

Je Me Souviens

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American-French Genealogical Society

*Special Twentieth
Anniversary Issue*

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AMERICAN-FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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CORRESPONDENCE

Written correspondence should be addressed only to our post office box. The library telephone number for voice and fax is (401) 765-6141. An answering machine will take messages when the library is not open. The Society can be reached by E-mail at **AFGS @ ids.net**. E-mail to the Editor of *JMS* should be addressed to **delislep @ juno.com**.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual: \$30.⁰⁰; family: \$30.⁰⁰ + \$10.⁰⁰ ea. addl. member; institutions: \$27.⁰⁰, life: \$360.⁰⁰ Except for life memberships, add \$2.⁵⁰ outside of the United States. Make checks payable to the A.F.G.S. in U.S. funds. *Non-U.S. residents must use postal money orders or credit cards.*

LIBRARY

Our library is located in the basement of the First Universalist Church at 78 Earle Street in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. It is open for research on Mondays from 12 PM to 5 PM, Tuesdays from 1 PM to 10 PM, and the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 AM to 4 PM. The library is closed on all holidays; there are no Saturday sessions in July and August.

RESEARCH

The Society does undertake research for a fee. Please see our research policy elsewhere in this issue.

ARTICLES

Original manuscripts are welcomed. Please see our authors' guide elsewhere in this issue.

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AFGS Mission Statement

The mission of the American-French Genealogical Society is:

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

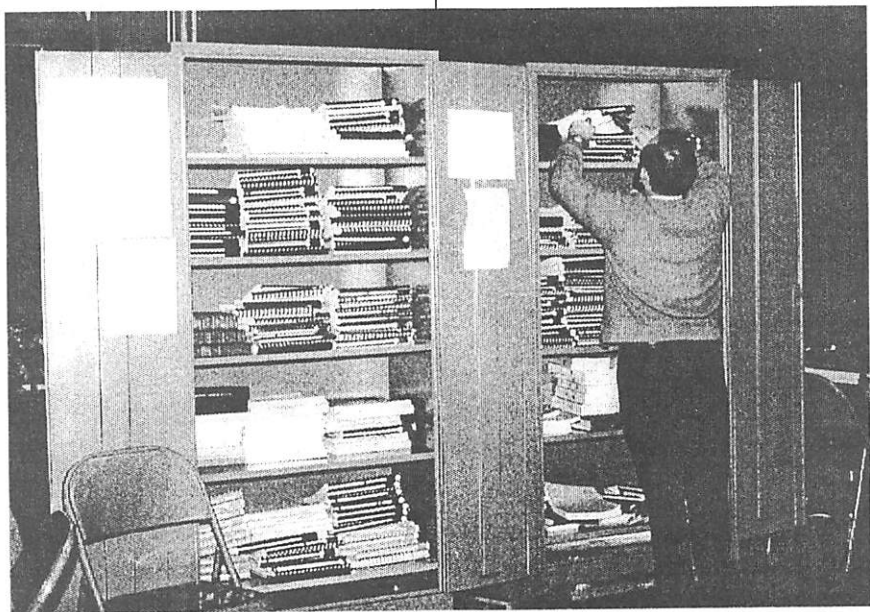


Presidents' Messages

Henri Leblond — 1978–1979

In some parts of the world, a child is considered to be one year old at birth in order to account for his/her time in the womb. If we also take into account our Society's *time in the womb*, then it would be 21 going on 22 years old.

Française in Montréal. In the months which followed, I consulted various individuals, recruited members and invited speakers to Le Foyer in Pawtucket, RI, to stimulate interest. A few sporadic meetings were held. Then, on 28 Sep-



Our first library cabinets at Le Foyer.

January 25, 1978 is considered our founding date. However, a year and a half of preparation, time in the womb as it were, preceded that date. The idea of founding a genealogical society came to me on 16 August 1976 as I visited the *Société Généalogique Canadienne-*

tember 1977, we began to meet monthly. At our fifth regular meeting on 25 January 1978, our constitution was adopted and our first officers were elected. For that reason, that date is considered our founding date.

Our Society had a very humble beginning. There were about two dozen members on the rolls. A set of Talbot's books was our only resource. It was kept in plastic milk crates which were stored under the stairs at LeFoyer. We met on the second floor which meant that they had to be hauled up and down the stairs. This problem was eventually solved by buying two gray metal cabinets to house our rapidly growing library. These were stored in a small alcove, and rolled out when needed. These were soon joined by a used copy machine. The first *Je Me Souviens* consisted of two mimeographed sheets stapled together.

Contrast that with the American French Genealogical Society of today. Our membership numbers in four figures and our resources have grown enormously. Thanks to the recent acquisition of the Drouin Collection, ours is the most complete French-Canadian genealogical library outside of Québec. Our quarters have large rooms for our researchers, books, microfilm/fiche collections, and other equipment. And *Je Me*

Souviens is a very professional publication. Our Society has come a long, long way.

Credit for the phenomenal success of the AFGS belongs to the members; each of whom has supported the Society in his/her own way depending on each person's circumstances. We have been truly blessed with a disproportionate number of members who gave freely of their time, selflessly of their energy, readily of their talent and even generously of their funds. It has been equally blessed by leaders who, in addition to these characteristics, were forceful, imaginative, forward thinking and thoroughly devoted to helping our members succeed in their genealogical research by providing them with the best available materials and tools. Our current members and leaders continue this tradition.

Well done, AFGS. May you continue to be blessed with outstanding leaders, devoted members, and great success for many years to come.

Robert J. Quintin — 1979-1982

BELLS, BUTTS, and BOOKS

I am constantly amazed by how far a group of people can go in a short span of twenty years! As a society we have undeniably reached the premier position among similar organizations. Our holdings, and especially our recent acquisitions, are rivaled by few in the U.S. and Canada.

It wasn't always that way ... few of the current membership remember our early days. I fondly remember our

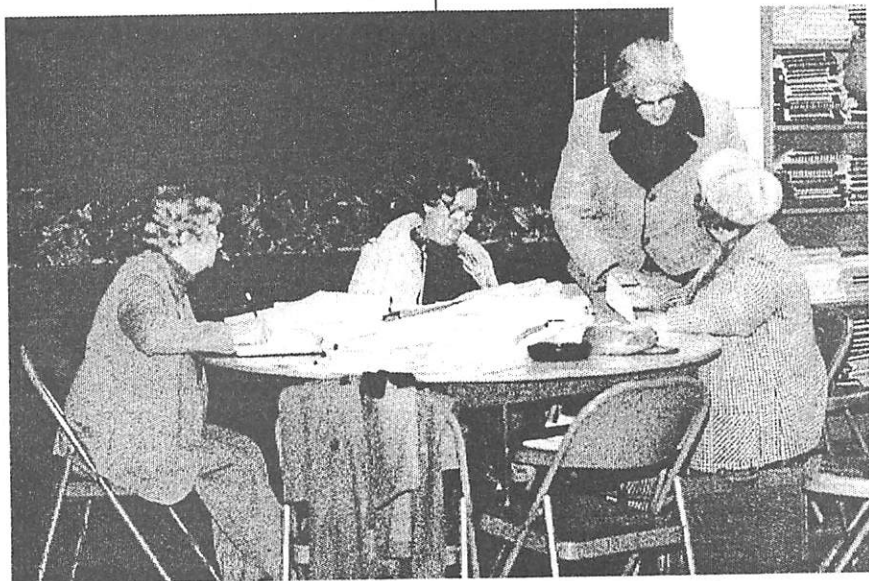
"vast" holdings being contained in one, then two, then three orange milk crates from Salois Dairy. (That company is now defunct — I hope that our *borrowing* of their milk crates was not the cause!) I remember begging the Board of Directors of our first benefactor, the Le Foyer Club, to let us use their Board Room for our library. I remember our rapid growth expanding our library to a whole closet full of books. I remember going to Le Foyer several nights a week to help new members.

Does anyone remember the bell that was rung to celebrate the finding of a marriage? Does anyone remember being allowed to smoke and drink at the tables?

After a year or so, our numbers had increased to the point that we were able to convince LeFoyer to allow us to

it is today. I like to think that the enthusiasm that we had twenty years ago is still with us today.

What has become most important over time, however, are the friendships that were formed and the memories that we have from these friendships: Dear Cecile MARTENS, now deceased,



Members researching at our library at Le Foyer: (l-r) Jeannette MENARD, (___?), Charles GAUDET, Rachel GAUDET.

use their upstairs hall for our meetings. By then we were using two large metal cabinets to house our library. These were placed on rollers so that they could be moved out of the room at the end of the evening. We were small potatoes compared to today's library, yet we survived and thrived.

This period was the most exciting time of my life. I always knew that we had the membership and leadership to mold the AFGS into the society that

loved to go alone to Atlantic City each year; something she did well into her seventies. Lucille ROCK was a great cook, but could not find Pawtucket without going all the way to Providence on Route 146, then taking I-95 north to LeFoyer. Therese POLIQUIN, our treasurer, who screamed each time she had to write a check for more than eight dollars! Paul DELISLE, who always said what was on his mind. Jeannette MENARD, who said that "doing genealogy" was better than staying home to

gossip. Lea BERARD, who typed out a repertoire or two on her manual typewriter, and whose husband, Hector, would always beat me at cribbage.

Then there was Charlie GAUDET, who with great difficulty, would play the piano and sing, and lead us in Christ-

mas carols at our parties. Those were the best of times.

I offer my best wishes to the American French Genealogical Society and to its leadership. As we near our entry into the second millennium, we are in good hands.

Dennis Boudreau — 1988–1989

Dear Members of A.F.G.S.,

Greetings and Bonne Vingtième Anniversaire!

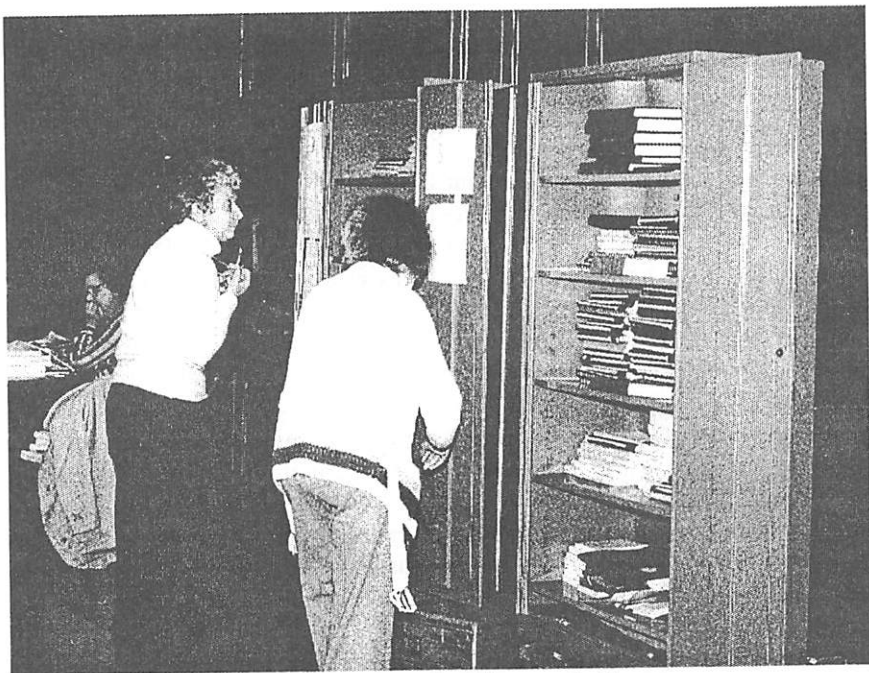
As many of you might know, due to my current work schedule and the fact that I am the primary caregiver for a centenarian relative, my involvement in the Society has been minimal. Add to this my present position as editor of your sister publication, *Le Réveil Acadien*, and you'll realize that much of my time is not my own. However, where my life is today is in part largely influenced by my past involvement with A.F.G.S.

When our editor, Paul Delisle, approached me to write something for this issue, and reminded me that it was our Twentieth Anniversary, all I could say was, "Already?" How the years have past. I still have very vivid memories of our beginnings as a group, and my own involvement in genealogical research, which began with a predestined (or so, I believe) meeting with Henri Leblond, our founding president, at the Mallet Library. I remember my first visit to Le Foyer, where that first night, I met the great-grand-daughter of my great-great-grandfather's sister, in the person of Jeannette Menard. Both of us were shocked to learn that we were looking

for the same ancestors, even though we had never met before then.

I also remember the two milk crates that proudly housed our founding collection: a set of Tanguay, Talbot's Montmagny and Beauce series, as well as a couple of other parish *répertoires*, which we'd file away every Tuesday in a large steel cabinet. As if it were yesterday, I can remember the night before my 29th birthday, when I experienced my first "genealogical rush", as I literally stumbled upon my maternal grandfather's complete lineage in two parish *répertoires* at 9:45 PM. With fifteen minutes before closing, you can imagine the speed of my writing. I later learned through further research that had *Pépère* been alive, that night was the night of *his* birthday. Was this his gift to me on mine? I have no doubt!

Over the years, the one cabinet grew to two and three, until finally, by our tenth year in operation, plans were drawn up, and we dedicated a whole wall of cabinet space at Le Foyer. As you can see, we have assuredly well outgrown even that today. Yes, it was a decade of growth. We grew so fast under the capable leadership of our first three presidents, Henri, Bob, and



Another view of our first library at Le Foyer.

Lucille. I can still remember posing for a photograph behind our tenth anniversary cake with Lucille and Janice, a memento to mark this significant milestone in our history. As Vice-President that year, and editor of *Je Me Souviens* for several years before that, it was a proud moment to look back and see how much we accomplished. I remember the fun Lucille and I had in putting together every issue of the periodical, knowing that there'd be something in it for everyone. Believe me when I tell you, for us, it wasn't just a task, but a labor of love and joy to do this for all the membership. I'm sure the same holds true of the officers, and all who help the Society today.

So much hard work went into those first ten years, and as a result, we grew rapidly — in membership, as well

as in resources. An astute and prudent core of leaders and directors, with a sound sense of vision and commitment, launched us forward into years of solid expansion in all phases of the Society. We started to get involved in Franco-American circles, through conferences, cultural events, lectures. Back then, we purchased our first copy machines and computers. Going from rectory-to-rectory, copying records for future *répertoires*, translating, proofreading, and so on ... it's a wonder that Armand and Mary Letourneau are retired today at all. We really kept them and the rest of the Library Committee busy, producing and purchasing resources by leaps and bounds. As the Letourneaus entered each stack of records with a care, speed and diligence which astounded so many of us, they helped Janice, and our deceased friends, Rachel and Charlie

Gaudet, to organize and classify all of our holdings. This, in itself, was a monumental task.

Thus, we set off on the road to publishing as much as we could get our hands on, to the point where we surpassed even many of the societies which began before us. Our top priority was to get the data into the hands of the researcher, and in this regard, we were most successful. From these humble beginnings, today our Society assuredly ranks tops in the field of Franco-American research nationwide. In this area, we became known as the *researching society*, thanks to our long-held reputation for finding solutions to thousands of questions.

If I might add, we were a helpful bunch, too, willing to share out time, knowledge, and enthusiasm at not only *our* fortunate finds, but also in helping new members get started, until they too caught that same fire: the pursuit of one of life's most enduring, educational, and satisfying of passions — the history of our ethnic culture as expressed in the research of our own particular family trees. Our calling is still to fish out of the sea of anonymity the lives and worth of our ancestors. I, for one, believe they have chosen us for this most precious task. And above all, we should have fun doing it. Back in our beginnings, that's the way it was for most of us; hopefully, that will never change.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I really love genealogical research, that I enjoy a challenge, and often, I will leave no stone unturned until I find an answer to a problem. They may also know that I take great pride in my

Franco-American ancestry (¾ Acadian and ¼ Canadian), which for the most part comprises the lives and struggles of ordinary men and women, the majority of whom were mere farmers and fishermen. Since our first decade, I've had the joy of discovering one line that links my family to Charlemagne and the vast array of his royal progeny of saints and sinners. Yet, even after 20-plus years of research, I still have plenty of holes to fill in my charts, and that keeps me returning here whenever I can. I still get excited at finding another piece of information, or that elusive ancestor's name or birth or death, no matter how insignificant they were, or how distantly related. A.F.G.S. has instilled that excitement of discovery within me, and often, I find it still wells to the surface. At one time, on a given evening at Le Foyer, the silence of research was pierced by the "Hurray!" of someone who had finally found a marriage record. We didn't have the Blue Drouin series back then, and had to hunt *répertoire-by-répertoire* till we found it. Back then, most of us who were involved learned genealogy the hard way, and to me, the best way, because we still appreciate all the hours it took to locate a single record. May that same appreciation never cease in your lives, even though the resources now make it much easier to locate your ancestors!

During my one year term as our fourth president, we marked our first major stride forward — the decision to move our library to its new headquarters here in Woonsocket. It was an anxious decision, tinged with uncertainty, yet it was an inevitable one. We knew no other home than that of Le Foyer, yet we were bursting at the seams for

space. Looking around here today, we can say with all certainty that the choice was the right choice! On the occasions I am able to visit the library, I am constantly amazed by the tide of new faces at these tables, as well as seeing the shelves-upon-shelves of even greater genealogical treasures awaiting our discovery. Yes, we really have grown! But it would never have happened had we not come here. The final proof of this decision's success is thanks to the continued proven leadership of Janice and Roger during this past second decade. They, as A.F.G.S.'s fifth and sixth presidents, are to be credited for their undaunted enthusiasm and dedicated hard work on behalf of the membership.

All of us past presidents also know all too well that any organization is only as good as the people who make it up. I would be remiss not to thank and congratulate the Society's officers and directors (some of whom have served for a majority of our existence, such as Therese, Eveline, Paul, Roger and Leon), its special committees, and numerous selfless volunteers (you know who you are) for all their help in making the Society what it is today. Whatever you do or have done to welcome others, to reach out to them in hopes of rebuilding the human family, no task is too small or insignificant. Somewhere, somehow, all that you have done and continue to do is all *truly* appreciated by us. In fact, that's probably why we've grown so fast over the years.

A.F.G.S.'s main hallmark has been the real kindness, compassion, warmth, hospitality, and humor we have all experienced here in some measure. Just that keeps people returning weekly,

monthly, yearly, or whenever they're "in town." So remember, each week we leave here not just with our charts and notebooks a bit more completed, or that we have gained a bit more knowledge about our forebears, but that we also leave here enriched by the friends who've touched our lives, who have shared with us their time, talents, and selves, and who *do* care about us. Genealogy has a wonderful by-product ... the enduring friendships that grace our lives. (And not because we're all related, either!)

Twenty years — I couldn't believe another decade had gone by already, but it has. No doubt, the Drouin Institute acquisition will be this past ten year's most notable accomplishment. But as we begin to tap this great resource, don't forget what really counts is also all the other items I touched on earlier — the memories, friendships, dedication and service — the building blocks of community — these items are still very much alive here each time we return. No wonder every week for so many is like a home-coming!

Members of A.F.G.S., think of the history, the heritage you carry within you; think of the gift you will pass down through your families from your hours spent here; think of the paths worn by your ancestors' trodding, their joys and pains; think of the mysteries you've already solved or will solve, and of how good a detective you have been or will become. To see where we've been, and where we've gotten to is very, very encouraging; to know that you helped play a part in getting us to this moment is a joy and reward unto itself. Yet, remember too, we are on the threshold of even

greater accomplishments. For myself, I'm glad to have shared our journey thus far, and hopefully, will continue to do so for many more years to come. I hope that the membership will not find these reflections verbose or pretentious on my part, but rather a sincere sharing on how I feel about this amazing group of people, that I consider my "extended

family." I think all of you will agree that each of us is truly important to one another. Our research can only strengthen this underlying reality. For now, to the officers, directors, volunteers, and members of a truly wonderful Society, I offer sincere congratulations on this second milestone in our history. *Ad Multos Annos!*

Janice Burkhart — 1989-1994

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the Shelbourne Museum in Vermont. There are many treasures housed in this museum but I was particularly impressed with the beautiful quilts that are on display. To me, they are truly works of art which have been lovingly designed one piece at a time. They are obviously made with care, perseverance, and an ability to see, in the mind's eye, how many little pieces will create a magnificent whole. In some of the quilts, the pieces fit so well together that you need to look very closely to detect where one piece ends and the next begins.

At the time, AFGS reminded me of a beautiful quilt and I shared those thoughts with you in a *President's Message*. I'd like to share those thoughts with you again.

AFGS is composed of many pieces — our members. Like the pieces of a quilt, each member is similar to the next but also unique unto himself. Each member contributes to the overall design and pattern and adds, by his presence, a new dimension which no other member could add.

A quilt is bound together by many,

tiny stitches which create a beautiful design and add strength to the finished product. Our Society is held together by our common heritage and culture and by our unending quest for knowledge about those ancestors who came before us.

A quilt creates a sense of warmth and well being. Can't you picture wrapping it around you on a cold winter night? Members who come to the Society sense the same feeling of warmth. The friendship and fellowship exhibited by our members when they meet together is truly beautiful to behold.

Quilts are useful objects. They serve a purpose. People who own them usually know their history — how they were made, which material was used to make a particular square, or perhaps why the quilt came to be made in the first place. Although these quilts are used from day to day, they are usually well cared for and passed from one generation to the next. Along with the quilt comes the history and the memories. Isn't this like AFGS? We use our library resources and microfilm, we read our journal and attend our meetings. We enjoy the fellowship and fun of Tuesday afternoons. Yet on another

level we remember those who are no longer with us. We relate to new members how and why we began. We continue to collect and preserve data so that someday we can lovingly pass the Society to the next generation. AFGS really

is like a quilt.

I hope this wonderful Society continues to grow and prosper for many years to come. Happy 20th Anniversary.

Roger Beaudry — 1994–1998

AFGS is beginning its twentieth year. It has sure gone by quickly. Preceding this segment you have read some past presidents' messages, so I won't repeat the stories of how our entire library once consisted of two milk crates full of books, or how we had to wheel out the copy machine every week and then jam it back into a closet at the end of the night. My message has more to do with the future than the past. During the last year, we have been moving forward at a speed that sometimes overwhelms me. The purchase of the Drouin Library of microfilm and books is without a doubt our shining glory. This purchase would not have been possible without the fiscal responsibility of our past leaders, and the imagination of our present leadership.

Where do we go from here? What will we be writing about during our Silver Anniversary celebration in five years? I hope we will be writing about the wonderful bank of computers that has been installed, and how we can access most of our library holdings directly from CD's; or how our world wide membership can log into our library and do their research from their homes via the Internet. I hope the next President talks about the new expanded quarters

that AFGS enjoys, with its handicap accessibility, reading rooms for those members who just wish to come in and relax over a good book, and expanded hours. Perhaps he or she will be announcing the completion of the *Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor Project*, and that we have completed the transcription of all birth, marriage and death records from all the communities which make up this historic area of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Perhaps our newest acquisition will be the vital statistics from Maine, Connecticut, or New York. The alliance between AFGS and a genealogical society from France, which will allow our members to continue their lines in our ancestors' native country, would certainly be applauded. Is this all pie in the sky? Maybe ... maybe not.

I don't expect to be president for our twenty-fifth anniversary, but I do expect to take part in the expansion of this society. This society has gone too far in the past 20 years to start slowing down now. There is still lots to do and as long as we have the type of Board members and officers as we have had in the past, there is nothing we can't achieve. Dare to dream.

Few things are harder to put up with than a good example.

Accepted Standards of Conduct for Family History Researchers

- I will be courteous to research facility personnel.

- I will do my homework, and know what is available, and I will know what I want.

- I will dress appropriately for the records office that I am visiting.

- I will not take small children into repositories and research facilities.

- I will not approach the facility asking for "everything" on my ancestors.

- I will not expect the records custodian to listen to my family history.

- I will respect the record custodian's other daily tasks, and not expect constant or immediate attention.

- I will be courteous to other researchers and work with only a few records or books at a time.

- I will keep my voice low when conversing with others.

- I will use only designated areas for my work space.

- I will not go into off-limits areas without permission.

- I will ask for permission before using photocopy and microforms machines, and ask for assistance if needed.

- I will treat records with respect.

- I will not mutilate, rearrange, or remove from its proper custodian any printed, original, microform, or elec-

tronic record.

- I will not force splines on books or handle roughly any original documents.

- I will not use my fingertip or a pencil to follow the line of print on original materials.

- I will not write on records or books.

- I will replace volumes in their proper location and return files to the appropriate places.

- I will not leave without thanking the records custodians for their courtesy in making the materials available.

- *I will follow the rules of the records repository without protest.*

* The above was compiled by Joy Reisinger, Certified Genealogical Records Specialist, 1020 Central Ave., Sparta, WI 54656 for the 1995 annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Seattle. Some points were adapted from codes adopted by the Board for Certification of Genealogists and the Association of Professional Genealogists. No copyright restrictions. This page and the information thereon may be reproduced in its entirety and distributed freely, as long as its source is properly credited.

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# Treasures in Wood: A Brief Biography of Moise Potvin

by: Robert R. Bellerose

In a Canadian home in the Province of Québec, a French-Canadian family is feverishly working to have everything in readiness for the great feast tomorrow. Outside there is a continuously falling snow seen through the windows. The grandmother sits in one corner of the room at her spinning wheel. As if in a rhythmic dance, her little feet are working away at the foot of the machine. Her ancient fingers are moving over the thread at high speed. Standing at the table, the mother is rolling dough for a pie crust. The father is busy cutting a two-quarter pork. At his feet is his loyal collie dog, with tail wagging vigorously, patiently awaiting a chance dropping of meat.

Grandfather, standing in an alcove, is preparing portions of cider for tomorrow's feast. However, is it cider, or is it whiskey? A daughter is removing bread out of an old-fashioned brick oven. She is placing the loaves into a large basket at her side. The baby in the crib, sensing the excitement of the preparations taking place, is very lively, moving its little head and arms. Sitting nearby, another daughter is chopping meat.

The little farmhouse, although modest, is not lacking in the necessities. Standing along one wall is an old-fash-

ioned two-decker stove. Mouth watering foods atop this stove include blood sausages, pies, and more. There is also a harness and a lantern on this wall. Hanging on the opposite wall are an animal skin, a gun, a horn, and a violin. Under the stairway that leads to the attic is a supply of firewood. Hand made carpets cover the floors.

This scene of quiet home life in Québec from a time long past strikingly reveals a sense of love and contentment. It is a time that few remember and a time many wish they could experience.

Captured in words, this setting is not a personal recollection but the description of a remarkable, hand crafted, wooden miniature entitled *New Year's Eve in Canada*. This work came from the hands of a superb artist and connoisseur of human nature. His name was Moise POTVIN.

Observers of Moise POTVIN's work called him the Norman Rockwell of wood carvers. He captured the flavor of his times in a unique and interesting way. He carved a series of twenty-two scenes depicting contemporary and rural life in Québec and North America. They portray life as it was lived from the early 1900's through to the end of the depression era.

POTVIN is not a name that can be found in a *Who's Who* register or, for that matter, in many artist encyclopedias. Yet, who was this remarkable man?

Moise POTVIN was born on 6 January 1876 in West Farnham, Québec. He was the son of Moise POTVIN (15 May 1858 – 4 April 1935) and of Arzelie QUINTIN (1 November 1856 – 24 February 1923). West Farnham is located due east of St. Jean-sur-Richelieu and southwest of Granby. At the time of Moise's birth, the population of this small hamlet was approximately 5,000. There has been little growth over the years, and in 1996 the municipality of Farnham had a population of 6,146.

Moise was the eldest of seventeen children. In later years, when questioned about his early childhood, he would remark that while many would say that he came from a large family, he would always call it a village.

At the tender age of four, it was already apparent to family and friends that the child had a great artistic talent. During these early years Moise drew pictures of the wide variety of livestock that were common to this rural area in which he lived. Often he would cut the animal images from the paper with scissors and paste these on the window panes of his home. People passing the Potvin home would often stop and admire them.

Unable to attend formal training in the art schools of Montréal and Québec City, the child continued on his artistic journey, being for the most part self-taught. Moise POTVIN relied upon his environment and experience for his

inspiration.

Moise's talents were many, and not just restricted to the realm of art. Hearing the music of a violin as a young child, he became instantly mesmerized by its sound and forever became a lover of the instrument. By the age of fifteen, POTVIN made his first violin. It was a primitive undertaking, yet it provided him with the basics that he would soon refine as he crafted further pieces. By the time of his death, he had made over 160 violins. But it was upon that first primitive instrument that he learned to play the old time dances.

In 1891, his parents emigrated to the United States with their entire family. They came seeking employment opportunities in the mill village of Arctic Center, in West Warwick, Rhode Island. As the oldest child, Moise entered the textile mill and began to learn the trades of weaver and loom-fixer. He worked in these trades for about fifteen years. During this time, Moise continued to dabble in drawing, painting, theatricals, and especially in wood carving.

On 4 May 1896, at age twenty, Moise POTVIN married a young woman of eighteen. Her name was Arzelie FORAND. The marriage took place in the church of Notre Dame in Central Falls, Rhode Island. Arzelie was born on 12 November 1879 in St. Paul-de-Abbottsford, in Rouville County, Québec. This couple would eventually have twelve children. Looking back, Moise POTVIN would always remark that his bride was a very courageous woman who had a wonderful sense of humor. She would outlive her

husband by almost five years, dying in Woonsocket, Rhode Island on 29 November 1953.

After their marriage, the young

pany. Their first offering was a play entitled *Last Loaf*. This amateur troupe performed locally, and in several locations in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.



*This is a self-image of Moise POTVIN carved by him with a jack-knife. It represents a corner of his workshop with detail so sharp that the calendar on the door is included.*

couple moved to Woonsocket. There, he played many parts in some twenty plays produced by Victor VEKEMAN. Most of Moise's roles were comedic. During this time he also wrote a few comedic songs in French, which helped him become quite popular as a singer. His own observation was that he was a rotten singer.

Missing his family and friends, the POTVINs returned to West Warwick around 1900. At this time, he came upon the idea of putting on a play. Moise assembled his twelve brothers and sisters and created the acting troupe called *The Ten Potvin Dramatic Com-*

Once again, POTVIN returned to Woonsocket, where he began publication of *LeCharivari*. This "sheet," as he described it mainly printed short funny stories and jokes, and was only published for one year. Additionally, he opened a small sign shop to help support his family. His eldest son, Rene, worked for him in this shop for several years, eventually inheriting the business from his father.

During this time, Moise returned to making violins. Eventually, he left the sign business to his son and opened a small violin shop on Main Street. Here he made and repaired these instruments.

For many years, POTVIN's violin shop was the rendezvous for all of the fiddlers and other musicians in the city. Every Saturday, from around 9:00 am until eleven in the evening, people would gather to listen to the music, jokes, and wisecracks that formed an impromptu program. At times, the little shop was so crowded that there was no room for customers.

With the arrival of the *talkies*, people's entertainment preferences changed. Violin players and teachers were less in demand and this had an effect on Moise's business. By the time he closed his shop in the mid-1920's, Moise POTVIN had crafted 160 violins and repaired over one thousand. Remi-

niscing about this part of his life, he later recalled that he hadn't made much money, but had a good time.

Throughout these years, he continued to carve. His years of rebuilding looms, and his vast knowledge of gear, wheel, and cog movements would prove instrumental in the next step of his artistic career. He created many scenes which depicted his life and the experiences of French-Canadians, made entirely of wood. It is said that he used over ninety different species of wood from all over the world.

By 1925, Moise POTVIN had created several scenes in wood. Among these were those entitled, *Merry-go-*



*The family of Moise and Arzelia (QUINTIN) POTVIN. Back row (l-r): Jean-Baptiste, Arselia, Moise Jr., Evalina, François, Antonio, Rose-Anna, and Albertine. Front row (l-r): Moise, Rosario, Marie-Irene, Evangeline, Albert, and Arzelia. Photo was taken around 1904.*

*Round, Violin Shop, Home Sweet Home, Blacksmith Shop, and Story Without Words.* That same year he joined in partnership with a gentleman named George FLEURANT to exhibit his extraordinary collection. Mr. FLEURANT was a well known cornetist in Woonsocket. POTVIN, his two sons, Lionel and Raymond, and FLEURANT, packed these artistic scenes and traveled to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Here they set up their exhibition in Frank B. HUBIN's store on the famous Boardwalk, at the corner of Delaware Avenue. POTVIN and FLEURANT stayed in Atlantic City for sixteen full months.

During his stay in Atlantic City, Moise continued to carve. That first summer he produced the scene *Face on the Barroom Floor*. Following their Atlantic City engagement. POTVIN and FLEURANT took their exhibit to New York, where they stayed for a year. This was just the beginning of their travels. Their show would eventually travel to over one hundred cities, including a tour of Canada that lasted four years. They began their Canadian tour in Sherbrooke, Québec; then continued to visit all the major cities of the provinces of Québec and Ontario. This included six months in Toronto, two years in Montréal, and two months in London, Ontario. After four years in Canada, they returned to the United States, with an engagement at the Fox Theater in Detroit, Michigan. At that time, the Fox was the world's second largest theater. For four months this theater's lobby was the site of the exhibit. The exhibition eventually spent a year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

It was during these years of travel

that POTVIN began to work in clay. He created many busts of celebrities, governors, senators, and mayors in the various cities where he exhibited. He also



*This is one of Moise POTVIN's hand-crafted violins. This example is owned by Moise's daughter, Yvette COUTU.*

continued to add his carvings to the exhibitions, which eventually measured over one hundred feet in length.

POTVIN's exhibit, which he called *Hobbyland*, besides containing his wood carved scenes, also displayed other novelties created from wood and plaster, and paintings. Among these was a plaster cast bust of the humorist Will ROGERS, and one of screen star Greta GARBO. There was a carving of red





*Moise POTVIN's granddaughter, Joan POTVIN, and his daughter, Yvette COUTU, are both artists in their own right. Displayed here is one of Yvette's paintings.*

mahogany that he called *The Duel*, and another entitled *Samson and the Lion*. There was also a carving of Victor DELAMARRE, whom Moise considered to be the Canadian Samson. There were also several oil paintings by POTVIN, most notably one he named *The Last Violin*, and another called *King Leo at Home*. The collection also included pencil sketches by POTVIN's son, Lionel. Visitors to the exhibit could also marvel at the collection of pennants from every city where the exhibition had traveled, in the U.S. and Canada.

Moise POTVIN often admitted that his traveling exhibition was barely showing a profit after expenses. He said that his main goal was not to enrich himself — he derived more satisfaction

in giving the public more than their money's worth.

After a brief illness, Moise POTVIN died in Woonsocket Hospital on 12 December 1948, at the age of 72. He had retired a year earlier from the active management of *Hobbyland* and resided at 117 Earle Street in Woonsocket. A solemn requiem Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of Victories Church on 15 December. Burial was in Woonsocket's Precious Blood Cemetery.

After his death, the *Potvin Collection* continued to tour North America, under the direction of Antonio POTVIN, Moise's brother. Then in the mid 1960s the collection found a per-



*Yvette COUTU, daughter of Moise, displaying one of her paintings.*



manent home in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The Potvin Museum located itself in the *Skylon*, billed as Niagara's total entertainment center. The museum remained until the early 1980s when its owners became unable to subsidize its operation.

POTVIN was a man who rarely discussed the artistic merits of his work. He saw himself as a simple man who had no intentions of trying to please the critics. Governors, senators, educators, artists, movie stars, and radio personalities would marvel at his work. Yet, POTVIN relished in the testimonials of the ordinary patrons that came to view his exhibit. Pleasing the masses with scenes of human interest, spiced with a little bit of humor, was POTVIN's true joy.

Moise POTVIN the man, defies description, except as one who had a zest for life. In conversations with people, he admitted to liking almost everything in life. Besides his love of *pigs feet ragout*, Canadian pork pie, and pea soup, he enjoyed many diverse dishes. These included Italian spaghetti with meatballs, a hot pastrami sandwich with a Kosher pickle, Rhode Island clam chowder, and Boston baked beans. He fancied a good piece of languorous sentimental music and selections by symphony orchestras. He enjoyed Italian cigars and movies with Mary DRESLER and Will ROGERS.

Most of all POTVIN liked just plain folks. His travels allowed him to meet people of many different nationalities. He liked them all and found them interesting. He enjoyed speaking with people and would often remark that there is some good in all of them. Potvin felt fortunate that his exhibition allowed him to see the country, meet congenial people, and allowed him to make lots of friends. POTVIN had sentimental feelings as he prepared to leave each city. With each departure he felt he was leaving a little bit of his heart, a little bit of his life, and a little bit of himself behind.

Moise POTVIN's own humorous motto sums up his life: "Keep young, keep out of mischief and keep out of jail!"

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*The world is divided into people who do things —  
and people who get the credit.*

# AFGS RESEARCH POLICY

## STEP ONE: WHAT YOU SEND

Your request and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Your choice of the type of research to be done according to the following descriptions:

**A. Single Marriage** - Only one marriage to search. Marriages of parents will be counted as additional single marriages and billed as such. Rates are \$5.00 per marriage for AFGS members and \$10.00 per marriage for non-members.

**B. Direct Lineage** - A straight line of either a husband or wife back to the immigrant ancestor. This will include each couple, their date and place of marriage, and their parents' names. Origin of immigrant ancestor in France will be included where this information can be obtained. Price for this service will be determined by the number of generations found times the applicable rate quoted above for single marriages.

**C. Five-Generation Ancestral Chart** - Standard five-generation ancestral chart of 31 ancestors with 8 marriages found. The last column of names will give parents' names only: no marriages as they will each start a new chart. Prices are \$35.00 for AFGS members and \$50.00 for non-members.

**NOTE:** *Do not send payment in advance.*

## STEP TWO: OUR JOB

After receiving your properly submitted request, we will immediately start your research. We will then notify you of our findings and bill you for the research performed according to the applicable rates quoted above.

## STEP THREE: YOUR APPROVAL

After receiving our report and billing statement, return the top portion with a check for the proper amount payable to AFGS. Upon receipt, we will forward your requested research.

All requests not resolved by the Research Committee will be placed in the Question and Answer section of *Je Me Souviens*.

*Again, please do not send payment in advance.*



# Descendants of Moise Potvin and Arselie Quintin

by: Sylvia Bartholomy

1. **Moise POTVIN**, born 15 May 1858 in Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec; died 4 April 1935 in Arctic, RI. He married on 5 April 1875 in St. Romuald, Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec, **Arselie QUINTIN**, born 1 November 1856 in Canada; died 24 February 1923 in Arctic, RI.

Children of Moise POTVIN and Arselie QUINTIN were as follows:

2. **Moise POTVIN**, born 6 Jan 1876 in West Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec. He married **Arcelie FORAND** (1879-1953).

3. **Arselia POTVIN**, born 11 March 1877 in St. Julie, Vercheres, Québec, and died in 1960. She married **Dangeville LAPLUME**.

4. **Evangeline POTVIN**, born 30 December 1878 in Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec, and died in 1941. She married **Louis FRIGON**.

5. **François POTVIN**, born 1880 in Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec.

6. **Jean-Baptiste POTVIN**, born 16 September 1881 in Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec, and died in 1942. He married **Rosanna PELTIER**.

7. **Albertine-Emma POTVIN**, born 23 January 1883 in Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec, and died in 1950. She married **Felix COUTU**.

8. **Antonio POTVIN**, born 11 November 1883 in West Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec, and died in 1964. He married (1) **Marie-Delima PICARD**. Second spouse unknown.

9. **Evelina POTVIN**, born October 1884 in West Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec. She married **Fremont BOUCHER**.

10. **Rosanna POTVIN**, born 28 May 1886 in West Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec; died 7 March 1943 in Providence, RI. Rose remained single. She made all the costumes for the Potvin Theatrical group.

11. **Marie-Reine POTVIN**, born 6 September 1890 in Canada; died 3 October 1918 in Arctic, RI. Marie-Reine died during the flu epidemic.

12. **Blanche-Mathilde POTVIN**, born 15 July 1892 in Arctic, RI; died 16 August 1892 in Arctic, RI.

13. **Marie-Anne-Blandine POTVIN**, born 15 March 1894 in Arctic, RI; died 16 August 1894 in Arctic, RI. Blandine and Alice were twins.

14. **Alice-Dora POTVIN**, born 15 March 1894 in Arctic, RI; died 1 November 1896 in Arctic, RI.

15. **Joseph-Albert-Emile POTVIN**, born 8 August 1895 in Arctic, RI; died 23 August 1972 in Warwick, RI. Albert remained single.

16. **Alexandrine POTVIN**, born 16 December 1896 in Arctic, RI.

17. **Rosario-Euclide POTVIN**, born 15 May 1898 in Warwick, RI; died in 1976. He married **Rose-Blanche ROUSSEAU**.

### *Generation 2*

2. **Moise POTVIN**, born 6 January 1876 in West Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec; died 12 December 1948 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 4 May 1896 in Central Falls, RI, **Arcelie FORAND**, born 12 November 1879 in St. Paul, Abbottsford, Rouville, Québec; died 29 November 1953 in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of François FORAND and Rosalie GEVRY.

#### *Notes for Moise POTVIN:*

The 1891 Census for Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec, lists:

#### POTVIN

Moise, 37, born Québec, furniture maker.

Azelie QUINTIN, wife, 34, born Québec, Reads/Writes.

Moise, 15, son, born Québec, artist, Reads/Writes.

Arselia, 14, daughter, born Québec, Reads/Writes.

Evangeline, 12, daughter, born Québec, Reads/Writes.

Francois, 11, son, born Québec, Reads/Writes.

Jean-Baptiste, 9, son, born Québec, Reads.

Emma, 8, daughter, born Québec, Reads/Writes.

Antonio, 7, son, born Québec.

Exilina, 6, daughter, born Québec.

Rosannah, 4, daughter, born Québec.

Marie-Reine, 7m, born Québec.

Children of Moise POTVIN and Arcelie FORAND were as follows:

18. **Rene-Archibald POTVIN**, born 10 March 1897 in Woonsocket, RI, died in 1939. He married **Delvina LAROCQUE**.

19. **Keno POTVIN**, born 2 March 1898 in Woonsocket, RI; died 22 June 1898 in Woonsocket, RI.

20. **Camille POTVIN**, born 18 November 1899 in Woonsocket, RI; died 19 March 1900 in Woonsocket, RI.

21. **Evangeline-Bertha POTVIN**, born 8 February 1901 in Woonsocket, RI. She married **Arthur-Louis GAGNON**.

22. **Bluette-Sylvia POTVIN**, born 1 October 1902 in Woonsocket, RI. She married (1) **William DRISCOLL**, (2) **Henri-Walter LAGUE**.

23. **Annette-Violette POTVIN**, born 25 October 1903 in Woonsocket, RI. She married **Arthur LEMOINE**.

24. **Florange-Pierrette POTVIN**, born 30 May 1907 in Arctic, RI; died 22 April 1911 in Woonsocket, RI.

25. **Lilliane-Antonia POTVIN**, born 1 June 1909 in Arctic, RI; died 2

August 1909 in West Warwick, RI.

26. **Lionel POTVIN**, born 2 July 1912; died 1975 in Maine. He married **Mabel (---)**.

27. **Yvette-Eva POTVIN**, born 8 August 1915 in Woonsocket, RI. She married **Rodolphe-Emile COUTU** (1922-1975).

28. **Raymond POTVIN**, born 1917 in Woonsocket, RI. He married **Pauline BOISVERT**.

29. **Gaston-Arthur POTVIN**, born 1918 in Woonsocket, RI; died 25 February 1918 in Woonsocket, RI.

3. **Arselia POTVIN**, born 11 March 1877 in St. Julie, Vercheres, Québec; died 6 September 1960 in Howard, RI. She married on 16 October 1899 in West Warwick, RI, **Dangeville LAPLUME**.

Children of **Arselia POTVIN** and **Dangeville LAPLUME** were as follows:

30. **Gerard LAPLUME**.

31. **Albertha LAPLUME**.

32. **Edgar LAPLUME**.

33. **Geralda LAPLUME**.

34. **Mozarte LAPLUME**.

35. **Ortha LAPLUME**.

36. **Caesar LAPLUME**.

37. **Moise LAPLUME**.

38. **Almanze LAPLUME**.

39. **Leonard LAPLUME**. Leonard, Almanze and Moise died in childhood.

4. **Evangeline POTVIN**, born 30 December 1878 in Farnham, Missisiquoi, Québec; died 14 December 1941 in Howard, RI. She married on 14 October 1901 in West Warwick, RI, **Louis FRIGON**.

Children of **Evangeline POTVIN** and **Louis FRIGON** were as follows:

40. **Florette FRIGON**.

41. **Bertha FRIGON**.

42. **Hope FRIGON**.

43. **Evangeline FRIGON**.

5. **François POTVIN**, born 1880 in Farnham, Missisiquoi, Québec.

Children of **Francois POTVIN** were as follows:

44. **Rachel POTVIN**.

45. **Gertrude POTVIN**.

46. **Henry POTVIN**.

47. **Alphonse POTVIN**.

**6. Jean-Baptiste POTVIN**, born 16 September 1881 in Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec; died 27 October 1942 in Providence, RI. He married **Rosanna PELTIER**.

Children of Jean Baptiste POTVIN and Rosanna PELTIER were as follows:

- 48. **Alice POTVIN.**
- 49. **Orise POTVIN.**
- 50. **Roland POTVIN.**

**7. Albertine-Emma POTVIN**, born 23 January 1883 in Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec; died 29 May 1950 in Apponaug, RI. She married on 10 July 1905 in West Warwick, RI, **Felix COUTU**.

Children of Albertine Emma POTVIN and Felix COUTU were as follows:

- 51. **Fleur-Ange COUTU.**
- 52. **Roland COUTU.**
- 53. **Fernand COUTU.**
- 54. **Wilbrod COUTU.**
- 55. **Felix COUTU.**
- 56. **Emile COUTU.**
- 57. **Beatrice COUTU.**
- 58. **Leo COUTU.**
- 59. **Rita COUTU.**
- 60. **Raymond COUTU.**

**8. Antonio POTVIN**, born 11 November 1883 in West Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec; died 8 January 1964 in Howard, RI. He married (1) on 7 November 1921 in West Warwick, RI, **Marie-Delima PICARD**. Second marriage unknown.

Children of Antonio POTVIN and Marie Delima PICARD were as follows:

- 61. **Irene POTVIN.**
- 62. **Lucien POTVIN.**

**9. Evelina POTVIN**, born October 1884 in West Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec. She married on 6 June 1910 in West Warwick, RI, **Fremont BOUCHER**.

Children of Evelina POTVIN and Fremont BOUCHER were as follows:

- 63. **Evelina BOUCHER.**
- 64. **Rita BOUCHER.**
- 65. **Florence BOUCHER.**

**17. Rosario-Euclide POTVIN**, born 15 May 1898 in Warwick, RI; died 24 August 1976 in Cranston, RI. He married on 25 September 1923 in West Warwick, RI, **Rose-Blanche ROUSSEAU**.

Children of Rosario Euclide POTVIN and Rose Blanche ROUSSEAU were as

follows:

**66. Lorraine POTVIN.**

*Generation 3*

**18. Rene-Archibald POTVIN**, born 10 March 1897 in Woonsocket, RI; died 18 March 1939 in Burrillville, RI. He married on 19 June 1923 in Woonsocket, RI, **Delvina LAROCQUE**, born in Cheneyville, Ontario; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Adelard LAROCQUE and Melina SABOURIN.

Children of Rene-Archibald POTVIN and Delvina LAROCQUE were as follows:

**67. Jeanne d'Arc-Florence POTVIN.**

**21. Evangeline-Bertha POTVIN**, born 8 February 1901 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 27 June 1922 in Woonsocket, RI, **Arthur-Louis GAGNON**.

Children of Evangeline-Bertha POTVIN and Arthur-Louis GAGNON were as follows:

**68. Marcelle GAGNON**, married **Bertrand TRUDEL**.

**69. Raymond GAGNON**, married **Cecile CLOUETTE**.

**70. Gabrielle GAGNON**, married **Calvin EATON**.

**71. Fleurette GAGNON**, married \_\_\_\_? **McDERMOTT**.

**72. Jeannette GAGNON**, married **Arthur FONTAINE**.

**22. Bluetta-Sylvia POTVIN**, born 1 October 1902 in Woonsocket, RI. She married (1) on 4 August 1919 in Woonsocket, RI, **William DRISCOLL**. She married (2) on 21 April 1930 in Woonsocket, RI, **Henri-Walter LAGUE**.

*Notes for Bluetta-Sylvia POTVIN:* Bluetta and Henri did not have children.

Children of Bluetta Sylvia POTVIN and William DRISCOLL were as follows:

**73. Robert DRISCOLL**.

**74. Normand DRISCOLL**.

**75. Florence DRISCOLL**.

**76. Maurice DRISCOLL**.

**23. Annette-Violette POTVIN**, born 25 October 1903 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 5 April 1926 in Woonsocket, RI, **Arthur LEMOINE**.

Children of Annette-Violette POTVIN and Arthur LEMOINE were as follows:

**77. Lucien LEMOINE**.

**78. Gertrude LEMOINE**, married **George GOULET**.

**27. Yvette-Eva POTVIN**, born 8 August 1915 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 27 December 1941, **Rodolphe-Emile COUTU**, born 1922 in Attleboro, MA;

died 23 July 1975 in North Smithfield, RI.

Children of Yvette-Eva POTVIN and Rodolphe-Emile COUTU were as follows:

79. Suzanne COUTU, married (1) David BRIERLEY; married (2) Charles SEAULES.

80. Roger COUTU, married Katherine GOBEILLE.

28. Raymond POTVIN, born 1917 in Woonsocket, RI. He married in Biddeford, ME, Pauline BOISVERT.

Children of Raymond POTVIN and Pauline BOISVERT were as follows:

81. Richard POTVIN.

#### *Generation 4*

68. Marcelle GAGNON, married Bertrand TRUDEL.

Children of Marcelle GAGNON and Bertrand TRUDEL were as follows:

82. Roland TRUDEL, married Lorraine TETREAULT. Roland and Lorraine had 3 children.

70. Gabrielle GAGNON, married Calvin EATON.

Children of Gabrielle GAGNON and Calvin EATON were as follows:

83. Carleen EATON, married \_\_\_\_? DUSSAULT.

84. Arthur EATON.

71. Fleurette GAGNON, married \_\_\_\_? McDERMOTT.

Children of Fleurette GAGNON and McDERMOTT were as follows:

85. Bruce McDERMOTT, married Muriel DESROSIERS.

86. Larrie McDERMOTT.

72. Jeannette GAGNON, married Arthur FONTAINE.

Children of Jeannette GAGNON and Arthur FONTAINE were as follows:

87. Bernadette FONTAINE.

88. Madeleine FONTAINE.

89. Suzanne FONTAINE.

90. David FONTAINE, married Pearl PLANTE.

78. Gertrude LEMOINE, married George GOULET.

Children of Gertrude LEMOINE and George GOULET were as follows:

91. George GOULET, married Suzanne BERUBE. George and



Suzanne had two children.

92. **Rachel GOULET**, married **Eugene ROUSSEAU**. Rachel and Eugene had 2 children.

93. **Warren GOULET**, married (1) **Diane DUBOIS**; married (2) **Carol CHARTIER**. Warren had 2 children with Diane; and 3 children with Carol.

94. **Gerard GOULET**, married **Lorraine CARON**. Gerard and Lorraine had 3 children.

95. **Diane GOULET**, married **Roger BARRETTE**. Diane and Roger had 3 children.

96. **Camille GOULET**, married **Elise VILT**. Camille and Elise had 3 children.

97. **Russell GOULET**, married **Lois \_\_\_\_?**. Russell and Lois had 2 children.

98. **Suzette GOULET**, married **Raymond RIENDEAU**. Suzette and Raymond had 2 children.

99. **Alfred GOULET**, married (1) **Linda RICHARD**; married (2) **Nancy \_\_\_\_?**. Alfred had 1 child with Linda and 2 children with Nancy.

100. **Annette GOULET**, married **Jeff LUCAS**. Annette and Jeff had 2 children.

101. **Anthony GOULET**, married unknown. Anthony and his wife had 2 children.

*Notes for George GOULET:*

Gertrude and George also had a twelfth child who died in infancy.

79. **Suzanne COUTU**, married (1) **David BRIERLEY**; married (2) **Charles SEALES**.

Children of Suzanne COUTU and David BRIERLEY were as follows:

102. **David BRIERLEY**.

103. **Rebecca BRIERLEY**.

80. **Roger COUTU**, married **Katherine GOBEILLE**.

Children of Roger COUTU and Katherine GOBEILLE were as follows:

104. **Shana COUTU**.

105. **Jesse COUTU**.

106. **Kelly COUTU**.

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The art of taxation consists of plucking the goose so as to obtain the most feathers with the fewest number of complaints.

— Ann Landers



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# La Famille Poitevin

by Sylvia Bartholomy

1

Etienne POITEVIN dit Le Parisien  
of Paris, France  
Married c1695 — Port Royal, Acadia  
to Anne D'AIGRE, d/o Olivier and of Marie GAUDET

2

Jacques-Christophe POITEVIN dit Cadieux  
Married 8 January 1731 — Longueuil, Chambly, Québec  
to Marie L'ESPERANCE dit Viau, d/o Michel and of Hélène CHARLES

3

Louis POTEVIN dit Cadieux  
Married 26 November 1770 — Chambly, Québec  
to Marguerite LAGUEUX dit Sanscartier, d/o Michel and of Louise DERAINVILLE

4

Charles POTVIN  
Married 1808 — Longueuil, Chambly, Québec  
to Josephite GIRARD, d/o Pierre and of Josephite LACOSTE dit Languedoc

5

Emerie POTVIN  
Married 28 August 1844 — St.-Cesaire, Rouville, Québec  
to Rosalie PARÉ, d/o Joseph and of Rosalie HUBERT

6

Moise POTVIN  
Married 5 April 1875, St.-Romuald-de-Farnham, Missisquoi, Québec  
to Arzelie QUINTIN, d/o François-Xavier and of Lucie GAUTHIER

7

Moise POTVIN  
Married 4 May 1896 — Notre Dame, Central Falls, RI  
to Arselie FORAND, d/o François and of Rosalie GEVRY

# HELP WANTED

The AFGS and the Rhode Island Cemetery Transcription Project need volunteers to transcribe tombstone data in Rhode Island and Massachusetts cemeteries.

Ongoing projects needing help are in the towns of Cumberland, Scituate and Glocester, and the city of Central Falls in Rhode Island; and Blackstone, Millville, Mendon and Bellingham in Massachusetts. Other Rhode Island and Massachusetts locations may also be available.

Work will begin in the Spring and will continue until late fall 1998. Teams will be formed to work in the larger cemeteries.

If you are interested in lending us a hand, call Roger Beaudry at (401) 762-5059 or Paul Delisle at (508) 883-4316; or call and leave a message on the AFGS phone, (401) 765-6141.



# Descendants of Charles Allaire and Marie Louise Richard

by: Robert Pelland

*Introduction by Sylvia D. Bartholomy.*

The Pelland File of the Early Franco-Americans of Woonsocket, RI, expands and clarifies the genealogical information presented by Miss Marie-Louise BONIER in her book entitled *Debuts de la Colonie Franco-Americaine de Woonsocket, RI*.

While Miss Bonier provided the names of the first settlers and their descendants through 1918, the list is by no means complete. Often omitted were the names of children who died young. Also the names of spouses are sometimes vague with entries such as "married Miss Mercier," or "married a widower and moved to Massachusetts." No dates or places of birth, marriage, and death were included.

However, her work documented and preserved our early beginnings in a new country. The anecdotal information she reported is priceless; for these stories cannot be researched in the dusty old tomes of our municipal records. Robert PELLAND, a member of the AFGS since 1979, has always been interested in local history. The Bonier Book has been an all-consuming hobby for Bob as he studies and researches its 117 families. Through his many years of research in the extensive

resources of the AFGS library, Bob has verified, clarified, and expanded the Bonier families. He has added many dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. Thanks to Bob we now know "Miss Mercier's" first name, and the name of "the Irishman" who married the daughter of one of the French-Canadian pioneers.

My husband, Roger and I are now in the process of organizing and entering the data that Bob has so meticulously gathered. We are building on the genealogical file we created for Dr. Claire Quintal's English translation of Miss Bonier's book. In his nearly twenty years of research, Bob has fleshed out these early settlers. He has produced 5-generation ascendancy charts for most of the original settlers and their spouses which reveal the interrelationships of these early families.

We anticipate publishing Bob's work sometime in 1999. In the meantime, Bob would welcome receiving any additional information from descendants of the Bonier families. Bob can be contacted in care of the AFGS, P. O. Box 2010, Woonsocket, RI 02895. Bob's expansion on the family of Charles ALLAIRE follows. It is an impressive piece of work; but, according to Bob, it is still a work-in-progress.

1. **Charles ALLAIRE**, married (1) on 12 July 1819 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, to Marie-Louise RICHARD, daughter of Joseph RICHARD and Marguerite CHAPDELAINE; married (2) on 2 August 1842 in Contrecoeur, Vercheres, Québec, to Marguerite ST. LAURENT, daughter of Pierre ST. LAURENT and Angelique SULIERE; married (3) on 21 November 1854 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec, to Louise MENARD, daughter of Louis MENARD and Marie FORTIER.

*Notes for Charles ALLAIRE:* Charles was also called Charlo. He arrived in Woonsocket, RI in 1857; then returned to Contrecoeur, Québec in 1861 during the Civil War, leaving his family in Woonsocket.

He married three times and fathered 32 children. Some of the children from his first marriage to Marie-Louis RICHARD came to the U.S.

The following are related to the Allaire family: 1. Father J.B.A. ALAIRE, distinguished genealogist of the Diocese of St. Hyacinthe, Canada; 2. His Excellency Aram J. POTHIER, former governor of Rhode Island.

"Etienne ALLAIRE, D'ALLAIRE or HALLERE, originally from the Ile of Orleans, settled in the Grand St. Ours (1735). His children were: 1. Etienne (1 December 1736) married to Josepte AMIEL-LUSIGNAN; 2. Jacques married to Thérèse AMIEL-LUSIGNAN; 3. Pierre (11 February 1743) married to Marie-Louise EMERI-BRUNET; 4. Jean (8 January 1847) married to Antoinette-Marie EMERI-MENARD; 5. Marie-Josepte (1744) married to Joseph DUFAULT; 6. Marie-Angelique (1745) married to Jean-Baptiste LAMOUREUX (St. Ours)." (Rev. Tanguay)

Children of Charles ALLAIRE and Marie-Louise RICHARD were as follows:

2. **Pierre ALLAIRE**, born 9 April 1820 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; died 1 May 1820 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; buried there on 3 May 1820. ALLAIRE surname entered as DALAIRE in the church register. Pierre's godparents were Pierre HUS dit Paul and Marie-Antoinette RICHER. The witnesses to Pierre's burial were Louis PERON and Hippolite LAVIOLETTE. Godparents and witnesses were unable to sign the church register.

3. **Marie ALLAIRE**, married on 13 October 1840 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec to Charles DUFAULT, son of Augustin DUFAULT and Marguerite GIROUARD.

4. **Charles ALLAIRE**, died 5 May 1824 in Sorel, Richelieu, Québec, buried there on 7 May 1824. Charles died at the age of 7 months.

5. **Victoire ALLAIRE**, born 23 May 1825 in Sorel, Richelieu, Québec.

6. **Sophie ALLAIRE**, born 11 January 1827 in St. Pierre, Sorel, Richelieu, Québec. She married François CHARBONNIER.

7. **Charles ALLAIRE**, born 18 July 1828 in Sorel, Richelieu, Québec.

8. **Alexis ALLAIRE**, born 13 May 1830 in Sorel, Richelieu, Québec.
9. **Tharsile ALLAIRE**, married on 27 January 1861 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, to Thomas RICHARD, son of Augustin RICHARD and Louise VEL.
10. **Joseph ALLAIRE**, born 14 May 1835 in St. Pierre, Sorel, Richelieu, Québec. He married (1) Marguerite GIARD. He married (2) Angele PARENT.
11. **Philomene ALLAIRE**, born 4 May 1837 in St. Pierre, Sorel, Richelieu, Québec; died 5 May 1837 in Sorel, Richelieu, Québec; buried there on the following day.

Children of Charles ALLAIRE and Marguerite ST. LAURENT were as follows:

12. **Catherine ALLAIRE** married François-Xavier LACOUTURE.
13. **Victor ALLAIRE**, born 6 November 1844 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec. He married Malvina AUBIN.
14. **Alexandre ALLAIRE**, born 1 July 1845 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec. He married Marie CHAMPAGNE.
15. **Louis ALLAIRE**. Louis died at 21 years of age.
16. **Jean-Baptiste ALLAIRE**, married on 12 April 1874 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, to Marie BERGERON. She was born 17 February 1849 in Canada; died 25 November 1924 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. She was the daughter of Maxime BERGERON and Therese PIVIN. Woonsocket city records indicate that Jean-Baptiste was born in Canada, and he was 22 at the time of his marriage to Marie BERGERON. The records also note that this is the second marriage for both Jean Baptiste and Marie. The informant on Marie's death record is her son, Henry SHEA.

Children of Charles ALLAIRE and Louise MENARD were as follows:

17. **Moise ALLAIRE**, born July 1860 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Catherine LAMOUREUX.
18. **Florence ALLAIRE**, married Joseph DAUPHINAIS.
19. **Marie ALLAIRE**, married on 6 July 1880 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, Alex COMEAU, son of Joseph COMEAU and Sophie PICHETTE.

### *Generation 2*

6. **Sophie ALLAIRE**, born 11 January 1827 in St. Pierre, Sorel, Richelieu, Québec. She married on 2 May 1843 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, François CHARBONNIER, son of Pierre CHARBONNIER and Angélique SULLIERE.

*Notes for Sophie ALLAIRE:* The 1880 census of the Franco-Americans of RI, page 170, lists:

ST. LAURENT

Sophie [widow of Abraham], 53.

Abraham, 25, cotton mill, born Canada

Sophie, 23, cotton mill, born Canada

Delima, 16, cotton mill, born CT.

Mary J., 12, cotton mill, born RI.

*Notes for François CHARBONNIER:* CHARBONNIER dit St. Laurent, François was the brother of Marguerite ST. LAURENT, the second wife of Charles ALLAIRE.

Children of Sophie ALLAIRE and François CHARBONNIER were as follows:

20. **Abraham ST. LAURENT**, married Hélène BOUVIER.

21. **Delima ST. LAURENT**, married Charles GOUIN.

22. **Sophie ST. LAURENT**, born in Canada.

23. **Mary J. ST. LAURENT**, born in RI.

10. **Joseph ALLAIRE**, born 14 May 1835 in St. Pierre, Sorel, Richelieu, Québec. He married (1) on 21 January 1856 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, Marguerite GIARD, daughter of Louis GIARD and Marguerite AUDET. He married (2) on 12 October 1863 in St. Aime, Richelieu, Québec, Angele PARENT.

*Notes for Angele PARENT:* Angele was the widow of Olivier VEGIARD.

Children of Joseph ALLAIRE and Angele PARENT were as follows:

24. **Rosilda ALLAIRE**, born 29 May 1868 in St. Aime, Richelieu, Québec. She married Antoine ST. MARTIN.

12. **Catherine ALLAIRE**, married François-Xavier LACOUTURE, son of Emmanuel LACOUTURE and Julie MIGNANT.

*Notes for François-Xavier LACOUTURE:* François-Xavier was the widower of Emerance GRÉGOIRE.

Children of Catherine ALLAIRE and François-Xavier LACOUTURE were as follows:

25. **François-Xavier LACOUTURE**, born 1871 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec. He married Marie-Louise SANSOUCI.

26. **Delphis LACOUTURE**, born 19 April 1876 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec. He married Agnes CHARBONNEAU.

27. **Guillaume LACOUTURE**, born 6 May 1877 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec. He married Marie-Flavie TREPANIER.

28. **Alexis LACOUTURE**, married (1) Marie MATHIEU; married (2) Flora GUAY.

29. **Onesime LACOUTURE**. Onesime was a Jesuit priest in Montréal. He was a military Chaplain in France during the First World War.

30. **Victoria LACOUTURE**, married Olivier LEMOINE.

31. **Hermina LACOUTURE**, born 1880 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; died 26 February 1947 in Brockton, MA; buried 1 May 1947 in Calvary Cemetery,



Brockton, MA. She married Euclide LACHAPPELLE.

32. **Elise LACOUTURE**, unmarried.

33. **Philomène LACOUTURE**, married Louis PERODEAU.

13. **Victor ALLAIRE**, born 6 November 1844 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; died 17 March 1919 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 23 October 1864 in Marlboro, MA, Malvina AUBIN. She was born 1 May 1849 in St. Felix-de-Valois, Joliette, Québec; died 4 July 1940 in Woonsocket, RI; buried July 1940 in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. She was the daughter of Olivier AUBIN and Eliza PELLAND.

Notes for Victor ALLAIRE: Victor was a municipal councillor for one year. A master mason, he built the Courthouse on Front Street in Woonsocket, and several other important buildings, in partnership with William NORTON.

The 1880 federal census for Woonsocket, RI lists:

HALAIRE [ALLAIRE]

Victor, 34, stone mason, can't read/write, born Canada.

Malvina [Aubin], 31, wife, keeps hse., can't read/write, born Canada.

Victorine, 14, dau., cotton mill, born RI.

Victor, 12, son, cotton mill, born RI.

Malvina, 9, dau., at school, born RI.

Georgiana, 1, dau., born RI.

Children of Victor ALLAIRE and Malvina AUBIN were as follows:

34. **Victorine ALLAIRE**, born 24 September 1865 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Napoleon JACOB.

35. **Victor ALLAIRE**, married Emma LEVEILLE.

36. **Malvina ALLAIRE**, married Antoine-Leopold MILOT.

37. **Chalres-Wilfrid ALLAIRE**, born 7 July 1880 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Ida ZEIDIN.

38. **Marie-Georgianna ALLAIRE**, born 18 August 1878 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Eugene-Joseph DAIGNAULT.

39. **Beatrice-Irene ALLAIRE**, born 23 August 1891 in Woonsocket, RI; died 18 November 1979 in Pawtucket, RI; buried 21 November 1979 in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. She married on 24 January 1921 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Herve-Joseph BRUNELLE. He was born 8 December 1893 in St. Cecile-de-Milton, Shefford, Québec, son of Valmore BRUNELLE and Marie CHAMPIGNY; died 26 February 1926 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 1 March 1926 in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. At the time of her death at age 88, Beatrice was a resident of Woonsocket according to Bernadette ALLAIRE, informant.

40. **Alexandre ALLAIRE**, born 20 March 1882 in Woonsocket, RI; died 12 November 1887 in Woonsocket, RI. Alexandre died at the age of 5 years

and 8 months of Scarlet Fever. His godparents were Narcisse LAPORTE and Catherine PELLAND, sister and brother-in-law of Eloise PELLAND wife of Oliver AUBIN.

41. **Salomon ALLAIRE**, born 26 April 1885 in Woonsocket, RI; died 6 November 1887 in Woonsocket, RI. Salomon died at the age of 2 years, 7 months, of Scarlet Fever. His godparents were Napoleon JACOB and Victorine ALLAIRE.

42. **Joseph-Ambroise ALLAIRE**, born 16 August 1889 in Woonsocket, RI. Joseph-Ambroise's baptismal record indicates that his father, Victor, was from St. Ours; and his mother, Malvina, was from St. Hughes. His godparents were Xavier LACOUTURE and Catherine ALLAIRE.

43. **Abraham-Alexis ALLAIRE**, born 8 August 1873 in Woonsocket, RI; died 10 November 1873 in Woonsocket, RI. Abraham died at the age of 3 months. His godparents were Joseph GIRARD and Onesime LAVIGNE.

44. **Louis-Leon ALLAIRE**, born 2 February 1888 in Woonsocket, RI; died 4 August 1888 in Woonsocket, RI. Louis died at the age of 6 months and 2 days, of Cholera Infantum. His godparents were Ernest BILODEAU and Malvina ALLAIRE.

45. **Caroline ALLAIRE**, born 12 June 1876 in Woonsocket, RI. Caroline's godparents were Jules POTHIER and Domithilde ALLAIRE.

46. **Louis-Joseph ALLAIRE**, born 10 April 1875 in Woonsocket, RI. Louis-Joseph's godparents were Gilbert AUBIN and Adelaide BELISLE.

14. **Alexandre ALLAIRE**, born 1 July 1845 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; died 29 July 1925 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. He married Marie CHAMPAGNE.

*Notes for Alexandre ALLAIRE:* Alexandre died at age 80 according to the his son Alpherie, informant.

The 1880 federal census for Woonsocket, RI lists:

ALLAIRE

Alex, 34, cotton spinner, born Canada.

Mary [CHAMPAGNE], 28, wife, keeps hse., born Canada.

Rosanna, 16, dau., cotton spinner, born Canada.

Alexander, 8, son, at school, born Canada.

Anna, 1, dau., born Canada.

Children of Alexandre ALLAIRE and Marie CHAMPAGNE were as follows:

47. **Rose-Anna ALLAIRE**, married on 9 January 1892 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, to Louis LEDOUX, son of Jean-Baptiste LEDOUX and Marie TURCOTTE. Settled in California.

48. **Alexandrine ALLAIRE**. Entered Sisters of Providence and became known as Sister Symphorien.

49. **Eugenie ALLAIRE**. Entered Sisters of Providence and became

known as Sister Marie-Alfred.

50. **Ella-Rosalba ALLAIRE**, married Alfred J. GARNEAU.

51. **Georges ALLAIRE**, born 12 September 1881 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Mathilda DION.

52. **Alpheric ALLAIRE**, married Mildred NORTHROP.

53. **Marie-Donalda ALLAIRE**, born 1 September 1887 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Arthur GOULET, Sr.

54. **Joseph-Arthur ALLAIRE**, born 12 March 1877 in Woonsocket, RI. Joseph Arthur's godparents were Abraham ST. LAURENT and Marie ALLAIRE.

55. **Joseph-Wilfrid-Alfred ALLAIRE**, born 22 July 1886 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 30 December 1916 in Wickford, RI, Mildred NORTHROP. J. Wilfrid Alfred's godparents were François CHAMPAGNE and Emma ST. PIERRE.

56. **Marie-Delima-Regina ALLAIRE**, born 14 June 1873 in Woonsocket, RI. M. Delima Regina's godparents were Severe PICARD and Stephanie ALLAIRE.

57. **Marie E. ALLAIRE**, born 5 May 1875 in Woonsocket, RI. Marie's godparents were Napoleon DAIGNEAULT and Josephthe CHAMPAGNE.

58. **Marie-Laure ALLAIRE**, born 1889 in Woonsocket, RI. Marie-Laure's godparents were Xavier LACOUTURE and Catherine ALLAIRE.

59. **Marie-Rosalba ALLAIRE**, born 29 July 1879 in Woonsocket, RI. Marie-Rosalba's godparents were Pierre ALLAIRE and Emelie BAILLARGEON.

17. **Moise ALLAIRE**, born July 1860 in Woonsocket, RI; died 20 November 1930 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. He married on 24 October 1882 in St. Ours, Richelieu, PQ, to Catherine LAMOUREUX. She was born 16 October 1856 in Canada; died 1 November 1939 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Edouard LAMOUREUX and Marie LAVIOLETTE.

*Notes for Moise ALLAIRE:* Moise was residing in Howard, RI, at the time of his death according to hisdaughter, Beatrice ALLAIRE.

Children of Moise ALLAIRE and Catherine LAMOUREUX were as follows:

60. **Charles ALLAIRE**, born 4 October 1884 in Lowell, MA; died 2 March 1961 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 6 March 1961 in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. Charles lived in Woonsocket and remained single. The informant at Charles' death was his sister, Beatrice ALLAIRE.

61. **Beatrice ALLAIRE**, born 10 February 1898 in Woonsocket, RI; died 29 December 1983 in Cranston, RI; buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. Beatrice lived in Woonsocket and remained single. The informant at Beatrice's death was Laura RIVET.

62. **Marie-Eugenie ALLAIRE**, born in Woonsocket, RI; died 22 February 1898 in Woonsocket, RI. Marie Eugenie died at the age of 5 years, 1 month

of Diphtheria.

18. **Florence ALLAIRE**, married on 3 May 1881 in St. Jude Church, St. Hyacinthe, Québec, to Joseph DAUPHINAIS, son of Athanase DAUPHINAIS and Seraphine COMEAU.

Children of Florence ALLAIRE and Joseph DAUPHINAIS were as follows:

63. **Jean-Baptiste DAUPHINAIS**, married on 10 February 1916 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, to Melina ST. GEORGES, daughter of Regis ST. GEORGES and Marie CREPEAU.

64. **Marie-Louise DAUPHINAIS**, born 16 August 1887 in St. Hyacinthe, Québec. She married Antoine CÔTÉ.

65. **Marie-Rose DAUPHINAIS**, born 20 October 1884 in St. Hyacinthe, Québec. She married Joseph MARQUIS.

### *Generation 3*

20. **Abraham ST. LAURENT**, married on 28 February 1881 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, to Hélène BOUVIER, daughter of Charles BOUVIER and Hélène \_\_\_\_?.

Children of Abraham ST. LAURENT and Hélène BOUVIER were as follows:

66. **Abraham ST. LAURENT**, married on 14 September 1921 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, to Victoria PELOQUIN, daughter of David PELOQUIN and Malvina GAUDETTE.

67. **Philippe ST. LAURENT**, married on 4 May 1927 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, to Alice PELOQUIN, daughter of David PELOQUIN and Malvina GAUDETTE.

21. **Delima ST. LAURENT**, married on 26 October 1886 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, to Charles GOUIN, son of Hyacinthe GOUIN and Rosalie ST. PIERRE.

*Notes for Delima ST. LAURENT:* Delima was also known as Rose-de-Lima.

Children of Delima ST. LAURENT and Charles GOUIN were as follows:

68. **Theodore GOUIN**, married on 20 September 1909 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, Marie-Aimée SANSOUCY, daughter of Edmond SANSOUCY and Azilda CHAPDELAINE.

24. **Rosilda ALLAIRE**, born 29 May 1868 in St. Aime, Richelieu, Québec; died 18 April 1957 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. James Cemetery, Manville, RI. She married on 17 August 1886 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec, Antoine ST. MARTIN. He was born in Ste. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec, son of Colbert ST. MARTIN and Mathilde DONAIS; died 5 September 1940 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. James Cemetery, Manville, RI.

*Notes for Antoine ST. MARTIN:* Antoine St. Martin was a house builder in Woonsocket.

Children of Rosilda ALLAIRE and Antoine ST. MARTIN were as follows:

69. **Rose-Alba ST. MARTIN**, born 7 September 1888 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec. She married Ovida-Joseph LATOUR.

70. **Joseph-Ovila ST. MARTIN**, born 24 June 1890 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died there on 10 October 1890. Joseph-Ovila remained single.

71. **Marie-Rosilda-Regina ST. MARTIN**, born 19 August 1891; died 2 March 1952 in Woonsocket, RI. Regina remained single.

72. **Marie-Aline-Antoinette ST. MARTIN**, born 16 July 1893 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died there on 6 August 1893.

73. **Aline ST. MARTIN**, born 3 September 1894 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec. She married William CHAPDELAIN.

74. **Joseph-Ovila-Albert ST. MARTIN**, born 15 January 1896 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died 30 December 1945 in the Navy Hospital, Newport, RI. Albert remained single.

75. **Marie-Emma-Edwilina ST. MARTIN**, born 5 November 1898 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died 12 November 1942 in Woonsocket, RI. Emma remained single.

76. **Maria ST. MARTIN**, born 9 July 1901 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died there on 21 April 1902.

77. **Joseph-Armand ST. MARTIN**, born 24 June 1903 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died 13 October 1992; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. He married Berthe GARIEPY. Armand received a degree in Textile Design from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI. He created textile patterns for many manufacturers throughout the Blackstone Valley. Armand and Berthe were childless.

78. **Marie-Aurore-Yvonne ST. MARTIN**, born 30 May 1905 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec. She married Herve-Amateur VADNAIS.

79. **Marie-Irene-Fabiola ST. MARTIN**, born 9 November 1906 in Manville, RI. She married Albert-Leo COURNOYER.

80. **Albertine ST. MARTIN**.

81. **Marie-Blanche-Beatrice ST. MARTIN**, born 15 February 1908 in Manville, RI.

82. **Cecile-Exina ST. MARTIN**, married Leo BEAUREGARD.

25. **François-Xavier LACOUTURE**, born 1871 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; died 19 April 1941 in Brockton, MA; buried 22 April 1942 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA. He married Marie-Louise SANSOUCI, born 5 January 1876 in Ashland, MA; died 10 March 1970 in Brockton, MA; buried 12 March 1970 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA. She was the daughter of Olivier SANSOUCI and Aurelie GRANDMONT.

*Notes for François-Xavier LACOUTURE:* François and Marie had six children, and settled in Brockton, MA. François' residence at time of death was 31 Cary Street, Brockton, MA.

*Notes for Marie-Louise SANSOUCI:* Marie's place of birth is listed as Cochrane, MA, on daughter Irene's death certificate and as Ashland, MA, on son David's death certificate. Marie's own death certificate lists Ashland, MA, as place of birth and Brockton, MA, as residence at time of death.

Children of François-Xavier LACOUTURE and Marie-Louise SANSOUCI were as follows:

83. **Anna-Agnes LACOUTURE**, born 26 July 1918 in Brockton, MA. She married on 3 July 1937 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, John-Joseph DILLON, son of James DILLON and Delia Theresa EARLS. Anna-Agnes' godparents were Delphis LACOUTURE and Agnes CHARBONNEAU.

84. **Irene-Marie LACOUTURE**, born 4 September 1913 in Brockton, MA. She married George Sylvester FOSTER.

85. **David-Joseph LACOUTURE**, born 17 December 1908 in Brockton, MA. He married Marguerite A. PETERS.

86. **Yvonne E. LACOUTURE**, born 12 March 1904 in Cochrane, MA; died 7 October 1976 in Brockton, MA; buried 11 October 1976 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA. Yvonne remained single.

87. **Louis-Jean-Stanislaus LACOUTURE**, born 10 December 1907 in Brockton, MA. Louis' godparents were Alexis J. LACOUTURE and Maria C. LACOUTURE.

26. **Delphis LACOUTURE**, born 19 April 1876 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; died 21 July 1958 in Brockton, MA; buried 25 July 1958 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA. He married Agnes CHARBONNEAU, born 24 August 1880 in North Adams, MA; died 6 November 1949 in Boston, MA; buried 9 November 1949 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA. She was daughter of Jean-Baptiste CHARBONNEAU and Elmiere CHARBONNEAU.

*Notes for Delphis LACOUTURE:* Delphis and Agnes had five children and settled in Brockton, MA.

Children of Delphis LACOUTURE and Agnes CHARBONNEAU were as follows:

88. **Alba-Rosanna LACOUTURE**, married on 6 August 1923 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, to Albert ST. HILAIRE, son of Ernest ST. HILAIRE and Lucienne GIGUERE.

89. **Alma LACOUTURE**, married Raymond LAPIERRE.

90. **Marie-Jeanne-Lucille LACOUTURE**, born 12 May 1920 in Brockton, MA. She married Roger BESSETTE.

91. **Marie-Estelle LACOUTURE**, born 26 February 1917 in Brockton,

MA. She married on 18 April 1939 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Thomas James BRADY, son of Michael BRADY and Delia BYRNE.

**92. Delphine A. LACOUTURE**, born 20 July 1900 in Cotuit, MA; died 10 May 1986 in Stoughton, MA.

**27. Guillaume LACOUTURE**, born 6 May 1877 in St. Ours, Richelieu, Québec; died 19 November 1930 in Woonsocket, RI; buried November 1930 in St. Zephirin Cemetery, Cochuuate, MA. He married Marie-Flavie TRÉPANIÉ, born 28 May 1874 in St. Ulric/R.B., Matane, Québec; and died 8 January 1961 in Providence, RI. She was buried 11 January 1961 in St. Zephirin Cemetery, Cochuuate, MA. Marie-Flavie was the daughter of Georges TRÉPANIÉ and Mathilde SAUCIER.

*Notes for Guillaume LACOUTURE:* Guillaume died at the age of 53 years, 6 months, 13 days.

*Notes for Marie Flavie TRÉPANIÉ:* Flavie was born at St. Ulric-de-la-Riviere Blanche.

Children of Guillaume LACOUTURE and Marie-Flavie TRÉPANIÉ were as follows:

**93. Marie-Eugenie LACOUTURE**, born 30 March 1918 in Woonsocket, RI; died 21 December 1951 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. Zephirin Cemetery, Cochuuate, MA. Marie-Eugenie remained single.

**30. Victoria LACOUTURE**, married Olivier LEMOINE.

*Notes for Olivier LEMOINE:* They had eight children and settled in St. Hyacinthe, Québec.

Known children of Victoria LACOUTURE and Olivier LEMOINE were as follows:

**94. Blanche LEMOINE**, married Emile GAUDREAU.

**95. Germaine LEMOINE**, married Romeo CHARTIER.

**34. Victorine ALLAIRE**, born 24 September 1865 in Woonsocket, RI; died 13 February 1928 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 7 January 1885 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, Napoleon JACOB. He was born 18 January 1858 in Richelieu, Québec, son of François JACOB and Clarisse ETHIER. Napoleon died 31 May 1934 in Woonsocket, RI.

Children of Victorine ALLAIRE and Napoleon JACOB were as follows:

**96. Clarinda JACOB**.

**97. Dora JACOB**, born 18 August 1888 in Woonsocket, RI. She married (1) Hector-Elzear LADOUCEUR and (2) Charles GUIMOND, Jr.

**98. Frederic JACOB**, married Eva THUOT.

99. **Loretta-Victoire JACOB**, married François-Arthur AUCOIN.

100. **Medora JACOB**, born 24 June 1893 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Walter SIMPSON.

101. **Edna JACOB**, born 11 July 1897 in Woonsocket, RI; died 10 January 1974 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 14 January 1974 in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. She married on 28 December 1935 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Lucien-Onesime VADNAIS, born 10 November 1899 in St. Cuthbert, Berthier, Québec, son of Joseph-Osmer VADNAIS and Celina DURAND; died 21 January 1959 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 24 January 1959 in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI.

102. **Irene JACOB**, married on 14 May 1917 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Joseph Francis BRADSHAW, son of James BRADSHAW and Elizabeth FARRELL.

35. **Victor ALLAIRE**, married Emma LEVEILLE. She was born 15 April 1869 in Canada, daughter of Joseph LEVEILLE and Marie BELISLE; died 26 August 1960 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA,

*Notes for Victor ALLAIRE:* Woonsocket city records indicate that Victor was born in Canada, and he was 20 years old when he married Emma. Victor left for the Klondyke during the great gold rush around 1898, where he was devoured by wolves. He left his wife and two children in Woonsocket. Victor thus became a victim, like so many others — whose numbers can be estimated as having been in the many thousands — of railway promoters and shameless exploiters who, in order to ensure huge benefits for themselves in recently established companies, did not hesitate to take advantage of human gullibility and even to speculate on the lives of their fellow men. In order to attract people to this fabulously rich land, word was spread far and wide that gold was to be found there as if by magic. Many people reacted enthusiastically to these unrestrained advertisements. Few became rich in the Klondyke. On the contrary, many perished there or were never able to return. The following notation is found in Woonsocket city records for March 1899: "Victor Allaire, Jr., age 33, died in Alaska. His body was found near the Osawa River." Emma later remarried to Joseph RONDEAU. She died at the age of 91 years, 4 months, 11 days.

Children of Victor ALLAIRE and Emma LEVEILLE were as follows:

103. **Joseph-Wilfrid ALLAIRE**, born 26 April 1890 in Woonsocket, RI. He married in St. Catherine, Montréal, PQ, Laura BERTRAND. Joseph-Wilfrid's godparents were Victor ALLAIRE and Malvina AUBIN.

104. **Hector ALLAIRE**, born 21 December 1894 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Edwina ROY.

36. **Malvina ALLAIRE**, married on 25 October 1892 in Woonsocket, RI, Antoine-Leopold MILOT, born 15 November 1862 in Yamachiche, St. Maurice,



Québec, son of Adolphe MILOT and Philomène CARON; died 2 May 1925 in Woonsocket, RI.

*Notes for Malvina ALLAIRE:* Woonsocket city records indicate that Malvina was born in Canada, and she was married at the age of 21.

Children of Malvina ALLAIRE and Antoine-Leopold MILOT were as follows:

105. **Leo MILOT**, married on 14 October 1925 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Aurore BEAUSOLEIL, daughter of Joseph BEAUSOLEIL and Sophie PLOURDE.

37. **Chalres-Wilfrid ALLAIRE**, born 7 July 1880 in Woonsocket, RI; died 24 September 1914 in Providence, RI. He married on 30 July 1900, Ida ZEIDIN, born 20 December 1883 in Russia, daughter of Simon ZEIDEN; died 12 March 1967 in Woonsocket, RI.

*Notes for Chalres-Wilfrid ALLAIRE:* Charles-Wilfrid's godparents were Charles DUFAUT and Elmira GODARD.

*Notes for Ida ZEIDIN:* Ida was of Jewish ancestry. ZEIDEN was also seen as ZYDEN.

Children of Charles-Wilfrid ALLAIRE and Ida ZEIDIN were as follows:

106. **Wilfrid ALLAIRE**, married Beatrice PIGEON.

107. **Aldea-Marie ALLAIRE**, married on 27 June 1928 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Edwin Boland HUNT, son of John J. HUNT and Marie E. BOLAND.

108. **Frances Annette ALLAIRE**, born 4 March 1904 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Alexandre-Joseph COUSINEAU.

109. **Bernadette ALLAIRE**.

110. **Normand-Henry ALLAIRE**, married on 14 October 1957 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, Irene Theresa NOLAN, daughter of Harold NOLAN and Eugenie RONDEAU.

111. **Violette ALLAIRE**.

112. **Alexandre ALLAIRE**.

38. **Marie-Georgianna ALLAIRE**, born 18 August 1878 in Woonsocket, RI; died 27 March 1900 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 2 May 1899 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Eugene-Joseph DAIGNAULT, born 29 November 1877 in Woonsocket, RI, son of Godfroy DAIGNAULT and Elmire ARCHAMBAULT; died 17 April 1943 in Woonsocket, RI.

*Notes for Marie-Georgianna ALLAIRE:* Woonsocket city records indicate Georgianna was born in Woonsocket, and she was married at the age of 20. Georgianna's godparents were Louis VANDAL and Anastasia AUBIN. Georgianna died at the age of 21 years and 7 months of puerperal fever. [Also known as childbed

fever, it is a septic infection occurring after childbirth.]

Children of Marie-Georgianna ALLAIRE and Eugene-Joseph DAIGNAULT were as follows:

**113. Eugene-Joseph DAIGNAULT**, born in Woonsocket, RI; died 21 April 1900 in Woonsocket, RI. Eugene died at the age of 1 month and 3 days of Erysipelas. [Also known as St. Anthony's Fire. It is an infectious disease characterized by inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissues.]

**50. Ella-Rosalba ALLAIRE**, married on 24 November 1902 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Alfred J. GARNEAU, born 16 December 1883 in Woonsocket, RI, son of Louis-Exaria GARNEAU and Georgianna DESHAIES; died 16 February 1957 in North Smithfield, RI. .

Children of Ella-Rosalba ALLAIRE and Alfred J. GARNEAU were as follows:

**114. Leo GARNEAU.**

**115. Adrienne GARNEAU.**

**116. Juliette-Blanche GARNEAU**, married Joseph William Theodore BREAULT.

**117. Eugenie GARNEAU.**

**118. Alfred Allaire GARNEAU**, married Rita-Agnes OUELLETTE.

**119. Wilfrid GARNEAU.**

**51. Georges ALLAIRE**, born 12 September 1881 in Woonsocket, RI; died 19 December 1931 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. He married on 28 January 1901 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Mathilda DION, born 14 July 1882 in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Louis DION and Angele GAUTHIER; died 29 January 1930 in Woonsocket, RI.

*Notes for Georges ALLAIRE:* Georges' godparents were Jules POTHIER and Domethilde ALLAIRE.

Children of Georges ALLAIRE and Mathilda DION were as follows:

**120. Alfred ALLAIRE**, married on 2 November 1935 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Parmelia BOUCHER, daughter of Trefflé BOUCHER and Rosanna BIBEALT.

**121. Leopold ALLAIRE** married on 23 May 1927 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, Cecile BOUCHER, daughter of Trefflé BOUCHER and R. A. BIBEAU.

**53. Marie-Donalda ALLAIR**, born 1 September 1887 in Woonsocket, RI; died 24 December 1969 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 27 December 1969 in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. She married on 25 November 1909 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, Arthur GOULET, Sr., born 8 December 1884 in Manville, RI, son of Louis GOULET and Georgiana NAINTEAU; died 28 August

1948 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI.

*Notes for Marie-Donalda ALLAIRE:* Donalda's godparents were André SERAPHIN and Philomène DUFAUT.

Children of Marie-Donalda ALLAIRE and Arthur GOULET Sr. were as follows:

**122. Raymond GOULET**, born 4 October 1910 in Woonsocket, RI; died 17 October 1918 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI.

**123. Alfred-Arthur GOULET**, born 4 October 1912 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Constance LAROCQUE.

**124. Irene GOULET**, married on 11 January 1947 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, Albert R. J. GAUTHIER, son of Joseph GAUTHIER and Marie ROBIDOUX.

**125. Alice-Donalda GOULET**, married on 20 September 1941 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, Nello MONTANARI, son of William MONTANARI and Ouinta ANDREONI.

**126. Jeannette D. GOULET**, married J. Hormidas A. LEDOUX.

**127. Alexander-Edgar GOULET**, married on 4 May 1946 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Anna-Thérèse CARDIN, daughter of Michel CARDIN and Théodeline POTVIN.

**64. Marie-Louise DAUPHINAIS**, born 16 August 1887 in St. Jude, St. Hyacinthe, Québec; died 3 November 1969 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 6 November 1969 in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. She married on 27 November 1916 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Antoine CÔTÉ, born 27 August 1891 in Cap Chat, Québec, son of Ernest CÔTÉ and Marie PAQUET; died 26 April 1968 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 29 April 1968 in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA.

Children of Marie Louise DAUPHINAIS and Antoine CÔTÉ were as follows:

**128. Marie-Florence-Hélène CÔTÉ**, born 26 May 1920 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 30 June 1938 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Joseph-Raymond BEAUDOIN, son of Joseph BEAUDOIN and Ella LEDOUX.

**65. Marie-Rose DAUPHINAIS**, born 20 October 1884 in St. Jude, St. Hyacinthe, Québec; died 28 March 1969 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 11 January 1915 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Joseph MARQUIS, born 31 August 1892 in Oakdale, MA, son of Esdras MARQUIS and Vitaline ROBILLARD; died 11 June 1958 in Cranston, RI.

Children of Marie-Rose DAUPHINAIS and Joseph MARQUIS were as follows:

**129. Blanche MARQUIS.**

**130. Alphege-Antoine-J. MARQUIS**, born 4 January 1917 in Woonsocket, RI; died 27 January 1917 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood

Cemetery, Woonsocket, RI. Alphege remained single.

**131. Vitaline MARQUIS**, born 1 October 1918 in Woonsocket, RI; died 20 February 1976 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 23 February 1952 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Conrad-Rosario SAVOIE, born 4 December 1917 in Woonsocket, RI, son of Delphis SAVOIE and Alexina SHANK; died 14 June 1984 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA.

**132. Yvette-Constance MARQUIS**, married on 12 April 1947 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Homer Craft KECK, son of Winfield KECK and Laura GRAY.

**133. Joseph-Arthur-Leo MARQUIS**, married on 27 February 1954 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Josephine CEBRON, daughter of Joseph CEBRON and Rose CERMELE.

#### *Generation 4*

**69. Rose-Alba ST. MARTIN**, born 7 September 1888 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died 14 May 1962 in Manville, RI; buried in St. James Cemetery, Manville, RI. She married on 30 May 1910 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Ovida-Joseph LATOUR, born 2 May 1887 in Manville, RI, son of Adolphe LATOUR and Philomène RAQUIER; died 2 July 1941 in Manville, RI; buried in St. James Cemetery, Manville, RI.

*Notes for Ovida-Joseph LATOUR:* Ovida's godparents were Regis LATOUR and Olive VALOIS.

Children of Rose-Alba ST. MARTIN and Ovida-Joseph LATOUR were as follows:

**134. Marie-Beatrice-Bellard LATOUR**, born 4 September 1911 in Manville, RI. She married Viateur CARIGNAN.

**135. Marie-Edourdina-Laurette LATOUR**, born 4 July 1913. She married on 20 November 1941 in St. James, Manville, RI, Arphidas-Hilaire CARTIER, son of Hilaire CARTIER and Marie-Louise (\_\_\_\_?).

**73. Aline ST. MARTIN**, born 3 September 1894 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died 20 November 1976 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. James Cemetery, Manville, RI. She married on 18 May 1914 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, William CHAPDELAINE, born 10 April 1892 in St. Jude, St. Hyacinthe, Québec, son of Napoleon CHAPDELAINE and Rosilda LABOSSIÈRE; died 13 August 1960 in Millbury, MA; buried in St. James Cemetery, Manville, RI.

*Notes for William CHAPDELAINE:* Family was also known as Chapdelaine dit Larivière.

Children of Aline ST. MARTIN and William CHAPDELAINE were as follows:

**136. Marie-Blanche-Antoinette CHAPDELAINE**, born 25 February

1915 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Conrad BARTHOLOMY.

**137. Bernadette CHAPDELAINE**, born 17 April 1916 in Woonsocket, RI; died 3 March 1917 in Woonsocket, RI; buried in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI. Bernadette died at the age of 10 months, 15 days.

**138. Doris-Blanche CHAPDELAINE**, born 15 April 1917 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Lorimer Edward BEAUDETTE.

**139. Hervé CHAPDELAINE**, died 25 April 1997 in Roger Williams Hospital, Providence, RI, buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. He married Mary PERESHULA, born 9 May 1920 in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Andrew PERESHULA and Anastasia SCHNACHUK; died 11 March 1990 in St. Francis Health Center, Woonsocket, RI; buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. Hervé was a WWII Army veteran. Hervé and Mary were childless.

**140. Thérèse CHAPDELAINE**, born 3 September 1919 in Woonsocket, RI. She married (1) Leo THEROUX, and (2) Edward BIJEAU.

**141. Armand CHAPDELAINE**, born 25 May 1924 in Woonsocket, RI; died 31 May 1986 in Providence, RI; buried in St. Columba Cemetery, Middletown, RI. He married on 23 July 1960 in St. Augustin, Newport, RI, Joan Frances MURPHY, born 25 July 1936 in Newport, RI, daughter of Quentin Leo MURPHY and Helen HAMILTON. Armand was a Radiologic Technologist at Newport Hospital, Newport, RI.

**142. Gertrude CHAPDELAINE**, born 31 January 1929 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Charles E. BIGGINS.

**78. Marie-Aurore-Yvonne ST. MARTIN**, born 30 May 1905 in St. Victoire, Richelieu, Québec; died 26 July 1992 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 14 June 1926 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Herve-Amateur VADNAIS, son of Joseph VADNAIS and Marie-Louise BILEAU. He died 26 September 1957 in Woonsocket, RI.

Children of Marie-Aurore-Yvonne ST. MARTIN and Herve-Amateur VADNAIS were as follows:

**143. Constance-Marie VADNAIS**, born 26 September 1927 in Woonsocket, RI; died the same day. Constance died at birth.

**144. Muriel G. VADNAIS**, born 13 September 1931 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Thomas P. NICHOLA.

**79. Marie-Irene-Fabiola ST. MARTIN**, born 9 November 1906 in Manville, RI. She married on 23 April 1928 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Albert-Leo COURNOYER, son of Joseph COURNOYER and Jennie HOULE.

Children of Marie-Irene-Fabiola ST. MARTIN and Albert Leo COURNOYER were as follows:

**145. Claire COURNOYER**, died 20 August 1934.

**146. Raymond COURNOYER**, married Joyce FISCHER.

**147. Doris Ruth COURNOYER**, married Francis HILLHOUSE II.

**82. Cecile-Exina ST. MARTIN**, died 5 December 1991 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 26 October 1940 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Leo BEAUREGARD. He was born 13 August 1909 in Woonsocket, RI, son of Arthur BEAUREGARD and Delia THERRIEN. He died 2 January 1989 in Woonsocket, RI.

Children of Cecile-Exina ST. MARTIN and Leo BEAUREGARD were as follows:

**148. Lucille-Thérèse BEAUREGARD**, married Anthony LONGO.

**149. Raymond-Ernest BEAUREGARD**, born 18 September 1949 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Susan Joan ANDERSON.

**84. Irene-Marie LACOUTURE**, born 4 September 1913 in Brockton, MA; died 30 January 1980 in Brockton, MA; buried 2 February 1980 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA. She married on 15 January 1938 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, George Sylvester FOSTER, son of George Joseph FOSTER and Catherine O'BRIEN.

*Notes for Irene-Marie LACOUTURE:* Irene's godparents were Leon LACOUTURE and Victorine LACOUTURE.

Children of Irene-Marie LACOUTURE and George Sylvester FOSTER were as follows:

**150. Jane Marie FOSTER**, married on 30 June 1963 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Arthur M. FITZGERALD, son of Arthur L. FITZGERALD and Edith May GREGG.

**85. David-Joseph LACOUTURE**, born 17 December 1908 in Brockton, MA; died 14 May 1974 in Brockton, MA; buried 16 May 1974 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA. He married Marguerite A. PETERS, born 6 February 1907 in Bloomfield, P.E.I., Canada, daughter of Bennett PETERS and Mary ARSENAULT. She died 25 December 1980 in Brockton, MA; buried 27 December 1980 in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton, MA.

*Notes for David-Joseph LACOUTURE:* David's godparents were Mr. & Mrs. Olivier GRANDMONT.

*Notes for Marguerite A. PETERS:* Peters is also known as Pitre and Pike.

Children of David-Joseph LACOUTURE and Marguerite A. PETERS were as follows:

**151. Claire-Lucille LACOUTURE**, born 2 July 1939 in Brockton, MA. She married on 3 February 1962 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Albert Daniel Gomes SILVA, son of John Gomes SILVA and Mary VIERA. Claire's godparents

were Emile LACOUTURE and Yvonne LACOUTURE.

**152. David-Louis LACOUTURE**, born 19 December 1935 in Brockton, MA. He married on 12 November 1967 in St. Colman, Brockton, MA, Patricia O'NEIL. David's godparents were Edgar PARENTEAU and Irene LACOUTURE.

**153. Marie-Anne LACOUTURE**, born 8 February 1937 in Brockton, MA. She married on 26 June 1964 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Richard Leonard JACKSON. Marie-Anne's godparents were François-Xavier and Marie SANSOUCI.

**89. Alma LACOUTURE**, married on 4 July 1930 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Raymond LAPIERRE, son of Henri LAPIERRE and Dora GIROUARD.

Children of Alma LACOUTURE and Raymond LAPIERRE were as follows:

**154. Marie-Jeanne LAPIERRE**, married on 19 August 1965 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Normand LOZIER, son of Honoré LOZIER and Rose-Anna DAIGLE.

**155. Pauline LAPIERRE**, married on 4 July 1954 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Richard M. KEROGHAN, son of Roy KEROGHAN and Mable HATCH.

**156. Marcelle LAPIERRE**, married on 17 March 1956 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Donald ERICKSON, son of Edward ERICKSON and Eva WHITE.

**90. Marie-Jeanne-Lucille LACOUTURE**, born 12 May 1920 in , Brockton, MA. She married on 17 June 1946 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Roger BESSETTE, son of Philias BESSETTE and Angeline BOUCHARD.

*Notes for Marie-Jeanne-Lucille LACOUTURE:* Marie-Jeanne's godparents were Leo F. LACOUTURE and Delphina LACOUTURE.

*Notes for Roger BESSETTE:* Roger was a resident of Bridgewater, MA when he married Lucille.

Children of Marie-Jeanne-Lucille LACOUTURE and Roger BESSETTE were as follows:

**157. Paul Andre BESSETTE**, born 17 June 1947 in Brockton, MA. Paul Andre's godparents were Paul LAPIERRE and Rita LACOUTURE.

**158. Roger Albert BESSETTE**, born 15 November 1948 in Brockton, MA. He married on 2 May 1970 in Sacred Heart, Brockton, MA, Paula Ann EATON, daughter of Kenneth W. EATON and Claire PARENTEAU. Roger's godparents were Albert ST. HILAIRE and Blanche LACOUTURE.

**159. Denise Agnes BESSETTE**, born 6 November 1951 in Brockton, MA. Denise's godparents were Emile LACOUTURE and Alina LAPIERRE.

**160. Michel Gerard Onesime BESSETTE**, born 14 October 1952 in Brockton, MA. Michel's godparents were Gerard PICHE and Fernande BESSETTE.

161. **Pierre Thomas BESSETTE**, born 2 December 1953 in Brockton, MA. He married on 13 October 1974 in St. Margaret, Brockton, MA, Jacquelyn A. BUTTROR. Pierre's godparents were Thomas BRADY and Estelle LACOUTURE.

162. **Mark Joseph BESSETTE**, born 3 May 1956 in Brockton, MA. Mark's godparents were Rene LAPIERRE and Marcelle BRADY.

163. **Jean Louis BESSETTE**, born 30 December 1957 in Brockton, MA. Jean Louis' godparents were Michael BRADY and Susan BLUMBERG.

164. **Jacques BESSETTE**, born 6 May 1961 in Brockton, MA. He married on 10 June 1989 in St. Colman, Brockton, MA, Susan E. COURTNEY. Jacques' godparents were Roger A. BESSETTE and Mary A. BRADY.

165. **Jacqueline Rose BESSETTE**, born 20 June 1962 in Brockton, MA. Jacqueline's godparents were Paul A. BESSETTE and Emilie LACOUTURE.

94. **Blanche LEMOINE**, married on 17 June 1919 in Cathedral, St. Hyacinthe, Québec, Emile GAUDREAU, son of Eusebe GAUDREAU and Cleophie CHABOT.

Children of Blanche LEMOINE and Emile GAUDREAU were as follows:

166. **Fernand GAUDREAU**, married on 8 August 1949 in Cathedral, St. Hyacinthe, Québec, Thérèse DEMERS, daughter of François-Xavier DEMERS and Ernestine DEMERS.

95. **Germaine LEMOINE**, married on 19 August 1939 in Christ-Roi, St. Hyacinthe, Québec, Romeo CHARTIER, son of Hermenegilde CHARTIER and Zepherine DUBUC.

*Notes for Romeo CHARTIER:* Hermenegilde and Zepherine were from Montréal.

Children of Germaine LEMOINE and Romeo CHARTIER were as follows:

167. **Denyse CHARTIER**, married on 28 January 1976 in St. Sacrement, St. Hyacinthe, Québec, Michel ARES, son of Raymond ARES and Antoinette BERNARD.

97. **Dora JACOB**, born 18 August 1888 in Woonsocket, RI; died 25 January 1972 in, Hazlet, NJ. She married (1) on 23 May 1910 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Hector-Elzear LADOUCEUR, son of Louis LADOUCEUR and Josephine ROY. She married (2) on 9 April 1938 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Charles GUIMOND, Jr., son of Charles GUIMOND and Pomella NEVEU.

Children of Dora JACOB and Hector-Elzear LADOUCEUR were as follows:

168. **Doris LADOUCEUR**, born 1 January 1915. She married Raymond VERHOEST.

169. **Hector-Wilfrid LADOUCEUR**, born 1 August 1912; died 16 August 1912.



**98. Frédéric JACOB**, married on 27 May 1912 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Eva THUOT, daughter of Edgar THUOT and Exina VACHER.

Children of Frédéric JACOB and Eva THUOT were as follows:

**170. Violette JACOB.**

**99. Loretta-Victoire JACOB**, married on 15 April 1912 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, François-Arthur AUCOIN, son of Israel AUCOIN and Adedina BARSALOU.

Children of Loretta-Victoire JACOB and François-Arthur AUCOIN were as follows:

**171. Henri-Napoleon AUCOIN**, born 13 September 1914 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Lucienne-Mathilda GUIMOND.

**172. Thalma-Eva AUCOIN**, born 12 February 1917 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 4 September 1937 in St. Charles, Woonsocket, RI, Albert H. BOUCHARD. Thalma's godparents were Gustave LACROIX and Eva AUCOIN.

**173. Georges-Israel AUCOIN**, born 22 March 1919 in Woonsocket, RI. Georges' godparents were Israel AUCOIN and Alexina BARSALOU.

**174. Edna-Violette AUCOIN**, born 18 April 1921 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 10 May 1941 in St. Charles, Providence, RI, George Frank LEONARD. Edna's godparents were Frédéric JACOB and Eva THUOT.

**175. Frédéric-Joseph AUCOIN**, born 13 March 1923 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 13 October 1947 in St. Patrick, Providence, RI, Pauline PASQUALETTI. Frederic's godparents were Joseph BRADSHAW and Irene JACOB.

**176. Normand-Edmond AUCOIN**, born 24 October 1924 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 26 May 1951 in St. Mathew, Cranston, RI, Marie Lorraine St. Ma—. Normand's godparents were Antoine L. MILOT and Malvina ALLAIRE.

**177. Cecile-Jeannette AUCOIN**, born 12 April 1927 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 9 October 1948 in St. Charles, Providence, RI, William Lester KNOTT. Cecile's godparents were Joseph JACOB and Lea DUHAMEL.

**178. Constance-Bertha AUCOIN**, born 5 November 1928 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 4 September 1950 in St. Charles, Providence, RI, George Joseph BERG. Constance's godparents were Hervé J. BRUNELLE and Beatrice I. ALLAIRE.

**179. Joseph-Emile-Lucien AUCOIN**, born 10 May 1930 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 9 June 1951 in Sacred Heart, Natick, RI, Susie PADULA. Joseph-Emile's godparents were David JACOB and Albertine CHAMPAGNE.

**180. Joseph-Robert-Louis AUCOIN**, born 23 September 1931 in Woonsocket, RI. Joseph's godparents were Louis JALBERT and Lena JACOB.

**100. Medora JACOB**, born 24 June 1893 in Woonsocket, RI; died 10 September

1923 in Providence, RI. She married Walter SIMPSON, son of Joseph SIMPSON and Alice MELLOR.

Children of Medora JACOB and Walter SIMPSON were as follows:

**181. Walter V. SIMPSON**, born 27 November 1918 in Woonsocket, RI; died 14 March 1984 in Woonsocket, RI; buried 17 March 1984 in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. He married Beatrice ROCHEFORT. Walter was a WWII Army veteran.

**104. Hector ALLAIRE**, born 21 December 1894 in Woonsocket, RI; died 13 November 1960 in Woonsocket, RI, at age 65; buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA. He married on 26 October 1914 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, Edwina ROY, daughter of Toussaint ROY and Cleopée LAJOIE.

Children of Hector ALLAIRE and Edwina ROY were as follows:

**182. Raymond ALLAIRE**, married on 3 July 1937 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Veneta GRÉGOIRE, daughter of Romulus GRÉGOIRE and Exina LAGACÉ.

**183. Violette ALLAIRE**, married Romulus PEPIN.

**106. Wilfrid ALLAIRE**, married on 6 January 1925 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Beatrice PIGEON, daughter of Rodolphe PIGEON and Cordelia SICARD.

Children of Wilfrid ALLAIRE and Beatrice PIGEON were as follows:

**184. Mildred-Lucille ALLAIRE**, married on 25 April 1950 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, Gerard-Joseph LOZEAU, son of Oscar LOZEAU and Bernice TRUDEAU.

**185. Jean-Paul ALLAIRE**, married on 28 November 1964 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, Audrey Eunice WOOD, daughter of Nelson WOOD and Lucy CÔTÉ.

**186. Suzanne G. ALLAIRE** married on 24 November 1962 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, Damien A. ST. LOUIS, son of Damien ST. LOUIS and Imelda DESMARAIS.

**108. Frances Annette ALLAIRE**, born 4 March 1904 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 19 November 1924 in St. Louis, Woonsocket, RI, Alexandre-Joseph COUSINEAU, born 31 July 1896 in Garden, MI, son of Thomas COUSINEAU and Catherine-Hortense-Appoline THERIAULT; died 21 June 1968 in Providence, RI.

*Notes for Alexandre-Joseph COUSINEAU:* Alexandre was a resident of Detroit, Michigan, at the time of his marriage to Frances.

Children of Frances Annette ALLAIRE and Alexandre-Joseph COUSINEAU were as follows:

**187. Beverly Claire COUSINEAU**, born 28 August 1925 in Detroit, MI.

**116. Juliette-Blanche GARNEAU**, married on 14 June 1941 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, Joseph William Theodore BREault, born 14 January 1908, son of William BREault and Clara LECLERC.

Children of Juliette-Blanche GARNEAU and Joseph William Theodore BREault were as follows:

**188. Theodore William BREault**, born 2 December 1946 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 17 June 1972 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Lucille Rachel LAMBERT. She was born 18 January 1951 in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Hector LAMBERT and Cecile BELISLE.

**189. Anita Clare BREault**, born 27 May 1948 in Woonsocket, RI.

**190. Suzanne Marie BREault**, born 6 June 1950 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 11 June 1977 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Alexander Basil BALKO, son of Walter BALKO and Irena MATEJKO.

**191. Linda Jeanne BREault**, born 16 October 1951 in Woonsocket, RI. She married Earl Edward CHARLETTE.

**118. Alfred Allaire GARNEAU**, married on 9 January 1943 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Rita Agnes OUELLETTE, daughter of Albert OUELLETTE and Leona PAYETTE.

Children of Alfred Allaire GARNEAU and Rita Agnes OUELLETTE were as follows:

**192. Michelle Leona M. GARNEAU**, married on 22 November 1969 in St. Joseph, Woonsocket, RI, Robert Paul GUILLEMETTE, son of Roger GUILLEMETTE and Celine DECELLES.

**123. Alfred-Arthur GOULET**, born 4 October 1912 in , Woonsocket, RI; died 18 July 1985 in Pascoag, RI. He married on 30 May 1945 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, Constance LAROCQUE, born 28 February 1919 in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Adelard LAROCQUE and Melina SABOURIN; died 29 November 1989 in Woonsocket, RI.

*Notes for Alfred-Arthur GOULET:* Arthur was a rural delivery mail carrier in the town of Bellingham, MA, for many years.

*Notes for Constance LAROCQUE:* Constance was a resident of Bellingham, MA, at the time of her death.

Children of Alfred Arthur GOULET and Constance LAROCQUE were as follows:

**193. Robert Arthur GOULET**, born 4 March 1946 in Woonsocket, RI.

He married on 7 October 1978 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Suzie Marie CARPENTIER, daughter of Fernando CARPENTIER and Jeannette ST. LOUIS.

194. **Lorraine Constance GOULET**, born 16 March 1948 in Woonsocket, RI. She married John Joseph DUGAN.

195. **Suzanne Marie GOULET**, born in Woonsocket, RI. She married John Oscar NORMANDIN.

126. **Jeannette D. GOULET**, married on 18 May 1946 in Our Lady of Victories, Woonsocket, RI, J. Hormidas A. LEDOUX, born 3 July 1919, son of Hormidas LEDOUX and Corinne BRUNELLE.

Children of Jeannette D. GOULET and J. Hormidas A. LEDOUX were as follows:

196. **Albert Hormidas LEDOUX**, born 21 February 1949 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 7 August 1971 in Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Woonsocket, RI, Darleen SARACINA, daughter of Michael SARACINA and Eileen CASSIDY.

197. **John Arthur LEDOUX**, born 13 March 1953. He married on 21 September 1974 in St. Anthony, Woonsocket, RI, Donna Lynn VETRI.

198. **Jeanne Donalda LEDOUX**, born 15 November 1959 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 14 June 1986 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Thomas Carl MORVA, son of Michael MORVA and Emily M. KOTASEK.

199. **Suzanne Corinne LEDOUX**, born 9 October 1963 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 24 August 1985 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, John Roger COURTEMANCHE, son of George COURTEMANCHE and Jeannine BOURGET.

### *Generation 5*

134. **Marie-Beatrice-Bellard LATOUR**, born 4 September 1911 in Manville, RI; buried in St. James, Manville, RI. She married on 10 November 1934 in St. James, Manville, RI, Viateur CARIGNAN.

*Notes for Marie-Beatrice-Bellard LATOUR:* Beatrice's godparents were her maternal grandparents Antoine ST. MARTIN and Rosilda ALLAIRE.

Children of Marie-Beatrice-Bellard LATOUR and Viateur CARIGNAN were as follows:

200. **Gerard Joseph Ovida CARIGNAN**, born 24 April 1944 in Woonsocket, RI. Gerard's godparents were Joseph CARIGNAN and Cordelia DUBEAU.

136. **Marie-Blanche-Antoinette CHAPDELAINE**, born 25 February 1915 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 8 June 1940 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Conrad BARTHOLOMY, born 25 October 1914 in Woonsocket, RI, son of Emile BARTHOLOMY and Enedine DUSSAULT; died 22 July 1982 in Woonsocket,

RI; buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Bellingham, MA.

Children of Marie-Blanche-Antoinette CHAPDELAINE and Conrad BARTHOLOMY were as follows:

201. **Roger Arthur BARTHOLOMY**, born 25 December 1945 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Sylvia Diane MONTVILLE.

138. **Doris-Blanche CHAPDELAINE**, born 15 April 1917 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 27 August 1938, Lorimer Edward BEAUDETTE, born 25 March 1914 in Boston, MA; died 28 July 1983.

Children of Doris-Blanche CHAPDELAINE and Lorimer Edward BEAUDETTE were as follows:

202. **Claire Marie BEAUDETTE**, born 24 September 1939 in Worcester, MA. She married Robert Dell BRIDDON.

140. **Thérèse CHAPDELAINE**, born 3 September 1919 in Woonsocket, RI; died in Worcester, MA; buried in St. John Cemetery, Worcester, MA. She married (1) on 8 December 1941 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, later divorced, Leo THEROUX. She married (2) on 30 November 1946 in Worcester, MA, Edward BIJEAU, born 11 January 1916 in Worcester, MA. He died 24 June 1970 in Worcester, MA.

Children of Thérèse CHAPDELAINE and Leo THEROUX were as follows:

203. **Roger CHAPDELAINE**, born 30 September 1941 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Priscilla G. DEAN.

Children of Thérèse CHAPDELAINE and Edward BIJEAU were as follows:

204. **Jane BIJEAU**, born 18 December 1947 in Worcester, MA. She married (1) Gerald MAHONEY. Name of second spouse unknown.

142. **Gertrude CHAPDELAINE**, born 31 January 1929 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 12 July 1952 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Charles E. BIGGINS. He was born 3 February 1930 in Willow Springs, MO, son of George BIGGINS and Elmira GANAGAR.

*Notes for Charles E. BIGGINS:* Charles and Gert are residents of Forney, Texas. Charles, an electronic engineer, was a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Children of Gertrude CHAPDELAINE and Charles E. BIGGINS were as follows:

205. **Charles E. BIGGINS, Jr.**, born 7 January 1959 in Memphis, TN. He married Sheila ROBERTSON.

144. **Muriel G. VADNAIS**, born 13 September 1931 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 16 September 1950 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Thomas P. NICHOLA, son of Paul NICHOLA and Constance COCOA.

Children of Muriel G. VADNAIS and Thomas P. NICHOLA were as follows:

206. **Thomas P. NICHOLA Jr.**, born 14 June 1951 in Woonsocket, RI; died 16 May 1973; buried 19 May 1973 in St. James Cemetery, Manville, RI. Thomas died in an automobile accident.

207. **Michael G. NICHOLA**, born 2 January 1956 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Janice Ruth LEVY.

146. **Raymond COURNOYER**, died in Tamaqua, PA, buried in Weston, PA. He married Joyce FISCHER.

*Notes for Raymond COURNOYER:* Raymond resided in Morton, PA, at the time of his death. He died in an auto-truck collision in Tamaqua, PA. He was the owner of the Red Ridge Lake Campgrounds in Zion Grove, PA.

Children of Raymond COURNOYER and Joyce FISCHER were as follows:

208. **David COURNOYER**.

209. **Jeffrey COURNOYER**.

210. **Raymond COURNOYER**.

211. **Elizabeth COURNOYER**.

212. **Jennifer COURNOYER**.

148. **Lucille-Thérèse BEAUREGARD**, married on 20 August 1966 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Anthony LONGO, born 22 November 1939 in Providence, RI, son of Thomas LONGO and Elizabeth CAPOBIANCO.

Children of Lucille-Thérèse BEAUREGARD and Anthony LONGO were as follows:

213. **Paul LONGO**, born 18 November 1969 in Providence, RI.

214. **Rachel LONGO**, born 9 February 1973 in Providence, RI.

215. **Denise LONGO**, born 4 March 1975 in Providence, RI. She married on 7 October 1995 in Woonsocket, RI, Danny Michael MARCIL, born 31 July 1969 in Woonsocket, RI, son of Patrick Donald MARCIL and Joyce Theresa McCULLOM.

149. **Raymond Ernest BEAUREGARD**, born 18 September 1949 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 25 September 1982 in Sturbridge, MA, Susan Joan ANDERSON, born 8 August 1955 in Worcester, MA, daughter of Earl ANDERSON.

Children of Raymond Ernest BEAUREGARD and Susan Joan ANDERSON were as follows:

216. **Alicia Christine BEAUREGARD**, born 18 January 1975 in Worcester, MA. She married on 25 October 1997 in Baptist Church, Worcester, MA, Paul DAVID. Susan's daughter, Alicia, was adopted by Raymond BEAUREGARD on 24 October 1984 in Worcester, MA.

**217. Beth Allison BEAUREGARD**, born 1 June 1977 in Worcester, MA. Susan's daughter, Beth, was adopted by Raymond BEAUREGARD on 24 October 1984 in Worcester, MA.

**218. Nicholas Andrew BEAUREGARD**, born 3 November 1983 in Worcester, MA.

**219. Ashley Raeanne BEAUREGARD**, born 29 March 1990 in Worcester, MA.

**168. Doris LADOUCEUR**, born 1 January 1915. She married on 1 January 1935 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Raymond VERHOEST, son of Jules VERHOEST and Marguerite-Emma PIERRE.

Children of Doris LADOUCEUR and Raymond VERHOEST were as follows:

**220. Lorraine Marguerite Marie VERHOEST**, born 8 August 1935 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 28 June 1952 in St. Mary, Nutley, NJ, Donald CINDERELLA. Lorraine's godparents were Jules VERHOEST and Marguerite PIERRE.

**171. Henri-Napoleon AUCOIN**, born 13 September 1914 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 30 November 1939 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Lucienne-Mathilda GUIMOND, daughter of Charles GUIMOND and Alphonsine CÔTÉ.

*Notes for Henri-Napoleon AUCOIN:* Henri's godparents were Napoleon JACOB and Victoria JACOB.

Children of Henri-Napoleon AUCOIN and Lucienne-Mathilda GUIMOND were as follows:

**221. Claire Pauline AUCOIN**, born 8 February 1945 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 10 October 1970 in St. Joan of Arc, Cumberland, RI, William Maurice PATRIE. Claire's godparents were Frank AUCOIN and Loretta JACOB.

**222. Donald Henry AUCOIN**, born 15 May 1947 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 7 September 1969 in St. Peter, Cambridge, MA, Paula ZOLONIS. Donald's godparents were Charles GUIMOND and Dora JACOB.

**183. Violette ALLAIRE**, married on 27 May 1939 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Romulus PEPIN, son of Telesphore PEPIN and Marie-Louise LAFRENIERE.

Children of Violette ALLAIRE and Romulus PEPIN were as follows:

**223. Madeleine PEPIN**, married on 15 September 1962 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, Raymond LEBRUN, son of Exias LEBRUN and Rita LANDRY.

**224. Jacqueline PEPIN**, married on 4 May 1968 in Precious Blood, Woonsocket, RI, Raymond CASAVANT, son of Albert CASAVANT and Gracia PARÉ.

**225. Susan PEPIN**, married on 12 February 1972 in Precious Blood,

Woonsocket, RI, Richard BEAUREGARD, son of Albert BEAUREGARD and Loretta CHARRON.

**191. Linda Jeanne BREAUT**, born 16 October 1951 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 26 June 1976 in Holy Family, Woonsocket, RI, Earl Edward CHARLETTE, son of Roy J. CHARLETTE and Yolande DESJARDINS.

Children of Linda Jeanne BREAUT and Earl Edward CHARLETTE were as follows:

**226. Michael Earl CHARLETTE**, born 27 October 1978 in Woonsocket, RI.

**227. Marc Daniel CHARLETTE**, born 29 November 1980 in Woonsocket, RI.

**228. Lisa Lynn CHARLETTE**, born 26 June 1985 in Woonsocket, RI.

**194. Lorraine Constance GOULET**, born 16 March 1948 in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 10 May 1969 in Assumption Church, Bellingham, MA, John Joseph DUGAN, son of Joseph DUGAN and Doris GUILBEAULT.

*Notes for Lorraine Constance GOULET:* Resident of Stafford Springs, CT.

Children of Lorraine Constance GOULET and John Joseph DUGAN were as follows:

**229. Lori Ann DUGAN**, born 17 February 1971 in Nashua, NH.

**230. Patrick John DUGAN**, born 12 November 1973 in Vernon, CT.

**231. Jeffrey DUGAN**, born September 1975 in Stafford Springs, CT. He married Amanda MICLETTE.

**232. Michael Joseph DUGAN**, born 29 March 1982 in Stafford Springs, CT.

**195. Suzanne Marie GOULET**, born in Woonsocket, RI. She married on 5 June 1971 in Assumption Church, Bellingham, MA, John Oscar NORMANDIN, born 26 September 1948 in Woonsocket, RI, son of Oscar NORMANDIN and Patricia GARRITY.

Children of Suzanne Marie GOULET and John Oscar NORMANDIN were as follows:

**233. Jason Eric NORMANDIN**, born 12 November 1971 in Bad Hersfeld, Germany.

**234. Kyle Brandon NORMANDIN**, born 14 January 1974 in Woonsocket, RI.

**235. Michaela Ann NORMANDIN**, born 29 July 1975 in Woonsocket, RI.



**201. Roger Arthur BARTHOLOMY**, born 25 December 1945 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 13 July 1968 in St. Anne, Woonsocket, RI, Sylvia Diane MONTVILLE, born 17 November 1945 in Pensacola, FL, daughter of Walter-Edgar MONTVILLE and Isabelle-Camille GAUTHIER.

*Notes for Roger Arthur BARTHOLOMY:* Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Children of Roger Arthur BARTHOLOMY and Sylvia Diane MONTVILLE were as follows:

**236. Michael William BARTHOLOMY**, born 23 November 1968 in, Woonsocket, RI. He married on 12 September 1992 in Mt. St. Rita, Cumberland, RI, Laurie Ann HENAULT, born 1 January 1970 in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Joseph Robert Albert HENAULT and Diane Marie BOURCIER.

**237. Gregory Roger BARTHOLOMY**, born 25 March 1973 in Woonsocket, RI. He married Susan ROBIDOUX.

**238. Elena Christina BARTHOLOMY**, born 6 November 1973 in Providence, RI. Elena and Daniel are biological siblings who joined the family through adoption in June 1979.

**239. Daniel Jayme BARTHOLOMY**, born 16 March 1975 in Providence, RI.

**240. Richard William CHAMPAGNE**, born 21 February 1967 in Woonsocket, RI. Rick joined the family in 1986 after the death of his mother, Lucille (RICHARD) CHAMPAGNE.

**202. Claire Marie BEAUDETTE**, born 24 September 1939 in Worcester, MA. She married on 19 April 1958 in Millbury, MA, Robert Dell BRIDDON, born 18 October 1937 in Millbury, MA, son of Dellus BRIDDON and Delia BRUNEAU.

Children of Claire Marie BEAUDETTE and Robert Dell BRIDDON were as follows:

**241. David Lorimer BRIDDON**, born 30 September 1959 in Worcester, MA. He married Monica Lynn RAGLAND.

**242. Linda Lee Ann BRIDDON**, born 17 April 1961 in Worcester, MA. She married Mark Glyndon HOPKINS.

**243. Christine Marie BRIDDON**, born 28 May 1962 in Worcester, MA. She married (1) John David FENLON; and (2) John Joseph CHESNA, Jr..

**244. Sandra Ann BRIDDON**, born 7 November 1965 in Worcester, MA.

**245. Gary Joseph BRIDDON**, born 22 November 1966 in Worcester, MA.

**203. Roger CHAPDELAINE**, born 30 September 1941 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 2 September 1967 in Immaculate Conception, Worcester, MA, Priscilla G. DEAN, born 1942, daughter of Roy E. DEAN and Julia; died 6 March 1995 in

San Juan, NM.

Children of Roger CHAPDELAINE and Priscilla G. DEAN were as follows:

246. Paul Edward CHAPDELAINE, born 12 June 1968 in Worcester, MA.

247. Keith Roger CHAPDELAINE, born 10 May 1973 in Worcester, MA.

204. Jane BIJEAU, born 18 December 1947 in Worcester, MA. She married (1) on 4 March 1972 in St. Peter, Worcester, MA, Gerald MAHONEY, born 3 February 1947 in Worcester, MA, son of John Thomas MAHONEY and Mary FAY. Second spouse \_\_\_\_? CARON.

Children of Jane BIJEAU and Gerald MAHONEY were as follows:

248. Erik Thomas MAHONEY, born 23 June 1973 in Worcester, MA.

205. Charles E. BIGGINS, Jr., born 7 January 1959 in Memphis, TN. He married on 22 December 1980 in Dallas, TX, Sheila ROBERTSON, born 25 March 1965 in Mesquite, TX.

*Notes for Charles E. BIGGINS, Jr.:* Charles and Sheila are residents of Terrell, Texas. Charles is a printer.

Children of Charles E. BIGGINS, Jr. and Sheila ROBERTSON were as follows:

250. Andrea Marie BIGGINS, born 25 March 1991 in Mesquite, TX.

251. Ashley Nicole BIGGINS, born 11 December 1993 in Mesquite, TX.

207. Michael G. NICHOLA, born 2 January 1956 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 14 February 1981 in Newport, RI, Janice Ruth LEVY, born 9 February 1956 in Chicago, IL, daughter of James LEVY and Ruth SODERSTROM.

Children of Michael G. NICHOLA and Janice Ruth LEVY were as follows:

252. Michael G. NICHOLA Jr., born 19 March 1985 in Providence, RI.

231. Jeffrey DUGAN, born September 1975 in Stafford Springs, CT. He married Amanda MICLETTE.

Children of Jeffrey DUGAN and Amanda MICLETTE were as follows:

253. Matthew DUGAN, born 18 October 1993.

254. Brianna DUGAN.

#### *Generation 7*

237. Gregory Roger BARTHOLOMY, born 25 March 1973 in Woonsocket, RI. He married on 27 May 1995 in St. Joseph, Woonsocket, RI, Susan ROBIDOUX,

born 6 April 1972 in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of Alfred POXON and Dorothy LAMOORE.

Children of Gregory Roger BARTHOLOMY and Susan ROBIDOUX were as follows:

**255. Corey John ROBIDOUX.**

**256. Michaela Kristen BARTHOLOMY**, born 21 June 1993 in Woonsocket, RI.

**257. Riley Gregory BARTHOLOMY**, born 3 February 1998 in Woonsocket, RI.

**241. David Lorimer BRIDDON**, born 30 September 1959 in Worcester, MA. He married on 2 April 1983 in Sarasota, FL, Monica Lynn RAGLAND, daughter of H. R. RAGLAND.

Children of David Lorimer BRIDDON and Monica Lynn RAGLAND were as follows:

**258. Nicole BRIDDON.**

**259. Jeremy BRIDDON.**

**260. Sondra BRIDDON.**

**242. Linda Lee Ann BRIDDON**, born 17 April 1961 in Worcester, MA. She married on 4 August 1984 in Millbury, MA, Mark Glyndon HOPKINS, born 23 April 1956 in Webster, MA, son of Philip Lynn HOPKINS and Matilda Rose VORMWALD.

*Notes for Mark Glyndon HOPKINS:* The Hopkins family resides in Millbury, MA.

Children of Linda Lee Ann BRIDDON and Mark Glyndon HOPKINS were as follows:

**261. Shannon Lee HOPKINS**, born 15 December 1984 in Worcester, MA.

**262. Amanda Lynn HOPKINS**, born 17 November 1986 in Worcester, MA.

**263. Benjamin Vianney HOPKINS**, born 26 May 1988 in Worcester, MA.

**264. Samantha Ann HOPKINS**, born 1 April 1990 in Worcester, MA.

**265. Eli Lorimer HOPKINS**, born 27 July 1992 in Worcester, MA.

**266. Audrey Rose HOPKINS**, born 21 September 1997 in Worcester, MA.

**243. Christine Marie BRIDDON**, born 28 May 1962 in Worcester, MA. She married (1) on 25 June 1983, John David FENLON. She married (2) on 6 July 1996 in Auburn, MA, John Joseph CHESNA, Jr., born 10 December 1955, son of John Joseph CHESNA, Sr. and Jeanne DAOUST.

*Notes for John Joseph CHESNA, Jr.:* The Chesna family resides in Auburn, MA.

Children of Christine Marie BRIDDON and John David FENLON were as follows:

- 267. **Jennifer Lynn FENLON**, born 6 April 1985 in Worcester, MA.
- 268. **Sarah Ann FENLON**, born 20 November 1986 in Worcester, MA.

Children of Christine Marie BRIDDON and John Joseph CHESNA, Jr. were as follows:

269. **Chelsea Marie CHESNA**, born 7 February 1998 in Worcester, MA.

244. **Sandra Ann BRIDDON**, born 7 November 1965 in Worcester, MA. Spouse unknown.

Children of Sandra Ann BRIDDON were as follows:

270. **Timothy Joseph BRIDDON**, born 15 June 1991 in Worcester, MA.

249. **Brian David CARON**, born 29 March 1967 in Worcester, MA. Spouse unknown.

Children of Brian David CARON were as follows:

- 271. **Richard CARON**, born July 1987.

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## Members' Corner

Seeking clarification on the parents of François-Michel (Marcel?) BERNIER, married to Marie-Françoise COUILLARD/DESPRES on 26 February 1816 in Notre-Dame de St. Hyacinthe. One source cites his parents as Jacques BERNIER and Elisabeth CARON; a second source names the mother as Geneviève DURAND.

Joan LEDUC-GOODING, #2010

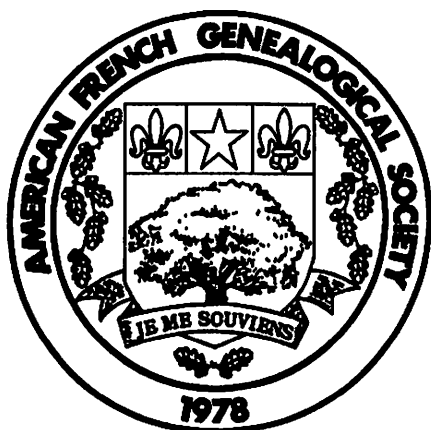
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Truth or Consequences, NM 87901-0004

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A man in his 80's was approached by a lady of the evening. She said, "I'll do anything for \$50." He invited her into his car and began to drive. When she asked him where it was he was planning to take her, he quickly replied, "I'm taking you home to paint my garage."



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# Crime and Seventeenth Century Women in New France

by: **Eugena Poulin, RSM, PhD**

*Editor's Note: Research for this article was funded by the Small Grants Committee of Salve Regina University.*

There is little doubt that the majority of the first settlers in New France, particularly women, were law abiding citizens. In fact, when reading the *Relations* of the Jesuits and the other chronicles of the period one is mightily impressed with the courage, work ethic and, dare we say, the virtue of the first female colonists who faced unimaginable danger, savage violence, and back-breaking work. However, the first inhabitants of French Canada were, after all, human with human foibles and weaknesses. Perhaps it was that very courage and spirit of adventure which led them to this new land that impelled some of these French founders of Canada into confrontation with society and the law. Some of their transgressions were serious indeed, while others might inspire the researcher to pity, and still other events might perhaps evoke a smile. In this study we selected and examined, not only the feminine infractions, which were comparatively few considering the number of years investigated, but also the crimes committed against women which were considerably more numerous.

It must be noted that because of

the lack of documentation and the minimal number of colonial women in the early part of the seventeenth century, this research concentrates on the last fifty years. The spectrum of crimes, by or against women, includes: murder, conspiracy to murder, thievery, prostitution, rape, assault, slander, transvestism, scandal, adultery, and insult. Sorcery was another criminal activity, but since the cases were few, especially when compared with the English colonies, they have been excluded.

Among the documents available for this study, the following cases were found and judged representative of the time, or were particularly interesting from a judicial, historical or social point of view.

## **MURDER AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES**

Violence perpetrated by the Indians on the colonists, and on women in particular, dates from the beginning of New France. One of the earliest recorded instance of individual violence involved Catherine MERCIER, wife of Jean BOUDART.<sup>1</sup> On 6 May 1651 seven or eight Iroquois attacked Jean BOUDART and Jean CHICOT, while they worked in the fields close to the BOUDART homestead. The two men,

having no means of defending themselves, took flight toward the BOUDART house. Fleeing for his life, BOUDART met his wife and desperately urged her to escape. Catherine, unable to run as quickly as her husband, fell prey to the Indians. Hearing her screeches of fear and pain her husband rushed to help her. He was quickly overcome by the attackers and beheaded on the spot. His wife, Catherine, wasn't as fortunate. She was captured and tortured for several days until her death.<sup>2</sup> Jean BOUDART's working companion, twenty-one year old Jean CHICOT, fought his way free but not without first being scalped. He was finally rescued from his hiding place under a tree. He survived another fourteen years.<sup>3</sup>

Another tragic story of Indian capture involved Marie CARON, wife of Jean PICARD, dit LEPICARD. Eight Hurons who had defected to the Iroquois tribe captured Marie and her four children on 4 June 1660 at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. History describes her as weeping and wailing at the possible fate of the children. After five or six days of captivity the group was rescued by colonists and Algonquin allies. Disastrously, during the rescue, friendly fire killed Marie and one of the children.<sup>4</sup> Louise, Marie's nine month old baby was left motherless.<sup>5</sup>

The name of Martine MESSIER occupies a prominent place in the feminine history of the early French colony. She was the grandmother of the celebrated LeMOYNE brothers, yet she gained renown earlier in life because of her own violent and near fatal adventure. On 29 July 1652 the forty-five year old Martine, wife of Antoine PRIMOT,

was outside the fort of Montréal and on her way to her garden, when she was attacked by three Iroquois. Having only her wits, her courage, and her determination to save her, she fought *comme une lionne* (like a lion) kicking, scratching, screaming and biting. Finally, she collapsed after several blows from the Indians' hatchets. Just as one of her assailants holding her by the hair was about to scalp her, she regained consciousness. More vigorously than before, she grabbed with both hands *l'endroit que la pudeur défend de nommer* (the place that modesty forbids us to mention) and twisted with Herculean strength. Her adversary screeched and writhed with pain. In his agony, he released his victim, but Martine continued her forceful grasp. Finally, after exerting the last of her energy, the valiant woman again lost consciousness. Meanwhile at the fort, the defenders, hearing the commotion, sped to the rescue. Seeing the armed Frenchmen, the Indians beat a hasty retreat leaving their victim lying insensible. As one of the rescuers bent over Martine, she suddenly regained consciousness, striking her rescuer vehemently. Everyone there was surprised at her quick, harsh, and unexpected reaction. Eventually, when she realized what had occurred she apologized to her savior, saying in her French patois, "*Parmanda, je croyais qu'il vouloit me baiser.*" (Par-don me, I thought he wanted to kiss me!). This saying and Martine Messier's assault on her rescuer became a humorous story to be repeated often. Although Martine had suffered many wounds at the hands of the Iroquois, there was a happy outcome. She recovered and lived another twenty years, dying at the age of sixty-five in 1672.<sup>6</sup>

Among the many unsolved crimes discovered in the seventeenth century documents, one concerns Françoise GARNIER.<sup>7</sup> In 1665 Françoise, wife of Noël LANGLOIS, died mysteriously. At first, her death was listed as accidental, but later the cause was judged to be murder. Since Françoise lingered a day in the Hôtel-Dieu in Québec, she was able, with her husband, to settle their community property for their eight surviving children. Why did she not shed some light on her assailant and the motive for the attack? At present, the available documents are silent, although some crime likely occurred.<sup>8</sup>

Women were not always the victims in the violent encounters in New France. Sometimes they were the perpetrators. Françoise DUVERGER, who accompanied the famous Jeanne MANCE to the New World, is an example.<sup>9</sup> Françoise married Simon GALBRUN in Montréal on 18 November 1659. The murdered body of GALBRUN was found in the Montréal public square May 20, 1660. One LALIBERTÉ, a soldier, had been sentenced to banishment for the accidental homicide. Françoise then married Jean BOUTIN, dit LÉVEILLÉ; however, in 1671 the authorities charged her with complicity in the death of her first husband, thirty-five year old Simon GALBRUN. Called before the Québec court to stand trial for murder, she continued to accuse LALIBERTÉ of the crime. After learning that she had been condemned to the scaffold, she feigned pregnancy. In response to this news, the judges had her examined by a surgeon, a doctor, and a mid-wife, all of whom repudiated her claim of pregnancy. All efforts at escaping punishment having

proved futile, Françoise DUVERGER was hanged. Her body was exposed in the public square as her final humiliation and as a fearsome deterrent to the populace. The murder and execution left her children, Jacques-Simon, age ten, Marie, age eight, and Catherine, age four, orphans.<sup>10</sup>

There were a few crimes that became family affairs; a case in point was the murder of Julien LaTOUCHE, a rather unsympathetic victim. Jacques BERTAULT and his wife, Gillette BAUNE,<sup>11</sup> were condemned to death for the murder of their son-in-law. Their thirteen year old daughter, Isabelle, (Elisabeth-Isabelle) was also convicted.

This story began in 1671 when Isabelle was twelve years old. She had been forced by her parents to marry the thirty year old LaTOUCHE.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately for the young girl, he proved to be a lazy husband who did not provide for his wife. In fact, BERTAULT frequently had to give the La TOUCHES the necessary provisions to survive. At times, the BERTAULTS brought their daughter home so she would have something to eat. In addition to all this, LaTOUCHE drank and beat his wife.

Things came to a head and the Bertaults plotted murder. When their plan to poison him failed, they killed their son-in-law by hitting him on the head with a hoe. Isabelle, although passive at the actual murder, helped her parents to discard the body by dragging it to the river.

Jacques and Gillette appealed their sentence of death, whereas their daugh-



ter did not. However, their appeal was refused. They were both condemned to the scaffold. Isabelle fared a great deal better. She was sentenced to make a public apology, pay a fine and assist at her parents' executions! In 1673 she remarried and became a widow for a second time in 1687. Four months after the death of her second husband she married a third time. From her last two marriages she had several children.<sup>13</sup>

Murder, rape, dissention and subterfuge engulfed nearly an entire isolated hamlet in 1679. The archives of Trois-Rivières recorded the murder and rape of Jeanne COUC<sup>14</sup> in St. François-du-Lac. The case was complicated because it involved many suspects and witnesses from this tiny village. The latter was composed of several married households and eight unmarried colonists. Jeanne COUC, the twenty year old daughter of Pierre COUC, dit Lafleur or *Fleur de Cognac*, age fifty-seven and his fifty year old Indian wife, Marie MÉTIOU-AMÉGOUGUE, was brutally raped, and consequently died. Her father, a soldier and an interpreter,<sup>15</sup> was also seriously injured as a result of a quarrel and fight ensuing the attack on his daughter. The exact details of this violent confrontation are unclear although numerous witnesses were present and called to testify.<sup>16</sup> Among those who appeared before the Council as witnesses were: Jean CREVIER, his servant, Pierre GILBERT dit LACHASSE, Jacques DUPUIS, dit LA GARENNE, Jacques JULIEN, Gabriel BENOIT, Noël LAURENCE, his son-in-law Jacques BRUNET, Pierre GAREAU, dit ST. ONGE, de Boucherville brother-in-law of Jean CREVIER, Martin FOISSY, Mathieu BRUNET, dit LESTANG, Jean

LEMAGNAN, dit LE JUAGE, his son-in-law Charles VANET, dit LE PARI-SIEN, and Marie GERVAIS, wife of Philippe ESTIENNE.<sup>17</sup>

Although the wealthy and influential CREVIER<sup>18</sup> was blamed by GILBERT with being the source of the intrigue, and was implicated with GILBERT, DUPUIS, and JULIEN in the murder of Jeanne and the assault on Pierre COUC, it was Jean RATTIER<sup>19</sup> who was ultimately charged with the murder of the young girl. The available documents leave many questions unanswered. After all the witnesses testified, RATTIER was the only one condemned to death, whereas JULIEN, CREVIER, GILBERT, DUPUIS and the others implicated were either freed or fined.

Jean RATTIER and his wife were to have other experiences with the law. Rattier had been a domestic when at age twenty he married Marie RIVIÈRE, age twenty-six and a *fille du roi*.<sup>20</sup> Probably because of his rapidly growing family, RATTIER leased land in St. François-du-Lac. This transaction occurred between Laurent PHILIPPE, dit LAFONTAINE, and Jean RATTIER. Lafontaine had originally leased the land from Jean CREVIER. Rattier, the condemned murderer, escaped his death sentence, however, since there was no High Executioner. Because the inhabitants loathed the executioner and, in addition, the position required such repugnant tasks, it was difficult to fill the post. The condemned, RATTIER, was offered a choice between languishing in jail until a High Executioner could be found and then be put to death or he himself could become the High

Executioner. It is not surprising that RATTIER selected the latter option!

In order to carry out his gruesome chore, he moved his family, his wife, Marie RIVIÈRE, his children Marie-Marguerite, age nine, Jean-Baptiste, age eight, and Marie-Charlotte, age four to Québec. Another son, Pierre-Jean, was born on 9 July 1680. The family was given a house on the Grande-Allée outside the center of the city. In addition to serving as executioner, RATTIER was required to pay a fine of one hundred *livres*<sup>21</sup> to the King, and three hundred *livres* to the victim's father, Pierre COUC. In a rather bizarre twist, the court forbade Pierre COUC from confronting RATTIER about the murder of his daughter, Jeanne.

Life was not peaceful for this executioner and his family. RATTIER and his wife, Marie were tormented by the inhabitants who took pleasure in gathering around their home, insulting him, his wife and their daughter. As a result of Jean RATTIER's court appeal for relief from public disgrace, the Sovereign Council of New France, declared by town crier and posters that no one was to approach the RATTIER house, nor to insult him, his wife or his children under pain of corporal punishment.

RATTIER appears again in the archives in another unusual set of circumstances. On 5 July 1695, his wife, Marie RIVIÈRE, age thirty-five, and his daughter, Marie-Charlotte, age eighteen, were accused of stealing some pots from the widows GOUDREAU, BEAULIEU and PELLERIN-SAINT AMANT and attempting to sell them to passers-by. Unhappily for the two RATTIER

women, the Widow BEAULIEU's daughter recognized the pots and reported the theft to the authorities. The two were arrested and convicted. Marie was condemned to flogging and Marie-Charlotte was to be confined in the *Hôtel-Dieu* for fifteen days. They appealed the conviction. Marie RIVIÈRE defended herself saying that she and her daughter received the goods from René ARNAULT, dit LASALLE, a soldier from the Maupeou Company who had given her the goods to sell for him. She testified that she was unaware they were stolen.

Apparently, the court doubted the innocence of the two defendants. Marie and her daughter were convicted of selling stolen property. By reason of her youth, Marie-Charlotte received only a reprimand. Marie, however, was condemned to the *mis au carcan* (an iron collar with a chain attached) and to wear a sign on her stomach reading *receleuse* (receiver of stolen goods). Since RATTIER was the executioner, he was obliged to place his wife in the humiliating position of public ridicule. The court even specified that she was to be displayed between eight o'clock and nine o'clock in the morning on a market day so that the greatest number of people would be able to view her shame. The public thought it appropriate to spit, throw eggs and rotten produce at the culprit all the while heaping verbal insults on the convicted criminal.<sup>22</sup> One can imagine the glee and comments of the crowd as they observed the unpopular executioner as he placed the iron collar around his wife's neck and while he was forced to witness her humiliation.<sup>23</sup>

Seventeenth century Canada had its share of dramas and mysteries. The execution of Marie QUEQUEJEU, *fille du roi*, remains suspicious. Both she and her son-in-law, Jean DORET, a *coureur de bois*, (fur trapper) were executed on 14 May 1684. She was the widow of Pierre RIVALT who had died on 5 September 1681. The reason for Marie QUEQUEJEU's condemnation is not stated in the registers of the Sovereign Council nor in those of the *Prévôté*. It seems likely that a serious offense had been committed, probably murder or attempted murder. According to Dumas<sup>24</sup> the archives are inconclusive on this matter.

### RAPE

Indian attacks did not all occur in the fields or woods. Reportedly in a state of drunkenness, Robert HACHE, an Indian living near Québec, attempted to rape Marthe HUBERT, wife of LA-FONTAINE, in February 1664. She vigorously resisted his attentions; however, Hache was successful. He was subsequently arrested, but escaped from prison. Finally captured and brought to trial, a problem evolved. Because the defendant was an Indian, the court was reluctant to apply French law and punishment for fear of angering the neighboring tribes. The Judicial Council summoned the chiefs to explain the circumstances. The upshot of the deliberations was a law whereby Indians would be held to the same standards and liable to the same punishments as Frenchmen and this law would be promulgated by the chiefs to their tribes. Nevertheless, since Robert HACHE still declared his innocence, he was not condemned to death. He was sentenced to pay a fine in favor

of the victim.<sup>25</sup>

In 1667 Jean RATTÉ was convicted of raping eleven year old Anne POULET. The court completely disregarded the fact that the girl's mother had agreed in writing to the marriage of RATTÉ and her daughter. He was condemned to death and fined two hundred *livres* toward her dowry.<sup>26</sup>

Clearly justice was indeed blind because the following year Pierre PINELLE<sup>27</sup> was accused and convicted of raping two ten year old girls, Geneviève HAYOT and Ursule TRUT. He escaped the death penalty. His head was shaved, he was publicly beaten, and condemned to the galleys for nine years. In addition, he was ordered to pay thirty *livres*, ten *livres* for the Hospital and twenty for the two victims.

In another judicial quirk, Antoine GABOURY, convicted of the attempted rape of Jeanne HÉBERT, daughter of François, was condemned to be shaved, beaten and sent to the galleys for nine years. The court assessed his fine at five hundred *livres*. One half of the fine was to be used for the education of the victim with the Ursulines and the remainder of the fine for the Hospital.<sup>28</sup> Ostensibly, the court judged the attempted rape of one victim more serious than the actual rape of two young girls. Likely, the cases depended solely on the credibility of the witnesses and the defendants.

Society considered some crimes so heinous that the death penalty appeared insufficient. In 1669, the court found Jacques NOURRY guilty of raping four and a half year old Marie

LEROY. The latter was the daughter of Nicolas and of Jeanne LIÈVRE. NOURRY was hanged, his body mutilated, decapitated and his head displayed on a post. The fine added to his punishment amounted to three hundred *livres* to be awarded to the victim.<sup>29</sup>

Also in 1669, the court convicted Jean BOURGEOIS of rape and of infecting with venereal disease six or seven year old Jeanne JACQUEREAU, daughter of Jacques and of Catherine DIOT. The barber/surgeon examined the victim and testified that he noticed no sign of violence nor of the disease. The authorities reduced the defendant's sentence from death to public acknowledgement of his crime, flogging, branding of his right cheek with the *fleur de lys*, permanent exile from the colony and a fine of ninety-five *livres*. The victim would receive seventy-five *livres* and the poor, twenty *livres*. What is strange about this verdict is that Jean BOURGEOIS had appeared before the Council in 1663 requesting to be released from field work for his master, M. LaTOUR. The defendant had one arm *estropié* (maimed).<sup>30</sup> The disability of the defendant and the testimony of the witness calls into question the validity of the rape charge and conviction. Seemingly, when the court had doubts it reduced the punishment. There were acquittals, but very few.

The law condemned Jean GONGNARD in 1671 to torture, shaving, flogging and the galleys for life for the rape of Marie-Gloria, wife of Jean TOUPIN. Gongnard's fine of twenty *livres* was divided: half for the poor and the other half for the hospital. It is interesting to note that in this instance the

victim received no monetary award.<sup>31</sup>

Also in 1671, Philippe POITIER, dit LAFONTAINE, was accused of attempting to rape three young girls. Marie ROY, seven years old and her eleven year old sister, Jeanne, daughters of Jean ROY of Lachine and thirteen year old Catherine GAUDIN, daughter of Pierre GAUDIN, dit CHASTILLON. GAUDIN told the court that the girls were watching over the sheep when the rapist made his move. The girls shouted and fought back, thus preventing the rape. POITIER was commanded to acknowledge his transgression before the court and the parents of the victims, he was banished from the city of Montréal for seven years and obliged to pay a fine of fifty *livres* to each victim.

One of the better known seventeenth century names in the French colonies was Pierre LEMOYNE d'Iberville, the future hero and explorer. A scandal erupted which involved LEMOYNE in 1686. The *femme fatale* in this event was Jeanne-Geneviève PICOTÉ de Belestre. On May 10th of that year, LEMOYNE, twenty-four, was accused of seducing and raping nineteen year old Jeanne-Geneviève. She was an orphan and under the supervision of her sisters. Her sister Françoise's husband, Jacques DE MALLERAY, marshaled his judicial forces to compel LEMOYNE to marry his sister-in-law, claiming that the marriage promise had been made by him. Rejected by her sisters, Jeanne-Geneviève took refuge with Pierre DEVANCHY and repeated her accusations against LEMOYNE. She declared that she would never care for the child she was carrying. In fact, she

further stated, she would rather die than nurse this child. While this court case was stirring the colony, LeMoyne was exploring uncharted land by order of Governor Brisay de Denonville. The accusations against LEMOYNE were being answered by his lawyer, Denis RIVERIN. Finally, the Council wishing to settle the case, forbade LEMOYNE from leaving New France, but again the Governor conveniently informed the defendant that he must return to France to give an account of his explorations to the King. Louis-Martin TARD in his book *Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, Le Conquérant des Mers* claims that besides family friendship, DENONVILLE had ulterior motives for keeping LEMOYNE at a distance. LEMOYNE, TARD contends, had an eye for the ladies, including DENONVILLE's young wife.<sup>32</sup> After spending the winter of 1688 in France, LEMOYNE returned to Québec on 14 June 1689. The Council authorized his arrest before his planned trip to the North Bay. Questioned on 18 June, he attempted to discredit Jeanne-Geneviève claiming her a person of bad conduct. At this point, Governor DENONVILLE interceded once more on behalf of LEMOYNE, ordering the explorer to Hudson Bay. Despite his absence, the court, on 22 October 1689, declared him guilty of seduction. The punishment imposed, after more than two years of litigation, decreed that the defendant must assume financial responsibility for the child, born to Mlle. de Picoté de Belestre at the *Hôtel-Dieu* on 21 June 1686, until the child attained the age of fifteen. Her mother, who had named the child Jeanne-Geneviève, was granted liberal visitation rights.

The epilogue to this famous trial is that Pierre LEMOYNE d'Iberville, age thirty-two, married seventeen year old Marie-Thérèse POLLET on 8 October 1693. What became of the so-called victim, Jeanne-Geneviève PICOTÉ de Belestre? Six days prior to the LEMOYNE wedding her brothers-in-law, probably wishing to avoid added scandal, placed Jeanne-Geneviève, age twenty-six, in the custody of the nuns as a boarder at the *Hôtel-Dieu* in Montréal. She died there at age fifty-four in October of 1721. Apparently, her family had totally forgotten her because no family names appear on the death record.<sup>33</sup> The fate of the illegitimate child, Jeanne-Geneviève, is unknown.

### ABUSE

The records prove married women had little protection from abusive husbands during this period in history. The sad story of *fille du roi* Marie RENOUARD, age nineteen, began with her first marriage on 22 September 1665 to Nicolas DURAND. After allegedly suffering eight and a half years of abuse, Marie RENOUARD appealed to the court for a legal separation from her husband; however, the court was less than sympathetic, a rather common situation at that time. Even though the culprit admitted to beating his wife, the two were advised to conduct themselves in a more peaceable manner. Two months later, on 8 June 1674, her husband, Nicolas DURAND, accused his wife of disorderly conduct. Her crime was seeking refuge and sleeping in a neighbor's home. The neighbors were Madeleine PAPIN, age twenty-five, also a *fille du roi*, and her husband, Jacques

CHACHELIÈVRE. The court rendered the verdict that no colonial family was to harbor the defendant, Marie RENOUARD. However, Marie had most likely been able to convince her neighbors to take her in because on 4 July 1674, the CHACHELIÈVRE/PAPIN household was specifically warned not to give refuge to the wayward wife. The couple must have obeyed the court's injunction because Marie RENOUARD's name appeared only once more in the court documents. On 21 June 1689 she and her husband were accused of selling alcohol without permission in Beauport. She defended herself by claiming to have obtained a license which had been destroyed in a house fire. She was fined ten *livres*.<sup>34</sup>

### THIEVERY and SCANDAL

One woman who seemed to have escaped the hand of justice was Marguerite LE BOEUF, wife of Gabriel LEMIEUX. Marguerite appeared before the Sovereign Council in 1667. She was accused of running a house of ill-repute. Something bizarre ensued for this period in time; she pleaded guilty. Before her punishment could be meted out — the offense usually involved banishment — she requested a three year delay so she could satisfy her creditors. The court obviously acquiesced because she remained in the city and her creditors were periodically called before the court for an update on the situation.<sup>35</sup> How she was supposed to earn the money required to liquidate her debts is left up to speculation! Her case came to a close six years after her guilty plea when she died in 1673.

Some women in the French colo-

ny had a rather extensive list of offenses against society. A case in point was Catherine GICHELIN, a *filles du roi*, and wife of Nicolas BUTEAU.<sup>36</sup> Nicolas and Catherine wed in 1669 when she was twelve. They had a child born in February of 1673. BUTEAU was frequently absent from home. In 1675 the court accused the eighteen year old Catherine of scandalous living. The judges banished her from Québec city and its outskirts until the return of her husband. What was a bit unusual at this time and in this situation was that her clients, Jacques MICHELON and Jean AUMIER, were also charged and each fined ten *livres*. In 1677 Catherine gave birth to a son, Pierre, whose paternity was unknown. Another son, Jean-François was born two years later. The father was listed as François TURBOT. This child was baptized in the chapel at Dombourg on 13 June 1679. A baby girl, Marie-Agatha, of an unknown father was baptized on 19 September 1687 at Point-aux-Trembles.<sup>37</sup>

Banished from Québec for the same scandal with Catherine GICHELIN in 1675 was Catherine BASSET, age twenty-four. This woman, also a *filles du roi*, married Pierre BOURGOIN, dit le BOUGUIGNON. She arrived as a Huguenot, but the day before her marriage on 17 October 1667 she abjured the Protestant faith and embraced Catholicism.<sup>38</sup>

Anne BAUGÉ was another *filles du roi*. She appeared before the Sovereign Council several times. She married Guillaume CORRUBLE, a sailor, on 2 October 1673. Three years later she was banished from Québec and its surrounding area. What were her of-

fenses? The plural must be used in describing her crimes according to the court.

The Council appointed DUPONT in 1675 as a special prosecutor to deal with crimes of bad conduct and scandalous living. Soon thereafter, very offensive and, some say, scandalous posters began to appear throughout the city. Anne BAUGÉ was charged with scandalous living, sleeping every night with Jacques DE FAY while her sailor husband was away, and in addition, she was held responsible for some of the offending placards. Indeed, the Council found her behavior so reprehensible and impudent that she was imprisoned. However, the undaunted Anne was secretly released by the Lieutenant General, Louis-Théandre CHARTIER de Lotbinière. The judicial sessions were in disarray because of the disputed authority of Dupont which was probably the political reason BAUGÉ was released. After her surreptitious release the court officers could not find her.

Three months later she was captured when the court officials, employing a locksmith, broke into the house where DE FAY and Jean JOURNET were concealing her. All three were arrested and the two males were fined for rebellion, DE FAY one hundred *livres* and JOURNET fifty *livres*. Anne, of course, was given the severest sentence, three years banishment from the city and the surrounding three leagues.<sup>39</sup>

Madame Anne BAUGÉ-CORRUBLE, if nothing, was consistent. She was again in the Québec prison two years later, perhaps for violating her banishment or otherwise infuriating the au-

thorities by her capricious conduct. At this juncture, her usually absent husband came to her aid begging the Council to release her so he could take her to France to escape the scandals in which she was embroiled. The Council acceded, happy no doubt, to be rid of such a troublesome woman. Added to their desire to see the last of her, they had also learned from the jailer's wife, Madame GENAPLE, that Anne was three or four months pregnant. Did she and her husband, Guillaume CORRUBLE, actually go to France? We do know that something attracted her to New France because in less than two years she was back in prison in Québec. This time she proclaimed she was being mistreated by a prison worker (probably a jailer). Her very active and colorful life may have contributed to her early death which occurred before 1681. This would have made her less than twenty-seven years old.<sup>40</sup>

### SLANDER

The French in the New World appeared to be extremely sensitive to the besmirching of their reputations. Numerous cases are recorded of citizens brought before the court to answer to the accusation of slander. The following cases have particularly interesting aspects.

Some situations presented to the colonial judges appeared petty. On 3 July 1679 Marie BREVAL, wife of Pierre LOUISNEAUX, and Françoise BOURGEOIS, daughter of Antoine and of Marie PIEDMONT and the wife of VINAUX, dit LAVERDURE, stood before the court. Françoise was accused of striking Marie. The defendant

claimed that the plaintiff called her "*une putain*" (dissolute woman). The court rendered the following verdict against the defendant: BOURGEOIS must pay the medical expenses incurred by the plaintiff as a result of the attack. Both women were forbidden to "*se médire*" (slander each other) and the husbands were banned from continuing the feud.<sup>41</sup>

The case of Anne TAVERNIER, another *fille du roi*, is probably exceptional because she made several appearances before the court. Anne, age twenty-five, married Robert MOISSON, dit LAMOUCHE on 15 May 1666 in Québec. On 22 July 1669 she accused René RÉAUME of slandering her reputation. The court declared that the defendant must not only publicly apologize on his knees in the halls of justice, but he must acknowledge Anne TAVERNIER as a truly honorable woman. Furthermore, his punishment included a fine of three *livres* for the benefit of the hospital. He was also liable for the court costs. Five years later, TAVERNIER, now thirty-three, became the defendant, charged with making false statements. The plaintiff, Charles MARQUIS, testified that Anne had slandered his good name. This time it was Anne who had to apologize. The situation with the MARQUIS family worsened. In June 1675, Charles and his wife Marguerite BAUGRAN, brought suit against TAVERNIER. At this hearing, Anne was accused of spreading malicious lies about Madame Marquis. Anne declared her innocence, yet she had not learned her lesson. In June 1680, François SAINT-MICHEL, a soldier from the garrison, denounced Anne for slander. Apparently, she could not curb her loose tongue. The tribunal demanded that she

prove her statements that SAINT-MICHEL had stolen a chicken and had conducted a house of ill-repute. In eleven years she was implicated in four law suits; however, it appears that this incident was Anne TAVERNIER's last legal venture.<sup>42</sup>

At times it was more than one family member who was brought before the court. On 11 March 1669, Madeleine and Claude DESCHAETS, both *filles du roi*, were defendants. The sisters were charged with defaming the character of Françoise LECLERC, wife of Michel RIFFAUT. Both women's ages were recorded as eighteen, perhaps they were twins. In any case, they both married on 3 September 1669. Claude married Siméon ROY, dit AUDY. Madeleine became the wife of Jean GIROU. The DESCHAETS were found guilty of falsely stating that Françoise LECLERC had killed her child on the voyage to Québec. They called her "*putain*." For their punishment they were required to publicly apologize to the victim and pay a fine. Madeleine later faced charges of scandalous living and was linked with the infamous Anne BAUGÉ.<sup>43</sup>

### MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES

Bigamy may have occurred more often than the records indicate. The thousands of miles separating France from its new colony and the two or three months necessary for boat passage certainly hampered communications. However, the documents do reveal some instances of bigamy. As early as 1651 MAISONNEUVE, founder of Montréal, condemned Michel CHAUVIN, dit SAINTE-SUZANNE, for this crime.



Chauvin, although married in France, also married Anne ARCHAMBAULT in Montréal in 1647. His offense exposed, he admitted his guilt and MAISON-NEUVE imposed a fine of fifteen hundred *livres* in favor of Anne ARCHAMBAULT, his victim.<sup>44</sup> It would be interesting to note if he actually paid the total fine. This was a considerable sum of money.

It is often said that, truth is stranger than fiction. This adage is borne out in the following case. This detailed adventure in bigamy concerned Pierre PICHER. This Frenchman arrived in Canada in 1662. Receiving a letter from his father<sup>45</sup> that his wife, Marie LEFEBVRE, had died in France, Pierre PICHER married seventeen year old Catherine DURAND, a *filles du roi*, in Canada in 1665. This couple had three children: Jean-Baptiste, Adrien, and Marie-Madeleine. Six years after his Canadian marriage, Picher learned from a newly arrived colonist that indeed his first wife was still alive. Concerned about this state of affairs, Picher sought advice from Bishop LAVAL who was preparing for a voyage to France. The latter assured PICHER that he would verify his marital status during his stay in France. Upon his return, he confirmed that Marie LEFEBVRE was in reality alive. PICHER left Canada to return to France and his first wife. Documents detailing the circumstances and actions of Catherine DURAND, left with three small children during these months, are unavailable. PICHER and his first wife booked passage on the ship, *La Nouvelle France*, commanded by Captain POULLET. As a strange twist in fate would have it, Marie LEFEBVRE died on the trip to Québec. Pierre PICHER, now

free, resumed his life with his second wife and family.<sup>46</sup> One can only theorize about the relationship between the two wives if the first wife had not died.

The Québec archives have documented a somewhat complicated story of disguise and subterfuge. In 1669 the military planned an expeditionary force to fight the Iroquois. To obtain sufficient personnel, the military drafted young colonial men. Among them Joseph GAULIN. His lover, Anne EMOND, age sixteen, hatched a bizarre plan to foil the expedition so her loved one, GAULIN, and her brother would not leave the vicinity. Using her brother's clothes, she impersonated a man and left the Ile d'Orleans heading for Québec. While on her travels she began her campaign of misinformation. She was, Anne explained, a recently escaped prisoner from Boston where she had been held for three years. While on passage from Rivière du Loup, she asserted she had seen three English ships. Furthermore, she declared that thirty more ships were scheduled to leave Boston for Québec. She evidently thought that this account would require the military to remain in the area to protect the French lands against the English. Disembarking at Québec, she retold her fantastic story; however, the improbability of the details added to her disguise aroused immediate suspicion. Her Mata Hariesque exploits discovered, the Council condemned her to be marched to all the principal spots in Québec city and there to be beaten by the High Executioner. Moreover, the court summoned her parents from the Ile d'Orleans to take custody of their wayward and imprisoned child. The authorities admonished them to super-

vise her more zealously. Finally, the tribunal imposed a fine of twenty-five *livres* for the King and the sale of the men's clothes worn by the imposter, the money realized from the latter to be given to the poor.<sup>47</sup>

On a lighter note, in 1675 Jacques FOURNIER was engaged in a civil suit against the Jesuit priests in Québec. His wife, Hélène DUVIVIER, wishing no doubt to influence the outcome in her husband's favor wrote a witty petition in verse and prose to Governor FRONTENAC. He, a gallant gentleman, wishing to enter into the humor of her petition, replied in the same vein. Unhappily and embarrassingly for him, Madame FOURNIER included his reply, meant only in jest, to the Judiciary as an official document. Frontenac was not amused; deceived and furious, he had her fined ten *livres* for irreverence towards the court.<sup>48</sup>

In concluding this inquiry into diverse criminal activities by or against women in seventeenth century New France, a few basic observations seem appropriate. First, it is important to recognize that French law at this time, considered the defendant guilty until proven innocent. Second, most of those accused had scant means at their disposal to vindicate themselves. Moreover, the defendants were not allowed to be present during the testimony of witnesses. Not surprisingly, there were only occasional acquittals. The majority of those accused suffered some punishment. It can realistically be presumed that some of the defendants were innocent or were involved in mitigating circumstances which might have affected the outcome of their cases.

Women basically endured the same punishment for murder as men, although some slight modifications were made to protect social delicacy in displaying the feminine body. The general punishments imposed on female criminals for non-capital crimes were banishment, flogging, branding, public humiliation, or fines. Wives had little protection before the law against abusive, cheating, and absent husbands. Wives were expected to be subservient to their husbands who were recognized as the legal heads of families. Men could absent themselves from their families for months or even years, but women faced criminal charges if they left their homes without the permission of their husbands. Women could be accused of adultery, but men were seldom charged. These situations were not peculiar to New France, many countries of Europe espoused these laws and customs.

The law in New France was harsh. In many instances it seemed inconsistent, both for men and women, and it exhibited an apparent bias toward the rich or well connected. Rich landowners and famous persons rarely suffered the dire consequences of the poor. Despite these flaws in the administration of the judicial system, the French colonial court bequeathed to posterity remarkable accounts of its proceedings. Today, historians and genealogists are continually culling these documents to provide new insights into the lives and times of our ancestors.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>JETTÉ, René. *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles du Québec des*

*Origines à 1730*. Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, p. 142.

<sup>2</sup>JETTÉ, p. 142. Jean BOUDART and Catherine MERCIER had no surviving children. Their two year old son, Julien, died in 1645 and their daughter, Marie died in 1649 two days after her birth.

<sup>3</sup>MOQUIN, Yves éd., *Nos Racines*. Québec: Les Editions Transmo Inc., 1979, p. 153. Jetté p. 250. This source lists CHICOT as dying the day of the attack.

<sup>4</sup>MOQUIN, p. 141.

<sup>5</sup>JETTÉ, p. 911. Jean PICARD married Marie-Madeleine GAGNON on 18 November 1663. Louise, age 14, sole surviving child of Marie CARON, married Louis GAGNÉ in 1673.

<sup>6</sup>*Dictionnaire Biographique du Canada*, Vol. I. Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1966, pp518-519. THWAITES, Reuben Gold, *The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents*. Vol I. Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers, 1898. P. 266. CATELA DE BORDES, Eliane éd., *Le Mémorial du Québec*, Tome 1. Montréal: Société des Editions du Mémorial, 1980, pp. 211-212.

<sup>7</sup>Other possible spellings: GARNIER, GRAINER, GRENIER.

<sup>8</sup>MOQUIN, p. 121. Noël LANGLOIS married Marie CREVET nine months after the death of his first wife, Françoise GARNIER. LANGLOIS had been the witness at the first marriage ceremony of Marie CREVET. Noël LANGLOIS JR. eventually married

Aymée CARON, daughter of Marie CREVET and her first husband.

<sup>9</sup>Jeanne MANCE was founder of L'Hôtel-Dieu in Montréal. She originally arrived in Québec in 1641. She made subsequent voyages to and from Québec. It was in 1659 that DUVERGER accompanied her.

<sup>10</sup>BOYER, Raymond, *Les Crimes et les Châtiments au Canada Français du XVII<sup>e</sup> au XX<sup>e</sup> Siècle*. Montréal: Le Cercle du Livre de France, 1966. p. 127.

<sup>11</sup>Alternate spellings: BERTAUD, BERTAUT, BERTEAU; BEAUNE, BANNE.

<sup>12</sup>JETTÉ, p. 660. LaTouche belonged to the Company of Grandfontaine, Carignan Regiment. This text records the cause of death as poisoning.

<sup>13</sup>A more detailed account of the murder and the subsequent trial can be found in *Je Me Souviens*, Winter 1985.

<sup>14</sup>Alternate spellings: COUP, COUQUE, COQUE.

<sup>15</sup>JETTÉ, p. 278.

<sup>16</sup>DUPONT, Micheline, JEAN, Michèle, LAVOIE, Marie, and STODDART, Jennifer, *L'Histoire des Femmes au Québec*. Montréal: Le Jour Editeur, 1992, p. 36. CHARLAND, Thomas, *Histoire de Saint-François-du-Lac*. Ottawa: Collège Dominicain, 1942, pp. 29-32. SULTE, Benjamin, *Saint-François-du-Lac*. Montréal: Imprimerie de l'Eten-dard, 1886, pp. 23-30.

<sup>17</sup>JETTÉ, p. 497. GILBERT, a domestic, married Michelle LEDILLER on 9 September 1685.

JETTÉ, p. 398. DUPUIS, also a domestic, married Marie-Madeleine PRÉVOST in Trois-Rivières on 4 February 1687.

JETTÉ, p. 614. Julien, Jean CREVIER's domestic, married Anne LABRECQUE on 12 August 1685. Julien was killed by the Iroquois in 1689.

JETTÉ, p. 8. BENOIT, dit LAFLEUR, married Marie-Anne GUÉDON on 26 October 1665.

JETTÉ, p. 661. LAURENCE was a soldier in the La Fouille Company of the Carignan Regiment. Laurence's first wife was Marie LIMOGES. She died in Trois-Rivières. Laurence married Elisabeth-Isabelle BERTAULT, widow of Julien LA TOUCHE. The latter had been murdered by her parents, a crime in which she was also implicated.

JETTÉ, p. 463. Pierre GAREAU married Barbe MONTREAU on 13 November 1684.

<sup>18</sup>Jean CREVIER was the possessor of a royal land grant.

<sup>19</sup>Sometimes spelled: RATIER, RADIER.

<sup>20</sup>The term *fille du roi* was used to indicate those women who had been subsidized by the French Crown to travel to Canada and marry the inhabitants. The King financed their passage, dowry, and maintenance until marriage.

<sup>21</sup> *La livre* was a unit of currency sometimes called *chelin*. There were twenty *sols* to a *livre*. A *sol* equaled twelve *deniers*. Modern day equivalents would be difficult to assign because of the

fluctuation in money values and standards of living.

<sup>22</sup>LACHANCE, André. *Le Bourreau au Canada sous le Régime Français*. Québec: La Société Historique de Québec, 1966, pp. 63-66.

<sup>23</sup>As an epilogue, Marie-Charlotte married Daniel BOIT, originally from Bordeaux. Marie-Marguerite, age fifteen, married Gabriel MONT VILLAIN, dit DOUBLETERIE, a soldier from the Company Rompré on February 24, 1688.

<sup>24</sup>DUMAS, Silvio, *Les Filles du Roi en Nouvelle-France*. Québec: La Société Historique de Québec, 1972, pp. 318-319.

<sup>25</sup>MOQUIN, p. 309.

<sup>26</sup>BOYER, p. 340.

<sup>27</sup>JETTÉ, p. 921. Pinelle was the husband of Charlotte FOUGERAT.

<sup>28</sup>BOYER, p. 341.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid.

<sup>32</sup>TARD, Louis-Martin, *Pierre Le Moyné d'Iberville Le Conquérant des Mers*. Montréal: XYZ Editeurs, 1995, p. 84.

<sup>33</sup>BOYER, pp. 345-346.

<sup>34</sup>DUMAS, p. 324.

<sup>35</sup>BOYER, p. 349.

<sup>36</sup>Alternate spellings: GUISCHELIN, GUYSELIN.

<sup>37</sup>DUMAS, pp. 246-248; BOYER, p. 200.

<sup>38</sup>DUMAS, p. 178.

<sup>39</sup>A league was roughly considered three miles. The exact measurement changed with time and place.

<sup>40</sup>ROY, Pierre-Georges, éd. *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*. Beauceville, Qué.: L'Eclaireur, 1925, pp. 407-408; DUMAS, p. 178; BOYER, p. 200.

<sup>41</sup>DUMAS, p. 193.

<sup>42</sup>DUMAS, pp. 337-338.

<sup>43</sup>DUMAS, pp. 225-226.

<sup>44</sup>BOYER, pp.318-319.

<sup>45</sup>DUMAS claims it was PICHER's father; whereas, BOYER states it was his brother.

<sup>46</sup>BOYER, p. 319; DUMAS, pp. 235-236.

<sup>47</sup>BOYER, pp.355-356.

<sup>48</sup>BOYER, p. 400.

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- The average business never hears from 96 percent of its unhappy customers?
- For every complaint received a business will have 26 others that are unreported, six of which are "serious"?
- Those "non-complaining" customers do complain to 9 or 10 other people?
- Complainers are more likely to do business with a company again, even if the complaint is not resolved to their satisfaction?
- Customers whose complaints are effectively resolved will tell an average of five other people?

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# Guillaume Leclerc and Marie-Thérèse Hunault — Pioneers of the Ile-Jésus and Lachenaie

Translated by: Lorelei Maison Rockwell

*Editor's Note: The following article was originally published in the Mémoires de la Société Généalogique Canadienne-Française, Spring 1995. This translation by Ms. Rockwell is published here with the kind permission of Jean Leclair, the original author, and the SCGF. The AFGS is grateful to M. Leclair, the SCGF, and Ms. Rockwell for allowing us to present this important material to our readers.*

**Guillaume LECLERC** was born at St.-Maclou, diocese of Rouen, in Normandy on 12 March 1645. He was buried at St. François-de-Sales, Ile-Jésus, 12 November 1723, at the age of 78. He was married at Montréal on 24 November 1676 to:

**Marie-Thérèse HUNAUT**, born at Montréal, 12 February 1663 and buried at Lachenaie on 17 August 1689, age 26.

## Children:

1 – Marie-Madeleine, born at Lachenaie and buried at Pointe-aux-Trembles de Montréal on 13 March 1678. Godfather was Pierre PERROTIN; the godmother's name was not recorded. First marriage, on 2 May 1697 at Pointe-aux-Trembles de Montréal, to Louis CODERRE dit Aymeric EMERY (Antoine & Marie DEVAUX; second mar-

riage on 16 February 1705 at Contrecoeur to Jean COITEUX dit Mathieu ST.-JEAN<sup>1</sup> (Jean & Anne DuTETRE). She died on 20 April 1708 at the age of 29 and was buried at Contrecoeur on the following day.

2 – François was unmarried. He died at age 24 on 2 May 1703 and was buried the following day at St. François-de-Sales de l'Ile-Jésus.

3 – Jean-Baptiste was born at Lachenaie on 26 March, and baptized on 28 March 1681 at Repentigny. His godfather was Jean-Baptiste GUILBERT, and his godmother was Marguerite FORGET. He was married at St. François-de-Sales, Ile-Jésus on 23 November 1705 to Marguerite BEAUCHAMP (Jean & Jeanne LOISEL). Jean-Baptiste was buried in the church at Lachenaie on 16 April 1775 at the age of 94.

4 – Françoise-Angelique was born at Repentigny on 11 October 1682 and baptized at Montréal the same day. Her godfather was Jacques FORGET, and her godmother was Françoise HUNAUT, the child's maternal aunt. She was married at Montréal on 29 June 1699 to Pierre BEAUCHAMP (Jean & Jeanne LOISEL). She died on 12 August 1747 at the age of 65 and was buried at Lachenaie on the 14th.<sup>2</sup>

5 – Marie-Thérèse was born on 9 March, and baptized on 11 March 1684 at Repentigny. Her godparents were André HUNAULT, a maternal uncle, and Marie BRODEUR. She was married at St. François-de-Sales, Ile-Jésus on 14 February 1702 to Toussaint MARSTA (Mathurin & Antoinette ELOY).<sup>3</sup>

6 – Marie-Anne was married at St. François-de-Sales, Ile-Jésus on 21 November 1712 to Jacques LABELLE<sup>4</sup> (Guillaume & Anne CHARBONNEAU). She died on 25 March 1730 at the age of 45, and was buried at St. François-de-Sales, Ile-Jésus on the following day.<sup>5</sup>

7 – Catherine was born on 14 June 1689 and baptized the following day at Lachenaie. Her godparents were Toussaint HUNAULT, her maternal grandfather, and Marie LORGUEUIL, her maternal grandmother. She was married at Boucherville on 2 December 1710 to Michel LAGU (Claude & Marie MORAN).

### Origin of Guillaume LECLERC

Guillaume LECLERC was baptized in the parish of St. Maclou, diocese of Rouen, on 12 March 1645. His father, Antoine, had married Marie HERAMBOURG in the same parish on 16 October 1638.<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, the record of this marriage no longer exists, but the publication of the banns was recorded and this record has survived:

*Sunday, 29 August 1638, the first bann was published between Antoine LECLERC of this parish and Marie Herenbourg of the Parish of St.-Maclou. The second bann*

*was made on Sunday, the fifth of September; the third bann was created on Sunday, twelve September. On Wednesday, 19 October, the undersigned Antoine LECLERC and Marie HENENBOURG proclaimed the date (prins attesta pour leur saluer) of their marriage at St. Maclou.<sup>7</sup>*

The couple had the following children, baptized at the same parish of St.-Maclou, and registered at Rouen (Seine Maritime):

- 1 – Jacques, baptized on 22 January 1640.
- 2 – Louis, baptized on 4 August 1641.
- 3 – Marie, baptized on 4 July 1643.
- 4 – Guillaume, baptized on 12 March 1645 (Godparents were Guillaume HERAMBOURG and Anne HERAMBOURG).
- 5 – Marguerite, baptized on 28 December 1647.
- 6 – Catherine, baptized on 26 April 1651.
- 7 – Marguerite, baptized on 28 November 1655.
- 8 – Catherine, baptized on 21 December 1657.
- 9 – Jean, baptized on 8 September 1659.

### Arrival in New France

Guillaume LECLERC arrived in New France about 1665 or 1666. This is known because he was present for the census of 1666. He obtained a land grant at Lachenaie, probably in February of 1673, from Pierre PERROTIN, procurator for Charles AUBERT. The names of a dozen colonists are mentioned in this record, but unfortunately two names are illegible. It appears that



Guillaume LECLERC is one of these. The same Pierre PERROTIN was present at the marriage of Guillaume LECLERC.

In the census of 1666, Guillaume LECLERC was living at Montréal and was 21 years old. He was confirmed at Montréal by the Bishop of Québec on 11 May 1668, with Guillaume LABELLE and François DORMAUX.

Guillaume LABELLE was also a native of Rouen. In 1671 he married Anne CHARBONNEAU at Montréal. One of their sons, Guillaume, married Marie-Anne LECLERC, daughter of Guillaume, at St.-Francois-de-Sales of l'Île-Jésus on 21 November 1712.

Today, the land which Guillaume LECLERC owned in the 17th century (lot #81 and part of lot #82) belongs to the municipality of Lachenaie. In this location, there is an historic home, once belonging to *MATHIEU*, which dates to 1760. Also located here is a center for horse breeding, named *Le Gardeur* in honor of Jean-Baptiste LeGARDEUR of Repentigny.

#### **Verbal Agreement Between Guillaume LECLERC and Montréal Notary Benigne BASSET**

A little before 1670, Guillaume LECLERC made a verbal agreement with Benigne BASSET, a Montréal notary. The contract seems to have been that Guillaume LECLERC would deliver ten cords of wood to the notary. It would seem that this agreement did not entirely meet the satisfaction of M. BASSET because the two of them found themselves before the Montréal courts

on 28 January 1670 and Guillaume LECLERC was ordered to pay a stipulated compensation to M. BASSET.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Marriage of Guillaume LECLERC**

Guillaume LECLERC was married at Montréal on 24 November 1676. He was 31 years old. His wife, Marie-Thérèse HUNAUT was not yet thirteen and was the daughter of Toussaint HUNAUT and his wife, Marie LORGUEUIL. This family was living at "...the Coste St.-François on the isle of Montréal." Marie-Thérèse had three brothers:

André, who married Marguerite LANGLOIS;

Pierre, who married Catherine BEAUCHAMP; and

Toussaint, who married Etienneette PAQUETTE.

She also had three sisters:

Thècle, who married Thomas CHARTRAND;

Jeanne, who married Adrien QUEVILLON; and

Françoise, who married Nicolas JOLY.

Thècle, Jeanne, and Marie-Thérèse were all under the age of 14 when they married. Françoise married at the age of 14 years and 4 days.

Guillaume LECLERC completed their marriage contract on 9 August 1676 at Montréal before the same notary, Benigne BASSET. From this record, we learn that at the time of the contract, Marie HERAMBOURG, Guillaume's mother, was dead. His father, Antoine, was the organist at the parish of Ste-Claire-de-Rouen, and that

he lived there on rue St.-Martin. As for the family of Marie-Thérèse, we learn that her father, Toussaint, was part of *La Grande Recrue* of 1653. As a part of MAISONNEUVE's expedition, he had come to New France with others like Etienne BOUCHARD, Jean GERVAISE, Marin HEURTEBISE, and several others to defend the colony against the Iroquois.

Gilbert BARBIER and his wife, Catherine DeLAVAUUX, were present at the signing of this marriage contract. At the time of Montréal's founding, Gilbert, a surveyor and carpenter, built the first wooden chapel in the settlement, under the orders of M. MAISONNEUVE. He later became the first churchwarden of the parish. With Charles PRUD'HOMME and Marguerite BOURGEOIS, he raised a cross surrounded by a palisade on Mount Royal. Migeon DeBRANSSAT, also present at the signing of the contract, was fiscal representative for the colony. He was later to be named Judge, and then Royal Judge of the colony.

In this marriage contract, Guillaume LECLERC 'endowed' his future wife with 200 *livres*. Finally, the notary mentions that the parties to the contract were unable to sign their names. Also present at this event were Jean GERVAIS, Pierre CAILLE (the *Sieur* PEROTIN), Pierre PERTHUY, Gilbert BARBIER and his wife, Catherine DeLAVAUUX and Migeon de BRANSSAT.

### Differences in the Ages of the Couple

The great difference of eighteen

years between the spouses is not as astonishing as one might think. In fact, the average age difference of couples in that era is about fourteen years. Nearly two-thirds of the first daughters born in the colony married before age 15. The husbands are not only, without exception, older than their wives, but four times out of five, the age difference is at least ten years.<sup>9</sup> Guillaume LECLERC was a native of Normandy and, by chance, he married a woman whose parents were both also natives of that region of France. (*Translator's note: Was this really by chance?*) Marie-Thérèse was born in New France.

### Census of 1681

In the census taken in the summer of 1681, the following entry appears: "Guillaume LECLERC, resident of the *Seigneurie* of Lachenaie, age 36 years; his wife, Thérèse HUNAU, age 18 years; children: Marie, age 3; François, age 2; Jean, age 4 months." Additionally, the couple owns three horned animals and eight *arpents* of land. Also listed in this entry are three cousins of this family: Pierre-Noel LEGARDEUR, Pierre PERROTIN, and François COTINEAU.

### Guillaume LECLERC Attends Various Ceremonies

Records show that Guillaume LECLERC was present at the following events:

The baptism of Guillaume FORGET, son of Nicolas and of Madeleine MARTIN, at Boucherville on 3 August 1674.

The baptism of François LA-

BELLE, son of Guillaume and of Anne CHARBONNEAU, at Pointe-aux-Trembles of Montréal on 19 August 1676.

The baptism of his nephew, Pierre QUEVILLON, son of Adrien and of Jeanne HUNEAU (the sister of Marie-Thérèse), at Pointe-aux-Trembles of Montréal on 9 November 1678.

The marriage of Jean-Baptiste FONTENEAU and Madleine MARTIN of Repentigny on 1 February 1681.

The baptism of his grandson, Jean-Baptiste LECLERC, son of Jean-Baptiste and of Marguerite BEAU-CHAMP, at Lachenaie, 1 September 1707.

The baptism of a second grandchild, Michel LAGU, the son of Michel and of Catherine LECLERC at Repentigny on 21 February 1712.

### **Problems with Pierre ROY<sup>10</sup>**

In 1683, a resident of Ile-Jésus named Pierre ROY claimed to have had "adventures" with several women in the area. Among those women named by him were Marie-Thérèse HUNAULT, wife of Guillaume LECLERC; Anne and Elizabeth CHARBONNEAU; and Marie-Barbe THEODORE dit MASSON, the wife of Antoine LALANDE. Likewise, Pierre ROY boasted that he'd bedded the wives of André CIRE and Guillaume LABELLE, who were sisters.

On 20 June 1683, during the church service, ROY, in front of the entire congregation, threatened to kill Marie-Barbe THEODORE. He claimed

that she was a whore and threatened to cut off her nose. This dispute created a scandal in the parish; especially since the LALANDE family enjoyed the very best reputation. After an investigation by authorities, ROY stood at the door to the church and publicly apologized for his false accusations as well as his threats, and was made to pay a fine.

### **Tragic Death of Marie-Thérèse HUNAULT**

The body of Marie-Thérèse HUNAULT was found in the family barn in August of 1689, the apparent victim of an Iroquois attack. The priest at Lachenaie wrote this about the incident:

"The 17th of August 1689, Marie-Thérèse HUNEAU, wife of Guillaume LE CLERC, resident of LaChenaye, was buried. She was found cruelly butchered to death in the barn. Witnesses to the burial were René GOULET and Guillaume LE CLERC, who state they do not know how to make their signature on this document. (Signed) BUIS-SON."

The following Monday, 22 August, the same priest interred André LeCURE, a local resident, who had "been killed some hours previously by the Iroquois" and a few days later he buried Louis SAGOT for the same reason. This incident was a sequel to the massacre at Lachine earlier during the month. As a consequence of this assault, the population of Lachenaie took refuge in the fort.<sup>11</sup>

Calm returned with the autumn cold, and the residents returned to their lands. With an early snowfall, they

thought that no new attack was forthcoming. Nevertheless, on the night of 13 November 1689, through a thick powdery snow, 150 Onondaga Iroquois led by Chief *Black Kettle*, staged an invasion at Lachenaie. The inhabitants were surprised as they slept; many were made prisoner. The attacks continued, and in May of 1691, 140 Iroquois warriors fiercely renewed the assault on Lachenaie. This time it was the French who took prisoners — five men and thirteen women.

In July of 1692, *Black Kettle* returned to take his revenge on Lachenaie. By then, the population had been reduced to 32 people, where it would remain for some years. There were no more than four houses standing in the settlement. All of the residents stayed in the fort, and the six families who continued to cultivate their land did so in the constant presence of soldiers. The Indian problem became so serious in the colony that the Sovereign Council issued an ordinance which stated that "Every house must be armed for its defense; the head of the family, his domestics and his sons over 14 years of age should own a musket; it is forbidden to abandon or disarm these weapons."<sup>12</sup>

The peace of 1701 put a definite end to these conflicts and it aided the resumption of colonization in the seigneurie. Guillaume LECLERC was 44 years old, and he found himself a widower with six young children. The oldest, Madeleine, was eleven, and the youngest, Marie-Anne, was only four years old. Guillaume would not remarry.

### **Obligation to Pierre PERTHUY**

On 7 March 1690, before Notary Antoine ADHEMAR of Montréal, Guillaume LECLERC bound himself to pay merchant Pierre PERTHUY 142 *livres* and 70 *sols* for goods purchased from PERTHUY for resale by LECLERC.

### **Murder of Toussaint HUNAUT**

One year after the brutal murder of his wife, another disaster befell Guillaume LECLERC. On 13 September 1690, his father-in-law, Toussaint HUNAUT, was cowardly murdered by the *Sieur* Dumont DE BLAIGNAC, a lieutenant in a marine detachment. DE BLAIGNAC mortally wounded the victim with his sword, and took flight immediately afterwards. The family of the victim brought suit against the murderer in absentia and transferred their civil rights in this affair to the merchant Charles DE COUAGNE.

### **Guillaume LECLERC at the Marriage of His Eldest Daughter, Marie-Madeleine**

On 17 April 1697, Guillaume LECLERC was in attendance at Pointe-aux-Trembles of Montreal, at the signing of the marriage contract between his daughter, Marie-Madeleine and Louis CODERRE. This contract was sealed by notary Antoine ADHEMAR in the home of Pierre HUNAUT, the husband of Catherine BEAUCHAMP and the maternal uncle of the bride. Also in attendance were Pierre BEAUCHAMP, son-in-law of Guillaume LECLERC; Antoine CODERRE dit AIMERIC, father of the groom; brother Pierre CODERRE; Jean CHARPENTIER and his wife, Françoise HU-

NAULT, maternal aunt of the bride. The contract reads in part:

Guillaume LECLERC promises to give and to give up his daughter of about 19 years, to this present and assenting Louis AYMERIC, who promises to take her as his wife and legitimate spouse with her wealth and her rights which are eschewed by her succession of the said Marie-Thérèse HUNAULT *her mother and which could one day in the future come to him by the death of the said Guillaume LE-CLERC, father of the future wife. The customary clauses are applied and the future husband endows the future wife in the sum of 300 livres predetermined dower to take above all and each piece of furniture and real estate, at present and to come, of said future husband.*"

One may assume by this document that Marie-Madeleine lived at Pointe-aux-Trembles with her uncle Pierre HUNAULT. In the same way, we learn that she is able to sign her name. The actual marriage ceremony in the church took place about three weeks later.

#### **Guillaume LECLERC Pledges His Son, Jean-Baptiste, to Work as Assistant of the Beadle of Ville-Marie**

On 20 January 1698, Guillaume LECLERC was present at Ile Ste.-Thérèse in the presence of notary Antoine ADHEMAR of Montréal to pledge the services of his son, Jean-Baptiste, age about 14-15<sup>13</sup> to work for Pierre CHANTREAU, the Beadle of Ville-Marie. (*Translator's note: A beadle was a minor parish official.*). The du-

ration of service is to be seven months, from the first of April until the first of November 1698. During this period, Jean-Baptiste obligates himself to work for, and do all that the beadle will ask of him. On his part, the said CHANTREAU promised to deal with Jean-Baptiste humanely, and provide him with room and board. The beadle agrees to pay him the sum of fifty *livres* for the seven-month period, with an advance of twenty *livres* on 1 April. At the close of this document, the father and son declare that they do not know how to sign their names.

#### **Françoise-Angelique LECLERC Marries Pierre BEAUCHAMP, Militia Captain<sup>14</sup>**

On 28 June 1699, one day before the church ceremony at Notre Dame in Montréal, before notary Pierre RAIMBAULT of Pointe-aux-Trembles, Françoise-Angelique LECLERC and Pierre BEAUCHAMP completed their marriage contract. For the bride, her father, her brother François, René GOULET and his wife Catherine LEROUX were in attendance. Jean BEAUCHAMP and Jeanne LOISEL, parents of the groom, as well as Jean CHARBONNEAU, Guillaume DESPATIES, and Barbe BEAUCHAMP were present. The contract was signed in Montréal at the home of René GOULET.

#### **Guillaume LECLERC Receives a Land Grant on the Ile-Jésus from the Seminary of Québec**

On 2 November 1701, before notary Pierre RAIMBAULT of Montréal, Guillaume LECLERC accepted a concession of land on Ile-Jésus<sup>15</sup> from the

Québec Seminary. The Seminary was the owner and *Seigneur* of Ile-Jésus.

In attendance at the signing of the contract were the *sieur* Pierre DROUILLARD, secretary of the *seigneurie*, and Michel BUISSON dit ST.-COSME, steward of the *seigneurie*. These two men acted in the name of *Monseigneur* François LAVAL, Bishop of Québec and owner of the island. In the same way, the priest Jean-François BUISSON was proxy and steward for the ecclesiastics of the Seminary of Québec.

The contract states that the concession was granted to Guillaume LECLERC, resident of Ile-Jésus, that the land is situated on the north coast and has about three *arpents* of river frontage, with a depth of twenty *arpents*. The description of the grant states that the land extends from one tip fronting on the river, and at the other extremity, ends at lands not yet conceded; the abutter on one side is François LECLERC (*son of Guillaume*); on the other side is land not yet conceded. Guillaume LECLERC was free to use his land as he pleased, subject to certain conditions. Each year, he was obligated to pay to the landlords or their representatives at the seignorial mansion, three *livres*, three *sols*, and three live fat feathered capons, or twenty *sols* in coin in place of each capon, at the discretion of the landlords. This obligation is payable on 20 October of each year.

In addition, Guillaume LECLERC could not sell, give, or cede the concession in any fashion. He was also obligated to build a house during the first year, reside there, and maintain it in good condition. The landlord retained the right to open roads on the concession,

and LECLERC was required to maintain a clear path so that a cart would be able to pass in front of his land. The landlords retained the right to all of the oak and cedar wood on the land. Guillaume LECLERC was prohibited from selling, neither directly nor indirectly, any intoxicating beverages to the Indians. He also promised to mark the limits of his concession within eight days of the signing of the contract, and to grind his grain nowhere but the landlord's mill. The landlords retained the right to terminate this agreement if any condition is not met, and reclaim the land, with no obligation to make any refund. The contract states that it was created and executed at Ville-Marie, in the presence of George PRUNEAU, royal bailiff and Joseph BRODIER, a carpenter living in that town.

### **Two Loans to Guillaume LECLERC from the Merchant Pierre PERTHUY**

On 6 November 1701, Guillaume LECLERC surrendered at Montréal to Antoine HATANVILLE, royal bailiff and Pierre RIVET, practitioner. This event took place in the home of Gilles GALIPEAU on rue Notre Dame. At that time LECLERC acknowledged to the notary ADHEMAR that he owed to Pierre PERTHUY, a merchant, the sum of 185 *livres*, 12 *sols*, and 8 *deniers*. This debt includes money loaned to him on 7 March 1690. The debt is reduced to 87 *livres*, 7 *sols*, and LECLERC is ordered to pay.

### **Guillaume LECLERC is Present at the Marriage of His Daughter Marie-Thérèse to Toussaint MARSTA**

On 12 February 1702 at Lachenaie, in the home of Jean BEAUCHAMP, Guillaume LECLERC was in attendance at the signing of the marriage contract uniting his daughter Marie-Thérèse with Toussaint MARSTA. The religious ceremony took place two days later in the church of St.-Francois-des-Sales at Ile-Jésus.

Toussaint MARSTA was the son of Mathurin and of Antoinette (a.k.a. Catherine) ELOY. For the future groom, the people present were: Nicolas SENET; Michel LAUZON, a resident of Rivières-des-Prairies; and Joseph and Marie BRICAULT. On the side of the bride were: her father; her brothers, Jean-Baptiste and François LECLERC; her sisters, Marie-Anne and Françoise LECLERC; her brother-in-law, Pierre BEAUCHAMP, husband of Françoise; and André HUNAUT, her maternal uncle and godfather.

For want of a notary, Jean-Baptiste FLEURICOURT<sup>16</sup> served as witness for the future spouses. The future husband "endowed" his wife with 300 *livres* in local currency for the predetermined dowry, and in case they, "... the future husband and wife, die without issue, the goods which they acquire together will be divided, after the death of the last one living, by half for the known heirs then living. Agreed to and granted by the said future husband and wife."

**Marie-Madeleine LECLERC is  
Remarried to Jean MATHIEU Dit  
COITEU**

After having become the widow of Louis CODERRE, by whom she had

three children, Marie-Madeleine LECLERC contracted a second marriage. The document was completed at Contrecoeur, in the study of the notary, Pierre BESNOIT, on 15 February 1705. The religious ceremony occurred on the following day. Jean MATHIEU was the son of Jean and of Anne DUTERTRE of the parish of l'Ange-Gardien in the Québec diocese.

The future husband promised to bring the sum of 1200 *livres* to their joint estate. In addition, he pledged himself to raise the three children from Marie-Madeleine's first marriage, at least to the age of ten. At that time, if they should demonstrate a desire to remain home after this age, he would continue to raise them. However, after that time, he would be allowed to remove 75 *livres* each year from the couple's joint estate. Jean MATHIEU also brought into the marriage a horse valued at 120 *livres*.

At the end of the document, it is mentioned by the notary that Jean MATHIEU and a witness, Gabriel GUIARD, were unable to sign their names. The future bride did sign.

**Another Agreement Between  
Guillaume LECLERC and Pierre  
PERTHUY**

On 26 October 1705, "before noon," Guillaume LECLERC went to the merchant Pierre PERTHUY at Montréal. In the presence of Sieurs CABAZIE and Jean MESCHIN, royal bailiffs, and the notary ADHEMAR, he agreed to the following:

Guillaume LECLERC's liability to the merchant is 185 *livres*, 12 *sols*,

according to his obligation of 6 November 1701, plus interest since that date. The total amount agreed to is 200 *livres*, 17 *sols*, 5 *deniers*. During this time, Guillaume LECLERC was obligated to deliver 100 *livres* to Pierre PERTHUYs through the mediator, Sieur LAGI-ROFLEE on 9 November 1702. PERTHUYs said that he ordered 14 *minots* of grain from Lachenaie as repayment for part of the debt. He further stated that the measure of *minots* was not exact!

Guillaume LECLERC agreed that PERTHUYs may call at the home of his son-in-law, Pierre BEAUCHAMP in Lachenaie to collect 5 *minots* of peas after the harvest, and 9 *minots* of grain at Christmas of each year. This will continue until there is complete payment of 98 *livres*, 6 *sols*, and 8 *deniers*, including interest. All of the merchandise will be delivered to Montréal, the freight to be paid by Guillaume LECLERC. Pierre BEAUCHAMP agreed to hand over this merchandise for his father-in-law. On 13 March 1708, Pierre PERTHUYs, in the presence of his employee, Alexis RIVET, acknowledged the receipt from Guillaume LECLERC of all the amounts which were due to him.

### **Pierre DROUILLARD Against Guillaume LECLERC**

On 8 November 1709, Pierre DROUILLARD, in the name of the *Gentlemen, the Seigneurs of Ile-Jésus*, demanded that Guillaume LECLERC, resident of the said isle, be required to surrender the copy of his concession contract as well as the one he obtained by inheritance at the time of the death of his son, François. In addition, they

demand that he pay the arrears of the *cens* and *rentes* for the six years since 1703. The complainents also demand the reimbursement of six *livres* paid for surveying the two concessions by Sieur RADISSON. LECLERC offered to pay the arrears of *cens* and *rentes*, but claimed the boundaries of his land should be entrusted to the *Seigneurs* of Ile-Jésus.<sup>17</sup>

### **Guillaume LECLERC Gives His Daughter Catherine in Marriage**

On 1 December 1710, before Boucherville notary Marien TAILHANDIER, Catherine, the youngest daughter of Guillaume LECLERC, completed her marriage contract. Catherine was 21 years old. The following day she married Michel LAGU at Boucherville. He was the son of the late Claude LAGU and Marie MARIEN, and a native of St. Paul parish in the city of Orleans, France. Michel was a soldier in the company of M. LEVERRIER.

Michel LAGU brought into the joint estate the sum of 500 *livres*. On his side, Guillaume LECLERC said that his daughter brought a cow and 300 *livres*, *dabis* and linen; the whole gained from the wages and salaries she earned by being in service for several years. On reading this document, one can presume that Catherine had earned her dowry from work outside her home.

### **The Surrender of Two Land Concessions**

On 26 February 1712, before the notary SENET, Guillaume LECLERC, now age 67 and "no longer being in a



condition to work," gives up his two concessions of land on Ile-Jésus. These plots of land were each 3 *arpents* in width and 20 *arpents* deep. According to the document, Guillaume was 20 *livres* in arrears on his rent payments to the *Seigneurs* and stated that he would be unable to pay this amount. He also added that the two plots of land had very little value.

### **Marie-Anne LECLERC Married to Jacques LABELLE**

On 20 November 1712, before notary Nicolas SENET, Guillaume LECLERC was present when the marriage contract was drawn up between his daughter, Marie-Anne and Jacques LABELLE. Jacques was the son of the late Guillaume and of Anne CHARBONNEAU. The contract was drawn up in Lachenaie at the home of Toussaint HUNAULT, uncle of Marie-Anne. Also present were local residents Mathieu HUBOUT and Jean BEAUCHAMP. The future husband declared that he possessed a land grant on Ile-Jésus which was six *arpents* in width and twenty in depth. The front of the plot faced the *Rivieres des Prairies*. His neighbors were Thomas CHATRAN on one side and François LABELLE on the other. In the contract, Jacques gives his future wife half of his land grant.

Anne CHARBONNEAU, mother of the groom; Louis FILIATRAULT, his brother-in-law; Pierre DROUILLARD, a steward of Ile-Jésus; and Madame Françoise RENAUD were present for the groom at the signing of the contract. Marie-Anne LECLERC was represented by her father, Guillaume; her brother, Jean-Baptiste; her brother-in-

law, Pierre BEAUCHAMP; her maternal uncle and aunt, Toussaint HUNAULT and Antoinette PAQUETTE; and Jean ROCHON, a family friend.

The religious ceremony took place the following day in the church of St. François-de-Sales at Ile-Jésus.

### **Sale of Land to Jean BEAUCHAMP**

On 20 February 1718, Guillaume LECLERC went to the home of Marien TAILHANDIER,<sup>18</sup> a notary at Boucherville and, feeling "a decrepit age" (he was now 73), sold his land at Lachenaie to Jean BEAUCHAMP. At the time of this transaction, the notary states that Guillaume is living at "*Le Cotte de Lanchenay*" and he is at present "at the market town of Boucherville." Guillaume had assembled his children and relatives: Jean-Baptiste LECLERC and his wife Marguerite BEAUCHAMP;<sup>19</sup> Toussaint MARSTA and Marie-Thérèse LECLERC; Pierre BEAUCHAMP and Françoise-Angelique LECLERC; Jacques LABELLE and Marie-Anne LECLERC; and Michel LAGU and Catherine LECLERC. Guillaume had also asked that Pierre CODERRE be present. Pierre was the tutor of the children of Marie-Madeleine LECLERC, Guillaume's deceased daughter. CODERRE declined the invitation.

At the time of this transaction, Guillaume states that he has rented this land, "a farm," for several years, receiving 45 *minots* of grain per year and this is not enough for food and maintenance. Additionally, Guillaume states that he feels that if he sells the land, this could cause some disputes between his chil-

dren and the purchaser. Furthermore, only an old wreck of a shed remains on the land; the rest of the buildings have been burned by the Iroquois. Guillaume states that his greatest desire "was to contribute as far as he is able so that his children live in peace, bringing no lawsuits with any individuals on the subject of his residence; and as a remedy, he transfers/ceded and forsakes from this time to his children and grandchildren the said residence which is 60 *arpents* in area." Guillaume requests that, for this, they supply him with "a pension for life of 62 *minots* of wheat each year for his food and maintenance and also use some small sum to have prayers said for the repose of his soul."

This land was situated at Lachenaie, with frontage on the river called *de Jésus*; at the back, bordering on the property of Charles MATHIEU. On one side is the land of François COTINEAU and on the other, that of Jean BEAUCHAMP. Guillaume also states that his land was obtained from the Seigneurs, and that they have been paid for several years.

Jean BEAUCHAMP, the purchaser, promised to supply 62 *minots* of "wheat, dry, clean, true" to Guillaume LECLERC each year, for as long as he lives. In addition, he promises to deliver this wheat to him at his residence in the governmental area of Montréal. Other conditions of the sale include: The debt will be terminated at the death of Guillaume LECLERC; if LECLERC dies during the life of the contract, or after *card money* ceases to be legal tender, Jean BEAUCHAMP agrees to provide 500 *livres* to have prayers said for the repose of "the soul of the said

LECLERC."

In addition, Jean BEAUCHAMP agrees to pay cash to Guillaume LECLERC in the amount of 2500 *livres* for his other goods. This amount is to be equally divided among his children and the children of his deceased daughter. This will free his children and sons-in-law from obligation for his lifetime annuity. Guillaume further states that he is confident that Jean BEAUCHAMP is solvent, and that he is confident that he is able to deliver the 62 *minots* of wheat to him each year.

The contract was drawn and executed at Boucherville, on the afternoon of 20 February 1718, before witnesses Joseph BENARD and Joseph HUET/DULUDE, both living at Boucherville. They, as well as Toussaint MARSTA and the notary, signed the document. Guillaume LECLERC, members of his family, their spouses, and Jean BEAUCHAMP all declared that they do not know how to sign.

### Death of Guillaume LECLERC

Guillaume LECLERC died at St. Francois-de-Sales at Ile-Jésus on 2 November 1723, at the age of 78; more than five years after the sale of his Lachenaie property.

Six years after his death, on 31 December 1729, Guillaume LECLERC had 87 descendants.<sup>20</sup> Of a total of 1955 pioneers, he is among the group of 555 who came from France to settle in the St. Lawrence Valley. Guillaume LECLERC had numerous descendants, especially in the counties of l'Assomption, Montcalm, Deux-Mon-

tagnes, Argenteuil and Terrebonne. These descendants are primarily from the following parishes: Lachenaie, Mascouche, St.-Roch-de-l'Achigan, St.-Jacques-de-l'Achigan, St. Esprit, Ste.-Anne-des-Plaines and St. André. There are also descendants in parishes in the Lower Laurentians and the Lanaudière region.

The county of Terrebonne accounts for many of Guillaume LECLERC's descendants, and slightly more are from l'Assomption County. One could say that 90% of the LECLERC/LECLAIR marriages that have taken place in these parishes from their foundation to the 1930s are all descendants of Guillaume LECLERC and Marie-Thérèse HUNAUT.

Laval, Ile-Jésus of past times, and St. Eustache have also accounted for many of the LECLERC families issuing from Guillaume and his wife. Later, one finds descendants in Montreal, in Lachine, and in almost all the marriages of *LECLAIR de DORVAL*.

All of these numerous descendants issue from Jean-Baptiste. François, Guillaume's other son, died celibate.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Jean COITEUX (a.k.a. Jean MATHIEU dit ST.-JEAN) was remarried on 6 October 1710 at Contrecoeur to Angélique BONIN.

<sup>2</sup> Priest's note: "Died suddenly the day before yesterday; she had always lived in the parish and she was pious and conducted herself with exactness."

<sup>3</sup> Marie-Thérèse LECLERC was still living on 24 November 1750. On that date, she completed a contract before notary Charles-François CORON.

<sup>4</sup> Jacques LABELLE was remarried on 19 June 1730 at St.-François-de-Sales, Ile-Jésus to Suzanne DAZE.

<sup>5</sup> Church records indicate that her brother, Jean-Baptiste LECLERC was present at her funeral service.

<sup>6</sup> GODBOUT, Archange. *Origine des Familles Canadiennes-Française. Extraits de l'Etat Civil Français*. Lille: Desclée de Brouwer, 1925.

<sup>7</sup> I.b.i.d.

<sup>8</sup> Royal Jurisdiction, Register of Montréal hearings 06-MT601-2-21. Original document located at the Québec National Archives.

<sup>9</sup> CHARBONNEAU, Hubert; DESJARDIN, Bertrand; GUILLEMETTE, André; LANDRY, Yves; LÉGARÉ, Jacques; NAULT, François. *Naissance d'une Population. Les Français Établis au Canada au XVII<sup>e</sup> Siècle*. Montréal: Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1987.

<sup>10</sup> SÉGUIN, Robert-Lionel. *La Vie Libertine en Nouvelle-France au Dix-Septième Siècle*. Montréal: Leméac, 1972. Pages 60-65; Pierre ROY was the husband of Catherine DUCHARME from 12 January 1672, and the father of seven children. He was the former domestic of Jacques LAMBERT. See also *Nos Ancêtres*, no. 14, by Gérard LEBEL, 1987.

<sup>11</sup> See *Histoire du Domaine de La-chenaie* by Claude MARTEL.

<sup>12</sup> RUMILLY, Robert. *Histoire de Montréal*. Montréal: Presses de l'Université de Montréal.

<sup>13</sup> In reality, Jean-Baptiste was 17 years old.

<sup>14</sup> See also contract by notary Charles-François CORON, Ile-Jésus, 29 June 1736.

<sup>15</sup> In 1677, Francois BERTHELOT ceded to Monseigneur LAVAL the Ile-Jésus plus 25,000 *livres* in exchange for the Ile d'Orleans. Monseigneur LAVAL would give the island to the Québec Seminary in 1680, but Louis XIV did not officially ratify the concession until 1702. The year following the peace treaty with the Iroquois, 1702, marks the founding of the first parish on Ile-Jésus, St.-François-de-Sales, and the real beginning of the population growth of the island. At first, the land grants were made along the banks of the river to the east end and going toward the west. During this first phase of colonization, the seminary used the ancient BERTHELOT manor at the east end of the island. The first flour mill was constructed in 1711 along the Prairie River. Source: *Bibliography of l'Isle-Jésus*, by André DIONNE, pp. 31-32 (french text).

<sup>16</sup> Jean-Baptiste FLEURICOURT was the husband of Louise SOMMILARD, daughter of Orson and of Marie BOURGEOIS. Marie BOURGEOIS was the niece of Marguerite BOURGEOIS, the first Canadian saint.

<sup>17</sup> Royal Jurisdiction, Register of Mont-

réal hearings 06-MT601-2-21. Original document located at the Québec National Archives.

<sup>18</sup> Marien TAILHANDIER, son of Antoine, *procureur de la justice de Masaye* in Masaye, Auvergne, France. He married on 8 January 1688 at Boucherville to Madeleine BAUDRY, the widow of Jean PUIBARAU. At the time of his marriage, he was a soldier and surgeon in the Company of M. DANEAU de MUY. To his occupations he added, in 1699, that of notary of Boucherville; an office made vacant by the death of Michel MOREAU. On 25 July 1699, he became Judge of the seigneurial tribunal of his locality. These diverse functions didn't prevent him from exercising his "surgeon's art" as well as witnessing the documents of 1691 and 1725. See *Bulletin de recherches historique*, 1921, P. 44 by Pierre-Georges ROY.

<sup>19</sup> The notary made an error in saying "Anne BEAUCHAMP, wife of Jean-Baptiste LECLERC." In reality, the wife of Jean-Baptiste was named Marguerite BEAUCHAMP.

<sup>20</sup> CHARBONNEAU, et al. p. 188

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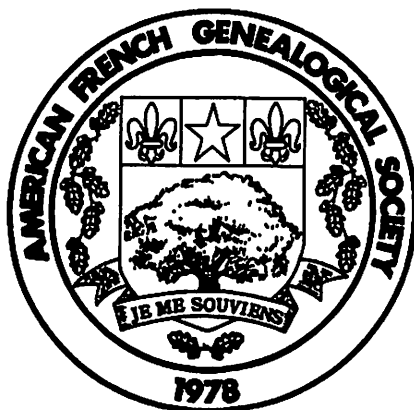
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# Franco-American Civil War Veterans from the Woonsocket, RI Area

by Paul P. Delisle

The American Civil War is probably the most important single event in the history of this country. While the Revolution gave us our independence,



*Pierre Gustave Toutant BEAUREGARD*

and formed the nation, the Civil War transformed the nation from a fragile union to a permanently bonded and indivisible nation. More Americans died in this conflict than in all other U.S. wars combined until World War II.

The French have played an important and often understated part in American history since the beginning. An estimated 100,000 men of French descent took part in the Civil War.

Nearly forty thousand from Québec came down to join the Union forces. Fourteen thousand of them were killed in battle.<sup>28</sup>

From General Pierre Gustave Toutant BEAUREGARD, a Louisiana Creole who commanded the Southern forces firing on Fort Sumter; and Jean-Charles FREMONT, the noted explorer of the American west and Union general; to Charles VASLET, a private in the 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery who was killed at Appomattox just a few days before Lee's surrender; our people played a significant role on both sides of the battlefield.

For the most part, historians have ignored the Franco-American contribution in this war. In May of 1870, the Town of Woonsocket became the first community in Rhode Island to dedicate a memorial to its Civil War dead. There is not a single French name on that monument, although several French veterans were eligible for that honor.

My purpose in researching this article was threefold: To confirm the existence of those individuals named by Marie-Louise BONIER in her book, *Debuts de la Colonie Franco-Americaine de Woonsocket, R.I.* (a list which appears on pages 85 and 86 forms the

basis for this article); to create an accurate and comprehensive list for use by future researchers; and to learn the identities of those who lost their lives in the war so that they can receive the recognition that they deserve.

Woonsocket did not exist as a political entity until 1867. For this reason, records may show a soldier's home town as Cumberland or Smithfield, as well as Woonsocket. Wherever possible, I have tried to ascertain the individual's actual residence. Anglicized names were also a problem. To those creating the records, BRINDA-MOUR became *BROWN*, LAVALLEE became *LOVELY*, MON-GEON became *MUNGER*, and so on. Some may remain lost in the archives forever because of this.

Bellingham and Blackstone are two small Massachusetts towns which border each other, and Woonsocket. All three communities have had a close relationship throughout their history. Residency in the 1860's was not as clearly defined as it is today; whole families often moved back and forth across the borders to take advantage of work available in the local mills, much like nomads.

For this reason I have combined the three communities to create a list of *Woonsocket area* veterans:

**AREL, Jean-Antoine** (*A. k. a. John HAREL*) was the son of Pierre and of Julie ROBIDOUX. After his father's death his mother married Julien VALOIS.<sup>1</sup>

According to BONIER, Jean enlisted in the army at the age of eighteen, against the wishes of his parents. He was quickly promoted to Corporal, but

was killed in action after only three month's service.<sup>1</sup>

Jean is found in the 1860 census as *Anthony AREL*, age 15, a mill laborer born in Canada. The census records his residence as being the Woonsocket Village part of Cumberland, living in the home of *Julien VALWAR*.<sup>13</sup>

John AREL's name is engraved on the monument erected by Blackstone, MA, and he is named as a Blackstone resident by BONIER. The name engraved on the monument refers to George WATERMAN, who enlisted in the U.S. Navy under the alias *John ARAL*.<sup>26</sup> There is no connection to the Jean-Antoine named by BONIER. I have found no evidence of Jean-Antoine's military service.

**BACON, Edmund O. and BACON, John**, named by BONIER, were not French.

**BEAUVAIS, Joseph** was the son of Hilaire and of Venese PELLETIER. The family emigrated from Sherbrooke, Québec, and settled in Slatersville, RI in 1847. According to BONIER, he was killed in action in 1861. I have found no evidence of his military service.

**BELLEVANCE, Joseph** was the son of Louis (dit GAGNE) and of Venerance PARE. The family originated from St. Cesaire, Québec and arrived in Woonsocket in 1858.<sup>1</sup> According to BONIER, Joseph left home at the age of sixteen, and traveled to Newport, where he enlisted in a Rhode Island volunteer unit. I found no evidence of his military service.

Joseph's first marriage was to Kate ASSELIN, his second to Anna CROCHETIERE. BONIER claims that



Joseph's son, also named Joseph, served in the Spanish-American War.<sup>1</sup> I have found no evidence of this, either.

**BERARD, John.** BONIER includes this name in her list, with no other information. I have been unable to verify the existence of this individual.

**BERARD, Joseph** was the son of Narcisse (dit LENIN), and of Marie DUBOIS, and arrived in Woonsocket with his family around 1853.<sup>1</sup> He enlisted in Co. B of the 1st Rhode Island Heavy Artillery as *Jerry BERRY* and was discharged on 16 August 1865.<sup>32</sup>

The family of *Nelson BERRY* was found in the 1860 census. The family was living in the Woonsocket Village section of Cumberland. According to the census, all members of the family were born in Canada, and Joseph's age was 14 at the time.<sup>13</sup>

Joseph's first marriage was to Philomene BELLEVANCE, and his second to Mary Ann LEE.<sup>1</sup> Joseph died on 9 May 1888 of consumption, and is buried in St. Charles Cemetery, Blackstone, MA.

**BERBIEN, Charles** was born on 4 November 1841 in Nancy, France, the son of Pierre and of Liberté COLIN.<sup>32</sup> The date of his entry into the United States has not been found. Since there is no evidence to suggest that he came to this country with his parents, it can probably be assumed that he arrived in the early 1860's as a young adult.

Charles enlisted on 5 October 1864 in Co. M of the 25th New York Cavalry, at Hart Island, NY; giving his occupation as a laborer. He was discharged at the same place on 27 June 1865.<sup>26</sup> Military records also show that

he was 5'-4 1/2" tall, had a fair complexion, hazel eyes, and black hair.

On 9 November 1867 he married Emelie GAGNON in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket, RI. She was the daughter of Joseph and of Lucie ST. GODARD,<sup>3</sup> and was born on 24 October 1849 at St. François, Québec. Pension records indicate that on 25 November 1911 this family was living at St. Edwidge, Champlain Co., Québec.<sup>26</sup>

Charles died of pneumonia on 10 April 1925 in Woonsocket, RI and is buried in Precious Blood Cemetery.<sup>17</sup> His widow died in Woonsocket on 19 June 1935 and is buried with her husband.<sup>17,34</sup>

**BLANCHARD, Solomon** was not French, contrary to BONIER's assertion.

**BODREAU** (possibly BOUDREAU), **Joseph** was born around 1845 in Montréal. He enlisted on 29 February 1864 in Blackstone, and reported his residence as Marlboro, MA, his age as 20, and his occupation as shoemaker. He served in Company B and Company E of the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and was promoted to Corporal on 12 June 1865.<sup>18</sup> He mustered-out on 30 June 1865 at Alexandria, VA. At the time of his discharge, he reported his home address as *Montréal, Canada*. Military records describe him as having black eyes, brown hair, a dark complexion, and 5'-6" tall.<sup>26</sup>

BONIER states that he was a Blackstone resident. I found no proof that he lived there either before or after the war.

**BONIN, Alexis.** BONIER gives

no information on this individual other than his name. He was not found in a search of Rhode Island and Massachusetts records.

**BONIN, Cyprien** was the son of Alexander and was born on 16 November 1845 in Contrecoeur, Québec. He enlisted in the 56th Massachusetts Infantry on 27 February 1864 for a three-year term. The enlistment took place in Boston, MA, and he reported his residence as Ste. Anne-de-Richelieu, Canada. He was assigned as a Private in Company G. Military records describe him as having blue eyes, light hair and complexion, five feet, six and seven-eighths inches tall, and noticeably pitted from smallpox. His occupation is reported as laborer. He was discharged on 12 July 1865 near Alexandria, VA.<sup>26</sup>

According to BONIER, his family lived in Woonsocket around 1846. but returned to Canada before the war. Cyprien is reported to have lived in Woonsocket from 1865 to 1868. His last known residence was Lincoln, RI, from 1901 to 1916. He was married on 3 July 1865 in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket to Mathilde LAMBERT. I cannot explain the apparent conflict between this date and the date of his discharge. Both dates were taken from his pension records on file at the National Archives. The original record of his marriage in St. Charles Church was not found.

Cyprien was also known at various times as *Suppliar BONNAR* and *Sepisalm BONIN*.

**BOULET, Peter** was the son of John and of Mary Rose STEPHENS. Peter was born on 10 March 1835 in Whitehall, NY.<sup>26</sup>

He enlisted in Company K, Fif-

teenth Massachusetts Infantry on 1 July 1861 and mustered in on 12 July.<sup>18</sup> While assigned to that unit, he saw action at Ball's Bluff, VA, where he was wounded in the left hand on 21 October 1861. He was wounded again at Wilderness, VA on 5 May 1864. He was discharged at Worcester, MA on 28 July 1864.<sup>18,26</sup>

On 19 December 1864, Peter enlisted in Company L, Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery in Providence, RI. At that time he reported his residence as Woonsocket, and his occupation as *operative*.<sup>26</sup> He transferred to Company D in March 1865 and was discharged on 27 August 1865.<sup>2</sup> Military records show that he was 5'-7" tall, had a dark complexion, black eyes, and black hair.

After the war, Peter returned to Woonsocket, where he worked as a laborer on construction projects. He was injured while blasting rocks on 20 May 1866, which resulted in the mutilation of his left hand and arm.

Peter was married to Justine LUCIER in Cumberland, RI, on 7 October 1866. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. M. CRANE, *Minister of the Gospel*.<sup>17</sup> Justine was born around 1845 and was the daughter of Joseph and Justine. They had eight children.<sup>26</sup>

Peter and his family did not remain in Woonsocket for very long. Records show that the family was living in Attleboro, Norton, and Charlestown, MA after 1874. Peter died in Attleboro, MA on 9 May 1917 of heart disease. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Attleboro on 12 May. Justine died on 23 January 1921.<sup>26</sup>

Peter BOULET's name does not appear in BONIER's book.

**CHEVREDOR, Joseph.** This name is included in BONIER's book with no further information. I have not been able to confirm the existence of this individual.

**CONFORT, Joseph.** This name is included in BONIER's book with no further information. I have not been able to confirm the existence of this individual.

**CÔTÉ, Thomas** was born on 30 January 1842 at St. Pierre-de-Wickham, Ile-Verte, Québec, the son of Firmin and of Emilie NADEAU. He enlisted at Buffalo, NY on 18 March 1864 in the 80th New York Volunteers as Thomas COATEE, later transferring to Co. B of the 51st New York Infantry. He was discharged as a Corporal on 25 July 1865 at Alexandria, VA. He then returned to Canada.

On 13 May 1867 he married Felanise LAJOIE at Sherbrooke, Québec. It is not known when he returned to the U.S., but in 1892 he is found to be a resident of Manville, RI. On 5 June 1906 his son Thomas was married to Eleonore BONIN in Manville.<sup>35</sup> In 1915 the family was living in New Bedford, MA. On 1 May 1923, Thomas CÔTÉ died at Acushnet, MA.<sup>26</sup>

**DAIGNAULT, Vitale** was born in 1834 in Canada. He enlisted on 15 May 1861 as *Vital DINO* in the 16th New York Volunteer Infantry, where he was assigned as a Private in Company E. On 18 February 1863 he was discharged at White Oaks Church, VA, "by reason of wounds received in service." He reenlisted on 13 July 1863 as a Private in Co. H, 2nd New York Veteran Volunteers, from which he was dis-

charged on 8 August 1865.<sup>32</sup>

**DELMAGE, Christopher L.** was a German native, contrary to BONIER's assertion that he was French.

**DEMERS, Richard** was the son of Louis and Angelique from Ste. Marie de Beauce, Québec. He was married on 23 February 1852 at St. Mathias de Rouville to Emilie L'HOMME dit AUTOIS. She was the daughter of Pierre and of Theotiste BEIQUE. The marriage register of St. Mathias records his occupation as innkeeper.<sup>17</sup> Emilie died at St. Cesaire de Rouville on 4 December 1862, and was buried there the next day. According to records on file at the National Archives they had only one child, Joseph, born on 7 March 1858.

Richard enlisted in Woonsocket on 9 June 1864, and mustered in on 18 June. He was assigned as a Private in Company M of the Third Rhode Island Cavalry. He died of consumption on 20 January 1865 in the Napoleonville, LA regimental hospital.<sup>26</sup>

**DESMARAIS, Joseph** (*also De MARA*) was the son of Louis Godefroy and of Marie NADEAU. He was born on 24 May 1846 at St. Aimé, Québec,<sup>26</sup> but was living at St. Robert at the time of his mother's death around 1856. Louis emigrated to the U.S. with his family and settled in Woonsocket around 1857,<sup>1</sup> where he found work as a painter.

This family is found in the 1860 census under the name of Louis *DE-MARD*. The census records that they were living in the Woonsocket Village section of Cumberland.<sup>13</sup>

According to BONIER, Joseph

made three unsuccessful attempts to enlist in the army. Each time, his father caused the enlistment to be voided. On his fourth attempt he was successful. He traveled to Rakeville, MA, now a part of the town of Bellingham, with several companions. There, on 13 January 1864, he enlisted in the 56th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry for a term of three years. He was assigned as a Private in Company H.

The record of his enlistment gives us the following personal information: Height, 5'-3"; light complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair.<sup>26</sup> Some records give his occupation as a farmer, while others state that he was a laborer. The enlistment records give his residence as Bellingham, MA,<sup>18</sup> but his application for pension benefits states that he was a resident of Woonsocket at the time of his enlistment.<sup>26</sup> In all the records that I have seen, his name is spelled *DeMARA*. It appears that he used this name for most of his life.

Joseph mustered in on 27 January 1864 and received an enlistment bonus of \$325.<sup>15</sup> He was wounded on 30 September 1864 and was admitted to the Division Hospital until 2 October. He was hospitalized again on 27 December for dysentery.<sup>26</sup> He was discharged at Washington, DC on 13 June 1865.<sup>9</sup> During his service he saw action in the battles of The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor.<sup>32</sup> He was a member of Smith Post 9, G.A.R.

Joseph's first marriage, on 21 January 1866, was to Celina DECOURCY in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket. The names of her parents were not recorded. His name is recorded as *DEMARS*.<sup>3</sup> Joseph and Celina had fifteen children from 1867 to 1893. Ten were still living in 1915.<sup>26</sup> Celina died

in Woonsocket on 8 February 1897, and was buried in Precious Blood Cemetery.<sup>27</sup> The census of 1880 records this family as living in Woonsocket. Joseph was working as a carpenter at that time.<sup>5</sup>

On 14 September 1897, Joseph married Cesarine EBACHER in Precious Blood Church. She was the daughter of Louis and of Rose de Lima GAGNON,<sup>4</sup> and the widow of Trefflé DESAULNIERS<sup>20</sup> who died on 8 July 1880 at St. Prosper, Québec.<sup>26</sup> Cesarine was born at St. Prosper in 1850 and died on 21 December 1938 at Woonsocket. She is buried in Precious Blood Cemetery.<sup>27</sup>

Joseph died at Woonsocket on 11 April 1928 and was buried in Precious Blood Cemetery. His grave is marked with a simple veteran's stone in the family plot.

**DOHERTY, George** was born in Montréal on 25 February 1844. He was the son of Thomas, an Irish immigrant. His mother's name is not known, but according to the undertaker's records, she was born in Canada.

George enlisted on 22 July 1863 in Concord, MA as a Private in Co. F, 19th<sup>26</sup> or Co. H, 20th<sup>32</sup> Massachusetts Infantry. His military records indicate that he was 5'-6" tall, had a dark complexion, dark hair and dark eyes, and worked as a baker.<sup>26</sup>

On 6 May 1864 he was wounded in battle, receiving shell fragments in his back. He was taken prisoner during the battle and confined in the infamous Andersonville Prison until March 1865, when he escaped. He reached Union lines at Goldsboro, NC on 19 March 1865, and was discharged on 16 June 1865 at Munson's Hill, VA.

He was married to Helene SHUR-

KET on 23 October 1865 at Sorel, Québec. The couple returned to the U.S. some time after and is next found living in Washington, DC in May 1899. Hélène, who was born on 25 February 1844 at Montréal, died in Washington on 16 November 1908. They had no children.

George again returned to Sorel and was married there to Marie MON-GEAU, the widow of Michael SAL-VAIL and Trefflé FLEURY, on 23 August 1909.

George DOHERTY died at Woonsocket on 8 June 1931. He is buried in Precious Blood Cemetery.<sup>29</sup>

According to BONIER's account, George was a witness to Lincoln's assassination. I found no proof of this.

**DORVAL, Felix** was the brother of Louis and Pierre. According to BONIER, he left home in 1855 to become a merchant seaman. He is also listed as a Civil War veteran by BONIER. His name was not found in a search of records of Rhode Island residents who served in the Navy during the war.<sup>2</sup>

**DORVAL, Louis** was the son of Louis and of Marie BENOIT. His family arrived in Woonsocket around 1840. According to BONIER, Louis served in the Union army, during which time he contracted tuberculosis. He died from that disease in 1867 in Millbury, MA. Louis was married to Marie DAIGLE.<sup>1</sup> No record of his military service has been found.

**DORVAL, Pierre** served in the Union army, according to BONIER. He was wounded in battle and discharged in 1863. He was married to Ellen

SOMMERVILLE, and died in 1873 at Hartford, CT.<sup>1</sup> No record of his military service has been found.

**DUHAMEL, Alexis.** BONIER includes this name in her list, with no other information. I have been unable to verify the existence of this individual.

**DUHAMEL (CAMMELL), James and John.** Both individuals are listed by BONIER as Blackstone residents. Both names appear on the Civil War monument in that town. I have been unable to find any further information.

**DUPREZ, Joseph** (*probably DUPRÉ*) was a Sergeant assigned to Company E, Fourth Rhode Island Infantry Regiment. He enlisted on 10 September 1861, reporting his residence as Woonsocket. He was mustered in on 30 October of that year and served with the Rhode Island volunteers until his discharge at Fredricksburg, VA on 26 November 1862. On the following day, he re-enlisted in Company E of the Second U. S. Artillery Regiment, a unit of the regular army. Joseph DUPREZ was honorably discharged on 1 November 1864 at Washington, DC.<sup>2</sup>

He is not mentioned in BONIER's book as a veteran. However his family is mentioned in another part of the book. This family was comprised of ten people, all born in Canada.<sup>1</sup>

The family of *Christina DUPRY* is included in the 1860 census of Woonsocket Village. No male head of the household is listed. Among the five children reported in the census was Joseph, age 24, working as a carpenter, and born in Canada.<sup>13</sup>

**FOISY, Edward.** BONIER includes this name in her list, with no other information. I have been unable to verify the existence of this individual.

**FONTAINE, Simeon (or Simon)** was the son of Charles and Sophia, and



was born around 1845 at St. Hyacinthe, Québec. He enlisted on 18 November 1863 and was assigned to Company H, 37th Massachusetts Infantry. He later transferred to Company K, 20th Massachusetts Infantry. During his service he received wounds in his left leg. He was discharged on 16 July 1865 at Munson's Hill, VA.<sup>26</sup>

Simeon was married in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket on 24 February 1868 to Philomene GUYODEAU. She was the daughter of François and Marguerite, and was born in Vermont around 1853.<sup>3</sup> In some records, her name is seen as GUY.

The 1880 census shows the family living in Woonsocket. Simeon's age is reported as 38 and his occupation as

carpenter. Philomene's age is reported as 27. The census lists six children, all born in Rhode Island.<sup>5</sup> His military pension application lists seven children.<sup>26</sup>

Simon's last residence was 15 Center Street in Woonsocket. He died there on 16 September 1891, and was

buried in Precious Blood Cemetery. Philomene died on 16 June 1906, and is buried with her husband.<sup>26</sup>

**FRIGON, Octave-Pierre** was born around 1841. He was married on 8 Jun 1888 to Melina FLEURY in St. John the Baptist Church, West Warwick, RI. I have not found any information regarding his military service.

**GAMMAGE, Charles** is named as Charles GAUMAGE in BONIER's book, where she erroneously claims that he was French-Canadian. The record of his marriage in Blackstone, MA reports his birthplace as England.<sup>17</sup>

**GARVO, Stephen** (*could be*

*GAREAU or GARCEAU*). This name is engraved on the Blackstone Civil War monument, but is not included in BONIER's book nor is his name found in records at the Blackstone Town Clerk's office.<sup>31</sup> I have not found any other information on this individual.

**GAUCHER, Alfred** was the son of Antoine (*dit BOURDELAIS*). His family arrived in Woonsocket from St. Cesaire in 1844.<sup>1</sup> I have not found any information concerning his military service.

**GOBEILLE, John (Jean)** was also known as *John GOBEY*. He was born on 27 July 1847 in St. Hyacinthe, Québec, and was the son of Gabriel and of Henriette CABANA. The family settled in Woonsocket around 1850.<sup>1</sup>

John traveled to New York City in 1864 and enlisted in the 25th New York Cavalry. He was assigned as a Private in Company D. His enlistment record reports his residence as West Warwick, RI. He was discharged on 27 June 1865 at Harts Island, NY. Military records describe him as being 5'-5" tall, with black eyes, light hair, and light complexion. He had a mole below his left shoulder blade. His occupation was recorded as laborer and mill operative.<sup>26</sup>

John was married three times. The first marriage was to Octavie BERNIER in April 1868. She died on 22 August 1900 at Providence, RI. His second wife was Marie E. SANFORD. They were married in March 1902 in St. Patrick Cathedral, New York City. Marie died in Providence in 1912. John's third marriage was to Margaret (O'NEAL) BERRY. They were married in 1914 in St. Mary's Church, Provi-

dence.

John and his family lived in Baltic and Danielson, CT from 1868 to 1876. In that year they moved to Providence, where John became a successful merchant. He died there on 22 September 1917.<sup>26</sup>

**GRAVELINE, Pierre** was born around 1841, the son of Charles (*dit ARSENAULT*) and of Angelique MATHIEU. The family emigrated from Prescott, Québec and settled in Woonsocket in 1840.<sup>1</sup> Pierre was married at St. Charles of Woonsocket on 16 May 1863 to Lucinda SENECA. She was the daughter of Philibert and of Marguerite LAFLEUR.<sup>3</sup>

Pierre enlisted as *Peter GRAVELIN* on 6 June 1861, reporting his residence as Woonsocket. He was assigned as a Private in Company I of the Second Rhode Island Infantry. Pierre was discharged on a surgeon's certificate on 20 July 1862 at Harrison's Landing, VA.<sup>2</sup> Records show that his disability was due to a double hernia caused by "rapid and forced marches" during the Peninsular Campaign.<sup>26</sup>

Pierre is found in the 1860 census, living in his father's home in Woonsocket Village. He is reported as age 18, working as a *mule placer*, and born in Rhode Island.<sup>13</sup>

Military records report his birthplace as Montpelier, VT in 1840. He was described as being 5'-7" tall, dark complexion, grey eyes, and dark hair. His occupation at the time of enlistment was operative. Pension records show that he lived in Woonsocket until 1866. From 1866 to 1888, he and his family were residents of Cannon Falls, MN. They returned to Woonsocket in 1888.<sup>26</sup>

Peter died in Woonsocket on 15

November 1911 at the age of 70 years<sup>17</sup>; his wife died there on 4 September 1918. They are buried in unmarked graves in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket. His death is recorded in the Woonsocket city records under the name of Hial GOVE<sup>16</sup>.

**JACQUES, George H.**, and **JACQUES, James**, mentioned in **BONIER's** book were not French, but of English descent.

**LAROUX, Peter** was born in Champlain Co. Québec on 23 November 1834 and baptized that day at Ste. Genevieve-de Batiscan as *Pierre L'HEUREUX*. He enlisted on 9 April 1862 at Stillwater, MN as a Private in Co. C, 8th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged on 11 July 1865 at Goldsboro, NC.

He returned to Canada after the war and was married at Ste. Genevieve to Philomene CADORETTE on 8 February 1870. Around 1892, this family is found living in the Ashton and Berkley sections of Cumberland, RI. By 1908 they had returned to Canada and were living at Grand-Mere, Champlain Co., Québec.

A pension document dated that year indicates that he was 5'-9" tall, had a dark complexion, brown eyes, black hair, and weighed 165 pounds.<sup>26</sup> The date of his death has not been found.

**LANDRY, Joseph** was a Private in Battery D of the First Rhode Island Light Artillery Regiment. He enlisted and mustered in on 5 November 1864 in Providence for a one-year term, and was mustered out on 17 July 1865.<sup>5</sup>

Joseph was born in 1845, probably in Canada. He was married to Emilie

GRENON on 11 November 1866 in Manville, RI "by a priest from Valley Falls.<sup>26</sup> Emilie was born in 1850. At some time after their marriage, they moved to Manitoba, where they purchased a 125 acre farm near the parish of St. Jean-Baptiste. Joseph and Emilie had eleven children.

Joseph died on 23 April 1904 at St. Jean-Baptiste, Manitoba and is buried there. Emilie died on 9 January 1931 at Morris, Manitoba, and is buried with her husband.<sup>26</sup>

**LANDRY, Joseph** was a resident of Bellingham, MA. He was the son of Joseph, who was born in 1799, and of Emily, his wife.

Joseph LANDRY enlisted on 28 January 1864 and was assigned as a private in Company F, First Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry. One source reports that he died of disease on the hospital steamer *Atlantic* on 1 October 1864.<sup>18</sup> Records obtained from the National Archives confirm this. He was admitted to the Cavalry Corps hospital on 1 September 1864, and transferred to the hospital ship on 30 September with *typho malarial fever*.<sup>26</sup> Military records give his age at the time of his enlistment as 19. His occupation is recorded as laborer.

**LAVALLEE, Calixte** enlisted in the Fourth Rhode Island Infantry as *Calixa LAVALLEY* on 17 September 1861, at the age of 19. He was assigned as the First Trumpeter in the regimental band with the rank of Private.<sup>210</sup> His pension records show an enlistment date of 15 August.<sup>26</sup> He was wounded at the battle of Antietam, and received his discharge on 15 August 1862.

Calixte LAVALLEE was the son



of Jean-Baptiste and of Caroline VALENTIN dit GREGOIRE. He was born on 28 November 1842 at Vercheres, Québec.<sup>11</sup> A second source gives his father's name as Augustin and says his trade was blacksmith.<sup>12</sup> A third source reports that Calixte's father was Augustin, a violin maker.<sup>26</sup>

Although he was a resident of Woonsocket at the time of his enlistment, he did not return there after the war. On 21 December 1867 he married Josephine GENTILLY (also *De GENTILLY*) at St. Ann Church, Lowell, MA. She was the daughter of François and of Elizabeth RANDOLPH. They had one son, Raoul Arthur, born on 2 Jan 1880.

Calixte was probably the most prominent of our Civil War veterans. Following his debut at the *Theatre Royal*, he had a brilliant musical career. In 1886 he was named President of the National Convention and became a renowned professor of music. In 1888, he was the author of two operas, of thirty studies for the piano, and finally the author of the Canadian National Anthem, *O Canada*. He ended his career as the Musical Director of the Grand Opera House in New York. Calixte LAVALLEE died on 4 February 1891 (pension records say 21 January<sup>26</sup>) at Boston, MA.<sup>11</sup> He is buried in Mount Benedict Cemetery.

A pension application was made by his widow on behalf of their minor son. She remarried in Boston on 31 January 1895 to Adolphe Ambrose DENIS.<sup>26</sup>

BONIER makes no mention of Calixte LAVALLEE in her book.

LAVALLEE, Joseph was the son of Pierre (dit MENON) and of Marie.

This family came from St. Ours, Québec and settled in Woonsocket sometime between 1845 and 1850.<sup>1</sup> His first marriage was to Marie-Emeline GADOURY, the daughter of Joseph (or Pierre) and Agnes. They were married on 2 January 1870 in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket.<sup>3</sup> Marie Emeline was born in Canada around 1852.<sup>20</sup> There were four children born from this marriage.

Joseph's second marriage was to Marie-Angele DAIGLE, the daughter of Pierre-Octave and of Angele LEMOINE. This marriage took place on 29 March 1880 in Precious Blood Church, Woonsocket.<sup>4</sup> Marie-Angele was born on 13 February 1845 at St. Louis de Bon Secours, Québec, and died at Woonsocket on 5 September 1924.<sup>20</sup> There were no children from this marriage.<sup>1</sup>

Joseph enlisted under the name Joseph LOVELY. BONIER reports that he was killed in action.<sup>1</sup> This is obviously an error.

LECLERC, Felix appears in BONIER's list of veterans. According to her account, he was wounded in battle, which resulted in the amputation of one of his legs.<sup>1</sup> I have found no evidence to confirm this.

LECLERC, Olivier does not appear on BONIER's list of veterans. He is, however, mentioned in a footnote relating to his marriage to Julie LETENDRE, daughter of Michel and of Julie BOUDREAULT.<sup>1</sup> This marriage can be found in the records of St. Charles Church of Woonsocket on 8 May 1859. The names of the couple's parents are not recorded, but there is a marginal notation, obviously added later, stating that Olivier fought in the

store on State Route 140.<sup>30</sup> Eight of their children were still living in 1899.<sup>26</sup>

Elizabeth died on 27 April 1892 in Hopedale, MA, and is buried in Vernon Grove Cemetery in Milford. Felix remarried on 6 October 1898 in Mendon, MA to Mary Jane GREENE, the widow of Nelson WHITE, and daughter of John and of Maranda WOOD. Mary Jane was born on 4 April 1831 in Thompson, CT and died on 18 December 1915 in Waltham, MA.<sup>30</sup>

Felix applied for a federal pension on 2 March 1891 citing a disability due to an injury to his right shoulder, rheumatism, kidney disease, and partial loss of sight in both eyes. His application was approved and he collected \$6.00 per month until his death. The injury to his shoulder was caused by a fall while "skating on the mill pond at Wescotts Mills, Hopedale, MA in December 1886."<sup>26</sup>

Felix died suddenly on 2 January 1901 and is buried in Vernon Grove Cemetery.

**MONGEON, Pierre** was the brother of Felix. He was born in 1838, probably in St. Ours. He enlisted in the First Rhode Island Infantry on 17 April 1861. He mustered in on 2 May and was assigned as a Private in Company K. He was discharged on 2 August 1861.

On 5 October 1861, Pierre re-enlisted as a Private in Company B, Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. He was discharged for disability on 27 March 1862 at Hilton Head, SC because of wounds which resulted in the loss of his arm.<sup>26</sup>

Pierre is said to have migrated west and was never heard from again.<sup>1</sup> There is no pension record for him on file at the National Archives.

**MYETTE, Joseph** was the son of Prudent and of Sophie PROULX, and the brother of Oliver and William. His family arrived in Woonsocket around 1821. According to BONIER, Joseph may have enlisted under the name *MAYER* or *MYER*.<sup>1</sup> His name was not found in the rolls of any Rhode Island Unit.

A Joseph MYETTE is recorded in the 1860 census. This individual was living in the home of Horace B. ROBINS. He was age 25, worked as an overseer of weaving, and was born in Rhode Island.<sup>13</sup>

**MYETTE, Oliver Franklin** was the brother of Joseph and William. He was born in Millbury, MA on 26 July 1838 and was married to Ellen Jeanette DEERY (or *DEARIE*), the daughter of Thomas and Margaret. The marriage took place on 18 August 1861 in Smithfield, RI. The marriage records gives his age as 23, and his birthplace as Wisconsin. Ellen's age at the time was 18.<sup>7</sup> Ellen was born in Wisconsin around 1844 and died in Woonsocket on 10 January 1879, and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Records in Woonsocket show that her parents were born in Scotland.<sup>17</sup>

Oliver's second marriage was to Carrie E. DIXON, the widow of John C. DIXON. Contradictory information on this marriage comes from the same source:<sup>26</sup> According to his pension records, they were married on 11 December 1894 in Palmer, MA or 12 March 1910 in Woonsocket. Her maiden name was either RIDER or RIDDER.

Oliver enlisted on 2 May 1861 in the 1st Rhode Island Infantry. He was mustered out with his regiment on 2

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tioned in BONIER's book as a resident of Blackstone, MA. The ancestry of Franklin MINOTT and his wife, Ellen BOUTELL, can probably be traced back to France at some point. However they are probably Huguenot or Norman/English in origin, and certainly not Canadian French.

**MINOTT, William H.** See Franklin G. above. I was not able to determine if these two individuals were related.

**MOISAN, Antoine** was the son of Antoine and of Rose CARDI. He was born in Canada on 4 October 1837.<sup>29</sup> The family originated in St. Pie de Bagot and settled in Woonsocket around 1857.<sup>1</sup> Antoine was married to Alice MARSHAL, who is named *Elise* in BONIER's book.

It is also stated in BONIER's book that he enlisted under the name *Anthony MINER*. I have not found any evidence to confirm his military service. Antoine died on 16 February 1926 and is buried in Precious Blood Cemetery. His age as recorded in the undertaker's files was 88 years, 4 months, and 12 days<sup>9</sup>

Woonsocket death records state that he used the names *Jake YOUNG* and *John MINER*.<sup>36</sup>

**MOISAN, Louis** was the brother of Antoine, and the husband of Etta GARCEAU. According to BONIER, he also enlisted under the name *MINER*.<sup>1</sup> Louis was born in Vermont around 1847, the son of Antoine and Rosalie. He was married on 13 August 1865 in Woonsocket. The records of this marriage can be found in the registers of St. James Episcopal Church.

Louis died in Woonsocket on 5

July 1893 from burns received in a fire. Etta was born in Montréal around 1846 and died on 13 May 1918 in Woonsocket. Both are buried in Precious Blood Cemetery.

Louis enlisted in Company E of the Second Rhode Island Infantry on 23 August 1864, and mustered in on 15 September. He was mustered out on 20 January 1865 at Halls Hill, VA. It appears that Louis MOISAN used the name *MINER* exclusively after the war.<sup>26</sup>

**MOISAN, Pierre.** A relationship with Antoine and Louis has not been established. He also used the name *MINER*.<sup>1</sup> No evidence has been found of his military service.

**MONGEON, Felix** was the son of Antoine-Louis and of Françoise JACOB. He was born on 6 April 1835 at St. Ours, and came to Woonsocket with his family around 1846.<sup>1</sup> Felix was married in Cumberland, RI on 2 October 1853 to Elizabeth Ann LACEY. She was the eldest daughter of Henry James and of Catherine JOHNSON, and was born on 10 April 1836 in Leicester, England.<sup>30</sup> After their marriage they settled in the Village of Pascoag, in Burrillville, RI.

It was from that place that Felix enlisted on 20 August 1862 as *Felix MUNGER*. He mustered in on 13 October and was assigned as a Private in Company K, 12th Rhode Island Infantry. Felix was wounded at Fredericksburg in December 1862, and was mustered out in Providence, RI on 29 July 1863.<sup>26</sup>

The family moved to Milford, MA in 1873. Their home was located on the present site of *Rich's* department

Civil War.<sup>3</sup>

Another source gives his parents' names as Jean and Marie.<sup>20</sup> A search of military records from Rhode Island and Massachusetts did not shed any light on his service. A search of records at the National Archives was also fruitless.

**LEMOINE, Augustin** was the son of Joseph and of Ursule MOISON. He was married to NEWEL (first name unknown)<sup>1</sup>. According to BONIER, Augustin served in the Civil War under the name *Austin YOUNG*.<sup>1</sup>

An *Austin YOUNG* can be found in the 1880 census as a resident of Providence, RI. This individual was born in Vermont; his parents were born in Canada. The census shows that he was age 36, and employed as a fire insurance agent. His wife was Amanda, age 26, and born in New Hampshire.<sup>5</sup> They had two children, both born in Rhode Island. No military information has been found.

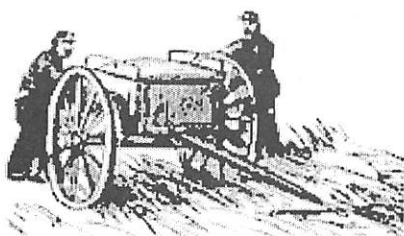
**MARTIN, Charles** was the son of Etienne and of Louisa DUPRE. His family originated from St. Jude, Québec and arrived in Woonsocket around 1856. He was married to Ida DUPREZ and established his home in Grafton, MA.<sup>1</sup>

The family of Etienne MARTIN appears in the 1860 census of Woonsocket Village, Cumberland; but there is no entry for Charles.<sup>13</sup> I have found no evidence of any military service.

**MARTIN, Joseph** was the son of Isadore and of Lizette MOISAN. He was born in Canada around 1837 and emigrated to Woonsocket around 1846. He was married on 8 June 1861 in Cumberland, RI to Hannah Maria HAUVER, daughter of Frederick and Esther. She was born in Vermont around 1845.<sup>26</sup>

Joseph's residences are documented as follows: Woonsocket, 1855 to 1867, and 1873 to 1875; Fall River, MA from 1867 to 1869; Wrentham, MA from 1869 to 1873 and 1881 to 1884; Norfolk, MA from 1875 to 1880; and North Bellingham, MA from 1880 to 1881. His occupations are recorded as mill operative and loom fixer.<sup>26</sup>

BONIER reports that Joseph MARTIN was a member of a regular army unit garrisoned in Rhode Island. This is an error. On 19 November 1861



he enlisted in the Fifth Rhode Island Heavy Artillery regiment, a volunteer unit. He mustered in on 16 December and was assigned as a Private in Company D. From August to November 1863 he was a patient in the General Hospital, New Berne, NC. Joseph was discharged on 1 January 1864 and re-enlisted on the following day, receiving a promotion to Corporal. He was promoted to Sergeant on 16 June 1865 and received his discharge ten days later.<sup>2</sup> Military records describe him as follows: 5'-3" tall, light complexion, black eyes and black hair.<sup>26</sup>

Joseph died in Wrentham, MA on 24 July 1884, at the age of 47. His wife was remarried on 30 October 1886 in Franklin, MA to George SMITH. They were divorced on 17 December 1909.<sup>26</sup>

**MINOTT, Franklin G.** is men-

of Jean-Baptiste and of Caroline VALENTIN dit GREGOIRE. He was born on 28 November 1842 at Vercheres, Québec.<sup>11</sup> A second source gives his father's name as Augustin and says his trade was blacksmith.<sup>12</sup> A third source reports that Calixte's father was Augustin, a violin maker.<sup>26</sup>

Although he was a resident of Woonsocket at the time of his enlistment, he did not return there after the war. On 21 December 1867 he married Josephine GENTILLY (also *De GENTILLY*) at St. Ann Church, Lowell, MA. She was the daughter of François and of Elizabeth RANDOLPH. They had one son, Raoul Arthur, born on 2 Jan 1880.

Calixte was probably the most prominent of our Civil War veterans. Following his debut at the *Theatre Royal*, he had a brilliant musical career. In 1886 he was named President of the National Convention and became a renowned professor of music. In 1888, he was the author of two operas, of thirty studies for the piano, and finally the author of the Canadian National Anthem, *O Canada*. He ended his career as the Musical Director of the Grand Opera House in New York. Calixte LAVALLEE died on 4 February 1891 (pension records say 21 January<sup>26</sup>) at Boston, MA.<sup>11</sup> He is buried in Mount Benedict Cemetery.

A pension application was made by his widow on behalf of their minor son. She remarried in Boston on 31 January 1895 to Adolphe Ambrose DENIS.<sup>26</sup>

BONIER makes no mention of Calixte LAVALLEE in her book.

**LAVALLEE, Joseph** was the son of Pierre (dit MENON) and of Marie.

This family came from St. Ours, Québec and settled in Woonsocket sometime between 1845 and 1850.<sup>1</sup> His first marriage was to Marie-Emeline GADOURY, the daughter of Joseph (or Pierre) and Agnes. They were married on 2 January 1870 in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket.<sup>3</sup> Marie Emeline was born in Canada around 1852.<sup>20</sup> There were four children born from this marriage.

Joseph's second marriage was to Marie-Angele DAIGLE, the daughter of Pierre-Octave and of Angele LE-MOINE. This marriage took place on 29 March 1880 in Precious Blood Church, Woonsocket.<sup>4</sup> Marie-Angele was born on 13 February 1845 at St. Louis de Bon Secours, Québec, and died at Woonsocket on 5 September 1924.<sup>20</sup> there were no children from this marriage.<sup>1</sup>

Joseph enlisted under the name Joseph *LOVELY*. BONIER reports that he was killed in action.<sup>1</sup> This is obviously an error.

**LECLERC, Felix** appears in BONIER's list of veterans. According to her account, he was wounded in battle, which resulted in the amputation of one of his legs.<sup>1</sup> I have found no evidence to confirm this.

**LECLERC, Olivier** does not appear on BONIER's list of veterans. He is, however, mentioned in a footnote relating to his marriage to Julie LETENDRE, daughter of Michel and of Julie BOUDREAULT.<sup>1</sup> This marriage can be found in the records of St. Charles Church of Woonsocket on 8 May 1859. The names of the couple's parents are not recorded, but there is a marginal notation, obviously added later, stating that Olivier fought in the

August 1861. He reenlisted as Oliver *MIETT* on 31 August 1861, reporting his residence as Woonsocket. He was mustered in on 5 October at Fort Hamilton, NY, and was assigned as a Private in Company B of the Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery Regiment.<sup>26</sup> He was discharged on a surgeon's certificate on 7 May 1863 at Hilton Head, SC.<sup>2</sup> Oliver reenlisted once again on 11 February 1865 and was assigned to Company E, First Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. He was mustered out on 24 June 1865.

Oliver died on 27 November 1924 in Bellingham, MA of broncho-pneumonia,<sup>17</sup> and is buried in Union Cemetery, North Smithfield, RI.<sup>27</sup> His name is engraved on the Blackstone, MA Civil War monument as *MIETT*. He was a member of Smith Post 9, G.A.R. in Woonsocket.<sup>32</sup>

**MYETTE, William** was the brother of Joseph and Oliver, and was married to Mary F. McINTIRE on 31 August 1867 in Dedham, MA. He was born on 17 June 1844 in that part of Woonsocket then known as Globe Village, and died on 8 October 1917. His wife died on 25 August 1878, at the age of 28.

William was a Private in Company B of the Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery Regiment. He enlisted on 31 August 1861, reporting his place of residence as Woonsocket; and was discharged on 5 October 1864 in Providence, RI.<sup>2</sup>

William and his wife are buried in Union Cemetery, North Smithfield, RI. Their graves are located approximately 25 feet from that of François PRUE, the son of the first French-Canadian immigrant to Woonsocket.<sup>17</sup>

**PAPILLON, Fabien** arrived in Woonsocket from St. Ours around 1859. The name of his wife has not been found. However it is known that he was widowed when he arrived in Woonsocket with his four children.<sup>1</sup>

Military records indicate that he was born in Lower Canada around 1829. He was 5'-4" tall, had a dark complexion, blue eyes, light hair, and was working as a farmer at the time of his enlistment.<sup>26</sup> He enlisted on 28 January 1864 as *Peter FLY*, and reported his place of residence as Woonsocket. He mustered in at Jamestown, RI and was assigned as a Private in Company F, Third Rhode Island Cavalry Regiment. He died of fever<sup>26</sup> in the Regimental Hospital (also called Scott Hospital), Napoleonville, LA on 13 October 1864.<sup>2</sup>

**PAPILLON, Joseph** was the son of Fabien, according to BONIER.<sup>1</sup> I believe that it is more likely that they were brothers. He was born on 6 March 1837 in Montréal, and was married in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket to Marie Louise Clairice CARRIGNAN, the daughter of George and Amelia.<sup>26</sup> Her name is recorded as *CARRIERE* in the church record, and has been seen as *CARGUIN* and *CARGNIN* in other records. The names of his parents was omitted in the marriage record.<sup>3</sup> They had 11 children.

Joseph enlisted as *Joseph FLY* on 14 January 1864, and mustered in five days later. He was assigned as a Private in Company G, 56th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Military records show that he reported his residence as Bellingham, MA, his age as 26, and his occupation as laborer. He is described as being 5'-6" tall. He received a gunshot wound in his left leg on 19 May

1864 at Spotsylvania, VA, and was hospitalized until 13 August.<sup>26</sup> Joseph was discharged on 12 July 1865 at Alexandria, VA.<sup>15,18</sup>

Joseph died in Woonsocket on 17 February 1916. His wife died there on 17 Jul 1925. They are buried in Precious Blood Cemetery.

**PATENAUDE, Samuel** (*a.k.a. PATNEAU*) was born in 1846 at New York, NY, the son of Charles and of Junite POUPART. His father was born in New York, and his mother in Canada.

Samuel enlisted on 2 February 1864 as a Private in Co. E, 169th New York Infantry, giving his occupation as farmer. He was discharged on 19 July 1865 at Albany, NY.<sup>26</sup>

His first marriage was to Amelia SEYMOUR. She was born in New York, and died on 5 April 1881 in Manville, RI.<sup>17</sup> He then married Orelie (*or Arzelie*) DUCHESNEAU at St. James of Manville, RI on 14 January 1884.<sup>17,35</sup> She was the daughter of Joseph and of Zoe RUIREAU.<sup>35</sup>

Samuel died on 29 April 1903 in Manville and is buried there in St. James Cemetery. His second wife died in Manville on 14 December 1939 and is buried with her husband. It can probably be assumed that Amelia is also buried in St. James Cemetery, although the records that would support this no longer exist.<sup>17</sup>

**POTVIN, Paul** was the son of Antoine (*dit MERICHON*). The family originated in St. Ours and settled in Woonsocket around 1843. Paul was married to Desanges ST. MARTIN, and later settled in Southbridge, MA.<sup>1</sup>

According to BONIER, he enlisted in a Massachusetts Cavalry regi-

ment and was killed in battle. I have been unable to find records that confirm this.

**PRAIRIE, Narcisse** was the son of Narcisse and of Victoire VINCELETTE. The family emigrated from St. Gregoire, Québec and settled in Woonsocket around 1846.<sup>1</sup>

Narcisse enlisted under the name *Nelson PERRY* on 13 August 1861 in Providence. He was assigned as an *Artificer* in Battery B of the First Rhode Island Light Artillery Regiment. An article in the *Woonsocket Patriot* gives his name as *Nelson E. PRARY*.<sup>21</sup> He re-enlisted in December of 1863 and deserted while on furlough on 27 March 1865.<sup>2</sup>

The 1880 census shows him living in Woonsocket with his parents, and working as a carpenter. His name is recorded as *Nelson PRARAY*.<sup>3</sup>

**PRAIRIE, Stephen** (*dit PIED-ALVE*) does not appear on BONIER's list of veterans. However she mentions in another part of her book that he served in the Civil War, and was a native of Chambly who settled in Woonsocket after the war.<sup>1</sup>

Stephen was the son of Joseph and Edwardine and was born around 1842.<sup>20</sup> He married Regina LAFLAMME in St. Charles Church, Woonsocket on 21 August 1864. She was the daughter of Charles and of Zoe PHANEUF.<sup>20</sup> The couple moved to Vermont some time after their marriage.<sup>1</sup>

His name was not found in the military records of Rhode Island or Massachusetts.

**PROULX, David** (also spelled *PRUE*) was born in Canada, the son of



Jean-Baptiste and of Emilie COURTE-MANCHE. The family emigrated from Sorel, Québec and settled in Woonsocket around 1842. Bonier erroneously reports that he was killed in battle.<sup>1</sup>

David was married to Marguerite CADORET in 18 August 1866 in St. James Episcopal Church. She was the daughter of Augustin and of Marguerite DUHAIME and was born on 19 February 1843 at St. Simon, Québec.<sup>26</sup>

David enlisted on 6 June 1861, reporting his residence as Woonsocket. He was assigned as a Private in Company I of the Second Rhode Island Infantry Regiment. He re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer on 26 December 1863 and was reassigned to Company C. He was mustered out with his unit on 13 July 1865.<sup>2</sup>

David died on 11 March 1873 of tuberculosis at the age of 31. Marguerite married Frank RUGES in Precious Blood Church, Woonsocket on 22 December 1879. Frank was the son of Henry and of Marguerite PLANTE. He died on 13 November 1899 in a boiler explosion at the Hamlet Mills, Woonsocket. Marguerite died on 20 March 1919 at Woonsocket, and is buried in Precious Blood Cemetery.<sup>26</sup>

**PROULX, John** (also spelled *PRUE*) was omitted from BONIER's list. John enlisted on 16 August 1862. He was assigned as a Private in Company E of the Seventh Rhode Island Infantry, later being promoted to Corporal. He was discharged on 9 June 1865 at Alexandria, VA. Military records describe him as 5'-6" tall, light complexion, and grey eyes.<sup>26</sup>

John was born around 1837, probably in Canada. He was married in 1857 to Rosalie LEVITT at St. Charles of

Woonsocket.<sup>3</sup> Pension records show that he was married to Emma GOSETTE/BERARD in Vercheres, Québec prior to 1870. Records also show that he moved to Burlington, Vermont after the war, lived in Canada for a while, then returned to Vermont. He was living in Underhill, VT in 1895, and working as a farmer and lumber mill worker. John died on 1 August 1926 at Burlington.<sup>26</sup>

**PROULX, Peter** (also spelled *PRUE*) was the son of Paul and of Agathe ALLAIRE. He was born on 25 June 1837 in Sorel, Québec, and baptized in the church of St. Pierre.<sup>17</sup> His family emigrated from St. Marcel and settled in Woonsocket around 1844.<sup>1</sup> Peter's first marriage was to Elizabeth SAMPSON, who died in August 1879 in Franklin, MA. There were two known children from this marriage. On 24 May 1884 he married Adrina HATCH in Sutton, MA.<sup>26</sup> Peter enlisted on 7 December 1863, and reported his residence as Milford, MA, his age as 23, and his occupation as bootmaker. He was assigned as a Private in Company G, Second Massachusetts Volunteer Heavy Artillery.<sup>18</sup> Military records show that he was 5'-6" tall, had a light complexion, grey eyes, and dark brown hair. He was captured by Confederate forces at Plymouth, NC on 20 April 1864, and was imprisoned in the infamous prison camp at Andersonville, GA, from which he was paroled on 27 February 1865. He was discharged for disability on 12 August of that year at Smithville, NC.<sup>26</sup>

In 1912 he was living in the National Soldiers' Home in Kennebec, ME. He died there on 30 March 1913. Records show that he always used the name *Peter PRUE*, and, contrary to

BONIER's assertion, he never lived in Woonsocket.<sup>26</sup>

**PRUDOM, \_\_\_\_?** BONIER includes this name in her list, with no other information. I have been unable to verify the existence of this individual.

**ROBERT, Pierre** (*also Peter*) was the son of Joseph (dit LAFONTAINE) and of Euphémie BRODEUR. His family originated from St. Jean-Baptiste de Rougement (*Rouville?*) and arrived in Woonsocket in 1861. Pierre was married to Rose MOISON.<sup>1</sup>

**ROBIDOUX, Pierre.** BONIER gives no further information in this individual other than his name. A Pierre ROBIDOUX was married in Woonsocket to Marie CADORET on 11 October 1865. He was the son of Pierre and Marie; she was the daughter of Pierre and of Marie-Anne HÉBERT. His age was recorded as 43, hers as 45. It was the second marriage for both.<sup>20</sup> I have not been able to verify that this is the correct person, and no military records have been found.

**SANGUINETTE, Battistier** enlisted as *Jean B. SANGUINETTE* on 16 February 1861. He reported his residence as Blackstone, MA, his age as 25, and his occupation as trader.<sup>15</sup> He was assigned as a Private in Company F of the 59th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. A year later he transferred to Company I of the 57th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged on 30 July 1865.<sup>15</sup>

**SANSOUCY, Magloire.** BONIER includes this name in her list, with no other information. An individual of

that name was married at St. Charles of Woonsocket to Delmar CANTARA, daughter of Joseph and of Marie LETENDRE. The parish register records his parents as Augustin and Marguerite GRAVEL.<sup>20</sup> I have no evidence that this is the same individual.

**SAULT, Peter** was born in Highgate, VT around 1842, the son of Edward & Mary. He was married on 3 September 1864 in the Methodist Church of Providence, RI to Mary TREDO, the daughter of Lewis and Jessie. She was also born in Highgate, VT.<sup>26</sup>

Peter enlisted on 6 June 1861, reporting his residence as Woonsocket. He was assigned as a Private in Company I, Second Rhode Island Infantry. He was promoted to Corporal on 15 November 1862. From July to November 1863, he was assigned to a conscript camp in Connecticut, and was discharged in Providence on 17 June 1864.<sup>2</sup> During his service he saw action in the first battle of Bull Run, and the Peninsular Campaign. Military records describe him as 5'-8" tall, dark complexion, black hair, and hazel eyes he reported his occupation as carpenter.<sup>26</sup>

After his discharge, Peter lived in Albion, RI. Both he and his wife gave this village as their place of residence at the time of their marriage. In 1869 they moved to West Randolph, VT. Peter died in Randolph on 23 October 1901 at the age of 59 years, 9 months, and 7 days. Mary died there on 27 July 1912.<sup>26</sup>

**SIMPSON, Peter** was the son of Pierre and of Marie-Anne GIROUARD.<sup>1</sup> He was born around 1826<sup>26</sup> in

Canada. He emigrated from St. Ours and settled in Woonsocket around 1839. The rest of his family followed in 1844.<sup>1</sup> According to BONIER, Peter was descended from Jean SIMPSON, son of Richard and of Mary LOPAIN of Rhode Island. Jean was baptized in Québec in 1680, and it is assumed that he was captured in an Indian raid on New England.<sup>1</sup> The records of the town of Millbury, MA confirm that he was born in Canada, and that his parents were named Peter and Mary.<sup>17</sup>

Peter was married on 22 November 1840 at Thompson, CT to Maria FOLLETT. The marriage record shows that he was a resident of Waterford, MA (now a part of the town of Blackstone). Maria (spelled *Mariah* in the record) was age 20, and a resident of Woonsocket.<sup>17</sup>

An entry in the 1860 census shows Peter SIMPSON as age 38, working as a cotton mill superintendent, and born in Canada. His wife and two children were born in Rhode Island. The family was living in the Woonsocket Village section of Cumberland.<sup>13</sup>

Peter served in the Civil War as a Captain of Infantry. He volunteered as *Peter SIMPSON Jr.* on 17 April 1861 in Providence, RI. He mustered in on 2 May and was assigned as the commander of Company K, First Rhode Island Infantry. He mustered out on 2 August 1861.<sup>2</sup> and returned to Woonsocket to command the Woonsocket Guards, a militia unit.<sup>21</sup> Peter and his family later moved to Millbury, MA, where he was employed by the Harris Woolen Company.<sup>1</sup>

Peter died on 6 May 1889 at Millbury. The record of his death reports his age as 68 years, 4 months, and 3 days. His occupation was manufac-

turer. His widow applied for a federal pension based on his wartime service. The pension was approved but was later canceled because of her failure to collect it.<sup>26</sup>

**SYLVESTRE, Norbert** was the son of Amable and of Angele VOULIGNY. His family arrived in Woonsocket around 1860. The name of his first wife is not known. His second marriage was to Philomene GILBERT.<sup>1</sup>

Norbert enlisted at Worcester, MA in the 21st Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment on 19 July 1861, reporting his place of residence as West Boylston, MA.<sup>15</sup> BONIER claims that he was taken prisoner during the battle of Bull Run, escaped captivity, and returned to Canada.<sup>1</sup>

Norbert SYLVESTRE was listed as a deserter on 10 August 1862. There is no mention in his military record of his captivity by the enemy.<sup>15</sup> The second battle of Bull Run took place on 29-30 August 1862. This would seem to indicate that he deserted before the battle.

**TANCRED, James** is in BONIER's list as a resident of Blackstone, MA. Records of that town reveal that he was born in Ireland.<sup>17</sup>

**TATRO (TETREAULT), Andrew** was born in Canada in 1844, the son of Peter and Mary. He enlisted on 15 December 1863 as a Private in Co. B, 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. On 19 May 1864 he was wounded in the right arm in the battle of Spotsylvania. He was again wounded at Fredericksburg.<sup>32</sup>

He deserted in July of 1864 but was soon returned to duty, and was discharged at Fort Bunker Hill, SC on 16

August 1865.

On 5 January 1867, he married Zola (or Zoea) MOSIER in the Baptist Church of Holden, MA.<sup>17</sup> She was born around 1849 in Canada, the daughter of Silvah and Lois.

Andrew died of consumption on 1 April 1899 in Burrillville, RI and is buried in Pascoag Cemetery there.

**TATRO (TETREAULT), Isaac** enlisted on 22 March 1864, reporting his residence as Woonsocket. He was assigned as a Private in Company L, Third Rhode Island Cavalry. He died of disease at New Orleans, LA on 13 September 1864.<sup>2</sup>

He was married on 13 September 1857 at St. Charles of Woonsocket to Adeline HEBERT. Isaac TATRO was omitted from BONIER's list.

**TESSIER, Pierre** was the son of Jean-Baptiste and of Clemence PERRON. His family emigrated from Sorel and settled in Woonsocket in 1851. He was married to Celina CADORET of St. Simon, Québec.<sup>1</sup>

**TREMBLAY, Remi** was born at St. Barnabe, Québec on 2 April 1847. He arrived in Woonsocket around 1859, having been preceeded by his parents. The TREMBLAY family returned to Canada and lived in Contrecoeur for a while. Remi returned to the U.S. and enlisted in the Union army in 1863.<sup>1</sup> His name does not appear in Rhode Island military records, so it must be assumed that he enlisted in another state.

He was taken prisoner in Virginia and spent six months in the infamous Libby Prison. He escaped captivity and went directly to Canada, deserting his unit.<sup>12</sup>

Remi returned to Woonsocket after the war, where he was married on 26 October 1868 in St. Charles Church.<sup>3</sup> His bride was Julie LEMERY, daughter of Augustin and of Angele BELANGER. The LEMERY family was from St. Germain-de-Grantham, and had been in Woonsocket since 1838.<sup>1</sup>

After their marriage they moved to Ottawa, where Remi worked as a journalist. The family returned to the U.S. in 1894, and settled in Fall River, MA.<sup>1</sup> Julie died in Worcester, MA on 22 June 1896. She is buried in Precious Blood Cemetery, Woonsocket. On 31 August 1897 he married Alida CHARLEBOIS in Ottawa. Remi never returned to the U.S. and died in Canada in 1926.<sup>12</sup>

Remi TREMBLAY was well educated, and was fluent not only in English and French, but also in Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, German, and Hebrew.<sup>1</sup> In 1884 he wrote a novel, *Un Revenant, Episode de la Guerre de Secession aux Etats-Unis*. This book is a somewhat autobiographical account of a young soldier who, after having been captured at the battle of Petersburg and incarcerated in the Confederacy's notorious Libby Prison, is later paroled and then deserts.<sup>23</sup>

**TRUDEAU, Olivier.** BONIER includes this name in her list, with no other information. I have been unable to verify the existence of this individual.

**VALOIS, Joseph** is included in BONIER's list of veterans. However the 1860 census shows that he was only 13 years old in that year.<sup>13</sup> Although it was known to have happened, it is unlikely that he would have been allowed to enlist. A search of Rhode Island and

Massachusetts military records did not turn up his name. Joseph VALOIS was the step-brother of John AREL.

**VASLET, Charles** was born in Canada around 1846<sup>26</sup> as Charles *VINCELETTE*, the son of Charles and of Sophie BLANCHEPIN. His grandfather emigrated to Woonsocket from St. Cesaire around 1842.

The family of Charles *VASLETT* (Sr.) is found in the 1860 census, living in the Woonsocket Village section of Cumberland. Charles (Jr.) is shown to be 15 years old, working as a mill laborer. There were seven children in this family, all born in Massachusetts or Rhode Island<sup>13</sup>. The census indicates that Charles was born in Rhode Island. This conflicts with Army records which give his birthplace as Canada.<sup>26</sup>

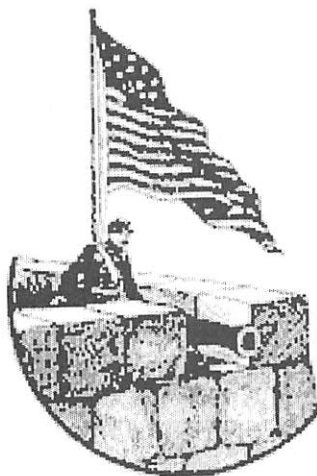
Charles enlisted on 23 February 1865 in Providence, RI, reporting his residence as Woonsocket. He was assigned as a Private in Battery H, First Rhode Island Light Artillery Regiment. The record describes him as being 5'-4" tall, dark complexion, black eyes, black hair. His occupation is reported as laborer.<sup>26</sup>

Charles was killed in battle near Petersburg, VA on 2 April 1865. He is buried at Fair Grounds Hospital, Petersburg, VA.<sup>2</sup> His name can be found on a bronze tablet on the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument in Providence, RI.

**VINCELETTE, Napoleon** was the son of Pierre and of Scholastique BESSETTE. He was born on 15 March 1840 at Waterville, VT.<sup>32</sup> His family emigrated from St. Cesaire to Woonsocket around 1842. Napoleon's first marriage was to Sarah HENDRICK.<sup>1</sup> His second marriage was to Georgianna

PATT, the daughter of Otis and of Mary KNIGHT. This marriage took place in a civil ceremony in Central Falls, RI on 5 April 1876. Their ages are recorded as 36 and 20, respectively.<sup>7</sup>

The 1860 census shows that he was living in the home of his parents in Woonsocket Village. His age was reported as 21, and he worked as a clerk



in a store.<sup>13</sup> The 1880 census shows Napoleon living in Providence, RI under the name of *VASLETT*, age 39, and working as a store clerk. His wife, *Georgia K.* was 35. No children are listed.<sup>5</sup>

Napoleon's military experience predates the Civil War. He became a member of the Woonsocket Guards, a militia unit, in May of 1859, and remained a member of that group until he volunteered on 5 June 1861 under the name *Napoleon A. VALSLETT*. He was assigned as a Private in Company I, Second Rhode Island Infantry.<sup>2</sup> Military records describe him as 5'-8" tall, dark complexion, grey eyes, and black hair.<sup>26</sup> He saw action with his regiment at the

First Battle of Bull Run. Napoleon reached the rank of Sergeant before his discharge for disability on 25 March 1862 at Washington, DC. The cause of his disability was "hemorrhage of the lungs and tuberculosis."<sup>26</sup>

He died on 13 November 1916 in Woonsocket, RI of acute bronchitis<sup>17</sup> and was buried in Moshassuck Cemetery, Central Falls, RI on 16 November.<sup>34</sup> He was an uncle of Charles VASLET mentioned above.

**WRIGHT, Edward F. BONIER** claims that he was *Edouard CHARRON*. I have found no evidence to support this claim. I do not believe this individual was French.

There is some confusion concerning members of the MYETTE families, four of which are named in this article. BONIER claims on page 255 of her book that brothers Joseph, Oliver F., and William were the children of Prudent and of Sophie PROULX. On page 221, she reports that Prudent MAYER *a.k.a. MIETTE* was married to Sophie PROULX, but mentions no children of this marriage. On the following page she shows Joseph MAYER, brother of Prudent. Joseph was married to Sophie, whose surname is unknown. She also mentions that Joseph was a Protestant minister. Both brothers reportedly arrived in Woonsocket around 1821.<sup>1</sup>

Joseph MIETT Sr. is buried near the Prue family lot in Union Cemetery, North Smithfield, RI. The headstone gives his date of death as 30 March 1896, age 93. His wife, Sophia is buried in the next grave. She died on 14 November 1873, age 62 years and 11 days<sup>27</sup>. According to Woonsocket city records, Joseph was a minister of the *Second Ad-*

*vent Church of Woonsocket*.<sup>36</sup>

I believe that BONIER has erred concerning this family. I believe that it is possible that this family was not French-Canadian. However, it is not within the scope of this article to correct this error.

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<sup>13</sup> 1860 Federal Census.

<sup>14</sup> *The Woonsocket Patriot*. May 20, May 27, and June 3, 1870.

<sup>15</sup> *Record of the Massachusetts Volunteers, 1861-1865*. Boston: Wright & Potter, 1868.

<sup>16</sup> THOMAS, Alton P., M.D. *Old Woonsocket, Erastus & Doc*. Providence: Mowbray Co., 1973.

<sup>17</sup> Information obtained from vital records of the town, city, or church indicated.

<sup>18</sup> *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War*. Norwood, MA: Norwood Press, 1931.

<sup>19</sup> Records of the First Universalist Church, Woonsocket, RI.

<sup>20</sup> *Early Franco-American Marriages of Rhode Island*. AFGS manuscript.

<sup>21</sup> *Roll of the 2nd Regiment, R.I. Detached Militia*. *The Woonsocket Patriot*, Friday, June 14, 1861.

<sup>22</sup> *Our Gallant Dead*. *The Woonsocket Patriot*, July 26, 1861.

<sup>23</sup> BRAULT, Gerard J. *The French-Canadian Heritage in New England*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1986.

<sup>24</sup> *Ballew Family Journal*. Spring 1991.

<sup>25</sup> *The Woonsocket Patriot*. Friday, August 2, 1861.

<sup>26</sup> Information obtained from original documents on file at the National Archives, Washington, DC.

<sup>27</sup> Information obtained from gravestone inscriptions or cemetery records.

<sup>28</sup> CASANOVA, Jacques-Donat & LANDRY, Armour. *America's French Heritage*. Québec: La Documentation Française/The Québec Official Publisher, 1976.

<sup>29</sup> Records of the L & D Memorial Funeral Home, Woonsocket, RI.

<sup>30</sup> Information obtained from family sources.

<sup>31</sup> *Complete Record of the Names of all the Soldiers and Officers in the Military Service and of all the Seamen and Officers in the Naval Service (1861-1865)*. Original records on file in the Blackstone, MA Town Clerk's Office.

<sup>32</sup> Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Rhode Island. *Personal War Sketches of the Members of Smith Post No. 9, Woonsocket*. 1894.

<sup>33</sup> RICHARDSON, Erastus. *History of Woonsocket*. Woonsocket, R.I.: S. S. Foss, 1876.

<sup>34</sup> Records of the Rhode Island Cemetery Transcription Project.

<sup>35</sup> BISSON, Rev. Eddy N. & GIROUX-METHOT, Pauline. *1874-1977 Repertory of Marriages, Saint James, Manville, R.I.* Manchester, NH: ACGS, 1978.

<sup>36</sup> Birth, Marriage, and Death records on file in the office of the City Clerk, Woonsocket, RI.

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Newlyweds got into a domestic quarrel over a home-cooked meal when the young husband roared, "I wish you could make bread like my mother!"

His wife looked him in the eye and replied sarcastically, "I wish you could make dough like my father!"

# French Influence On The English Language

by: Mary Jane Frances Smith

I would like to comment on an item which appeared in the last issue of *Je Me Souviens*. I must take exception to those statements about the impact of Norman French on the English language.

Certainly, the introduction of French by the Normans made a profound impact on the evolution of the English language, but English was spoken in England long before that. In fact, the first Indo-European language, of which English is one, was introduced into England in approximately the middle of the fifth century. And, for centuries before the arrival of English, Latin was spoken extensively, having been introduced when Britain became a province of the Roman Empire.

The English language reflects in its entire development the political, social, and cultural history of the English people, as beautifully illustrated in *The Story of English*, presented in television by PBS. Chapter two of the text for that program, *The Mother Tongue*, relied on texts by two scholars, one of whom was Dr. Albert C. BAUGH, with whom I had the pleasure and honor of studying the history of the English language at the University of Pennsylvania. Other references to Dr. Baugh's scholarly works are sprinkled throughout that book.

Dr. Baugh states in his text, *A History of the English Language*, "English is classified as a Teutonic language. That is to say, it belongs to the group of languages to which German, Dutch, Flemish, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian also belong. It shares with these languages similar grammatical structure and many common words. On the other hand, more than half of its vocabulary is derived from Latin. Some of these borrowings have been direct, a great many through French, some through the other Romance languages. As a result, English also shares a great number of words with those languages of Europe which are derived from Latin, notably French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese."

It is true that French was widely used in England for two hundred years after the Norman conquest in 1066, but the majority of these people were of the upper classes. According to Dr. Baugh, those who spoke French initially were the Normans, but through intermarriage and social exchanges with the ruling class numerous of the English peoples learned the new language, and "before long the distinction between those who spoke French and those who spoke English was not racial but largely social. The language of the masses remained English ... William the Conqueror made



an effort himself at the age of forty-three to learn English, that he might understand and render justice in the disputes between his subjects ... Thus in the period preceding the loss of Normandy in 1204 there were some who spoke only French and many more who spoke only English. There was likewise a considerable number who were genuinely bilingual as well as many who had some understanding of both languages while speaking only one ... In the fourteenth century English won its way back into universal use and in the fifteenth century French all but disappeared." From this we can see that English is not so much a "melding of ... Norman French with ancient native languages," but rather the product of years of evolution.

The more important impact of Norman French on the English language was on vocabulary. As Dr. Baugh says: "During the Middle English period (1150-1500), momentous changes took place within the English language. Some of them were the result of the Norman Conquest and the conditions which followed in the wake of that event. Others were a continuation of tendencies that had begun to manifest themselves in Old English. *These would have gone on even without the Conqueror, but took place more rapidly because the Norman invasion removed from English those conservative influences that are always felt when a language is extensively used in books and is spoken by an influential educated class. The changes of this period affected English in both its grammar and vocabulary ...* (emphasis added). Those in grammar reduced English from a highly inflected language to an extremely analytical one. Those in the vocabulary involved the loss of a

large part of the Old English word-stock and the addition of thousands of words from French and Latin. At the beginning of the period English is a language which must be learned like a foreign tongue; at the end it is Modern English ... While the loss of inflections and the consequent simplification of English grammar were ... only indirectly due to the use of French in England, French influence is much more directly observable upon the vocabulary ...

"... In the period after 1250 the conditions under which French words had been making their way into English were supplemented by a new and powerful factor. This was the circumstance that those who had been accustomed to speaking French were turning increasingly to the use of English. Whether to supply deficiencies in the English vocabulary or in their own imperfect command of that vocabulary, ... the upper classes carried over into English an astonishing number of common French words. In changing from French to English they transferred much of their governmental and administrative vocabulary, their ecclesiastical, legal, and military terms, their familiar words of ... social life, the vocabulary of art, learning, and medicine." It is the adaptability, the dynamic character of English that has shaped its evolution over the centuries and made it the international language it is today.

I hope you will accept this poor attempt to clarify the record for what it may be worth. This is not done to, in any way, belittle the significant contribution of our French language to the English, but rather to put it into perspective.

# Séigny dit Lafleur

## A History of My Family

by: **Kathryn Griffin Henry**

### INTRODUCTION

I am writing this history because I would like to acquaint my family with our direct legacy from France and Canada. Although the SÉVIGNY family and its allied lines have been well-documented for over 300 years, and there has been many successful attempts to gather sources into single, comprehensive histories of the SÉVIGNYS, it is not until now that my direct family heritage is hereby chronicled for the benefit of my *living* family, as well as for those to come.

Since 1991, I have been compiling information and photocopies of documents from the records at various city and town halls, churches, archives in the United States and Canada, as well as distant relatives, so plentiful that it required all the details to be sorted out, depicting how each SÉVIGNY researched relates to my direct lineage.

My SÉVIGNY history characterizes nine generations from myself back to France in 1636 to the birth of the earliest known SÉVIGNY of our direct descendants, Gilles de SÉVIGNÉ on 26 August 1636, even though the name was proven to go back in a "steady stream to the annals of Brétagne in the 12th century." The SÉVIGNY's roots<sup>1</sup> have

been traced to Rennes, France, the birthplace of Gilles de SÉVIGNÉ and his son, Julien-Charles, who emigrated to New France in 1688, 80 years after Samuel de Champlain established a settlement at Québec and approximately 50 years after Trois Rivières and Montréal was founded.

Gilles de SÉVIGNÉ's parents were Lady Gabrielle DUBELLAY and Renaud de SÉVIGNÉ.<sup>2</sup> Gilles was a merchant on the street of St. Germain, France, in the parish of St. Germain, City of Rennes, the capitol of Brittany, France. He married Gillette de FOYE. Even more previous to Gilles was Madame de SÉVIGNÉ, perhaps the sister-in-law to Gilles, born in Paris in 1626. While it has been assured that there are no longer any SÉVIGNYS in France today, it was mostly in the 17th century that the name SÉVIGNÉ acquired most of its renown largely due to Madame de SÉVIGNÉ.

Madame de SÉVIGNÉ's name at birth was Marie de RABUTIN-CHANTEL. She was a "spiritual beauty," the daughter of *Sainte* Jeanne de CHANTAL of Bourgogne but unfortunately became an orphan at seven years old. Since her maternal grandparents died a short time later, she was raised by her uncle, Christophe de COULANGES,

the Abbé of Livry. She married in 1644 to a royal nobleman, "seductive but frivolous," the Marquis Henri de SÉVIGNÉ, a brilliant gentleman, and they lived in his chateau, "The Hotel Carnavalet," until her husband was killed at the age of 28 in a duel in 1651, and the Madame found herself a widow at 25 years old, with two children.

Even though she had many occasions to remarry, she preferred to devote herself to the education of her children. She was especially known for her 1,700 published letters written to her daughter, Françoise-Marguerite, during their separation in 1671, which contents consisted of "delightful gossip, witty anecdote, clever remarks on men and topics of the day and graceful delineations of the pleasures and the gaieties of Parisian society. They mirrored the life of a person who was in turn a noted court beauty, the brilliant wit of the Hotel Rambouillet, a religious devotee, a woman of business endeavoring to meet the demands placed on her income by her extravagant son, and an appreciative student of the Latin and French classics, and always a devoted mother." Madame de SÉVIGNÉ died at Grignan on 17 April 1696.<sup>3</sup>

The SÉVIGNYS continue, to this day, a tradition of generation after generation of sons and their sons, who chose careers in masonry and carpentry for the most part, but some built boats and took to the sea instead of being farmers like most of the SÉVIGNYS in France. Some were even knights! There was a royal decree in 1670 in France confirming the ancient nobility of the SÉVIGNÉS. The account goes on to say they were in "possession of noble lands

and seignury of SÉVIGNÉ, which was located about 6 miles from Rennes, France, from which they drew their sole and only name without ever carrying another one, which is in itself proof that they are of the oldest nobility."

When I was a little girl, I thought the name SÉVIGNY was so odd, and it was so hard for me to pronounce! Now, when I receive the monthly newsletter, *La Sève-Le Journal des Sévigny dit Lafleur*, there are advertisements contained therein portraying businesses in Canada called "SÉVIGNY" with big signs on their buildings! It seems so strange! The SÉVIGNY name is not odd, but very unique, especially to all my cousins in Canada and in the United States!

Therefore, here I begin: *Once upon a time ...*, or is it, *Many years ago there lived ...*

### **THE SÉVIGNY DIT LAFLEUR SURNAME**

Other variations of SÉVIGNY are CHÉVIGNY, CÉVIGNY and LAFLEUR. The different spellings of this surname have been around for 24 generations. In the middle of the 19th century people chose either SÉVIGNY or LAFLEUR as their surname. In the words of Gerard LAFLEUR, former secretary of the Association des Descendants de Julien-Charles de SÉVIGNÉ dit LAFLEUR, of Brossard, Québec, Canada, wrote to me on June 30, 1992, and revealed the information on the *dit Lafleur* surname as follows:

"When the first settlers came to Canada from France it was a custom to

add a nickname to the surname. This custom was used until around 1850-1900 when the people started to take only one name, either their surname or their nickname."

From an article in the *La Sève-Le Journal des Sévigny dit Lafleur*, there is another explanation of the dit LAFLEUR surname: "Many immigrants of the time carried the surname 'SÉVIGNY dit LAFLEUR.' It arrived in the last century and even before in certain regions of Québec, the SÉVIGNY's not keeping the same family name as the surname of their ancestors, probably to distinguish the very numerous SÉVIGNY cousins.

"The difficulty for us is that the LAFLEUR-SÉVIGNY's share today their name of LAFLEUR with many other Québec families named LAFLEUR with no ties to the SÉVIGNY's; for this surname was very popular at the time of New France. We know the AUGERS dit LAFLEUR, BERTRAND dit LAFLEUR, BRAULT dit LAFLEUR, . . . and many others."

### **THÉRÈSE LAURA SÉVIGNY GRIFFIN**

My mother was born on 3 April 1927 in Warren, RI. Her parents were Alexandre Joseph SÉVIGNY and Rose Emma DALLAIRE. My mother attended grade school at St. Jean-Baptiste School in Warren, RI from 1933 to 1941. She was then enrolled at Bayview Academy for high school in East Providence in 1941 and graduated in 1945. My mother was employed with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service from 1945 to 1947 before her transfer to the Rhode

Island Division of Personnel.

My mother met my father, William Henry GRIFFIN, at the Division of Personnel, where she worked as a secretary from 1947 to 1949. My father's parents were John Henry Anthony GRIFFIN and Olivette TEMPLE. My parents were married on 28 May 1949, at St. Jean Baptiste Church in Warren, RI.<sup>4</sup> They lived at 126 Melrose Street, Providence, for one year. After my mother became pregnant with my older sister, Arlene, they moved to 196 Atlantic Avenue, Providence,<sup>5</sup> which was a duplex tenement house and was co-owned by my grandmother, Olivette L. (TEMPLE) GRIFFIN and my father. My parents lived there until July 1957, after having five children. They then purchased our home at 176 Congress Avenue, Providence, where we lived until 1973. I remember the day we moved into that house. I was four years old at the time. After we moved there my mother gave birth to three more children. They now live at 4 Carver Road in Cranston, RI.

My mother's present hobbies are quilting, collecting miniatures for her doll house, gardening, and oil painting. My mother plays the piano and organ. She is a seamstress and made many of our clothes. We sat and watched as she braided rugs for our home, cutting up our old woolen skirts in strips to use for the braided rug. Also, over the years, she has done much knitting and crewel work. From 1984 to 1986, she was President of the Cranston Garden Club, winning many awards for her club, including Programs, Civic Beautification, Arbor Day, Publicity, etc. At a club flower show in 1987, she won a Tri-

Color Award for best flower design arrangement.<sup>6</sup>

My father, William Henry GRIFFIN, was born on 24 July 1921 at 35 Grand Street in Providence, RI. When he was just two years old his family moved to 275 Adelaide Avenue, until 1938 when this family moved again to 177 Lexington Avenue. My father attended grade school at the Reservoir Avenue School from 1926 to 1932, and junior high at Gilbert Stuart on Princeton Avenue in Providence, from 1932 to 1934. Starting in 1934, he went to Classical High School, as his father and mother did, and graduated in 1939. From there he attended Providence College until his graduation under an accelerated program (because of World War II) on 20 December 1942.

He was in the U.S. Army from 13 February 1943 to 26 January 1946. During these years he was able to attend Oklahoma A & M College in Stillwater, OK in 1943 and the University of Pittsburgh in 1944. After his discharge from the Army, he was employed by the RI Department of Administration, Division of Personnel from 1946 to 1949 and again in 1955 until his retirement in 1983. From 1949 to 1955 he was employed by the RI Department of Employment Security.

My father likes to collect toy trains and model cars. He and my mother enjoy long trips by car. When we were growing up, we had table tennis set up in our basement where I learned that my father was an absolute expert at that game. He used to play bridge, and he has always loved dogs. But the most outstanding quality I see in my father is

that he loves to read. He is the most intelligent man I have ever known.

All my sisters and brothers were born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Providence. From oldest to youngest they are as follows: My older sister, Arlene Thérèse GRIFFIN MARCOTTE-BEALE, was born on 13 June 1950. She is currently living in North Attleboro, MA with her husband, Charles BEALE. They were married on 25 February 1989. She has one child, Jeffrey MARCOTTE, born 24 April 1979 from a previous marriage to Roger MARCOTTE. Arlene is a special education middle school teacher.

I, Kathryn Deborah GRIFFIN HENRY was born on 17 October 1952, and am now living in Mission Viejo, CA, with my husband, Stephen Craig HENRY (everyone knows him as "Slim"). We were married on 4 July 1980. We moved to California in 1986 from Cranston, RI. Stephen and I have one child, Jason Paul HENRY, born 20 November 1981, who is 13 years old at this printing. The writer was previously married to Ralph Albert MATTERA, Jr. in 1971 and had one child, Ralph Albert MATTERA, III, born 2 April 1974, presently of Warwick, RI. Stephen was previously married and fathered a son, Joshua Matthew HENRY, born 16 September 1975. When I am not busy with this genealogy, my occupation is legal assistant.

Paul Michael GRIFFIN was born on 11 March 1954. Paul has not been married, but has fathered a girl, Rebecca. Paul lived for six years in Florida before moving back to RI. in 1995, and has taken after our grandfather,

Alexandre Joseph SÉVIGNY, in his occupation as a finish carpenter.

Susan Marie GRIFFIN VAN LEAVEN was born on 25 April 1955. Susan married Larry Dean VAN LEAVEN on April 29, 1995, and is working as a professional licensed social worker at The Providence Center, in Providence. Susan lived for 12 years in San Clemente, CA, but moved back to Rhode Island in 1992. Larry is a supervisor with Electric Boat Division in Windsor, CT and a Chief Petty Officer with the Navy Reserves.

William Henry GRIFFIN, Jr., my brother, was born on 9 June 1957. He married Doreen MARTINS on 6 September 1980. Bill had to retire as a professional house painter because of his illness (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). Doreen is employed at Rhode Island Hospital Emergency Service and has a craft business on the side. They are living in Cranston, RI.

Jeanne Elizabeth GRIFFIN BRAGGER was born on 1 March 1960. She married James Quintan BRAGGER on 2 June 1984 on Block Island. They currently have three children, Michael James, born 15 February 1986; Jennifer Lyn, born 28 April 1988; and, Tyler Albert, born 29 September 1994. Jeanne worked for many years at Pier Bank in Narragansett.<sup>7,8</sup> "Jimmy" is employed with Amtrak.

Patricia Ann GRIFFIN PAPA ("Tisha") was born 12 March 1962. She married Thomas PAPA on 10 July 1988 and they both own and operate PAPA's Grocery Store on Boone Street in Narragansett.<sup>9</sup> They live in Wakefield

and have a son, Alexandre PAPA, born 12 June 1990, named after my grandfather, Alexandre Joseph SÉVIGNY.

The youngest child in our family, Denise Marie GRIFFIN, was born 19 January 1965. She is not married, and works in an accounting department in Warwick, RI. She lives in North Kingstown.

My mother was completely devoted to her large family, putting all her effort into raising her children, constantly trying to make our home attractive, amicable (which wasn't easy with eight children!) and comfortable, hand-making braided rugs, sewing, knitting and crocheting for us all kinds of clothing as sweaters, scarfs, mittens, dresses, and slippers. She was always home waiting for us to come from school, always being there for us while we were growing up. She would help me with my homework, brainstorming ideas for school projects. She worked very, very hard at home and continually put forth much effort for each of our birthdays and all the family traditional holiday celebrations. My mother was always humble, constantly putting her children before herself. My mother was invariably a strikingly beautiful woman, not only physically but inside as well.

### *ALEXANDRE-JOSEPH SÉVIGNY*

My grandfather, Alexandre Joseph SÉVIGNY, was born 26 June 1892, in St. Eulalie, in Nicolet County, Canada. St. Eulalie is situated approximately 90 miles from Montréal. He was seven years old when he came to the United States with his family. He attended grade school at Warren Public

Schools. As a teenager, he played on a baseball team for St. Jean Baptiste Church.

On 17 May 1917, according to the *Enlistment of Record*<sup>10</sup> in the name of Alexandre J. SÉVIGNY, at age 25, he enlisted at Warren, RI in the Army National Guard. On 14 September 1917 he was honorably discharged from the National Guard at Fort Wetherell, RI (on James-town Island) by reason of the draft into Federal Service on 5 August 1917.<sup>11 12</sup> While stationed on Jamestown Island he worked as a carpenter constructing the soldiers' barracks. My grandfather was later awarded compensation from the Army in the amount of \$1,138.00 pursuant to the World War Adjusted Compensation Act.<sup>13</sup>

Alex married Rose Emma DALLAIRE, on 9 July 1923. Rose was born 24 February 1899 while her mother was on a trip to Canada visiting her mother in Coaticook. She was the oldest of thirteen children. Her parents were Ovide DALLAIRE and Odelie PAQUETTE. They came to the United States from Canada in 1897. Rose attended public school in Warren for only 3 or 4 years. She started working at the Berkshire Fine Spinning Co. in Warren as a weaver before her marriage and, after being married, worked in a handkerchief factory on Main Street in Warren on and off between 1927 and 1945. Her family lived on Kickemuit Road, Warren, RI at least since 1910. Alex and Rose's wedding day, as well as their honeymoon plans, were recorded on the front page of the *Warren and Barrington Gazette* on Tuesday, 10 July 1923.<sup>14</sup> For their honeymoon they traveled with Louisa and Louis CREPEAU to Coaticook, Can-

ada, first to visit with Rose's family who owned a large farm, and then to Nicolet to stay with the SÉVIGNY family.

Alex and Rose had only one child, my mother, Thérèse Laura, born on 3 April 1927, after being married for four years. The couple lived at 31 Haile Street in Warren from 1927 to 1929, a three-family house where my mother was born. When my mother was 2 years old the family moved to 11 Hall Avenue in Warren, a bungalow built by Alex.<sup>15</sup> This property was next to his construction business (Sévigny Brothers). In 1939, they sold this property and went back to live at 31 Haile Street until 1942 when my grandparents purchased a colonial house at 13 Haile Street. In 1950, a brick house was built by my *Pepère* on the adjoining property, 11 Haile Street. There my grandmother died years later. After she died, my grandfather lived there for several years before selling it and moving to Florida permanently.

My grandmother was a seamstress; she loved cultivating her vegetables along with my grandfather, and she was always cooking pies. When I was a young girl, I visited her often, and she invariably would be rolling out dough for rhubarb pies. I proudly own her old glass rolling pin to this day. Each summer, grandparents grew rhubarb in their garden. My mother remembered that her mother liked to clean the house and cook, to care for her pets, and to raise her chickens. In the 1930's, during the Great Depression when money was scarce, the chickens and their eggs came in handy! Every Sunday they supplied the family with a good meal.

I remember my grandmother telling me of a time when she was growing up when her father used to buy a live turkey for their family's Thanksgiving meal and he had to cut the head off of the turkey on a tree stump and the turkey would run around for awhile before he expired. Maybe the same procedure was used with her chickens! I also remember one day while my *Mamère* was making crepes (french pancakes -- our family's favorite traditional treat!) which our family prepared with butter, brown sugar, and molasses, informing me that during the Great Depression there was no sugar available, so in order to sweeten recipes, they used molasses.

After Rose's parents died, Rose's sister, Mary DALLAIRE, lived in the house on Luther Street with her two sisters, Lorraine and Regina. When Mary got married on Luther Street, the family auctioned all the furniture and furnishings in the house to only the family. My mother's Uncle Ovide DALLAIRE, one of Rose's brothers, bought the Luther Street house and he lived there with his family. Then my grandparents took in Rose's sisters, Lorraine and Regina when Rose and Alexandre lived at the Hall Avenue house and then at 31 Haile Street, until they both were married and moved away. This was while World War II was going on. After living at 31 Haile Street, Rose and Alexandre moved into the two-story brown house next to 11 Haile Street. They bought that house from the SPARKS family for \$11,000.00. It was at this house that my grandparents fostered state children, Theresa, Connie and Mary Jane MENARD. These girls lived there from the time my mother was

married until the time my grandparents left for Florida to live there in the wintertime.

Earlier in Alex's life, when my mother was a young girl, he was a member of the American Racing Pigeon Union. He was presented with eight Certificate/Diplomas<sup>16</sup> which commemorate his hobby of racing pigeons. He built a pigeon coop in the rear of his house on Hall Avenue to house his birds. He would take long rides in the car bringing the pigeons to an area where he would let them go to return home.

The pigeon coop had two floors, the top floor was used for the pigeons and the first floor housed the chickens the family raised for the eggs as mentioned earlier. After the pigeons were no longer in the second floor and my grandfather was done with his hobby, the upstairs was made into a play house for my mother. She was about seven years old and kept all her doll furniture in there. These were toys which her father made for her to play with. She made and hung curtains in the windows. She said she had more fun in that place! It was nice for her to have some place in which to play with her friends and she kept it that way for a long time. But because the floor was made with a single wood plank, every time she and her friends would go in and pull down the stairway to get up to the second floor, the chickens would get scared and run all over the place!

Alex SÉVIGNY was a carpenter foreman for various construction companies including a company he co-partnered with his brother, Edward J. SÉVIGNY, called SÉVIGNY Brothers



Construction Co. in Warren, RI until 1939. Alex's youngest brother, Leo, noted he was a "very good carpenter especially in finish work. He was well known and sought after for that reason. He made a beautiful grandfather clock out of old mahogany furniture." He completed all the carpentry work in our house on Congress Avenue. He often used second hand wood material in which to construct. He once made his wife a grandfather's clock using second hand lumber and wood he found washed up on shore at Warren Town Beach across the street from his house on Haile Street. He enjoyed gardening and watching baseball games.

When he retired and lived in Florida, he liked going to his clubhouse where he took dancing lessons. My grandfather was a very easygoing person. He would play games with us, including Michigan Rummy! He would love telling us jokes (his favorite was the one about the "Irish mudmen")! However, he disliked being in heavy traffic. He would make complaints and get so grumpy! The times I remember most of being with my grandfather are when I stayed at his house during the summer or on weekends, when after his workday, he would sit in his "breezeway," which was sort of a sitting room and he would light a cigar. I would get up on his lap and he would talk with me and tickle me. Sometimes we would walk to the little league baseball field on Water Street to watch the ball game or he would take me across the street to Warren Town Beach and tell me about the hurricanes he experienced when the water came up into the living room, particularly Hurricane Carol in 1957.

Alex was involved in politics in Warren in that he was elected as a member of the Republican Town Committee on 1 October 1962 in Warren, and again on 21 September 1964. On that same date he was selected as the Republican nominee for the office of Sewer Commissioner to serve for 4 years.<sup>17</sup> In my grandfather's possessions, he left a typewritten paper<sup>18</sup> stating his accomplishments which was utilized in his campaign for election. Some of the facts written about him were:

"He attended the public and parochial schools of Warren; he was a Veteran of World War I; well known in the building trade from 1920 through 1939 engaged in the contracting business, building many fine residences in Warren, Barrington, and Providence; in 1928 he ran for office and was elected on the Republican ticket to serve as Town Councilman; employed as Carpenter Foreman on gun emplacement at Fort Church, Sakonnet Point, RI in Civil Service for the Federal Government at the outbreak of World War II; employed as Carpenter Foreman for the Rowley Construction Company, Pawtucket, RI at the conclusion of World War II; employed also by such large construction companies as Bowerman Brothers, E. Turgeon, United Engineers of Philadelphia, Merritt, Chapman, and Scott, and many others; currently engaged in the building of modern homes in Warren; also a member of various Fraternal Orders."

Rose leased one of the Hall Avenue lots on 31 October 1939, to Edward J. SÉVIGNY,<sup>19</sup> for the construction company's use. The dissolution of

the copartnership of SÉVIGNY Brothers Construction Co. took place the same date of the lease, on 31 October 1939.<sup>20</sup> The original handwritten tax records at the Warren Town Hall for Hall Avenue stated that there were 3 lots and that Alexandre J. SÉVIGNY took ownership on 18 February 1919 and 19 February 1919 on all 3 lots.<sup>21</sup> The Deed was handwritten by a town clerk.<sup>22</sup>

In the Warren Town records also noted were four deeds for the Luther Street, Warren, RI property. One is a grant deed dated 2 June 1924 from Minnie S. POSSNER to Alexandre J. SÉVIGNY and Rose Emma SÉVIGNY;<sup>23</sup> another a quitclaim deed from Alexandre J. SÉVIGNY to Rose Emma SÉVIGNY, dated 18 October 1928;<sup>24</sup> another a trustee's deed from the Industrial Trust Company to Alexandre J. SÉVIGNY and Rose Emma SÉVIGNY, dated 27 October 1945;<sup>25</sup> and the last a statutory form of quitclaim deed from Alexandre J. SÉVIGNY and Rose Emma SÉVIGNY, husband and wife to the same as joint tenants, dated 13 April 1964.<sup>26</sup> At the Rhode Island State Archives the Warren Tax Books for 1924 and 1928 stated my grandparents paid taxes on two properties: Wood Street North and Haile Street South<sup>27</sup>

Naturalization records<sup>28</sup> were also obtained from the Warren Town records. The naturalization of three SÉVIGNY brothers: Alexandre J., Edward, and Eugene were recorded. Edward was the first to file for citizenship on 27 November 1916; then my grandfather, Alexandre, on 1 July 1918; and lastly, Eugene filed on 18 March 1919. My mother found her father's original naturalization documents including: a *Dec-*

*laration of Intention*<sup>29</sup> dated 9 April 1914 and *Certificate of Naturalization*<sup>30</sup> dated 5 June 1918, in her father's old desk which she brought back from Florida after he died.

The *Declaration* evidences his arrival into the United States from St. Eulalie, Québec, via the Canadian Pacific Railroad and documents his arrival at the Port of Newport, Vermont on 5 March 1900. He was 21 years old, his occupation was recorded as carpenter. He was 5'-5" tall and weighed 133 pounds. He was living at Cole Street, Warren, RI when he declared his intention of becoming a U.S. citizen. Then, four years later, he was naturalized from the Superior Court of Newport County, Newport, RI. The record states he was 25 years old living on North Main Street, Warren, RI at this time. Interestingly, under the statement of distinguishing marks on the Certificate of Naturalization, it states, "scar on left wrist." I never remember my grandfather having a scar.

My grandmother was strong-minded when she needed to be, for what was righteous; but with me she was warmhearted, affectionate, sympathetic, and so very compassionate. I felt so safe and secure when I was with her and staying at their house. She taught us to pray the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* in French at bedtime. She and my *Pepère* prayed the Rosary in French every night. To demonstrate my love for her, I chose her name, Rose, as my confirmation name when I was 13 years old. I was 15 years old when she died and I really mourned her death for a long, long time.

My grandmother, Rose Emma

DALLAIRE, died at age 68 from "malignant lymphoma," on 21 September 1967.<sup>31</sup> My grandfather, Alexandre Joseph SÉVIGNY, died 9 November 1986, in Fort Lauderdale, FL.<sup>32</sup> They are both buried at St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery on Vernon Street in Warren, RI.<sup>33</sup>

### *NARCISSE SÉVIGNY*

My great-grandfather, Narcisse SÉVIGNY, was born 16 May 1858 in Ste.-Eulalie. His parents were Joseph SÉVIGNY and Zoé THÉRIAULT. Narcisse grew up in Canada as a lumber jack and learned the carpenter's trade later in life.

Narcisse SÉVIGNY was 35 years of age when he married Marie-Louise PELLETIER on 25 August 1891 in St. Eulalie, Nicolet County, Québec.<sup>34</sup> <sup>35</sup> She was born in 1869 at Saint Christopher, Québec and the family came to the U.S. in 1899 when she was 30 years old. They had three children at the time. Marie-Louise's parents were François-Xavier PELLETIER and Obeline PELLETIER. Marie-Louise was married at the age of 23; she gave birth to 11 children, but only 8 were living in 1910 when the U.S. Census of that year was taken in Warren, R.I.<sup>36</sup> Her family remained in Canada at Trois Rivières. Bella SÉVIGNY RENAUD noted that Marie Louise's brother was named Joseph PELLETIER. Although Narcisse and Marie Louise came to the U.S. between the birth of two of their children in 1899 and 1900, as outlined in the next paragraph, the family is only first recorded in Warren through the City Directory for 1906.<sup>37</sup>

Alex was the oldest in the family

besides his older stepsister, Louisa DRAGON. Marie-Louise PELLETIER had been married to Louis DRAGON prior to Narcisse. Louisa came from Canada to live with her sister in Providence. Louisa was married to Louis CREPEAU. After Alexandre Joseph born on 26 June 1892, there was Edward Joseph born on 24 January 1895, in Ste.-Eulalie, Québec, Canada; Eugène born in Canada in 1899; Joseph Adelard ("Del") born in RI on 3 December 1900; Bella born in Warren, RI on 29 September 1902; Joseph Baptiste Osias (Oscar) was born on 13 April 1905 in Warren, RI; Joseph Emilien (Leo) was born in Rhode Island on 27 August 1907; and Beatrice was born in Rhode Island on 2 December 1909. The Warren Town Records also recorded two babies who died at birth in 1893 and 1897 in Canada. Osias (Oscar) died in 1908 at age 3 of diphtheria. The record states that when Oscar died, Narcisse was 45 years old. Bella was also sick with diphtheria at the same time, but she survived.

According to the above-stated 1910 U.S. Census, Narcisse was a carpenter who worked out of his own home; he rented a house on Cole Street in Warren, RI; and may have come to U.S. in 1889 with his wife and three children. He spoke English; and was employed every month in 1909. From Canada, it was believed that the family moved to New Bedford, MA and lived there for approximately ten months before moving to Warren. Bella SÉVIGNY RENAUD mentioned that she remembered the family living in Fall River, MA before residing in Warren, RI. I have documented many SÉVIGNYS in New Bedford for the years

1896 through and including 1898, and Fall River in 1899 and 1900, but Narcisse is not one of them.<sup>38</sup>

Edward was copartner with Alex in the Sévigny Brothers Construction Co. Edward was married first to Olive Lillian PARE, then to Lena VITULO. Leo stated that Edward served in the State Legislature for 25 years; that he was well-liked and ran his construction business while in the State House; that he and his three sons were the whole company after Edward and Alex split up the business. Edward's children were Aldora SÉVIGNY; Omer E. SÉVIGNY, born on 11 February 1922 (he lived at 12 Barney Street, Warren at the time of birth); Paul E. SÉVIGNY; and Romeo Albert SÉVIGNY. Aldora married Gilbert WILSON and had two children after a stillborn child: Olivia and Paula. Gilbert fathered Shirley by a previous marriage.

Omer SÉVIGNY married Vivian SHEA and had one son, Wayne SÉVIGNY. Paul and Omer became partners in E. J. Sévigny Construction after Edward SÉVIGNY died. Paul married Rita MALLOY and had one daughter, Lynne SÉVIGNY. They live at 23 Dyer Street, Warren, RI. Romeo, whose nickname was "Minoue," married Lucy PRIMIANO. He was a carpenter with his own business. They had six children: Edward, Michael, Linda, Joanne, Paul, and Susan. They live at 17 Locust Street, Warren, RI, which property they obtained from Edward J. SÉVIGNY.<sup>39</sup> Omer died in 1989. Aldora SÉVIGNY WILSON died on 24 May 1990 of a heart condition. Edward Joseph SÉVIGNY died on 12 November 1980<sup>40 41</sup> in Warren, RI. The Warren

Town Records indicate that he died in a coma from a cerebral vascular disease.

Bella SÉVIGNY RENAUD noted that Eugene SÉVIGNY was stationed overseas in France during World War I. Leo SÉVIGNY stated that Eugene was also stationed at Fort Adams in Newport, RI. After the war he moved to New York where he worked on a mail train. Eugene married Harriet and they had one son, Eugene SÉVIGNY. Eugene died in 1967 of a heart attack in Juno, FL, on his way back from visiting his son in California.

Adelard SÉVIGNY worked in boat construction. He married Anne McHUGH on 24 April 1937. They had five children: Stephen Paul SÉVIGNY, born on 23 November 1939; Francis Edward SÉVIGNY, born on 23 April 1943 and died just two weeks later; Richard Louis SÉVIGNY, born on 5 January 1941, in Fall River, MA; Peter Francis SÉVIGNY, born on 17 March 1949, in Providence, RI; and, James Joseph SÉVIGNY, born on 2 September 1938 in Warren, RI. James died at age 20 of "marfan's syndrome" on 14 January 1959 in Warren, RI, per the Warren Town Death Records. At the time of his death, his family lived at 12 Coomer Avenue in Warren, RI. Peter never married and lives in San Diego, CA. Richard never married and lives on Read Island, British Columbia, Canada.

Stephen works as a building contractor in Newport, RI. He married Pamela CHEVALIER. They have three children who were all born in Pawtucket, RI: Scott Paul, born on 29 November 1967, who is a Navy jet pilot; Gregory Stephen, born on 7 November

1969, who takes after his ancestors, working in carpentry; Kerry Anne, born on 2 January 1971, is attending Syracuse University at this writing; and Jonathan Christopher, born 23 June 1971, is currently attending Penn State. Stephen and Pam live at 55 Steere Street in Attleboro, MA. Stephen's father, Joseph Adelard ("Del") SÉVIGNY, died of a heart attack on 12 August 1975<sup>42 43</sup> in Warren, RI. He is buried with his son, James Joseph SÉVIGNY in St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery.<sup>44</sup>

Emilien (Leo) SÉVIGNY always worked for the SÉVIGNY Construction Co. in Warren, RI. He married Flora PRIMIANO (sister to Lucy PRIMIANO who married Romeo SÉVIGNY). Flora and Leo have two daughters: Mary Louise SÉVIGNY, born on 10 February 1947; and, Jennifer SÉVIGNY SOUSA, born on 17 September 1948. Flora and Leo live at Two Redwood Court, Warren, RI. They have one grandchild of Jennifer's: Ronald P. SOUSA, Jr., born on 16 February 1973. Through a questionnaire sent to Leo and Flora in 1992, when asked "what stands out about your brothers and sisters in your memory of childhood?" His answer was "we went to work as soon as we could wheel a barrow." Leo said his passion was baseball and he did very well in the Northeast league. He was called to the Braves' team in Boston to be their catcher, but crushed his ankle and his knee and could not play professionally after that. Leo served in World War II from 1942 to 1945 in the European Theater. He stated that he visited the small town that Narcisse's family came from where the SÉVIGNY family was in the business of making gravestones. He was told that this family took over the business from

Narcisse's family.

Aunt Bella SÉVIGNY, as I called her even though she was my great-aunt, was 27 years old and working as a stitcher when she married Alfred ("Pete") Joseph RENAUD in Warren, RI. on 23 September 1929. Alfred's family was also from French Canada; he was born in Bristol, RI on 9 July 1904, and at the time of their marriage he was 25 years old, and was working as a baker. They had two children: Joseph Robert Leo, born on 21 October 1930; and, Mary-Anne Claire, born on 17 November 1935. Aunt Bella was an excellent piano player. She contributed so much to this project. Up to three years before her death on 8 June 1995, I sent her old photographs belonging to my grandfather to identify and a lengthy questionnaire to fill out in which all of the information provided to this project is invaluable.

Mary-Anne Claire (who is called "Claire") married Giovanni PERLORCA and had three children: Annette Camille, born on 19 May 1958; Christa Jean, born 5 on January 1971; and, Eric John, born on 25 July 1977. Annette has four children: John Paul, born on 11 November 1975; Rebecca Diane, born on 24 June 1978; Melissa Rene, born on 14 January 1982; and Christi Ann, born on 27 June 1984.

Claire, Bella's daughter, knew her grandfather, Narcisse, very well. She lived downstairs at 24 Federal Street<sup>45</sup> while her grandfather lived upstairs and spent much time with her grandfather. About him she said he was the "love of my life." She would sit on his lap and he would tell her stories about his fam-

ily when he lived in his homeland, Canada, when he was a lumberjack and rode the logs down the river. He built Claire a doll house in the backyard approximately 8' x 10', with two windows and a door! However, sadly, she also remembers the day her Uncle Del (Adelard) came and took it away so he could use it for his tools to keep "the boys" from getting into them. She said she was 13 years old but "cried like a baby" that day.

Claire remembers that her Uncle Eddie put his father on the payroll like all the other workmen for Sévigny Brothers Construction Co., receiving a paycheck every week until his death because he would do odd jobs for the construction company.

Beatrice SÉVIGNY worked in a handkerchief factory as a seamstress most of her life in Warren, RI. She never married, but took care of her father, Narcisse, before he died. Beatrice lived at the old Maxwell House<sup>46</sup> on Water Street, in Warren. My grandfather, Alex, lived with his sister, Beatrice, during the summer months before she died on 20 March 1975.

The Warren Town Hall recorded a grant deed of the Wood Street property from Narcisse SÉVIGNY and Marie Louise SÉVIGNY to Edward H. DU-PREY and Anne F. (MICHAUD) DU-PREY, dated 9 June 1924.<sup>47</sup> Narcisse and Marie Louise were mentioned in the Warren Tax Books for the years 1918 and 1919 for the Wood Street North property; in 1920 to 1923, inclusive, for Wood Street North and South East, Corner of Main and Wood Street North; in 1925 for Federal Street and

Wood Street North; and 1926 to and including 1931, for only Federal Street.<sup>48</sup> Leo said the house he grew up in was 24 Federal Street, a three-story home with apple trees in the backyard. My mother has a story to tell about those apple trees! When she was a little girl, she picked up some of the apples from the ground that had fallen. She took the apples home after she filled a small basket while her grandfather, Narcisse, wasn't there. Somehow, her grandfather found out about the apples she had taken from his trees, and he was so angry he got mad at her and her mother and said she had to give them back to him, even though the apples came from the ground! I can guarantee that she never took apples from those trees again!

My mother remembers her grandfather always walking to the movies every time the show at the Lyric Theater changed. Then every Sunday afternoon she remembers him walking to her house in South Warren and spending the entire day there telling her mother about every detail of the movie he had seen at the Lyric while her father was listening to a baseball game on the radio. Narcisse loved to tell stories and this time it was the one about the movie! My mother said Narcisse always did carpenter work around his house, anything that needed to be done, until he was too old to work anymore.

Describing Narcisse, Leo said he was tall, thin, handsome with blue eyes, a pleasant face with a moustache. He noted he carried himself "very erect and he walked firmly and quickly." Leo mentioned that Narcisse was a "healthy man." He played the violin and told Leo

and his other children he played at parties for dancing in Canada and at church parties in Warren, RI. During his later years, he enjoyed playing cards. The fact that he played the violin in Canada is consistent with information about Narcisse's brother, Napoléon, who resided in Canada, who also played the violin.

In the questionnaire sent to Leo, he replied further about his father's manner and personality as follows: Narcisse was a willing worker, affectionate, considerate, courteous, even-tempered, religious, relaxed, happy, cheerful, sensitive and modest. Narcisse often told his children about working at a logging camp in Maine when he used to ride the logs down to the mouth of the river for loading onto trucks. Narcisse himself had described himself as a "quick" man when he was young and he was very proud of that fact. Leo stated that Narcisse had a small vegetable garden wherever he lived and he attended Mass every morning at 7:00 a.m.

In the questionnaire sent to Bella, when asked, "What stands out about your brothers and sisters in your memory of children?" she stated Alex was very quick and Edward and Eugene were always wrestling and Adelard ("Del") was a boxer. She mentioned that Alex was quiet and "Dad's favorite." When asked, "What is the earliest memory of your house, your family and your town?" Bella stated it was the cottage her family lived in on Cole Street in Warren. The house had only seven rooms for some nine children. She remembered helping her father make a large garden. She remembered Warren at that time to be a small town with few stores and "fairly

clean."

Bella described her father as tall, thin, pleasant, healthy, with blonde hair and a moustache. She said the feature that stood out in her mind about her father was his blue eyes. Of particular note was that she said there was no history of certain diseases in Narcisse's side of the family. Her mother, on the other hand, had diabetes. She remembers her father being a carpenter and always working. Leo confirmed that Narcisse was a carpenter, also, and he said he would "go wherever he could find work." Bella described her father's manner and personality as follows: "A good conversationalist, easy to work with, ambitious, diligent, responsible, a willing worker, a good storyteller, affectionate, warmhearted, sharing, generous, considerate, courteous, concerned about others, confident, even-tempered, religious, relaxed, jolly, light-hearted, thrifty, happy, cheerful, humble, sensitive, and modest." These personality traits remind me of my *Pepère*, too!

Bella described her mother as short, heavy, brown eyes, fair-skinned, and her brown hair was always in a bun. She was healthy except for the diabetes. The feature that stood out in Bella's mind about her mother was her sternness. Her activities and hobbies were embroidery, sewing, and cooking. Her manner and personality was described by Bella as follows: logical, ambitious, diligent, responsible, willing worker, bossy, hard to get along with, sharing, quiet, confident, grumpy, stubborn, religious, serious, stern, sensitive, and modest.

Leo described his mother as short and stout, heavy, pleasant, and that she had a "wide smile." He said she had a "loud, hearty laugh and her body shook when she laughed. She loved to bake pies and sweets. She slapped us around a little but not my father." Leo described his mother's manner and personality as follows: responsible, bossy, warm-hearted, jolly, happy, and cheerful.

Louisa (DRAGON) CREPEAU died in New Bedford, MA. Marie Louise (PELLETIER) SÉVIGNY died of "pulmonary tuberculosis" on 5 June 1932, at age 61 years, 5 months, and 11 days. She had been sick for seven months. Narcisse SÉVIGNY died at the age of 92 years, 15 days of "arteriosclerosis, malnutrition, secondary anemia," on 1 June 1950.<sup>49</sup> He lived at 24 Federal Street, Warren, RI at the time of death. He left a will eight years before he died, leaving his entire estate to his youngest daughter, Beatrice SÉVIGNY.<sup>50</sup> Narcisse signed his will with only an "X" which evidences the fact that he never learned to write, not even his own name. Marie Louise and Narcisse are buried together in St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery on Vernon Street in Warren, RI along with their sons, Edward J., Eugene, Narcisse's daughter, Beatrice, and Edward's wife, Olivine.<sup>51</sup> Narcisse and Louise's death record were obtained from the State of Rhode Island. Vital Statistics records at the Rhode Island State Archives.

When I inquired of Mary-Anne Claire PERLORCA to relate her memories of her grandfather, she was so delighted to do so and rather than paraphrase her words, I would like to set forth her exact words:

"I was born on 17 November 1935 at the home of my grandfather, Narcisse, at 24 Federal Street, Warren. So, ever since I was born my grandfather and I were the best of friends. My mother related to me that my grandfather used to come downstairs to visit every night when I was a baby just to rock me to sleep. My mother would let me cry until my grandfather could no longer stand it and would ask to pick me up. Of course, my mother would let him."

"As I grew, my grandfather baby sat for me and would take me to the movies (every time the movies changed) and I would take my naps there. He liked the movies because he liked the music and to see the girls dancing."

"When it became time to go to nursery school, my grandfather would carry me back and forth to school on his shoulders. He was a tall man and I felt on top of the world. One day I swallowed a penny and he carried me all the way to the doctor's office on his shoulders. He was relieved to find out that I was 'OK.'"

"As I grew older, he would go to church – at the 7:00 a.m. Mass every morning. I always sat with him on Sundays, even though my Mom and Dad were there. During May devotions and on Tuesday nights we would go together. I enjoyed and felt very proud to walk with him. He was a very religious man. He would go to bed very early at night (8:00-8:30) and be up at 4:30-5:00 every morning. At that time he would pray the rosary until it was time to go to Mass."

"There were many times he would



tell me stories about Canada (*le campagne*, which translates from French as 'in the fields, hills and valleys') and how he was a logger. He also knew how to tap the maple trees and make sugar and syrup. One year, he and I tapped a neighbor's trees and made maple syrup. We boiled that sap for hours. I think we ended up with about a quart of syrup."

"In the summer, he would plant a big garden in the backyard. It wasn't only for himself but for all the family which he would share with all. We also used to do some canning for the winter. We also had a pear tree and I would help him put the pears in wooden barrels and to ripen on their own. We also had grapevines; the grapes were used to make grape juice."

"My grandfather had seven cherry trees in the yard (they sort of grew wild) and when my brother and I were little, we would climb the trees and pick the cherries. My grandfather didn't like that, so he put a ladder up because he didn't want us to break the branches."

"When I was about six years old, my grandfather built a chicken coop and started to raise chickens. That was an experience! They multiplied fast, I thought, and we had about 100 of them. Of course, we ate eggs and chicken often. When my grandfather killed them, he would let them run around the yard with their heads cut off. He thought that was funny. I hated to pluck the feathers but I would help my grandfather."

"During the day, my grandfather would sharpen the saws for my Uncle Edward's carpenters and would prepare for the winter by chopping wood and

stacking it up. He had a wood stove for cooking and heating. He was always working around the house, replacing porch floors, shingling, etc."

"One day, when he was in his late 70's or early 80's, he was on the roof replacing shingles and my Uncle Ed passed by and saw him. He became very angry with my grandfather, but my grandfather retaliated. The next day my Uncle Ed's men were finishing the roof for him!"

"When I was about 7 or 8 years old, my grandfather made a fiddle. He played very well and would play jigs for me. Picture this — tapping of feet to the beat and fiddle playing. It was a sight to behold! I enjoyed every minute of it."

"My brother tells me that my grandfather had a cow and pigs but I don't remember them. When I was 10 years old, we moved and I used to visit with him every day after school till supper time and when I went to grammar school I would have lunch with him. He made great lunches I always thought."

"We used to play cards often and he would let me win once in a while. When I was 13, he became ill and passed away. He said to me 'don't cry for me — be happy because I'm going with my maker.' He told me he was dying. To this day, I still miss him and will always. He died with a smile on his face, as I can see it." — Mary-Anne C. PERLORCA

**JOSEPH SÉVIGNY**

Joseph SÉVIGNY married Zoé

THERIAULT on 30 July 1844 at Bécancour.<sup>52</sup> Bécancour is situated approximately 110 miles from Montréal on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. Joseph's parents were Joseph and Appoline LEVASSEUR. Zoé's parents were Hyacinthe and Marie VALLIERES.

The only children of Joseph and Zoé as far as I am aware of are: Joseph, the oldest; Narcisse, born on 16 May 1858, my great, great grandfather; and, Napoléon, born on 22 June 1865. However, as will be noted below, my mother's Aunt Bella SÉVIGNY RE-NAUD stated she remembers her father's relatives in Canada, including her "father's sister who lived in the same town." Therefore, perhaps there was a daughter of Joseph and Zoé also.

The oldest child, Joseph SÉVIGNY, married Marie DUMONT on 27 July 1874 at St. Angèle de Laval. Marie's parents were Désire DUMONT and Adélaïde PÉPIN. Joseph and Marie had two children that I know of: H.-Henri who married Gracia LEVASSEUR on 23 April 1917 at St. Angèle de Laval; and Hormisdas July 1918 at St. Angèle de Laval. Gracia's parents were Alex-andre LEVASSEUR and Adélaïde DUMONT and Angéline's parents were Jean-Baptiste. DUMONT and Virginia LEVASSEUR.

There were two naturalization records at the National Archives Branch in Waltham, MA. The first is for Joseph SÉVIGNY, born on 26 January 1875, residing at 21 Choate Street, Fall River. The one photocopied is dated 14 October 1901 and matches the address of the Fall River City Directories of

1898 for Joseph SÉVIGNY, on Pleasant Street, where the two witnesses, Herbert THERIAULT and J. Eugene MORISSETT, are residing. The second record refers to Joseph SÉVIGNY residing at 74 Flint Street, Fall River, born on 20 March 1874, dated the same as the first one noted above.<sup>53</sup>

Napoléon married Amanda TOURIGNY on 14 June 1892 at St. Eulalie. Amanda's parents were David TOURIGNY and Osithe HÉLIE. Napoléon and Amanda TOURIGNY had thirteen children<sup>54</sup>: Florida, who died very young; Corona (Corinne), who married Arthur MARTIN on 11 January 1916; Paul (Alphonse); then a second Florida who married Arthur DESCHAIES on 28 January 1925; Marie-Rose who married Ferdinand DUPONT on 17 September 1928; Wilfred who married Blanche DESCHAIES on 23 December 1925 at St. Angèle de Laval (Blanche's parents were Amédée DESCHAIES and Alma MORRISSETTE); Ida; twins Alexandra and Victoria; Armand; Antonio; Louis-Philippe who married Yvette MICHEL (whose parents were Marjoric and Eva TELLIER) on 24 July 1941 at Gentilly; and finally, Gabrielle. Six of these children were still alive in February, 1995.<sup>55</sup> The family lived in Fall River during the birth of their first three children, Florida, Corona (Corinne) and Paul (Alphonse).<sup>56</sup> They diverged when Napoleon and his family returned to Québec with his family, but his brother, Narcisse and his family, stayed behind in the United States. Narcisse eventually emigrated permanently to Warren, RI, from Fall River, MA, for the remainder of his life.

My grandfather Alex's youngest

brother, Leo, noted the fact that his father, Narcisse, had one brother, Napoléon, and that Leo remembers visiting his Uncle Napoleon in Canada. Alex's younger sister, Bella SÉVIGNY RENAUD, also remembered her father's relatives in Canada, especially Napoléon, her uncle, and her "father's sister who lived in the same town." She did not remember what her name was. They were a large, close-knit family that lived at Trois-Rivières and St. Angèle de Laval, a small village situated next to Bécancour.

Bella had her father's address book after he died and the names of the persons he wrote to in Canada were: Napoléon SÉVIGNY, Alexandre LEVESQUE, and Armand RICHARD, whose joint address was "Sainte Angèle de Laval, Conté Nicolet, P.Q., Canada"; Henri SÉVIGNY, at "1221 rue Milot, Paroisse St.-Sacrement, Trois Rivières, P.Q., Canada"; Alfred SÉVIGNY, at "733 Ste. Cecile, Trois Rivières, Province of Québec, Canada; Victor SÉVIGNY, at "5413 - 9 ieme Ave., Rosemont, Montreal, P.Q., Canada"; and, Armand FRECHETTE, at "Boulevard St. Louis, Trois Rivières, P.Q., Canada." She distinctly remembers that on one occasion while visiting her Uncle Napoléon that her father and Napoléon exchanged watches for remembrance of each other. Napoléon died 11 May 1943.

Napoléon's fifth child, Wilfred, and his wife, Blanche (mentioned above), had six children: Willie, Jean-Louis, Raymond, Lise, René, and Hélène.

Willie SÉVIGNY married Marguerite LAFLEUR. Willie is now de-

ceased. Jean-Louis SÉVIGNY married Présille LAFLEUR on 29 July 1950 at Cap-de-la-Madeleine and they have six children: Christian, Alain, Michel, Chantal, Lyne, and Johanne. Jean-Louis wrote an article in the *La Sève-Le Journal des Sévigny dit Lafleur* about his father, Wilfred, mentioning that Wilfred was born at St. Angèle de Laval on 10 September 1900 and died on 2 April 1980. Jean-Louis included in his article many newspaper articles<sup>57</sup> that were published about his father being an amateur middle-weight boxer in Canada. Interestingly enough, however, he probably never knew, his nephew, Narcisse's son, Adelard, was also a boxer in the U.S.! Jean-Louis and Présille SÉVIGNY now live in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Québec.

Raymond SÉVIGNY married Jeannine LAFLEUR. The interesting note here is that Marguerite, Présille, and Jeannine LAFLEUR are all sisters *plus* they are all SÉVIGNY descendants!

Hormisdas and Angèle had two children that I know of: Solange, who married Fernand TRUDEL on 26 July 1939; and Roger who married Gisele ST. ONGE on 28 September 1946 at Bécancour (Gisele's parents were Benjamin ST. ONGE and Yvonne DOUCET).

### JOSEPH SÉVIGNY

Joseph SÉVIGNY married Appoline LEVASSEUR on 10 August 1812 at Bécancour. Joseph SÉVIGNY's parents were Étienne SÉVIGNY and Marie-Anne DUBOIS. Appoline's parents were Jean-Baptiste LEVASSEUR

and Marie-Louise LEMAITRE.

Joseph and Appoline SÉVIGNY had four children that I know of: Joseph who married Zoé THÉRIAULT; David who married Léocadie PEPIN on 19 February 1849, at Gentilly (Leocadie's parents were Olivier PEPIN and Marguerite LAVIGNE); Narcisse who married Adélaïde LEBLANC on 2 May 1859 at Bécancour (Adélaïde's parents were Alexis LEBLANC and Madeleine VERVILLE); and Étienne who married Marie LEBLANC (her parents were Antoine and Marguerite RHEAULT) on 5 October 1841 at Bécancour.

### *ÉTIENNE SÉVIGNY*

Étienne SÉVIGNY was born on 21 September 1744 at Pointe-aux-Trembles.<sup>59</sup> His parents were Antoine SÉVIGNY and Marie-Françoise BELAND. Étienne married Marie-Anne DUBOIS on 18 September 1775 at Bécancour. Marie-Anne's parents were Jean-Baptiste DUBOIS and Marie-Joséphite BOURBEAU.

Étienne and Marie-Anne's children were as follows: Étienne who married Marguerite LEVASSEUR on 28 October 1806 (Marguerite's parents were François LEVASSEUR and Charlotte GAILLOUX); Joseph who married Appoline LEVASSEUR on 10 August 1812; and Marie who married Joseph SENNEVILLE on 24 February 1800 at Bécancour.

Marie and Joseph SENNEVILLE had one child that I know of: Joseph, who married Angèle RIVARD dit LAVIGNE. Angèle's parents were Antoine and Françoise GAUTHIER.

### *ANTOINE SÉVIGNY*

Antoine SÉVIGNY was baptized in the church of St. François de Neuville on 3 January 1702, in Neuville (Pointe-aux-Trembles), Québec.<sup>58</sup> On 10 January 1735, at the age of 33, he was married there to Marie-Françoise BELAND. Marie Françoise was born in 1715. Her parents were Jean and Marie COTIN dit DUGAL from France. Antoine's parents were Julien-Charles de SÉVIGNÉ and Marie ROGNON dit ROUCHETTE, our first ancestors from France to be married in Canada.

Antoine and Marie-Françoise had sixteen children: Marie-Françoise, born on 2 January 1736 and married on 23 November 1757 to Jean LABERGE; Antoine, born on 1 April 1737, was married twice, first on 8 January 1759 at Bécancour to Marie-Anne CHAMPOUX dit ST. PAIR. Antoine's second marriage was to Marie DESCOTEAUX, the widow of Charles DUBOISSON, on 18 July 1791. Augustin was born on 1 January 1741 and married to Marie LAPORTE on 26 October 1767 at St. Denis-sur-Richelieu; Marie-Thérèse was married on 12 October 1761 to Pierre-François-Henri CARON at Québec. Marie-Geneviève was born on 1 January 1741 and was married on 12 January 1761 to Antoine LEBLANC. An unnamed child was born and died on 21 June 1743. Étienne, born on 21 September 1744, married Marie-Anne DUBOIS. His second marriage, on 28 October 1806 was to Marguerite LEVASSEUR.

Marie-Anne was born on 31 January 1746. Joseph was born on 1 August 1747 and married on 12 October 1789

to Marie-Anne BRISSET at St. Cuthbert.. Michel was born on 30 December 1750 at Les Écureuils. A second unnamed child was born and died in 1751. Eustache was born on 27 February 1752 and was buried on 9 December 1759.

A second child named Eustache was born in 1754 . He was married in Repentigny at the age of 24 years on 26 January 1778 to Louise-Monique ARCHAMBAULT. Louise-Monique was born in 1756; she died at the Hôtel-Dieu of Montréal on 26 November 1816. This couple had eight children.

The youngest child of this family, Marie-Charlotte, was born on 19 March 1756 and was buried on 11 December 1759.

Antoine was a master mason and a businessman; he owned many properties in France. When Antoine died in Neuville on 28 February 1757 at the age of 55 years, he left his wife with thirteen young children to care for. He was buried there on 1 March 1757.<sup>39</sup>

### ***JULIEN-CHARLES DE SÉVIGNÉ***

Julien-Charles de SÉVIGNÉ was born at Renne, St. Germain, France in 1668. He came to Canada from there at the age of twenty in 1688 and married Marguerite ROGNON dit ROUCHETTE on 18 April 1695.<sup>39</sup> This marriage took place at Pointe-aux-Trembles in Portneuf County, Québec. The young couple lived at Pointe-aux-Trembles, now called Neuville, near Québec City during their first years in the colony. Pointe-aux-Trembles is situated approximately twenty miles from Québec

City on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Marguerite was born on 17 December 1678 in Neuville. Her father's name was Michel and her mother was Marguerite LEMAIN. Michel ROGNON was born in France; he and Marguerite were married on 14 September 1670, and had six children. Marguerite LEMAIN was born in 1657 in France and died on 7 July 1715 in Québec. Michel ROGNON died on 10 November 1684 at Pointe-aux-Trembles.

According to information received from Virginia PALOMBIT of Michigan (a Sévigny descendant), Marguerite LEMAIN was a "Daughter of the King (*Fille du Roi*) and married Pierre MERCIER in 1685. She had one son from this marriage, Pierre, born on 17 March 1693. He married Louise LEDOUN on 17 November 1717.

Marguerite ROGNON's paternal grandparents were Charles ROGNON dit LAROCHE and Geneviève LePARMENTIER. They were married at St. Germain d'Auperre in Paris, France. Her maternal grandparents were Jacques LEMAIN and Marguerite DESCHAIES. This couple was married in the parish of St. Vivier in Rouen, Normandy, France.

Julien and Marguerite met for the first time in Canada at Lotbinière in 1693. Marguerite was 17 at the time of their marriage; Julien was 27 years old. Their children were: François, born in 1696; Marie-Françoise, born on 29 January 1700 in Neuville. Antoine was born there on 3 January 1702, and Marie-Jeanne was born on 30 November 1703 at St. Antoine-de-Tilly.

Charles was born on 26 April 1705 at St. Pierre, Ile d'Orleans; and Jean-Baptiste was born there on 27 March 1707.

A second child named Jean-Baptiste was born at St. Pierre on 11 January 1709. Marie-Charlotte was born on 4 November 1710; Marie-Françoise on 16 July 1716; and Jean-François was born on 5 July 1721. These last three children were born at Neuville.

Julien-Charles was a farmer in the *Seigneurie* of Villieu. Another source states that he came to Canada as a soldier in the French *Troupes de la Marine*, and later became a farmer and a weaver. His father was Gilles de SÉVIGNÉ, a merchant on the streets of Rennes, the capital of Brittany, France. His mother was Gillette de FOYE. Julien died at Pointe-aux-Trembles on 28 September 1727, and was buried there the next day.<sup>9</sup>

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### *A Memorial Prayer to Honor All Our Ancestors*

To . . .

all the good guys who stayed put in the same parish for six generations with their children and their *bêtes-à-cornes*, making it so easy for us to find them; the rovers, the woodrunners, the *voyageurs* who keep showing up in Wisconsin or Michigan, instead of staying home quietly in La Prairie or Ste.-Philomène; the king's daughters with their *don du roi de cinquante livres*; the sainted women as well as those who strayed . . . not to forget the men who did likewise; the *chaufournier*, the *savetier*, the *saugier* and the *mégissier*; the good *curés*, and the good *notaires* who dutifully penned down most of everything the above-mentioned did (if only they had written more legibly).

May their souls rest in peace!

May their names be properly fitted in our databases.

Hélène LAMARCHE  
Lachine, Québec

# Marie-Louise Bonier Revisited

by Robert R. Bellerose

A tome that contains a wealth of information for genealogists and historians, but has been inaccessible because of a language barrier, is now available. A team of researchers dedicated to French Canadian culture recently completed a new translation and have published this indispensable work. The original book is *Débuts de la Colonie Franco-Américain de Woonsocket, Rhode Island*; it was written by Marie-Louise BONIER and published in 1920. The English translation, *The Beginnings of the Franco-American Colony in Woonsocket, Rhode Island*, was released in 1997.

Marie-Louise BONIER's book was the first extensive treatment of the French Canadian experience in Woonsocket, and includes an early history of the city as well as a detailed account of the French population of the city. Also included were genealogies of the first French Canadian families in Woonsocket.

Who was this remarkable woman?

Marie-Louise BONIER was born on 4 January 1867 in the Waterford section of North Smithfield, RI. Early in her life, her family moved to Woonsocket, where she attended the local schools. As was the case with many French fami-

lies at the time, she was forced to leave school to help support the family.

She was described by family and friends as having frail health, yet endowed with an active and keen mind. She possessed limitless energy and consequently pursued and developed many interests. These included a love of art, music, literature, and a devotion to social service.

In 1911, BONIER organized a group of women in the city whose intent was to exchange ideas and undertake service to those in need. During the World War, this group aided the Red Cross and was instrumental in finding new homes for 73 orphaned French children. This group later honored Marie-Louise BONIER by renaming itself the *Cercle Marie-Louise*. Her dedication to the young is exemplified by her activities, first as a charter member of the Woonsocket Girl Scout organization, then as a member of the boards of directors of the Woonsocket Day Nursery and the Children's Home Association.

In 1914 she began to write her history of the French-Canadians of the city. In her words, she undertook this project "to leave to posterity a full account of the growth and advancement



of the Franco-American element in this city." The French Academy of History awarded BONIER a diploma for her book and made her an honorary member of their select group. Marie-Louise BONIER died in Woonsocket on 21 March 1927. The organizations that she founded continued for many years, and she was recognized and respected for her historical contribution.

Her book begins with a look at the origin and etymology of the city's name. She covers the obscure beginnings of the village around Woonsocket Falls and explores Union Village along the old turnpike. Also given recognition are the first families to settle in the area, such as the ARNOLDS and the COM-STOCKS. Marie-Louise describes the valleys of the Moshassuck and Branch Rivers in detail and sets the scene for the American Industrial Revolution with Samuel SLATER. She describes the early mill villages that were a part of the Blackstone River Valley and the daily lives of its citizens.

Throughout her work, she sprinkles her text with the stories of legends and interesting anecdotes. Of particular note is the story of an Indian who kills a panther and the unforgettable legend of Cold Spring Park.

She next tells the story of the industrial expansion that occurred in the Blackstone River Valley during the nineteenth century. Later, in part two, she relates this to the story of French-Canadian immigration to the city. She describes in detail the origin, causes, and consequences of the French emigration from Canada. She tells the story of the rise of this fiercely independent ethnic

group that worked together to transform Woonsocket into the largest French speaking municipality in the United States. BONIER tells the compelling stories associated with the French-Canadians in business, industry, and politics.

Her book contains brief biographies of prominent French-Canadians like Aram J. POTHIER, Alphonse GAULIN, Adelard ARCHAMBAULT, Raphael Pierre DAIGNAULT, and Adelard L. SOUCY. The stories of these successful gentlemen are a delight to read.

Of particular interest are the histories of the Franco-American Catholic churches of the city. These parishes formed the backbone supporting the French in Woonsocket and helped them as they struggled to establish their identity in an American working class city.

The text concludes with a look at the mutual benefit societies in Woonsocket, and Franco-American journalists. Fraternal organizations helped the Franco-Americans in times of need, but also provided an outlet for the preservation of their culture.

Of immense interest to genealogists and historians is BONIER's compilation of the first 117 French-Canadian families to settle in Woonsocket. Among the families covered by her research are: AUBIN, BARRIÈRE, CADORET, FONTAINE, GARCEAU, GOBEILLE, HÉROUX, JACQUES, LECLERC, MAGNAN, and PHA-NEUF. Reflective of the intermarriage that took place between the French and other ethnic groups, non-French names

can also be found: BURNS, COLLINS, LEWIS, McCABE, McINTIRE, MILLER, WILKINSON.

The updated genealogies found in the new edition are the result of the hard work done by AFGS members Roger and Sylvia BARTHOLOMY. These are presented in a register format with the children listed under the father's name with cross-references to the mother's family. Also included in the new edition is a name index. The BARTHOLOMYs were assisted in their research and editing of the genealogical section by a close association with AFGS member Robert PELLAND. Mr. Pelland has been scrutinizing BONIER's work for many years and by this time had compiled an extensive file of additions and corrections to her original work.

An example of some errors that Mr. PELLAND has found can be seen in the first family in the genealogy. According to BONIER, Charles ALLAIRE was married to Rolie GIARD. The new research has uncovered that Charles' wife was actually Marie-Louise RICHARD.

The actual translation of BONIER's book is the work of Dr. Claire QUINTAL of the *Institut Français* at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. Dr. QUINTAL assembled a team which, under her direction, has meticulously translated, edited, and added notes to BONIER's work. The project had begun several years earlier when the Rev. Edward ST. GODARD translated fifty pages of the book. Unable to complete the project because of time and other

constraints, he turned it over to Dr. QUINTAL.

Wanting to insure historical accuracy, Dr. QUINTAL invited Raymond H. BACON, a noted Woonsocket historian and newly appointed Manager of the city's *Museum of Work and Culture* to work on the project. His notes and suggestions helped to enrich the translation and insure accuracy.

Another indispensable member of the team was Sister Eugena POULIN. As Chair of the Department of Languages at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, Sister POULIN lent her expertise in editing the translation at various stages.

The Rev. Alexis BABINEAU, A.A. of Assumption College meticulously read the text in its entirety. His suggestions and evaluation of the genealogy section were an enormous help to the project. His expert counsel was invaluable. Also a member of the team, Mrs. Armand (Doris) DEMERS supplied much hard to find information on Marie-Louise BONIER and her civic activities. The cover design is the creation of Mr. Ed POIRIER from the Poirier Studio of Woonsocket.

Thanks to all the dedicated individuals and organizations who worked on this project, this important history is available to future generations. If you are interested in the French Canadian experience in Woonsocket, or if your genealogical lines run through this city, this book is an essential addition to your library.

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In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.

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

**MARIE LOUISE BONIER**



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by  
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# Winthrop Ways and Woes

by: **Albert Boissonneault**

*Editor's Note: The following is taken from the book, Je Me Souviens — A Family Remembrance, by Albert Boissonneault, and is reprinted here with his widow's permission. This is the sixth installment. Mr. Boissonneault's book is in the AFGS Library.*

Soon after settling in on the second floor of the three-family home at 117 Revere Street, my sisters and I began attending classes at the Highland school. This school faced the Atlantic Ocean and the windows of my Classroom looked out on the water. Whenever a ship such as the Leviathan or the Majestic, the largest ships then afloat, came into Boston Harbor (home of the world's largest drydocks), the teacher would let us look at them.

The school was about one mile from our home which directly faced Fort Banks, a military fort guarding Boston Harbor. Across the street and to the right in the grounds of the fort were the officers' quarters and a row of single houses which housed the families of captains, majors, and the colonel who served as commanding officer.

Directly across from our house was a rampart about 30 feet high. On its top were placed a flag pole and a cannon; when the gun was fired at sun-

rise, the flag was run up. there it remained flying until retreat was sounded at sunset and the flag lowered. Every night at sunset, my sisters and I would join Willard, my youngest stepbrother, and other neighborhood children to clamber up the rampart and witness the impressive ceremony. We would watch attentively as the soldiers fired the sunset gun and lowered the flag while retreat was sounded by the bugler. Those were stirring moments in our lives and even now evoke shining memories. Perhaps those sunset vigils may even have been the impetus that caused Willard to make his life-long career in the Army, eventually attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

The school was one mile away and we would walk the distance. At lunchtime we would go home to eat since schools in the lower grades did not have cafeterias. The children from the fort attended our school, riding in a covered wagon drawn by four army mules. Sometimes, especially in bad weather, they would stop and give us a lift to school.

Fort Banks made a good playground for us as it was wide open, with no guards posted at the various gates. In the wintertime they had a nice skating rink, which was lit up at night. When

it snowed the Colonel would have the prisoners in the fort stockade sweep the rink free of snow and stack enough firewood for the stove in the large tent, a welcome haven for warming up. Security in the fort was non-existent in those placid days and we could walk in or out at any time and use all the facilities, including the bowling alley and gym.

The fort had eight long mortars built into the rampart, guns which might have been of some use during the Civil War or the Spanish American War. Three or four hundred men were kept busy practicing with those old relics; they would have been practical only if a belligerent ship had come within 15 miles of our shores, an extremely doubtful possibility. Two or three times a week, the soldiers would go through the motions of loading, aiming, and then unloading the mortars. they were never fired because if they had been, every pane of glass in Winthrop would have been shattered ... but it kept the men occupied.

Winthrop in the 1920's was a beautiful residential town, with a population of about 8,000. Now that Logan Airport in neighboring East Boston has grown so large, departing and arriving planes have shattered the peace of this once tranquil community, but such was not the case when we lived there.

The town is actually an island connected to the mainland by a bridge to East Boston. The brook that once separated it from Revere was filled in during the 1800's and a regular road now connects Winthrop and Revere. In order to reach the town by public transportation from Boston you had to take the *narrow*

*gauge*, the Boston, Revere, and Lynn Railroad. The railroad also operated a ferryboat between Boston and East Boston. Leaving Rowes Wharf on Atlantic Avenue at the foot of Broad Street in Boston, the boat arrived five minutes later in East Boston, near the Simpson Drydock of Bethlehem Shipyards on Marginal Street. These ferries carried only people, no automobiles or horses and wagons. Once on the pier, there would be two trains waiting in the shed, one going to Lynn and the other headed for Winthrop. Each train had five or six cars which were smaller than regular railroad cars, and a locomotive much smaller than the regular full-sized engines. The tracks were also narrower, thus known as narrow gauge. Because of their size, these trains carried no freight or mail.

The train for Revere Beach and Lynn would leave first, with the Winthrop train departing a few minutes later. Both trains used the same track through East Boston, with the first stop at Wood Island, then a very nice park but unfortunately now a part of Logan Airfield. The next stop was Harbor View, still in East Boston. From there the trains followed the shoreline until their arrival at orient Heights. From that point the Lynn train would head north to revere Beach and Lynn, arriving about 40 minutes after leaving the wharf on Marginal Street.

At orient Heights the Winthrop train would swing east to the first station, Pleasant Street. The tracks encircled the town of Winthrop and from Pleasant Street, the train went through the center of town, stopping at various stations: Ingleside, Winthrop Center,

Thornton Park, Winthrop Beach, Playstead, Ocean Spray, Winthrop Highlands, and Battery. the next train would circle the town in the opposite direction, with Battery (the Fort Banks stop) being the first station on that trip. The complete round trip from pier and back took about one hour. The trains ran every half hour during the day until 6:00 p.m. and every hour from then to 11:00 p.m. In those days (1920's) public transportation was the commonplace method of travel. Once you reached Boston, unless your workplace was near Rowes Wharf or the financial district, you also had to use the elevated train or subway system of the Boston Elevated Railway.

Now that I have described the town of Winthrop a little, let us go back to the school. My sisters and I spoke very little English, as all of our lives we had spoken and had heard only French. Because of our woefully limited vocabulary, attending the Highland School was not easy but Miss Kerry, the principal, was very good to my sisters and me. My seventh grade teacher, Mrs. Hicks, also did all she could to help me over the rough spots. Little by little, my sisters and I learned to speak English and to do our lessons as best we could. Not one of us ever had to repeat a class; in fact I was placed in the seventh grade rather than the sixth since the Joliette classes were more advanced. Because of my experience, I consider bilingual classes a waste of time and energy; though adults may have a problem with our language, I think that children can more easily learn English through complete immersion. My classmates, who came from Irish, Italian and Jewish backgrounds, also were very kind to me, never deriding my first attempts at

speaking their language. Of course I only went to school for one year; after that I was 14 years old and, leaving school behind, went to work to help out with the family finances. With six hungry mouths to feed, there never seemed to be enough money on hand.

On the 31st of August, 1923, those six mouths became seven, with the birth of my sister Edith. She was truly a bridge between the two groups of children since she was a sister to both sets of siblings. My father and Grace now shared the home with "my children," "your children" and "our child!"

Before her birth, however, things at home had become very strained. First of all, our stepmother Grace was hard of hearing; to add to that predicament, my sisters, my father and I still reverted to speaking French when we were together. Of course she believed we were talking about her, and sometimes we were, but certainly not always. We three had expected some love and kindness, but we received neither. At the schools we had attended the last few years, things had been very impersonal. We had been fed, clothed, and we always had clean beds and of course, we had never in any way been abused. In Winthrop, though things went well enough for a short time, conditions soon changed. Things were much worse for my sisters than for me because I kept out of the house more. the girls were not as free as I was to run around. Grace confined them to the house and made them do a lot of housework and cleaning. She had a lot of work, I must admit, but two girls, one 10 years old and the other 11, are a little too young to do heavy housework. though they tried to

do their best, it was sometimes not up to Grace's meticulous standards, and for that they would pay! My father, still working for the B & M Railroad, was home only every other day and then only for a short time; I'm sure that he did not realize what was going on.

It takes a lot of courage for anyone to undertake raising someone else's children, especially when you have three of your own that you will naturally favor. Also when the stepchildren do not speak or understand your language, and are not of your nationality or religion, very few stepmothers would find it an agreeable situation. Then, of course, there was never enough money; my father's wages were not large enough to support a wife and children without strain and some necessary deprivation. Although Howard worked and gave his mother some money, it could not have been much since his pay was small. I guess that someone had to pay for her frustration and we were elected.

Grace's hostility may also have been due to the fact that (by her own admission) prior to marrying my father, her life had not been a bed of roses. Married at an early age to a burlesque comedian, she had borne him three sons, but he had never furnished her with much support. Finally forced to go to work to support the family, she divorced him but, with no special training, her positions were always in the low-paid range. She had returned to live with her parents but since they had no room for the children, she was forced to board the two oldest boys out of town. Her youngest son, Willard, was able to live with her sister, Marion, and Marion's husband in Providence, RI. (*No Aid to Depen-*

*dent Children* or welfare in those days.) I do not believe that she ever had a home of her own for very long, and certainly after the breakup of her marriage she was not able to see her children very often. Though her marriage to my father provided her at last with a home for herself and her children, perhaps taking on three more strange children proved too much for her to cope with.

To be fair to Grace, she certainly was not lazy. An excellent housekeeper, her house was always clean and well kept. She was an accomplished cook and baker, and could rustle up an appetizing meal with very little in the way of provisions. Her pies and doughnuts were delicious and her bread and rolls as good as any purchased in a fancy bakery. She was not prejudiced against us either for our nationality or religion. Although she and her sons never attended church services except for weddings and funerals, (she claimed to be Congregational) she never discouraged us from attending mass at St. John's Church in Winthrop. Indeed, I never heard her say anything derogatory about any race or religion.

One of her finer qualities was her willingness to work hard. In order to help out during the depression, she obtained a job at the Massachusetts General Hospital as a chambermaid at the Nurses' Home. She had a whole floor (about 40 rooms) to look after, make the beds and keep the rooms hospital clean. Grace worked very hard for very little money all her life, even in her seventies when she labored at a laundry. She was hard on us children but was just as hard on herself.

The town of Winthrop had four policemen, the chief named McNeil, a native of Nova Scotia who had somehow ended up on the police force, and three local patrolmen. the chief drove around in a Ford Model T four-door sedan, a factor that prevented my arrest one Sunday. Winthrop was a very puritanical town and on Sundays you could not do anything but go to church. There were two movie houses but on Sunday they were closed. You could go to the beach in the summer but you could not play baseball or any other sports.

One Sunday morning about nine of us were playing baseball, a little pick-up game in a field just behind our house. Soon afterwards Chief McNeil swooped down in his Ford and stopped the game. He told us to get in the car, I suppose to take us down to the station. We were, of course, all minors and what he would have done with us is really a puzzle. There were, as I said, nine of us and

though we surely could not all fit in that car, the Chief evidently thought that he could do the impossible. Opening the door, he told us to get in the car but neglected to instruct us to stay there. The first boy obediently climbed in and just as promptly climbed out the opposite door. the following two or three kids did the same. In a scene reminiscent of a Keystone Cops comedy, the Chief decided to chase the escapees on foot; when he took off after the first runners the rest of us also took off, but in the other direction. we even managed to save our bat, ball, and gloves; precious accessories in the days that predated organized sports

The chief was much too fat to run very far and managed with great effort to lose us all. his last words to us were "Come back, all of you! I know all of your names." No one fell for that ploy so the Chief lost his big chance to make a mass arrest of desperate criminals!

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### A Boy and His Frog

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A boy was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week." The boy took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to his pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you and do ANYTHING you want." Again the boy took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess, that I'll stay with you for a week and do anything want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The boy said, "Look I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog is cool."



Did I put  
that book  
back on  
the right  
shelf?



# Questions and Answers

## AFGS Research Committee

- 24/1 Seeking parents and marriage of Francis BELLE and Marie MARTIN, ca 1870. Prior marriage was in St. James, Manville, RI. (David DeBlois)
- 24/2 Seeking parents and marriage of Frank MARTIN and Florida (no maiden name), parents of Marie MARTIN. (David DeBlois)
- 24/3 Seeking information on John Logan ANDERSON born in Scotland and Christina A. ANDERSON, born 22 May 1871 in Port Morien, Cape Breton. Nova Scotia. (Philip F. Martin)
- 24/4 Seeking marriage and parents of Eusebe BOURQUE and Zoé GAGNON, ca 1850's. They both died in Montville/East Lyme area of Connecticut. (Rene Bernier)
- 24/5 Looking for the date and place of death of Joseph Elmer DUBOIS (a.k.a. Wood), his first marriage was to Mary Alma HARPER. (Roland Lapointe)
- 24/6 Seeking marriage and parents of Jacques MASSE-SANSERRE and M. ALIN. Previous marriage took place on 20 September 1811 in Beloeil, Québec. (Heide Marie Massey-Reed)
- 24/7 Seeking marriage and parents of Joseph GAUTHIER and Marie CHAMBERLAND. Previous marriage took place on 18 June 1793 in St. Jean, Port Joli. (Corrine Smith)
- 24/8 Seeking parents and marriage of Gaston FORAND and Fernande LA-MOUREUX. Their daughter, Louise, married Jean-Marie SAMSON on 8 August 1970 at Ste. Famille, Granby. (Dorothy Ciriello)
- 24/9 Seeking marriage and parents of Joseph FORAND and Olivine LEBRUN. Their son Raphael-Rodrigue-Louis-Joseph was born on 14 March 1905 at St. Pie-de-Bagot. (Dorothy Ciriello)
- 24/10 Seeking parents and marriage of Hormidas FORAND and Evelina GUAY/GERY. Their son Hormidas married Blanche VIGER on 19 September 1923 in Richmond County, Québec. (Dorothy Ciriello)
- 24/11 Seeking parents and marriage of Antoine-Joseph BOUTILLIER and Angelique GODÉE. A previous marriage took place in St. Pierre-de-Sorel on 2 February 1830. (L. Marcotte)
- 24/12 Seeking parents and marriage of Elijah ST. PIERRE (a.k.a. ST. PIERRE) and Amey BROSSON. Their son Pamilo was born in Bristol, RI. (Vir-

The following was received from George and Richard Christian as possible answers for Question 23/17. We thank them for their assistance.

1. Emma, d/o Joseph and of Philomène NOËL. First marriage on 15 February 1896 at St. Appolinaire, Québec to Napoléon DAIGLE, s/o François-Xavier and of Odile MARCHAND. Second marriage on 11 July 1898 at St. Antoine-de-Tilly to Jean-Baptiste CROTEAU, widower of Aurelie DUQUET.

2. Emma, d/o Joseph and of Arthémise FOURNIER. Married on 19 January 1904 at St. Charles-de-Bellechasse to Pierre GONTHIER, s/o Jean and of

Ombéline ROY.

3. Emma, d/o Vital and of Celina ROUX. Married on 12 November 1889 at Ste. Sophie, Megantic Co., Québec to Georges PRINCE, s/o Adolphe and of Louise ROBERGE.

4. Emma, d/o Lazare and of Delina-Adelia DEMERS. Married on 2 July 1894 at St. Antoine-de-Tilly to Lazare SÉVIGNY, s/o Lazare and of Celina BERGERON.

5. Emma, d/o Henri-Norbert and of Mathilde CHAPUT. Married on 18 June 1906 at l'Assomption to Albert VÉZINA, s/o Placide and of Philomène GRÉGOIRE.

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### *QUESTIONS TO PONDER ON A SLOW DAY*

- Why are there interstates in Hawaii?
- Why are flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?
- Why are cigarettes sold at gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?
- Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical questions?
- How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work?
- If nothing sticks to TEFLON, how do they make TEFLON stick to the pan?
- If buttered toast always lands butter side down, and a cat always lands on its feet, what would happen if you tied a piece of buttered toast on the back of a cat and dropped it?
- If you are driving at the speed of light and turn on your headlights, what happens?
- Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of drive-up ATM machines?
- Why do we drive on parkways and park

- on driveways?
- Why is it when you transport something by car, it's called shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo?
- You know that little indestructible black box that's used on planes, why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?
- Why is it when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn the radio down?
- Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- What does Geronimo yell when he jumps out of a plane?
- If fire fighters fight fire, and crime fighters fight crime, what do freedom fighters fight?
- If con is the opposite of pro, then is Congress the opposite of progress?

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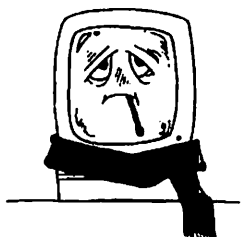
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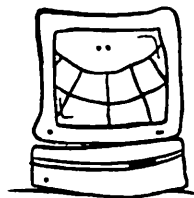
Do computers, like people, slow down as they get older? No, but it sure seems that way! Today's software places greater demands on equipment. That, along with higher expectations, nifty options, and tax depreciation, feeds "upgrade fever".

But, while we're preoccupied with when to upgrade, and to what, an important question is often ignored...what do you do with the old equipment? Some of our members just pass it down the ladder to other family members, or to those whose demands aren't as great as those who are upgrading. The trouble is, many members often can't find anyone who can use the older machines. One alternative is to try and sell the hardware, while another is to sell your equipment to a liquidator or used computer dealer.

A better option, however, might be to give it to a nonprofit organization, such as the *AFGS*. What these machines lack in dollar value often pales in comparison to their value to groups and individuals that really need them.

Our organization would be happy to accept any old IBM-PC, 386, 486 or higher compatible. But, do not forget to take a few precautions! For example, software that works for you might be inappropriate for volunteers. Be careful about giving away machines with copyrighted software on the hard disk. Some software companies allow users to donate older versions of their programs, but it's best to check with the vendor.

Whatever you do, do not let your PC sit in a closet gathering dust! So many people can use them for so many different and very good reasons! (And, it could mean a substantial tax deduction for you!)



***Don't Just Donate A Piece Of Equipment...  
Donate A Solution! You'll Feel Better For It!***

For More Information, Contact Roger Bartholomy @ 401-769-1623

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## Actual signs seen across the U.S.:

- In a New Hampshire jewelry store: Ears pierced while you wait.
- In a New York restaurant: Customers who consider our waitresses uncivil ought to see the manager.
- On the wall of a Baltimore estate: Trespassers will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. — Sisters of Mercy.
- On a long-established New Mexico dry cleaners: 38 years on the same spot.
- In a Los Angeles dance hall: Good clean dancing every night but Sunday.
- On a movie theater: Children's matinee today. Adults not admitted unless with child.
- In a Florida maternity ward: No children allowed.
- In the offices of a loan company: Ask about our plans for owning your home.
- In a New York medical building: Mental Health Prevention Center.
- In a toy department: Five Santa Clauses — No waiting!
- On a New York convalescent home: For the sick and tired of the Episcopal Church.
- On a Maine shop: Our motto is to give our customers the lowest possible prices and workmanship.
- On a display of "I love you ONLY" valentine cards: Now available in multi-packs.
- In the window of a Kentucky appliance store: Don't kill your wife. Let our washing machine do the dirty work.



*Hosanna Bernard and Victoria Durand  
Married on 2 July 1911 at Ste.-Genevieve-de-Berthier*

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- In the window of a Kentucky appliance store: Don't kill your wife. Let our washing machine do the dirty work.

DID I RE-  
MEMBER  
TO RENEW  
MY MEM-  
BERSHIP?





# Parting Shots

Paul P. Delisle, Editor

Twenty years ago, having caught the genealogy bug generated by the extreme popularity of Alex Haley's novel, *Roots*, we started to dig into our family's history with great enthusiasm. That enthusiasm was quickly squashed by a lack of experience and a lack of resources.

It was about that time when there appeared an article in *The Woonsocket Call* which described a genealogical society for French Canadians in Manchester, NH which had recently formed. I quickly called the local number given in the article. I spoke to Mr. Al Gaboury who gave me the details concerning the American Canadian Genealogical Society in Manchester, of which he was a member, and promised to send me a membership application. Almost as an afterthought, near the end of the conversation, Al said "Let me tell you about a group that is forming in Pawtucket, you might be interested ..." The rest, as they say, is history.

Our nativity was humble indeed. Two milk crates, loosely filled with what few repertoires were available from Canada, along with a used set of Tanguay, made up our library. Our founding members were also members of the Le Foyer club in Pawtucket, and obtained a corner of the upstairs banquet hall for our use. Some time later, our

library had grown to a point where we needed to purchase two steel cabinets to house our books. Platforms with casters had to be built for these cabinets because our library had to be rolled to the back of the room and hidden behind curtains at the end of the evening.

The first *Je Me Souviens*, published in september of 1978, was typewritten and reproduced by a local quick-printer, and collated by hand. Its binding consisted of two staples. It was 43 pages in length. *Je Me Souviens* was originally planned as a quarterly publication. It soon became clear that this would be difficult for such a small group. The second year, *Je Me Souviens* became semi-annual. In 1982 the present format was adopted. We've come a long way since that first issue!

Our move to Woonsocket in 1984 was a major milestone in the Society's history. Our facilities in the basement of the First Universalist Church gave us the space for expansion, for storage, and gave our members a much more pleasant atmosphere in which to conduct their research.

The American French Genealogical Society has come a long way since those early days. Our library is one of the best outside of Canada. The recent

purchase of the Drouin microfilm collection has been our crowning glory this past year. Plans being made concerning the future growth of the Society will be equally impressive as they come to pass. Our membership continues to grow each year; not only in the U.S. and Canada, but in Europe, too. This humble editor is proud to have been a part of this Society's growth.

This issue is our twentieth anniversary edition. It is substantially larger, by more than a third, than normal issues. This is to accommodate several articles that, because of their length, probably would not have appeared in this journal. We felt that this milestone year justifies a special edition.

We are especially proud to offer Bob Pelland's work on Charles Allaire.

Allaire was one of the first French Canadians to emigrate to Woonsocket, RI to work in the mills, and many of his descendants still live in the area. Bob's article is the result of several years of intense research. The article on Moise Potvin by Robert Bellerose, with accompanying research by Sylvia Bartholomey, gives recognition to a man whose immense artistic talents are all but forgotten today. Sister Eugena Poulin's research on crimes against women in colonial Québec is especially interesting.

If the next twenty years are anything like the last twenty, the future of the AFGS is bright indeed. Our wish is that you all are here to help us celebrate that anniversary. The future looks bright indeed.

~~~~~

More actual signs seen across the U.S.:

- In a funeral parlor: Ask about our layaway plan.
- In a Tacoma, Washington men's clothing store: 15 men's wool suits, \$10. They won't last an hour!
- On a shopping mall marquee: Archery Tournament - Ears pierced.
- Outside a country shop: We buy junk and sell antiques.
- In downtown Boston: Calahan Tunnel — No end.
- In the window of an Oregon store: Why go elsewhere and be cheated when you can come here?
- In a Maine restaurant: Open 7 days a week and weekends.
- In a New Jersey restaurant: Open 11 AM to 11 PM midnight.
- In front of a New Hampshire restaurant: Now serving live lobsters.
- On a movie marquee: Now playing: *Adam and Eve* with a cast of thousands!
- In the vestry of a New England church: Will the last person to leave, please see that the perpetual light is extinguished.
- In a Pennsylvania cemetery: Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.
- On the grounds of a public school: No trespassing without permission.
- On a Tennessee highway: When this sign is under water, this road is impassable.

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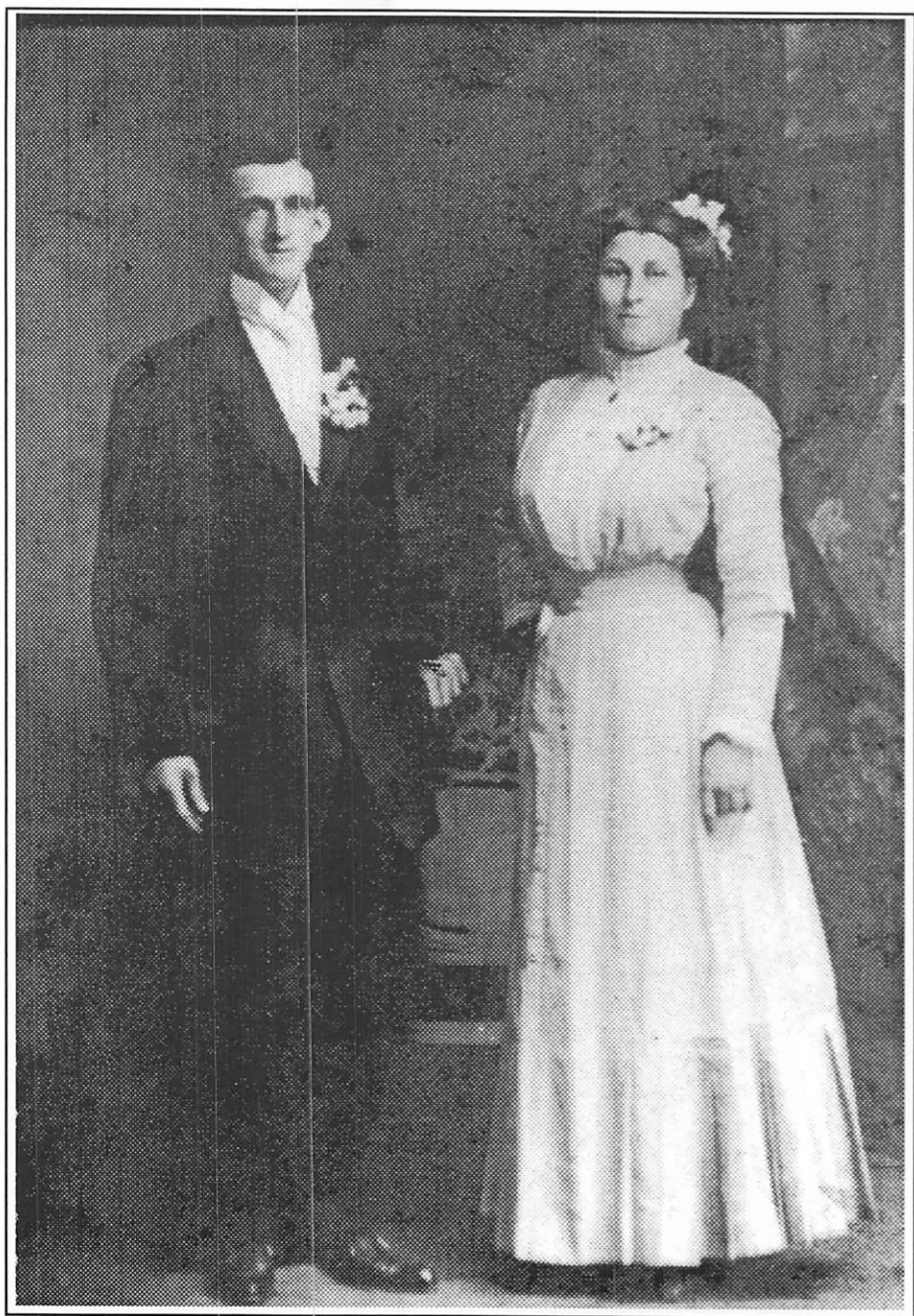
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*Hosanna Bernard and Victoria Durand
Married on 2 July 1911 at Ste.-Genevieve-de-Berthier*