 AUG 1878. In the 1880 census, the couple, with one son, was living in Taftville. Peter Reeves, 69, father-in-law, was residing with them.

Frederick worked in the cotton mill. King, his surname likely anglicized from Roy in his native Vermont, later reverted to the original surname.⁵¹ By the 1900 census, the family had expanded to include eleven children (there would be one more in 1902). Roy, along with several of the older children, worked in the mill, where he was a loom-fixer.

In the 1915 RI census, the Roys, including four sons, lived in Pawtucket RI, with Frederick employed as an elevator operator. He died in Pawtucket on 15 FEB 1918 at age 61. His death was recorded under the name Jacob Frederick Roy. He is buried in Norwich, CT along with Ellen, who died 25 November 1939.

⁴⁹ *Québec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979*, Lavaltrie, M7, image 356/401.

Ancestry's indexed *Drouin records* are useful as a finding aid, but once date and place are found, the corresponding image at *familysearch.org* is usually of superior readability. Norwich deaths, v. 13, p. 333; age given in death record calculates to a birth in March 1859.

⁵⁰ *Norwich deaths*, v. 23, p. 23.

Norwich City Directory, 1909, p. 129, 404.

Hale Collection, Norwich 314-3, St. Mary's Cemetery, p. 179, lists Fabien Chevalier, 1857-1908 and Hermine without dates. *Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov*, *Norwich Bulletin*, 24 NOV 1909, p. 7; *Norwich Bulletin*, 15 JAN 1910, p. 7.

⁵¹ *Norwich marriages*, v. 15, p. 16; 1880 *U.S. Census*, CT, New London Co., Norwich, p. 309D.



John (Octave) Reeves, undated (detail) from p. 100, *The French Canadians in New England 1871-1930: Taftville (The Early Years)*. By Rene L. Dugas, Sr., 1995. Permission to reprint granted by copyright holder Elaine Dugas Story, 2019.

The Reeves' family experience in the 19th and 20th century America ran the gamut from traditional - and typical - lifelong employment in large textile mills to a variety of skilled occupations (perhaps stimulated by the memory of Quebec cousin notaires). Some first and second-generation Reeves became small entrepreneurs and white-collar professionals. Several of these assimilated entirely into Yankee society, becoming active in local politics and marrying into Protestant families.⁵²

⁵² 1900 *U.S. Census*, CT, New London Co., Norwich, p. 158A. Ancestry.com, *RI State Censuses, 1885-1935*, image 728/1311. Familysearch.org, *RI Deaths and Burials, 1802-1950*, certificate image.

Findagrave.com, memorial #70759340. Frederick Roy's death date was incorrectly carved as 1916.

See *Ctataelibrarydata.org/death-records* for Ellen Reeves Roy's death date and place (Norwich).

Child Mortality Among French-Canadian Mill Workers in 1890s Salem, MA

Maryanne Roy LeGrow, Ph.D. #696

The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in Boston has undertaken a massive transcription project. They are creating a searchable database of baptism, marriage and burial records from churches in the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. About two years ago I began working as a volunteer transcriber with some of the 19th-century records of French-speaking parishes in the diocese⁵³. It is not particularly difficult work, and I am glad to be able to help preserve and make the records accessible. One unexpected aspect of the project, something I had not been conscious of when researching similar Québec parish records for myself and for others, is the strong feeling of empathy that I have developed for the people whose names appear in the registers.

Working on transcription of burial registers has given me a deeper understanding of how constant a presence the fear of disease and death must have been in our immigrant ancestors' lives. We can easily imagine their struggle to adapt to a new home, a foreign language, and a strange culture. Their standard of living was low by today's measures but still better than conditions in Canada. Everyone worked and worked hard: illness, injury or factory layoffs meant hunger or worse to families living on the edge.

All of this we understand and accept as known aspects of our ancestors' lives. But how much do we know of their constant close proximity to illness and death? Antibiotics and competent medical care, today's bulwarks against disease and suffering, did not exist for them. What did exist was the ever-present specter of death, seldom swift or painless, and always most threatening to the youngest and most vulnerable.

I am neither a physician nor an historian, and my knowledge of disease and mortality, statistical or otherwise, is limited. But working on this transcription project has enlarged my layman's understanding of this aspect of the lives of Victorian era French-Canadian immigrant families.

The time period of the records I am currently transcribing is the last decade of the 19th century. What first astonished, and then appalled me was the huge number of child burials that these records contain. I knew that in spite of advances in medical knowledge and public health practices since the end of the Civil War, infant and child mortality rates during the decade between 1890 and 1900 were still extremely high by current standards. But what I was seeing, in page after page, death after death of young children through month after month of records, was almost beyond belief. I did know that during the period in question it often happened that women, my own grandmother among them, would bear a dozen children with only eight, six, or even fewer of them surviving into adulthood. Losing a child was a common event, with some families suffering the loss of multiple children in the same year. It is difficult to comprehend how parents were able to survive such devastating bereavement. But the extent of the childhood deaths in the materials I transcribed, the sheer numbers in just one parish, seemed to me to be unusual, beyond even the statistics described in history books.

To test the validity of this perception, I compiled records from the church of St. Joseph in Salem, Massachusetts, from 29 JUL 1892 to 10 JAN 1895, about a 30-month period. I counted the number of deaths in each of five categories: 0-1 year; 1-5 years; 5-10 years, 10-17 years; and over 17 years. I also noted how many newborns, defined as children from birth to two months, were included in the 0-1 year group and how many adults age 60 and over were included in the over-

⁵³ Want to know more about volunteering for this project? Contact Rachel Adams, NEHGS Database Services Volunteer Coordinator, at Rachel.Adams@nehgs.org.

17 group. I suspected that the number of child deaths in the St. Joseph burial registers for the period was much higher than the norm for other places in the United States at that time, and I wondered if deaths would be highest in the two weakest groups, the very young and the (for the times) very old.

The numbers in themselves would not mean much, because they represent only a small part of the Salem population of the time. Not being an expert statistician, I would not be able to draw any very significant conclusions for the individual groups. I simply wanted to see if the proportion of child to adult deaths in the Salem sample would match available United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) nationwide statistics for the approximate time period⁵⁴

With the caution that I have a very small sample from which to draw conclusions, that my national statistical comparisons are from five or so years later than the time of the sample, and that I am not well known for my mathematical expertise, here is what I have found.

There were 302 people in the sample, for one of whom an age at death was not given. I therefore used 301 as the basis for compiling the following statistics. These people represent a group almost entirely composed of French-speaking immigrants from Canada, plus children born of immigrant parents in the U.S. Typically, they were mill workers and laborers, people with a lower level of income and not much formal education. All were Roman Catholic parishioners of the church of St. Joseph in Salem, Massachusetts. From the repetition of surnames in the registers, I would guess that many in the group were related either by blood or by intermarriage and that many may have known and socialized with each other. It is probable that, like other immigrant communities, the people whose deaths were recorded in the St. Joseph registers were part of a close-knit group.

⁵⁴ United States Center for Disease Control. *Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999: Control of Infectious Diseases*, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4829a1.htm#fig2>. Accessed 06NOV2019.

The 301 deaths where ages are noted in the records break down into the following groups:

<u>Age</u>	<u># of persons</u>	<u>Percentage of group</u>
0-1 yr	152	50.5%
(40 of these, 14% of 301 total, are birth to 2 mos.)		
1-5 yrs	65	21.59%
5-10 yrs	8	2.66%
10-17 yrs	8	2.66%
Over 17	68	22.59%
(20 of these, 6.65% of 301 total, are over 60)		

Distribution by Age of Deaths Recorded in St. Joseph Church Salem, MA Burial Records 29JUL1892 to 10JAN1895

CDC records tell us that “In 1900, 30.4% of all deaths occurred among children aged less than 5 years.”⁵⁵ In comparison, our sample shows a huge 72% of deaths occurring among children under five years old. Even accounting for slightly decreasing mortality rates between 1895 and the 1900 child mortality statistic that we have, this is still a vastly higher death rate for young children than was typical of other places in the United States. Interestingly, children in the sample between the ages of five and seventeen account for another 2.66% of deaths in the period, bringing the total childhood death rate to slightly under 75% of the total deaths in the sample over the 30-month period. Adults over the age of 60 account for 6.65% of deaths – a not surprising number for a group whose life expectancy was about 40 to 50 years, and at a time when most people did not reach 60.

But the children! So many tiny coffins, so many grief-stricken parents. On the 1st of March, 1893, Damase Lebel and Gracieuse Boucher buried their daughter Marie E., aged 4 years, 7 months, who died on the 28th of February. They returned on the 4th of March, for the burial of another daughter, Marie Anne, age 2 years, 10 months and 29 days, and again next day with daughter Desmerise, age 6 years, 6 months, dead that day of the diphtheria that had claimed her sisters. The previous month,

⁵⁵ Ibid.

on the 16th of February, Joseph Arpin and Malvina Filtraut had buried their children Malvina, age 2, and Damas, age 6, both dead of diphtheria. Multiple deaths in the same family were sadly not a rare occurrence in the Salem of the 1890s.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control says that in 1900, "...the three leading causes of death were pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), and diarrhea and enteritis, which (together with diphtheria) caused one third of all deaths."⁵⁶ Medical knowledge of the period was primitive by our standards. Treatment was frequently ineffective, often painful, and occasionally horrific. In the Salem town death records, another all too common cause of children's deaths is cholera infantum. Unlike the others mentioned, this disease is not contagious and is specific to infants and younger children. Some deaths from cholera infantum may have been included in the category of "diarrhea" listed by the CDC⁵⁷. Let us use this ailment as a lens to examine the medical thought and treatment of the times.

Cholera. The word evokes fear even in these days of antibiotics and medical wonders. In 1892, there was a worldwide cholera epidemic. However, cholera infantum is not the highly contagious disease that was pandemic in 1892. Rather it is a disease of childhood, largely unknown today, that manifested itself as diarrhea or dysentery, causing severe dehydration and inability to absorb nutrition in small children.⁵⁸ Victims slowly withered away, though not without great pain and suffering. It was most prevalent during months of high heat and humidity, though deaths from cholera infantum occurred year round. Like many bacterial diseases, it thrived in crowded, unsanitary conditions and spread where people lacked access to clean water.

The deadly cholera pandemic, by all accounts, did not reach Salem, but just for the year 29JUL1892 to 27JUL1893 there are 21 deaths in St. Joseph

parish attributed to cholera: four in August, fifteen in September, and one in January, with one death in July of 1893 attributed to cholera infantum.

It is interesting that all of the "cholera" deaths in the parish during that year occurred in children under the age of 18 months. No adults died of the disease, as would be expected with so deadly and so contagious an illness. It seems unlikely that an easily transmitted disease such as cholera would have killed a child almost every other week in St. Joseph's parish alone but completely spared the adult population. The terms "cholera" and "cholera infantum" may have been conflated, perhaps by clerks who recorded the reports of deaths for the period. In addition, many other children's deaths whose given causes are non-specific, e.g., "debility," and "diarrhea," could have been caused by cholera infantum. The disease was thought by some to be caused by eruption of teeth, and in fact the cause of one eight month old's death during this period in 1893 was listed as "teething." This leads me to suspect that, for a number of reasons, the incidence of cholera infantum as a cause of death may have been underreported.

Summer months saw cholera infantum cases multiplying rapidly in the crowded city tenements typically occupied by French-Canadian mill workers. We now understand that the disease, often encouraged by poor nutrition, spreads through bacteria carried by contaminated water and grows best in warm, damp conditions. Unfortunately, medical science of the time did not have such a clear picture. As a result of mistaken theories about the cause of the disease, a good deal of late 19th century medical treatment for cholera infantum was more likely to harm than to cure the patient.

Medical literature of the time assigned various causes to the disease. One school of thought held that a baby's teeth trying to break through the gums caused or substantially contributed to cholera infantum's debilitating symptoms. Teething was blamed for a great many things, and treatment generally involved scarifying or cutting through the gums.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "The cause of death may simply indicate the nature of the illness prior to death, not the exact cause of death." Michigan Family History Network. *Some Medical Terms Used in Old Records*. Accessed 12NOV2019 at <http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/genhelp/diseases.aspx>

⁵⁸ Ibid.

In an early (1837) but influential dissertation, Dr. David M. King, Jr. claimed that the primary cause of the disease was the effect of miasma or unhealthy vapors: “. . . this disease has a specific miasmatic cause. Most endemic maladies, probably, arise from some emanation from the soil, owing to the dissolution of animal and vegetable matter.”⁵⁹ King contended that “Among the concurrent causes of this disease, we may mention the age of the patient, dentition, high atmospheric temperature, impure air, atmospherical vicissitudes, and errors . . . in diet, with premature weaning”⁶⁰

Recommended treatment of the disease even for the youngest of patients included the use of leeches, blisters, enemas, and warm baths followed by “stimulating frictions” with “invigorating” substances.⁶¹ Medications prescribed for children and very young infants spanned the spectrum from benign to toxic. Among the latter were the opiates laudanum, paregoric, and opium itself; lead acetate (a toxic sweetener no longer allowed in foods), and calomel, a preparation containing mercury that has been associated with kidney and peripheral nerve damage.⁶²

In a paper published in 1851 in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Dr. A. I. Cummings of Roxbury, MA, forcefully declared, “Among the causes of cholera infantum, in my humble opinion there is none more conducive to its devastations than [sic] *over-feeding*” [original italics].⁶³

An 1871 treatise by Dr. D. W. Young focused on overheated nerves as a primary cause of cholera infantum. He dismissed teething as a cause; allowed insufficient or improper diet to be a predisposing but not causal factor; and saw

confined and impure air at high temperatures and humidity as requisite causal factors. “. . . in cholera infantum the immediate cause is excessive heat, and . . . its initial impression is upon the ganglionic nerve centres.”⁶⁴ Young claimed that the disease was due to the effects of heat from various sources on the nerves – atmospheric heat, use of excessive blankets and pillows, close contact with the hot, sweaty bodies of mothers and nurses. Young’s recommended treatment was for the patient to be kept in a cool room, removed from soft surfaces and placed on blankets on a floor or other supportive surface. He recommended treating the skin, especially of the extremities, by massaging with powerful rubefacients – stimulants –

“capsicum, mustard, ammonia, terebinthines, pungent oils, and friction. . . . to be useful, the action of the surface must be awakened, and not merely irritated. Persistency, and yet extreme caution not to destroy the tender tissue, must be the cardinal point in view. Another very potent and convenient external stimulant is the application of ice — for a few moments, and then the alternation of hot epithems, this alternation to be frequently repeated. The ice-bag to the spine is, indeed, a powerful awakener of nervous action.”⁶⁵

All of these treatments were recommended for patients suffering from the extremely severe and painful symptoms of a disease that primarily affected children under five years old. Young went on to quote the recommendations of another medical professional:

Prof. Jacobi says, “As a stimulant, I give alcohol for its anti-paralytic effect. I may say that I regard it as a dietetic agent, and in the hot summer weather I make all my children take a little whiskey or brandy in the water they drink. For if there is anything to which we owe our great amount of intestinal catarrh, it is paralysis of the nervous system from heat,

⁵⁹ King, David M., Jr. *Cholera infantum, its causes and treatment*. Rhode Island Medical Society, Fiske fund prize dissertations. No. 3, June, 1837, p. 6.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ King, p. 14.

⁶² Davis, Larry E., *Unregulated potions still causing mercury poisoning*. *Western Journal of Medicine, West J Med.* 2000. 173(1):19. Accessed 02NOV2019 at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1070962/.

⁶³ Cummings, A. I., M.D. *Cholera infantum*. *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vol. XLV, No. 17, 26 NOV 1851, p. 17.

⁶⁴ Young, D. W., M.D. *Cholera Infantum, its cause, pathology, and treatment*. Chicago: Robert Ferguson’ Sons, 1871, p. 8.

⁶⁵ Young, p. 24.

and I find those children who take a little brandy or whiskey to counteract this, every hot day through the summer, escape these bowel complaints, and do very much better.”⁶⁶

These nightmare treatments must have made the suffering of small patients so much worse while offering little hope of recovery. Every parent was no doubt constantly aware of the possibility of losing a beloved child to the dreadful diseases that proliferated in summer and continued to claim lives through other seasons as well. No person who lived through those times could help being aware of the fragility of existence and of how quickly the thread of a young life could be snapped. In close quarters, as members of an interdependent group who could not help knowing of each other’s life events, every caring adult in the community must have felt the death of another child as a threat to their own children, grandchildren and loved ones.

To their credit, doctors of the time did suspect that the causes of cholera infantum and most of the devastating illnesses affecting the people of Salem came out of the crowded, unsanitary conditions of laboring families’ lives. It is a tribute to their compassionate courage that they worked in the midst of contagion to alleviate suffering and death using the meager resources available to them.

Almost a century and a quarter later, we have the luxury of knowing that there are vaccines to prevent diphtheria and pneumonia in susceptible populations. Tuberculosis, diarrhea, and enteritis are far less common and much more successfully treated in our time. Better understanding of sanitation, child nutrition, and the bacteriological basis of infection have effectually wiped out the scourge of cholera infantum. From our comfortably insulated vantage point, it is difficult to completely grasp how constantly and painfully aware our ancestors must have been of the danger these diseases posed. With treatment only minimally effective, prevention not under-

stood, and the reality of small lives around them being snuffed out by the dozens in hot weather, parents’ anxiety for their children must have been constant and severe.

Doctor Young’s final recommendation did not offer much comfort: “Keep the babies, especially their backs and spines, from getting too warm, and see that they have plenty of pure, healthy air; sufficient clean, healthy, digestible, and appropriate nourishment; and *perhaps they will live* [original italics].”⁶⁷

After 1900, improvements in medical knowledge, sanitation and hygiene began to extend the life span. The young French-Canadian immigrant parents of the late 1890s were the grandparents of the Depression and World War II. We marvel at their ability to survive those difficult times and perhaps do not marvel enough at how their toughness was shaped and hardened in the crucible of the ‘90s.

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⁶⁶ Young, p. 28.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

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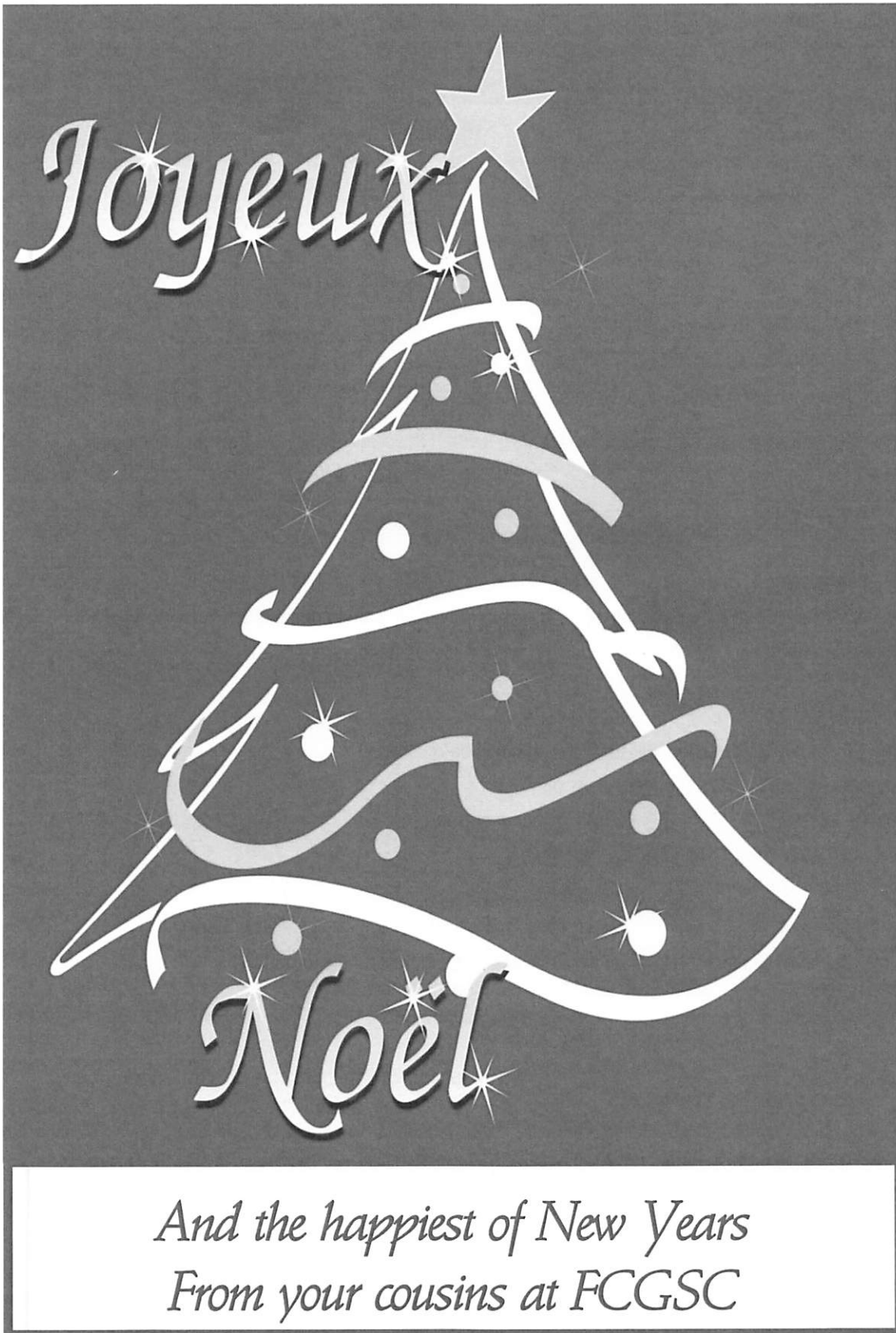
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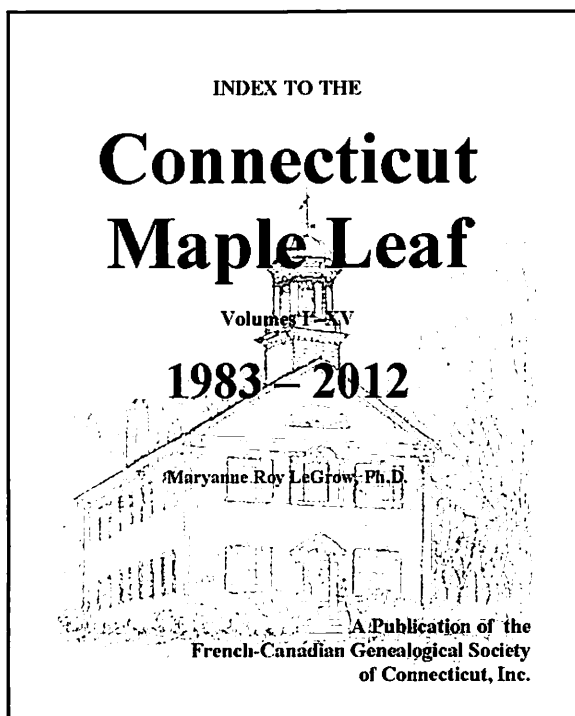
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