

LA JW

Je Me Souviens

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AMERICAN-FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 830
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895-0870

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 @ afgs.org**. E-mail to the Editor of *JMS* should be addressed to **paul471 @ cox.net**.

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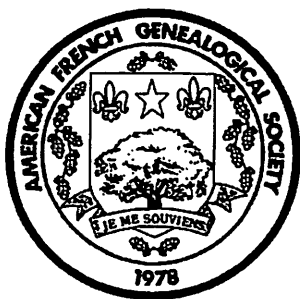
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AFGS Mission Statement

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Bartholomy, President

Last year, on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary, the AFGS initiated a Hall of Fame to honor individuals of French-Canadian ancestry who have brought distinction to their heritage through demonstrated accomplishments in their life's endeavors or to their dedication to serving their community.

Inducted in the "Class of 2003" were Marie Louise BONIER, Alphonse DESJARDINS, Dr. René JETTÉ and Bernard "Ben" MONDOR. Information on their accomplishments can be found on our website at <http://www.afgs.org/25thyear.html>

This year the committee has selected the following individuals for the "Class of 2004":

Alphonse A. AUCLAIR, a Woonsocket native, was a member of the Woonsocket Police Force from 1952 to 1977. He served as Senator representing the 32nd Senatorial District from 1979 to 1984. Al is a Marine Corps Veteran of World War II and an Iwo Jima survivor. He is one of the founding members and former Commander of the St. Joseph's Veterans Association.

Al has been a strong supporter of veteran's causes throughout his civilian life. He organized the 50th

Anniversary Remembrance of the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1991, and the 50th Anniversary Celebration honoring local participants of the Normandy Invasion in 1994. He was honored as the Veteran of the Year by the United Veteran Council in 1995. Also in 1995 he was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Woonsocket Kiwanis Club. He was chairman of the committee instrumental in having Route 99 in Lincoln-Cumberland named the Iwo Jima Memorial Highway. In 2000 he was on the committee of Operation Recognition, a program to award high school diplomas to World War II veterans who had not completed their education due to entering military service during the War. He was also a member of the committee that organized a program honoring the men and women of the "Greatest Generation" at the Stadium Theatre of Performing Arts in Woonsocket on Sunday, May 30, 2004.

Normand "Bill" BELISLE is a native of Manville, Rhode Island, and a Korean War veteran. He is being honored as a high school hockey coach, educator and humanitarian. In 1975 he became head hockey coach at Mount St. Charles Academy in Woonsocket and led the team to victory in winning twenty-six consecutive state championships. No other high school hockey team in the nation has ever achieved this

distinction.

Bill has instilled his student-athletes with the dignity and nobility of hard work, the pride to be champions, maintaining a fierce competitiveness always within the bounds of fair play and sportsmanship, while exemplifying a caring supportive attitude towards his fellow man and an undying interest in his players' total academic, personal and athletic development.

Dr. Ulysses FORGET was born at Versailles, Iberville County, Quebec in 1898. He obtained his A.B. degree at Laval University and his M. D. degree from the University of Montreal. He entered the private practice of medicine in Warren, Rhode Island in 1928. In 1934 he studied diseases of the eyes, ears, nose and throat in New York and in 1935 was appointed assistant physician at the Massachusetts Eyes and Ear Infirmary. He was a member of the staff of St. Ann's Hospital, Fall River, Massachusetts, and also taught Ophthalmology at St. Ann's Hospital School of Nursing.

Dr. Forget had a strong interest in genealogy and for many years devoted himself to collecting birth, marriage and death information on French Canadians in Rhode Island and in the Massachusetts mill towns along the Blackstone River Valley. He donated his extensive collection of this research material, which spans the years 1850 through 1900, to the AFGS. He will be honored posthumously.

Sister Eugena POULIN, RSM is an adjunct professor of French at Salve Regina University, Newport, RI. She has taught at the University since

1981 and was the Chairperson of the Modern Language Department from 1996 to 2001. She received her doctorate in French Literature from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida in 1986.

She is an active and respected member of the Franco-American community and was selected the Franco-American of the Year by the Rhode Island Heritage Commission in 1987. Sister Eugena was elected to the Executive Board of the French Institute at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1998.

Sister Eugena is also a researcher and writer. She has received two Salve Regina Small Grants in 1998 and 1999 for research at the Quebec National Archives. In 2000 she was awarded the Salve Regina University Presidential Grant for Research. Dr. Poulin has focused her research on women of the seventeenth century in New France, and to-date she has contributed three articles on this topic for publication in "Je Me Souviens". In addition to working on her fourth article on the lives of the founding mothers of New France, she is collaborating with Dr. Claire Quintal on the translation and annotation of "Gazette Française", a newspaper published in Newport in 1780-81.

As you can see the accomplishments of our honorees is quite varied.

The Hall of Fame celebration was held at Savini's Restaurant in Woonsocket on October 30th.

Congratulations to the "Class of 2004"

Last year A. Raymond and Ann AUCLAIR donated their extensive collection of Rhode Island memorabilia to the AFGS in honor of his father Alphonse AUCLAIR. AFGS member and local historian Robert R. BELLEROSE has organized photographs, business and trade cards, and advertisements from this collection in a book entitled "Woonsocket Revisited". It is the second book authored by Bob in the Images of America series published by Arcadia Publishing.

When Ray and Ann AUCLAIR gave their cherished collection to our Society it was with the expressed wish that these historic materials be made available to the public. Bob's book serves not only as a window into this amazing collection, but it gives us all a visual reminder of the rich history of our

community. We are extremely grateful to the Auclair family for donating their collection to the AFGS and to Bob Bellerose for the generous gift of his time and expertise in creating "Woonsocket Revisited". The book may be purchased from the AFGS. All royalty payments from the sale of this book go to the AFGS Library Fund for the specific purpose of helping to pay for the proper archival storage of these photographic items.

On behalf of the officers and the board of directors, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

Joyeux Noël – Bonne Heureuse Année – Bonne Santé et le Paradis a la fin de vos jours.

A La Prochaine

Roger A. Bartholomy
President

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In Memoriam

Henri A. Paradis – 29 May 1927 - 14 April 2004



We lost a good friend this Spring. The son of Delphis and Aurore (REINE), he had very impressive professional and personal careers. Henri worked for the U. S. Postal Service for 30 years. He started as a letter carrier, and when he retired in 1987 he was Postmaster of Manville, RI. He served as the president of the Letter Carriers' Union and had served as president of the Southeastern Massachusetts Letter Carriers' Union. He also served in the Korean War as a

member of the United States Army from 1952 to 1954.

He served as a Boy Scout Leader for many years. He was active with St. Joseph's Church in Attleboro, Massachusetts as a member of the church choir, Holy Name Society, and he was the first president of the Parish Council. Many more activities with the church earned him the Marian Medal in 1974.

Henri served as a member of the Fall River Diocesan School Board and as a representative for the Christian Family Movement to the Fall River Diocese. After his retirement from the postal service he served as treasurer of the La Salette Retreat House for 10 years.

A long time member of the American-French Genealogical Society, he was an avid researcher and member of our Board of Directors, and also served as our Treasurer for some time.

He was a close personal friend for many of our members and will be deeply missed.

Definition of a Genius

*A person who aims at something no one else can see
and hits it.*

Jean Guyon 1592-1634

by: Henri Paradis

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the Winter 1986 edition of Je Me Souviens.

Whenever we speak of our Canadian Ancestors, we usually are exceptionally proud of the fact that we can trace our lineage to the early part of the seventeenth century or even to the sixteenth century. The further back we can trace our ancestry, the larger our ego seems to swell. We seem to quickly forget the courage of these brave Frenchmen who left a civilized country to live in a wilderness, in a country unknown to the civilized world. They left the world, as it was known in those days, to brave the challenges of a vast continent, pledging to help populate and christianize an entirely unsurmountable land, inhabited by savages. Our forebears were dedicated individuals, who gave up the ordinary comforts of their day in order to give birth to a new world, knowing full well that they could be martyrs to this cause. As we search through books, such as Tanguay, Drouin, and Jette, we hardly give a thought to the dangers our ancestors had to surmount to give us what we claim to be our rightful heritage today. How many of us would have the courage to embark on such an adventure?

Who were these men? Why did

they come? What were they looking for? Certainly they were not malcontents or criminals trying to escape the law. Rather, they were law abiding citizens with adventuresome spirits who felt that the new land held promise. Many were prominent members of their villages.

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain founded the city of Québec. Twenty-four years later, in 1632, when the Treaty of St. Laurent-en-Laye was signed, there were only about forty inhabitants in Canada. This treaty was the turning point in the development of a new country. The promoters, or as they have been referred to, the Moses and Joshua of this "Promised Land," were Robert GIFFARD and Noël JUCHEREAU. They made many return trips from France to Canada during the previous ten years, but it was not until 1634 that Robert GIFFARD arrived in New France with the people he had recruited. They were: the family of Jean GUYON, mason; the family of Zacharie CLOUTIER, carpenter; the Henri PINGUET family, the BOUCHER family and many others. All had been engaged by contract, either signed or verbal.

These contracts or agreements remained relatively the same through many decades, although through the years there were many sponsors and

companies who recruited men to work in Canada. By the contract, the hired man promised to work at his trade in New France for a specified amount of time, usually three to five years. In return for his labor, the sponsors or companies paid for the ocean crossing and a return trip to France at the end of the engagement. During his stay in Canada, the hired man received a small salary and room and board. At the end of his tenure of duty, he could elect to remain in New France.

Both Jean GUYON and Zacharie CLOUTIER had signed a five year contract to work in New France. Because of this five year commitment and their subsequent desire to remain in the country, hundreds of thousands of French-Canadians and Franco-Americans now enjoy the freedom of Canada and the United States.

Our hero, Jean GUYON, ancestor to the DIONs, DUBUISSONs, LEMOINES, as well as the maternal ancestor to the PARADIS, DUFRENES and others, was baptized on September 18, 1592, at the church of Saint Aubin in Tourouvre, Perche, France. Little is known of his parents, Jacques GUYON and Marie HUET. Several times Jacques is mentioned as a witness at the sale of lands in Tourouvre, such as in 1578 and 1581. On September 21, 1588, Jacques and Marie had their daughter, Marie, baptized at the parish in Tourouvre. That is the only record available concerning Jean's older sister.

Jean spent his childhood in Tourouvre. In 1614, at the age of 22, he was an accomplished mason. It was time for him to establish his own home. On June

12, 1615, he married Maturine ROBIN at Saint Jean's Church in the village of Mortagne which was situated only a few kilometers from his own village of Tourouvre. In September of that year, 1615, Jean was hired to build the stairway leading to the bell tower at the church of Saint Aubin in Tourouvre. These stairs are still in existence today and can be seen by tourists wishing to visit the GUYON's place of origin.

A few year later, in 1625, he was hired by the city of Mortagne to work on the fortifications surrounding the city. Numerous slabs of this ancient wall are still standing. It was not a pleasant task and Jean had to resort to the courts in order to be reimbursed for the work he had done. He received 101 *livres* of the 250 owed him in 1627 and it was not until 1633 that he was paid another 100 *livres*. The records are moot as to whether he collected the remainder. A more profitable undertaking was the teaching of his trade to apprentices. These young men, desiring to become masons would be lodged and fed by the master for a period of two to three years and paid the teacher from 10 to 24 *livres* per year.

Jean and Mathurine had settled in Mortagne, in the parish of Saint Jean, next to the home of his working associate, Jean FROGER. It is in this parish, Saint Jean of Mortagne, where they were married and where the births and baptisms of five of their children were recorded. The eldest, a daughter named Barbe, was born April 18, 1617. She married Pierre PARADIS in Mortagne in 1632 and thus became the ancestor to all of the French Canadians with the family name of PARADIS. She was the only

one of the GUYON children to marry in France. The second child was a son, Jean, born on August 1, 1619. He married Elisabeth COUILLARD in Québec on November 27, 1645. Also married in Québec was a second son, Simon, born on August 2, 1621. He married Louise RACINE on November 10, 1653. Marie, the fourth child, was born on March 18, 1624. She married François BELANGER in Québec on July 12, 1637. The next child, a girl, has become an enigma to me. She was also called Marie, born or baptized on January 27, 1627, in Saint Jean de Mortagne. Mme. Pierre MONTAGNE writing the *Cahiers Percheron*, in her accounting of Jean GUYON's activities in the 1620's is ambiguous. She lists five children, including the second Marie as a fifth child to the young couple, born in the parish of St. Jean and then she states that the GUYON family moved to the Notre Dame parish with four children without any explanation as to the discrepancy. We must therefore assume that no further records concerning this child were found by Mme. MONTAGNE. René JETTÉ in his *Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles du Québec* lists the birth of Marie without any further elaboration. I would surmise his information was taken from Mme. MONTAGNE's work.

In September of 1623, Jean returned to Tourouvre, his childhood home, for the unpleasant duty of burying his father. It also became his responsibility to care for his elderly mother whom he brought back to his own home in Mortagne. He was also charged with the duty of selling the paternal home to a neighbor on March 23, 1624, for the sum of 55 *livres*.

The house that he owned in Mortagne had long ago become inadequate. It had two lower rooms, an attic and a garden. The family was comprised of a mother, a father, four of five children and a grandmother. This home was evaluated and sold on April 17, 1632 for 240 *livres*. The family had relocated some years before to a more spacious dwelling in the Notre Dame parish of Mortagne. This new home had two lower rooms, an upper room, an attic, a cellar as well as a yard. Three more children were born at this location. Again the records differ. Mme. Montagne in the *Cahiers Percherons* tells us that their home is situated in the parish of Notre Dame and René JETTÉ in his *Dictionnaire Genealogique* gives us the place of origin for these three children as Saint Jean de Mortagne. Nevertheless, there are three sons, Claude, Denis and Michel, all born in Mortagne. The first, Claude, was born April 22, 1629. He was married twice. On February 7, 1655, in Québec, he married Catherine COLIN and in Sainte Famille on December 1, 1688, he married Marguerite BINAUDIERE. Denis was born on June 30, 1631. He married Elisabeth BOUCHER on October 21, 1659, in Québec. Finally, Michel was born on March 3, 1634, barely two months before the family's departure for Canada. He married Geneviève MARSOLET in Québec on September 4, 1662.

It was not until 1645, eleven years after the Guyon family had left France, that this last property was finally sold for 450 *livres*. The eldest daughter, Barbe, wife of Pierre PARADIS, had remained in Mortagne and effected the sale of the family homestead.

Jean GUYON was relatively well off. The earnings from his trade of mason were not lucrative but he had negotiated the sale of his late father's home, had purchased two houses of his own, as mentioned above, as well as a parcel of land for 72 livres on January 13, 1631. This land was near the property owned by the religious of Saint Francis, actually part of the Hotel Dieu of Mortagne.

The time had arrived for Jean to make his momentous decision to emigrate to New France. On March 14, 1634, in Me. Mathurin ROUSSEL's study, Jean signed a five year contract to travel to Canada in the company of Robert GIFFARD. In May of that same year, Jean and his wife Mathurine, accompanied by their six youngest children set sail for the American Continent. I question Mme. MONTAGNE's accuracy as to the following fact. She mentions that the eldest child to travel to New France was 18 years old, yet she records his birth to be August 1, 1619. This would make him 15 years old. The eldest child was Barbe who was 17 at this time, married and did not accompany her parents. The six children who accompanied their parents were: Jean, 15; Simon, 13; Marie, 10; Claude, 5; Denis, 4; and Michel, two months of age.

The courage and faith of pioneers

such as Jean GUYON and his family are humbling. They were simple, hard working people, not rich land owners who immigrated for greater wealth, power, and prestige. They sought a better future for their progeny and did not consider the cost to themselves. Theirs was the grater sacrifice.

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The jawbone of an ass is still a dangerous weapon.

Cooperation is doing with a smile what you have to do anyway.

Never give black coffee to an intoxicated person. You may wind up with a wide-awake drunk on your hands.

Annette's Secret

by: George H. Buteau

In 1988, when I began researching my family origins, I was certain that the ancestry of my maternal grandmother, Annette LEFRÈRE, would be very difficult, if not impossible, for me to trace. This was because she was born in France, unlike my other three U.S.-born grandparents whose parents or grandparents were Canadian-born.

My maternal grandparents, Gaspard GÉNÈREUX and Annette LEFRÈRE, met and married in San Francisco, California. How they met and how long they courted before they were married has been the subject of various family stories over the years. Nevertheless, they professed their marriage vows on January 10, 1914 in front of Father LEBIHOU in Holy Family parish in San Francisco. The marriage was witnessed by Charles and Julia VIDEOY. In their marriage license, which was recorded on January 15, 1914, Annette was listed as 28 years of age while "Gasper" was 24.

On May, 1911, Gaspard GÉNÈREUX enlisted in the 6th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri as Gaspar GÈREUX. His enlistment record shows that he was five feet, five inches tall and was 21 years and 7 months of age. He completed a tour of duty in the Philippines between July 3, 1911 and June 15,

1912. When he and Annette LEFRÈRE met in 1912 or 1913, he was stationed in the Presidio in San Francisco.

The story that my grandmother related to me a few years before she died was that she was hired by the parents of a young English woman as a traveling companion for their daughter. One reason, my grandmother surmised, for their hiring her instead of someone from England was to force the daughter to practice speaking French. They both traveled to the U.S.A. for the marriage of the young English woman. Her fiancé, according to my grandmother, was a partner in one or more theaters in San Francisco. While in San Francisco, the two ladies stayed in the St. Francis Hotel on Union Square where Gaspard GÉNÈREUX was working as a busboy. Other members of the family recall Annette telling them that, when she and Gaspard were courting, she would treat him to some of the niceties that she had become accustomed to while staying in San Francisco, which impressed him greatly.

In June, 1989, my family and I vacationed in France for several weeks. We traveled throughout the country alternately by train and auto. Along the way, we stopped in La Souterraine, a small town in the Département de la Creuse. It was in this town that my grandmother

claimed to have been born on January 11, 1885. I visited the La Souterraine town hall (mairie) while there. The clerk was very helpful and searched the birth records for me from the beginning of 1883 through the end of 1886. Though she indicated that she found several birth records with the LEFRÈRE surname, she was unsuccessful in finding my grandmother's birth record and I left town a little disappointed.

During the 1990s, on several of my business trips to Washington, DC, I visited the National Archives in the evening to search the census records. On one occasion in the mid-1990s, I located the passenger record for my grandmother. According to that record, Annette LEFRÈRE embarked on the S.S. Cedric in Liverpool, England on November 23, 1911 for a voyage to New York. She was traveling in the first class section as the "maid" of 26 year old Miss Beatrice BERKLEY who was listed as a "Dramatic". Annette LEFRÈRE's age was recorded as 28. According to the passenger manifest, both women were 5 feet, 8 inches tall. They both listed their last residence as London, England; but the record indicated that Annette was a French citizen. She gave the name of her brother, Marcel LEFRÈRE, as her next of kin. The ship reached the Port of New York on December 2, 1911. The two women were planning to stay with Mr. & Mrs. Cleveland OSGOOD while in New York. I have since been able to also find most of this information while searching the Ellis Island website. Although the age that my grandmother gave on this passenger manifest suggests that she was born in 1883, I had been unsuccessful in verifying her birth between January, 1883 and December, 1886 during my

1889 visit to France.

In late 1997, I began to search the internet for genealogy resources. In 1998, I started to make e-mail inquiries regarding the LEFRÈRE genealogy. In the fall of 1998, I established e-mail contact with an individual living in Paris who was researching the LEFRÈRE family in the La Souterraine area during weekend visits. In October, François MOUCHET informed me by e-mail that he had been able to find my grandmother's birth record as well as several generations of her ancestry. She was born on January 11, 1880, five years earlier than she claimed to have been born and three years earlier than the age that she gave on her passenger record suggested. Her birth name was recorded as Anne LEFRÈRE though she was always known as Annette. François suggested, that since Annette is considered to be a diminutive of Anne, the local record-keepers may have written her given name as Anne instead of Annette in order to be more formal.

Anne (Annette) LEFRÈRE was the second of five children born to Jean-Baptiste LEFRÈRE and Marie BOUTET. My grandmother had told me the names of her parents and grandparents so I knew that my contact had found the correct family. The firstborn, Marie-Augustine, who was born a year and a half before my grandmother, died at only five days of age. Three brothers followed my grandmother. They were Sylvain (1882), Marcel (1884) and Georges-Hippolyte (1887). I have a photograph of Marcel in military uniform that my grandparents had hanging in their home. Jean-Baptiste LEFRÈRE and Marie BOUTET died within seven months of

each other in 1893 while still in their 30s. I recall my grandmother telling me that her parents died young, probably of tuberculosis, and that she and her siblings were raised by their paternal grandparents.

Gaspard GÉNÉREUX and Annette LEFRÈRE had 6 children, three girls and 3 boys. My mother, Raymonde-Odile GÉNÉREUX, was born in San Francisco in 1914. When my mother was still a toddler, the family traveled by train across the continent and settled in my grandfather's hometown of Woonsocket, RI. The remaining children, all born in Woonsocket, are: Robert (1916-1999), Paul (1918), Louis (1921), Thérèse (1923-1988) and Irène (1926-1985). My grandmother was 34 years of age when her first child was born and 46 at the birth of her youngest. My grandfather, who was born in 1889, knew that his wife was 3 or 4 years older but I don't know if he had any idea that she was nine years his senior. She outlived him by 7 years. She died on January 25, 1977 at 97 years of age, not 92 as her children believed her to be and wrote in her obituary.

My grandmother never returned to France to visit the place of her birth. My uncle, Louis GÉNÉREUX, was in France during World War II but I don't think that he ever visited La Souterraine or met any LEFRÈRE relatives. I believe that Annette may have corresponded by mail between the two world wars with one or more of her siblings but I never heard anything about them other than the name of her brother, Marcel.

On one of his weekend visits to La Souterraine, my French contact was able to find one of my grandmother's

surviving nieces, Georgette LEFRÈRE MAILLOCHON, the only child of Annette's brother Georges-Hippolyte and his wife, Marie-Joséphine ROUET. Georgette's father died during the First World War when she was only a child. She knew that she had an aunt Annette but recalled nothing else about her. Annette's brother, Marcel LEFRÈRE, married Annie SAGOT in Paris in 1921 but nothing further is known about him. Annette's brother, Silvain LEFRÈRE, was married twice. His first marriage in 1905 to Irma-Louise ROUET produced a son, Marcel, who was taken captive in 1940 during the war and was never heard from again. Silvain later married Eulalie MULETON with whom he had two children, Georges LEFRÈRE (1931) and Alexandre "Henri" LEFRÈRE (1934). Silvain died in Paris in 1946.

In the summer of 1974, my grandmother accompanied my aunt, Thérèse GÉNÉREUX, to San Francisco on business. She stayed with me and my family for more than a week. We took her around San Francisco and she had a wonderful time reminiscing her few years spent there 60 years before.

~~~~~

#### Ancestry of (1) Annette LEFRÈRE

##### Parents:

(2) Jean-Baptiste LEFRÈRE  
b. 22 Nov 1854, La Souterraine, France  
m. 10 Feb 1877, La Souterraine  
d. 30 May 1893, La Souterraine

(3) Marie BOUTET  
b. 7 Jun 1861, La Souterraine  
d. 9 Dec 1893, La Souterraine

##### Grandparents:

(4) Jean-Simon LEFRÈRE

b. 27 Oct 1827, La Souterraine

d. After 1893

(5) Annette TERRASSON

b. 2 Jan 1827, St. Agnan de Versillac,  
France

d. After 1893

(6) André BOUTET

b. 31 Oct 1813, La Souterraine

m. 25 Feb 1856, La Souterraine

(7) Marie MESNARD

b. 13 Sep 1822, La Souterraine

d. After 1877

Great-grandparents:

(8) Léonard LEFRÈRE

b. 12 Nov 1799

m. 28 Feb 1819, La Souterraine

(9) Catherine (Geneviève) CHEVREUX

b. 17 Jan 1801

(10) Pierre TERRASSON

d. St. Agnan de Versillac

(11) Anne RIFFAULT

(12) Jean BOUTET

b. 28 Mar 1791

m. 9 Mar 1812, La Souterraine

d. 14 Oct 1851

(13) Marie-Thérèse LEFAURE

b. 1 Feb 1792, St. Agnan de Versillac

d. 14 May 1855

(14) Jean-Baptiste MESNARD

b. 23 May 1793, St. Agnan de Versillac

m. 10 Jan 1815, La Souterraine

(15) Marguerite THIAUDON

b. 28 Oct 1795

Great-great-grandparents

(16) Pierre LEFRÈRE

b. After 1776

m. 26 Feb 1797, La Souterraine

d. 22 Sep 1802, La Souterraine

(17) Catherine MIGAIRE

d. After 28 Feb 1819

(18) Pierre CHEVREUX

m. 27 Feb 1786, La Souterraine

d. 14 Dec 1801

(19) Marie BEAUVAIS

d. After 28 Feb 1819

(24) Joseph BOUTET

d. After 9 Mar 1812

(25) Marie REIX

d. 9 Mar 1812

(26) Pierre LEFORT

b. St. Agnan de Versillac

d. After 9 Mar 1812

(27) Catherine BERTHET

b. St. Agnan de Versillac

d. After 9 Mar 1812

(28) Jean-Baptiste MÉMARD

b. St. Agnan de Versillac

d. 17 Dec 1800

(29) Marie LAVAUD

d. 28 Aug 1797

(30) Jean THIAUDON

b. 28 Oct 1795

(31) Marie PINAUD

d. After 10 Jan 1815

Great-great-great-grandparents:

(32) Léonard LEFRÈRE

M. 01 Feb 1757, La Souterraine

d. After 26 Feb 1797

(33) Marie DAIRON

d. After 26 Feb 1797

(34) François MIGUAIRE

m. 18 Jan 1774, La Souterraine

d. Before 26 Feb 1797

(35) Léonard MESURE

b. St. Agnan de Versillac

d. Before 26 Feb 1797

(36) Jean CHEVREUX

b. Circa 1737

m. 26 Jan 1758, La Souterraine

d. After 27 Feb 1786

(37) Catherine MESURE

b. Circa 1738

d. Before 27 Feb 1786

(38) Léonard BEAUVAIS

d. Before 27 Feb 1786

(39) Jeanne L'HÉRITIER

d. Before 27 Feb 1786

Great-great-great-grandparents:

(64) Léonard LEFRÈRE

d. After 01 Feb 1757

(65) Marie DESMAISONS

d. Before 01 Feb 1757

(66) Jean D'HÉRON

m. 13 Feb 1736, La Souterraine

d. After 01 Feb 1757

(67) Anne VALLADON

d. After 01 Feb 1757

(72) Mathieu CHEUVREUX

d. Before 26 Jan 1758

(73) Catherine GRELAUD

d. After 26 Jan 1758

(74) Joseph MESURE

d. After 26 Jan 1758

(75) Simone GAUTIER

d. Before 26 Jan 1758



Gaspard GÉNÉREUX & Annette LEFRÈRE  
Married 15 January 1914, Holy Family Church, San Francisco, CA

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# Military Roots of the *Dit* Names

by: Luc Lépine

*Editor's Note: This article, a translation by Lorraine GOSSELIN of an article that appeared in the Memoires, the official publication of the Societ  g n alogique canadienne-fran aise. The translation appeared in Connections, the journal of the Qu bec Family History Society in 2002, and is printed here with permission.*

June 1978 and we are at the Bordon military camp, 90 kilometers north of Toronto. The roll call of young aspiring officers in the Canadian Forces is under way. Their names ring out on this was early morning: BELLEROSE, CHAMPAGNE, CHARPENTIER, DESLAURIERS, LAFRANCE, LEPINE, POTVIN, SANSREGRET, TRANCHE-MONTAGNE, and VADEBONCOEUR. They are all francophone future officers who proudly carry the *noms de guerre* handed down by their ancestors. These arrived in the country with the *R giment de Carignan*, the *Compagnies franches de la Marine* or regular army regiments which came to New France. My direct ancestor, Jean CHABAUDIER dit L PINE, left his village of *Saint-Julien*, in the *Limousin* to come here as a soldier in the Company of *Monsieur ARNOULT de Loubias*, an officer of the *R giment de Carignan*.

A few years later, from 1989 to

1998, I had the privilege of working as a reference archivist at the *Archives Nationales du Qu bec* in Montreal. One of the most frequently asked questions concerned the origins of the *Qu becois* family names. Extended research in military history led me down this path for the answer. You will find the results of my reflections in this article. I will discuss the origins of military nicknames and the impact of French soldier's *noms de guerre* on the patronyms of Qu bec.

## *What has been written about this?*

In his *Trait  de g n alogie*, Ren  JETT <sup>1</sup> highlights the fact that nicknames are present everywhere in the genealogical history of Quebecers of French origin. They are only transmitted to the descendants of the first one to carry the nickname. Until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was a risk that they would replace temporarily or forever the original family name of at least a third of the immigrants from France. JETT  noted that the reason there were so many Qu bec nicknames was not clear. During an informal discussion, Ren  JETT  estimated that the number of Qu bec French nicknames was 7,500 of which 5,000 existed before French troops arrived in 1754.

A great many researchers, including Claude PERRAULT<sup>2</sup> and Marcel

TRUDEL,<sup>3</sup> noted the presence of nicknames and demonstrated their variety without indicating their origins. In his book *Terrier du Saint-Laurent en 1674*, Marcel TRUDEL states that of the 2,435 family names listed 28.7% carry a nickname. In 1663, he finds that the proportion was 29.52%. This reduction in nicknames seems to contradict the explanation that the abundance of the 'dit' is related to the arrival of the soldiers in 1665. We will return to this hypothesis.

French genealogy dictionaries are quite laconic on anything that concerns 'dit' names. They do recognize that nicknames exist in the far corners of France but offer no further explanation.

### ***Noms de Guerre and the French Soldier***

When a soldier enlists in the French army, he is given a nickname or *nom de guerre*, for example Philibert COULLAUD dit ROQUEBRUNE, soldier of the *Régiment de Carignan*.<sup>4</sup> This nickname takes on an official character. It becomes the equivalent of an identification number. The soldiers are recognized by their family names, their first names, and their *noms de guerre*. In daily life, the *nom de guerre* replaces the real family name especially when the soldier speaks a dialect or the provençal language. In the absence of a *nom de guerre*, he is given the same one as his name. Thus in 1651, a soldier, Antoine BEAUFOUR dit BEAUFOUR makes a deal for the baking of flat cakes at Fort Saint-Louis of Québec.<sup>5</sup>

In 1716, French military rules require a *nom de guerre* for all regular soldiers. The assignment of these nicknames

is done in a flexible manner. It can be the soldier's choice or that of the Company's captain.<sup>6</sup> During the American Revolution, France sends the *Régiment de Tourraine* to help the American rebels. A list of these soldiers has been published.<sup>7</sup> In each company, all the nicknames start with the same letter. Thus in the Dugre Company, the soldiers' nicknames all start with the letter D, in another company, they start with B. It is thus easy to identify which company a soldier belongs. From 1764 to 1768, the Company of Cassaux of the *Régiment de Boulonnois*-infantry uses names of vegetables. We thus find LARTICHAUD, LALÉTUE, LACHICORÉE, LECRESSON, and LECERFEUIL. [Translator's note: the artichoke, lettuce, chicory, cress and chervil.]

The *nom de guerre* is a personal property. A soldier does not change it readily. It can happen when the soldier is transferred to another company and the nickname is already in use. In France, the soldier's wife will take his *nom de guerre*. On the other hand, a soldier's son will always carry a name that is different from his father's if he serves in the army. The absence of a genuine nickname is a sign of esteem. Officers, cadets, volunteers, and gentlemen do not have one.

André CORVISIER maintains that a rigorous classification of military nicknames is impossible.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, he establishes seven categories for which I have found examples in New France.

1. Given names and patronymics: The given name, often preceded by Saint, one has only to think of Saint-Jean,



Saint-Pierre, Saint-Louis and Saint-Marc.

2. Nicknames of origin: In 1688, Jean DESLANDES dit CHAMPIGNY, a soldier from Champigny, archdiocese of Paris is married.<sup>9</sup> The following year, it is the turn of Robert HOUY of St. Laurent, native of the parish of *Saint-Laurent des Orgeries*, diocese of Orleans.<sup>10</sup>

3. Nicknames based on a trade: Marien TAILLANDIER dit LEBEAUME, soldier and surgeon, signs a marriage contract in 1688.<sup>11</sup>

4. An alteration of the family name: Soldier Jacques RIVIÈRE dit LARIVIÈRE is married in 1699.<sup>12</sup> Soldier Jean-Jacques TREILLET dit LATREILLE dies at the Conquest of New France.<sup>13</sup>

5. The soldier's military past or occupation: In 1699, soldier Claude PANNETON dit LAFIFRE [t.n. fife] signs an obligation in front of a notary.<sup>14</sup> Soldier Jacques QUENA dit LABATTERIE [t.n. drums] dies in 1759 as well as three soldiers with the nickname LAGRENADE, all grenadiers. In this category, one can also include Merry PETIT dit LATRAVERSÉE.<sup>15</sup> [t.n. crossing]

6. Names of plants and animals: Just think of all our LAFLEUR, LATULIPE, LAROSE, LOISEAU, LETOURNEAU or Jean COTON dit FLEURDESPRÉS.<sup>16</sup> [t.n. flower of the fields]

7. Names referring to personal traits: Here are a few spicy ones, Antoine BONNET dit PRETTABOIRE,<sup>17</sup> [t.n. ready-to-drink], René CRUVINET dit BAS D'ARGENT,<sup>18</sup> [silver stockings], Jean AMARAULT dit LAFIDÉLITÉ,<sup>19</sup> Jacques LEGENDRE dit BIENVIVANT,<sup>20</sup> Martial PASCHAL dit BRISFER,<sup>21</sup> [wrecker]. In certain cases the nickname is an improvement on the original family

name, as for soldier Jean DE LAVACHERIE dit DE FLORIER,<sup>22</sup> [vacherie = dirty trick].

André CORVISIER has studied the nicknames of 100,000 French soldiers who were in Paris' *Invalides* Hospital. I have selected a few examples.

### Table 1

*Noms de guerre* found in the registration records at the *Invalides* (Paris) and the number of soldiers with this nickname.<sup>23</sup>

#### B

Beaulieu, 294  
Beausejour, 247  
Beausoleil, 474  
Belair, 538  
Bellefleur, 444  
Bellerose, 486  
Bourguignon, 539  
Brin d'amour, 359

#### C

Champagne, 583  
Chevalier, 557  
Comtois, 379

#### D

Delisle, 132  
Desjardins, 213  
Desrochers, 196  
Desrosiers, 186  
Dubois, 253  
Duplessis, 227

#### F

Flamand, 92  
Francoeur, 659

#### G

Grandmaison, 141

## L

LaBonte, 525  
LaBrie, 145  
LaChapelle, 312  
LaCroix, 502  
Lacombe, 123  
Ladouceur, 642  
LaFlamme, 122  
Lafleur, 1211  
Lafontaine, 857  
Laforest, 484  
Lafortune, 401  
LaFrance, 559  
LaJeunesse, 1183  
LaMarche, 259  
LaMontagne, 491  
LaMotte, 224  
Lapierre, 610  
LaPlante, 130  
LaRiviere, 661  
LaRoche, 486  
LaRose, 1348  
LaTour, 345  
LaVerdure, 584  
Lavigne, 336  
LaViolette, 1062  
Langevin, 223  
Lesperance, 761  
Lespine, 251  
Lionnois, 271  
Lorange, 282

## M

Maisonneuve, 34  
Montplaisir, 232  
Montigny, 58

## N

Narbonne, 26  
Nivernois, 59  
Noel, 20

## P

Parisien, 296  
Pretaboire, 140

Provençal, 267

## R

Richard, 17  
Robert, 27  
Rossignol, 14

## S

Sans Chagrin, 558  
Sans Façon, 290  
Sans Regret, 361  
Sans Soucy, 891  
St-Armand, 345  
St-Amour, 348  
St-Andre, 378  
St-François, 490  
St-Jean, 1555  
St-Laurent, 395  
St-Louis, 841  
St-Martin, 889  
St-Michel, 389

## T

Taillefer, 2  
Trompelmort, 1  
Tranchemontagne, 187

## V

Vadeboncoeur, 416  
Vincent, 32  
Villeneuve, 217

The five most popular nicknames are: SAINT-JEAN, LAROSE, LAFLEUR, LAJEUNESSE, and LAVIOLETTE. These are all family names that are found in Québec.

At the beginning of the 1600s, the small population of New France is increasingly menaced by the Iroquois. The King of France decides to send the *Régiment Carignan-Salières* to subdue the natives. The *Régiment* of 1,000 men arrives in Québec in the spring of 1665.

It is made up of 20 companies composed of a captain, a lieutenant, an ensign, two sergeants, three corporals, five *enspassades* [ensigns?], and 40 soldiers.<sup>24</sup> The *Régiment de Carignan-Salières* faces the Iroquois then the Dutch of Schenectady in New York State. In 1667, peace is re-established in the region. The soldiers are then offered settlements in the colony and farmland on the banks of the St. Lawrence. More than 400 agree to remain here. They form an important part of French Canadiens' ancestors.

In 1669, Louis XIV creates the official structure of the militia. There are no longer any regular troops in the country but a large proportion of the population has served in the army. The martial spirit is still present. All the male inhabitants of the country from 16 to 60 years old are divided into companies under the orders of captains, lieutenants, and ensigns. The officers of the *Régiment de Carignan* become *seigneurs*. The former soldiers become militiamen. The new *seigneurs* continue to call the tenant farmers by their *noms de guerre*. The soldier-*censitaires* hand down their nicknames to their wives and children. Since the sons do not serve in the regular army, they do not have to change their family names.

In 1685, the Canadian militiamen, despite their effectiveness, cannot respond to all the military needs of the colony. The French authorities thus decide to send 28 permanent companies of a detachment of Naval troops. They are commonly called *Compagnies franches de la Marine*. These troops were created in 1674 by the Navy department in order to defend ships and the French

colonies.<sup>25</sup> The pay for these soldiers comes from the Navy. Each company is independent. The direction of the different companies is the responsibility of the governor-general of New France. Each captain recruits 50 French soldiers who sign up for a period of six years. After this time the soldiers can return to France or stay in the country. Taking into account the regular rotation of the companies, it can be estimated that about 300 recruits arrive in the colony each year. The authorities will try everything in their power to retain them after six years of service. Since there were no military barracks before 1750, the soldiers were lodged with the inhabitants who were given a certain amount to look after their guests. The long Canadian winters forced the soldiers to pass long hours by the fire chatting with pretty Canadian women. Thus, it is not surprising to see the high number of weddings between the soldiers of the *Compagnies franches de la Marine* and the daughters of the Canadian inhabitants. From 1685 to 1754, about 21,000 French military men came to New France. If we assume that the number of new patronyms in the country is 2,500, then one soldier out of eight would have left a patronym in New France.

In the War of Conquest, 1754-1759, French authorities sent 14 regular army regiments to fight the English soldiers. Each regiment had 600 men. Including the 28 *Compagnies franches de la Marine* and the 14 French regiments, there were 10,080 soldiers in Québec's territory. According to René JETTÉ, 2,500 Québec family names come from this period, thus one soldier out of four has left us a patronym.

### What the notarial acts reveal

Thanks to the Parchemin database, we have studied more than 2,000 occurrences of French soldiers' names in the notarial acts. These two short tables summarize the situation.

**Table 2**

Notarial acts in which the military men appear:

a) Notarial acts in which the military man has a *nom de guerre*:

| Rank     | # of acts | dit (a) | Percentage |
|----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Soldier  | 1609      | 927     | 57%        |
| Corporal | 125       | 104     | 83%        |
| Sergeant | 614       | 378     | 61%        |

**Table 3**

Marriage contracts for military men:

a) Notarial acts in which the military man has a *nom de guerre*:

| Rank     | # of acts | dit(a) | Percentage |
|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Soldier  | 498       | 248    | 50%        |
| Corporal | 40        | 26     | 65%        |
| Sergeant | 149       | 55     | 37%        |

We can see clearly that more than half the military men who appear in notarial acts have a *nom de guerre*. One has to remember that many soldiers waited to be demobilized before getting married.

### A flourishing example...

LAFLEUR is one of the most common family names in Québec. René JETTE has found more than 60 family names with this nickname. The following table lists all the soldiers who carry the nickname LAFLEUR and who came to New France. The original family name, the date first present in the country, and the company to which each individual belonged are indicated.

**Table 4**

Presence in New France of 68 soldiers who carried the *nom de guerre* of LAFLEUR:

BERNIAC, François: 1755, *Régiment de La Reine*

BIROLEAU, Pierre: 1700, *Compagnie de Duluth, Compagnies franche de la Marine*

BONFRETIL, Guillaume: *Compagnie de Contrecoeur, Régiment de Carignan-Salières*

BONIN, René: 1699, *Compagnie de Maricourt, (CFM)*

BRAULT, Pierre: 1697, *Compagnie de Jordy, (CFM)*

COSTE, Jean: 1756, *Compagnie Ducros, Régiment Royal Roussillin*

COUE, Pierre: 1657, *soldat et interprète*

COUSSY, Pierre: 1699, *Compagnie de Leverrier, (CFM)*

DARBOIS, Jean: 1667, *sergent, Compagnie de Sorel, Régiment de Carignan-Salières*

DAROCHENU, Jean: 1754, *Compagnie Dumas, Fort Bonsejour*

DE LASSE, Jean: 1686, *Compagnie Dumesnil, (CFM)*

DELGELUN, Dominique: 1756, *Compagnie de Bourget, Régiment Royal Roussillon*

DEVEZE, Dominique: 1756, *Compagnie Letang de Celles, Régiment de La Sarre*

DIONET, Jean: 1688, *corporal, Compagnie de Reineport, Régiment du Languedoc*

ESTU, Georges: 1699, *Compagnie de Muy, (CFM)*

FERADOU, Jean-Joseph: 1756, *Compagnie de Laferte, Régiment de la Sarre*

FLEURET, Jean: 1730, *Compagnie de Rigaud, (CFM)*

FRANCAUS, François: 1697, *Compagnie de Bergères, Mich-illimakinac*  
 GRAND, Antoine: 1756, *Compagnie de Duparquet, Régiment de La Sarre*  
 GRUET, Charles: 1728, *soldat*  
 HORIEUX, René: 1665, *Compagnie de Lafreydière, Régiment de Carignan-Salières*  
 HOUINCHE, Jean-Baptiste: 1756, *Compagnie de Valette, Régiment Royal Roussillon*  
 JACOME, Pierre: 1755, *Compagnie de Mattissard, Régiment du Languedoc*  
 JACQUES, Laurent: 1699, *Compagnie Merville*  
 JOBIN, Guillaume: 1757, *Régiment de Berry*  
 LABARTHE, Jean: 1756, *Compagnie de Bassignoce, Régiment Royal Roussillon*  
 LALUMAUDIERE, François: 1713, , *Compagnie de Martigny, (CFM)*  
 LAVALLÉE, Pierre: 1755, *Compagnie de Foulhiac, Régiment du Berry*  
 LECOMTE, Pierre: 1708, *Compagnie de Montigny, (CFM)*  
 MEUITT, Bernard: 1756, *Compagnie de Villar, Régiment de La Sarre*  
 MEUNIER, Gervais: 1700, *Compagnie de Meloise, (CFM)*  
 MONTET, Pierre: 1702, *Compagnie de Lacroix, (CFM)*  
 PARIOT, Léonard: 1722, *Compagnie de Gannes, (CFM)*  
 PAVIE, Charles: 1714, *Compagnie de Levillier, (CFM)*  
 PEMONTE, Pierre: 1705, *Compagnie Dumesnil, (CFM)*  
 PEPIE, Daniel: 1709, *sergeant, Compagnie de Cabanac, (CFM)*  
 PERDITS, Guillaume: 1756, *Compagnie de Cormier, Régiment de Guyane*  
 PERRIER, Jean: 1669, *Compagnie de Brisadière, Régiment de Carignan-Salières*

PERRIN, Pierre: 1698, *soldat*  
 PINSONNAULT, François: 1673, *Compagnie de Saint-Ours, Régiment de Carigan-Salières*  
 PIPY, Guillaume: 1748, *Troupes de l'Ile Royale*  
 PIQUET, Joseph: 1706, *Compagnie de Muy, (CFM)*  
 POIDEVIN, François: 1733, *Compagnie de Lafresnière, (CFM)*  
 POIRIER, Pierre: 1707, *Compagnie de Lorimier, (CFM)*  
 PREVOST, François: 1755, *soldat, Régiment de Languedoc*  
 PUIOL, Joseph: 1734, *Compagnie de Perigny, (CFM)*  
 RENARD, Nicolas: 1756, *Compagnie de Rouyn, Régiment Royal Roussillon*  
 RICHARD, Guillaume: 1674, *sergent de la garnison*  
 ROBERT, Jean-Antoine: 1756, *Compagnie de Duprat, Régiment de La Sarre*  
 ROBERT, Jean: 1756, *Compagnie de Aureillan, Régiment Royal Roussillon*  
 ROBIN, Guillaume: 1757, *soldat, Régiment du Berry*  
 ROLLAND, François: 1706, *Compagnie de Manthet, (CFM)*  
 ROUSSEL, François: 1756, *Compagnie de Rouyn, Régiment Royal Roussillon*  
 SIRET, René: 1670, *Compagnie de Montou, Régiment Carignan-Salières*  
 TESSIER, Jean: 1756, *Compagnie de Beauclair, Régiment de La Sarre*  
 TRIOLET, Jacques: 1701, *Compagnie Leverrier, (CFM)*  
 TROGE, Jean: 1748, *Compagnie de Saint-Ours, (CFM)*  
 TURPIN, François: 1650, *soldat du camp Volant*  
 VERMIS, Joseph: 1756, *Compagnie de Estors, Régiment Royal Royal Roussillon*  
 VILLE, François: 1756, *Compagnie de*

As you may have noticed, there are never two soldiers named LAFLEUR in the same company. Without knowing the descendants of each one, we can assume that the majority of the LAFLEURS have a military ancestor.

### Conclusion...

This conclusion is more of an invitation to a debate on the impact of military nicknames on the family names of Québec. Here are the main points:

- French soldiers receive a nickname when they enlist in the army.
- These nicknames are personal. In France, they are not handed down from father to son.
- During the French Regime, nearly 30,000 soldiers have trampled the soil of New France.
- The authorities did everything in their power to integrate the soldiers into society.
- We estimate that 70% of all our French ancestors were soldiers when they arrived in the country.
- New France is a quasi-military society. The former soldiers, who became militiamen, serve under their former officers, who became *seigneurs*.
- These same *seigneurs* continue to call their *censitaires* by their *nom de guerre*.
- The *nom de guerre* are transmitted from father to son, as the sons do not serve in the army but in the militia.
- In our opinion, the *noms de guerre* of the French soldiers who came to New France make up the majority of all nicknames that we find in the Province of Québec.

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# Relying On Secondary Sources Can Be Risky

by: Marielle A. Bourgeois

"Who were the parents of Antoine LATOUR, who married Marie-Louise PLOUF, on May 27, 1737, in the province of Québec?" and "Did we pick up the 'right' Pierre LATOUR for Antoine's father?" were questions Antoine LATOUR's descendants wanted answers to. "If we choose the 'wrong' Pierre LATOUR for Antoine's father, are we not searching somebody else's ancestors?"

When individuals from Canada and from the States approached me with their questions on Antoine LATOUR's "real" father, the detective in me got stimulated. I felt challenged and used every possible tool at my disposal to find the truth.

My article entitled "Did you Attach Your Ancestors to the Wrong Tree Root?" published in the May-June 2002 copy of *Everton's Family History Magazine*, pages 21-28, provided the names of Antoine LATOUR's "real" parents and how I went about finding the correct genealogy trail in this rather conflicting situation.

There were two people with the same name – Pierre LATOUR, who lived at the same time, in the same geographic area, in the province of Québec, which caused difficulties to the researchers. Which one of these Pierre LATOUR was

their ancestor? How to meet such a genealogy challenge?

Descendants of Antoine LATOUR, married to Marie-Louise PLOUF, from Canada and from the States, who approached me for help were eager to obtain the name of their "right" ancestor. Was their ancestor Antoine LATOUR son of the Frenchman Pierre LATOUR, a blacksmith, who married Marie-Etiennette BANLIAC dit LAMONTAGNE, in 1705 at Ile Dupas, Berthier, Québec, or of Frenchman Pierre LATOUR, the bell-maker, who married Catherine CHEVALIER, in 1712, in Beauport, Québec, Canada?

The researchers told me that the church marriage record for that LATOUR-PLOUF couple was nowhere to be found in Québec, or anywhere else in Canada or in the States. Some of my clients had spent time tracing where "the" Pierre LATOUR who married Catherine CHEVALIER came from in France. Had they wasted time, money and energy in tracing people who were **not** their ancestors?

In the process of determining which Pierre LATOUR was the "real" father of Antoine LATOUR (who married Marie-Louise PLOUF on May 27, 1737), I started from the premise that ev-

ery person can make a mistake, even the well-know historians and genealogy authorities. I chose to question genealogy references found in different genealogy and history books – Tanguay, Leboeuf and Jetté – to solve the mystery of the “correct” ancestral line of Antoine LATOUR.

We found a Pierre LATOUR, living at Ile Dupas, in the St. Lawrence River area, Québec, (north of Sorel), married to Marie-Etiennette BANLIAC dit LAMONTAGNE, on December 5, 1705. Pierre’s full name was listed as Pierre LATOUR dit Laforge (“dit” means ‘also known as’ and LaForge comes from the word forgeron/ blacksmith). We found land concessions showing that Pierre LATOUR, the blacksmith, owned land in Berthier. His family had moved from Ile Dupas to the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, west of Trois-Rivières (Three Rivers) and east of Montréal. Pierre LATOUR dit Laforge’s land concession was situated in Berthier, Québec, and could be seen as the seventh piece of land from the left side of an old 1709 map of the Berthier area signed sieur Gédéon de CATALOGNE.

The LATOUR dit LAFORGE/ BANLIAC dit LAMONTAGNE couple had many children, including four sons. Based on Pierre LATOUR’s fiche on PRDH (*Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique*), this Pierre LATOUR’s sons were born, in order: Pierre, September 26, 1708; Antoine, August 25, 1710; Pierre (again), April 20, 1721, and Joseph, November 8, 1725.

Tanguay and Jetté, well-known historians, in their respective dictionaries -(*Dictionnaire Généalogique des*

*Familles Canadiennes-Francaises, 1608-1760; and Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles du Québec, des Origines jusqu’à 1730*), mentioned that first and second-born sons (indicated above), Pierre and Antoine LATOUR, died very early on. Could these respected historians have made mistakes? I intend to question these entries as part of my Sherlock Holmes or detective Hercule Poirot’s search.

On PRDH fiche, we read that Antoine LATOUR was born on August 25, 1710 and was baptized on September 25, 1710. Could it be that Tanguay and Jetté recorded the child Antoine as having died in September 1710 instead of having been baptized at that time? That is possible.

Despite baby Antoine apparent delicate health condition, mentioned on his birth certificate with the notation “*baptisé sous condition*,” Antoine lived. The term “*baptisé sous condition*” implied that the baptism was given on the assumption that the child was alive, (notation as per PRDH entry number 83507 as well as per the primary source birth document). Antoine had the will to live and he did **not** die in 1710. How did I prove this point? I found a marriage contract of Pierre BOUCHER DEROCHES, passed at Berthier Hill, at the house of the widow LATOUR, dated November 9, 1739, where two of the witnesses at the marriage were Antoine LATOUR and Marie BANLIAC, his mother. So, in 1739, Antoine LATOUR was very much alive. Tanguay and Jetté made mistakes in recording the death of baby Antoine.

As you can imagine, the record-



in the Spring of 1712. He quoted Tanguay when he wrote that only two of the children of the LATOUR-CHEVALIER couple - both girls - made it to adulthood.

A writer and researcher, Roy F. FORGIT, a descendant of Pierre LATOUR, came up with what he thought was a solution to Antoine LATOUR's parental dilemma – one that unfortunately lead clients up a false trail. Roy F. FORGIT, checked the secondary source Leboeuf's *Complément au Dictionnaire Généalogique Tanguay*, (page 116), but did not check a primary source to insure that Leboeuf's information was correct. FORGIT therefore concluded that Antoine LATOUR was not the son of Pierre LATOUR, the blacksmith, and of

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Marie-Etiennette BANLIAC dit LA-MONTAGNE, but was the son of Pierre LATOUR, the bell-maker, and of Catherine CHEVALIER. Everyone can make mistakes. If Leboeuf made a mistake in his listing of Antoine LATOUR's parents, then Roy F. FORGIT repeated Leboeuf's error by assuming that Leboeuf secondary source was accurate. How to investigate this possibility of repeated mistakes?

PRDH records, to which I referred earlier, showed that the LATOUR-CHEVALIER couple did not have male children who lived to adulthood. Their sons, Pierre-Charles, Jean-Baptiste, and Michel, unfortunately all died in the first three years of their lives. To my knowledge, there is no primary source record, anywhere, which showed that any of their sons lived to adulthood. In addition, there is no documented birth record or any other record linking Antoine LATOUR to Pierre LATOUR, the bell-maker, and Catherine CHEVALIER.

We proved who the "real" parents of Antoine LATOUR were by checking a primary source, the actual notarized marriage contract of Antoine LATOUR, of 1737, and by writing to the Archives Nationales du Québec for additional information on that contract, if available.

The notarized marriage record of Antoine LATOUR, dated 27 May 1737, revealed that Antoine LATOUR, at the time of his marriage to Marie-Louise PLOUF, was "*majeur*" (i.e. a 25 years old + adult). Remember that Pierre LATOUR, the bell-maker, and Catherine CHEVALIER, married in 1712. Antoine was born in 1710. For Antoine to be the son of Pierre LATOUR, the bell-maker, and of

Catherine CHEVALIER, he would have been conceived before his parents were married in 1712. In addition, Gérard MORISSET, in his biography of the bell-maker, concluded that Pierre LATOUR came to Québec as late as the Spring of 1712. Before that time, Pierre LATOUR, the bell-maker, was in France and could thus not have been the father of Antoine, who was born in 1710 in the province of Québec, Canada.

We wrote to the Archives Nationales du Québec, Montréal section, requesting an investigation into the notarized contract. Francois DAVID of the Archives Nationales du Québec responded to my letter by Email, dated December 5, 2001, stating:

"Please find the requested information you wrote to us about on December 3, 2001. The information was obtained from the notarized records of A. Puyperoux de Lafosse, May 27, 1737. Contract: marriage between Antoine LATOUR, son majeur of Pierre LATOUR and Marie BANLIAC, from the parish of Berthier, and Marie-Louise PLOUF (20 years old), daughter of Louis PLOUF, resident, and Marie-Louise TRUCHON, de Dautre."

I subsequently received a copy of the document by regular mail. It confirmed what Mr. David had written and showed that Pierre LATOUR and Marie BANLIAC gave their son Antoine a cow and three sheep as wedding gifts. In addition, Antoine's mother signed the contract – M. BANLIAC, as well as a witness and the notary DELAFOSSE. With that primary source document, we knew then for certain that Antoine's parents were Pierre LATOUR dit LAFORGE and

Marie-Etiennette BANLIAC dit  
LAMONTAGNE.

In this intriguing research situation, we see that there were mistakes made by historians/ genealogists and also by the writer/researcher Roy F. FORGIT who, instead of checking primary source(s), likely relied on Tanguay, Leboeuf, and/or Jetté secondary sources – a risky choice indeed.

The content of this article may have surprised some of my readers and could have brought up questions for them. If so, please let me know and I will do my best to try to clarify matters to your satisfaction.

Author's note: Two years ago, I contacted the genealogist René Jetté about my findings mentioned above. He responded gracefully, acknowledging and thanking me for my contribution to the field of genealogy research. He said

he would make sure a correction would be noted in his dictionary. In addition, in the latter part of 2003, I exchanged genealogy information with Roy F. Forgit, regarding his own ancestors, Antoine Pierre LATOUR, the blacksmith and Marie-Etiennette BANLIAC. Mr. Forgit indicated, in his Email to me, that he was of the opinion that the truth should be expressed. As most of you probably know, Mr. FORGIT is an author whose articles periodically appear in *Je Me Souviens* magazine.

*Editor's note: This article is © October 2nd, 2003 M. A. Bourgeois. All rights reserved. The author can be contacted at: Marielle A. Bourgeois, M.A., C.F.A., Founder of the European Ancestors Group, P.O. Box 31172, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93130*  
*<http://searchancestors.com> ,*  
*Email: [marielle@dock.net](mailto:marielle@dock.net)*  
*Tel. 805 863 7768, fax 815 461 8655*

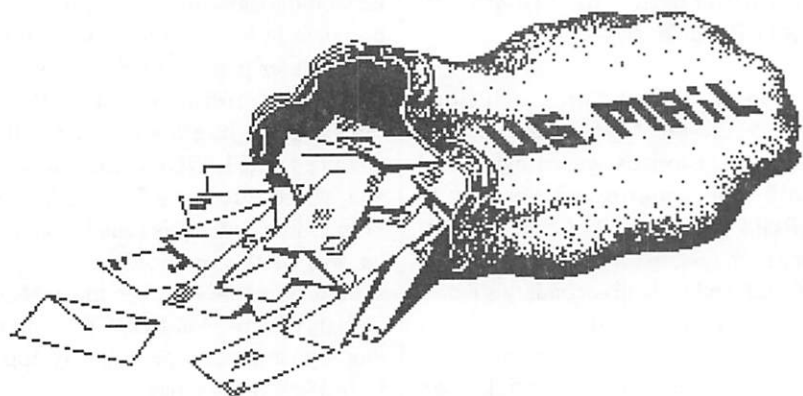
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“Scientists mainain that it might be hard to sustain life on other planets. Well I’ve got news for them. It ain’t so easy on this one either.”  
- Mae West

“A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.”  
- Lana Turner

“We in government get lots of fringe benefits - a good pension, tenure, health-care benefits, parking space - and the best of all the fringe benefits, that of spending someone else’s money.”  
- Barry Goldwater

“Marriage is a lot like the Army. Everyone complains, but you’d be surprised at the large number that reenlist.”  
- James Garner



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# Master Architect Left His Mark On Woonsocket

by: Joseph B. Nadeau

*Editor's note: This article appeared in the 22 November 2003 edition of The Call, a newspaper serving the Woonsocket, RI area. The subject of this article, Walter F. FONTAINE, was extremely important not only to the French-Canadians of this area, but to the community as a whole. Many of the buildings that bear his architectural design still stand to this day. It is reprinted here so that our full membership can know of the accomplishments of Mr. FONTAINE. Walter F. FONTAINE and his wife, Obeline LUCIER are buried in Precious Blood Cemetery. Mr. NADEAU is a staff writer for The Call.*

WOONSOCKET – Suzanne F. CAVEDON, 77, knew her grandfather, Walter F. FONTAINE, had designed many buildings in Woonsocket, but that didn't keep her from being surprised Friday at his induction into the Greater Woonsocket Hall of Fame.

After FONTAINE's photograph and biography were unveiled on the wall of Woonsocket High School's lobby near those of 20 other area notables, the program organizers began a slide show showing old and new photographs of his greatest works.

"I was always very proud of him, but I never realized he had done as much

work as he did," said CAVEDON, a resident of North Smithfield.

CAVEDON's daughter, Elizabeth, who joined six FONTAINE descendants for the ceremony, also voiced surprise at the number of existing buildings that bear her great-grandfather's credit line. Her grandfather, Oliver FONTAINE, had kept pictures of many of his father's works at his home in Narragansett, and Elizabeth said she can remember looking through them.

"But I didn't know all of them," she said. "I didn't know St. Ann's Church was a church that he had done, so that was pretty exquisite to see."

FONTAINE, born in Woonsocket in 1871, started out in the business with Willard KENT, a well-known local architect who worked on the designs for the Woonsocket Opera House and helped bring electric street cars to the city.

By the turn of the century FONTAINE was working in his own architectural firm on Main Street and beginning work on what would eventually include a total of 25 churches in southern New England, many public and private schools, the block-long Commercial Building on Main Street, the Union Saint Jean Baptiste building at 1 Social

St., a variety of mill buildings including the Florence Dye Works destroyed by fire in June, and several local homes including his own on Glen Road.

The slide show put on by Raymond H. BACON of the city's Museum of Work and Culture and retired Woonsocket Social Studies Teacher William MARRAH, showed some of his not so widely known works as well. Among them, the now-demolished St. Ann's Gym that had served as a community center for the city's newly arrived French-Canadian residence, the former Woonsocket Police Station built on Front Street in 1910, the YMCA on Federal Street, the old Blackstone Hotel on Clinton Street in the 1920s and now converted to apartments, the city's Social Street, Pothier, McFee, and Fifth Avenue schools.

Now the Woonsocket Middle School, the high school built on Villa Nova Park in 1915 was designed by FONTAINE, as was its later expansion to a junior-senior high school.

FONTAINE designed even more schools in the city, among them the Catholic St. Clare High School for girls in 1911 and Mount St. Charles Academy for boys in 1924. He designed the St. Francis Orphanage on St. Joseph Street in 1912, and the slide show also showed his familiar local churches, including Holy Family from 1911, Our Lady of Victories in 1927, St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church on Blackstone Street, and possibly his largest project, the twin-towered St. Ann's on Cumberland Street.

FONTAINE's last work, St. Joseph's Church on Mendon Road, was dedicated after he and his wife, Obeline,

lost their lives in the tidal wave that swept Charlestown Beach in the Hurricane of 1938.

Aram P. JARRET Jr., a great-grandson of FONTAINE and a great-nephew of previous Hall of Fame inductee Gov. Aram J. POITHIER, attended the ceremony and said that his mother, Jeannette (FONTAINE) JARRET, would often talk of her family visiting with her grandparents at the beach.

"She recounted many good times the family spent on Charlestown Beach and I've even watched movies of them," he said.

The slides of his great-grandfather's work showed how diverse his talents had been.

"I think he was a man of, not just a sense of vision, but also with a wide range of architectural tastes," JARRET said.

"You have his wonderful churches such as St. Ann's and many other buildings that were functional like his mills. It's a monument to his genius that so many of them are still standing in Woonsocket today," he said.

Former Woonsocket Mayor Charles C. BALDELLI, watching the program with a group of about 30 other local residents, found FONTAINE worthy of the tribute.

"He was a great man with vision, but I never realized how great an impact he had on our city," BALDELLI said. "My favorite is St. Clare High School, it's the most beautiful building in the

city.”

“All you have to do is look at his buildings to know what an impact he had,” BALDELLI said.

Romeo BERTHIAUME, chairman of the Woonsocket Social Studies Department and master of ceremonies, said FONTAINE’s addition to the local Hall of Fame was well deserved and “one of the best of our choices over the years.”

The program, which included

songs sung by Jean Mc KENNA O’DONNELL, sister of Hall of Fame honoree Dave Mc KENNA, also brought Woonsocket High School senior Daniel RONDEAU to the podium.

“As we walk through the hallway here, we will recognize some of the faces,” he said, looking toward the past Hall of Fame inductees. “Knowing the faces is not the whole story, but understanding the accomplishments behind them is.”

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**The following are actual signs found on church property.**

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“When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out alright.”

“Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday.”

“Fight truth decay-study the Bible daily.”

“How will you spend eternity-Smoking or Non-smoking?”

“Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives”

“Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.”

“Our arms are the only ones God has to hug His children.”

“It is unlikely there’ll be a reduction in the wages of sin.”

“Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.”

“If you’re headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.”

“If you don’t like the way you were born, try being born again.”

“Forbidden fruit creates many jams.”

“In the dark? Follow the Son.”

“Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.”

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**Subject Matter:** *JMS* publishes articles of interest to people of French Canadian descent. Articles dealing with history and genealogy are of primary interest, although articles on related topics will be considered. Especially desirable are articles dealing with sources and techniques, i.e. "how-to guides."

**Length:** Length of your article should be determined by the scope of your topic. Unusually long articles should be written in such a way that they can be broken down into two or more parts. *Surnames should be capitalized.*

**Style:** A clear, direct conversational style is preferred. Keep in mind that most of our readers have average education and intelligence. An article written above that level will not be well received.

**Manuscripts:** This publication is produced on an IBM-compatible computer, using state of the art desktop publishing software. While this software has the capability to import text from most word-processing programs, we prefer that you submit your article in straight ASCII text or in WordPerfect 8 format on 3.5" floppy or ZIP disks. If you do not use an IBM-compatible computer, or do not have access to a computer, your manuscript should be typewritten on 8.5" x 11" paper. It should be double-spaced with a 1-inch margin all around. If notes must be used, endnotes are preferable over footnotes. A bibliography is desirable.

**Illustrations:** Our software is capable of importing graphics in most IBM-compatible formats. We prefer the JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) for all illustrations. You may also submit printed black-and white photographs.

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**Members' Corner:** Members' Corner is a section whose purpose is to provide a conduit by which our members may contact each other for the purpose of exchanging information. This is a service provided for members only at no cost on a space-available basis. You may submit short items (one or two paragraphs) in the following categories:

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**Books for Sale** - We will accept items for used books which you wish to sell, or for books you have personally authored. Be sure to include the name of the book and your asking price. Book dealers may not use this space. Book dealers are encouraged to purchase advertising space in this journal. Rates are published on the inside front cover.

**Cousin Search** - If you have a living relative with whom you have lost contact, you may use this space to help in your search. Include the person's full name and last known address, along with any other pertinent information.

All submissions to Members' Corner must include your name, address and phone number. Deadlines are 15 December for the Spring issue, and 15 June for the Fall issue. Keep in mind that this is a semiannual publication. Where time is important, items should be sent to AFGnewS.

**To Submit Articles:** Mail all submissions to Paul P. Delisle, P.O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870. If you have e-mail capabilities, you can submit articles in this manner at [paul471@cox.net](mailto:paul471@cox.net).



# The Godefroy Family – A Continuing Story

by: Jack Valois

*Editor's Note: The following, an early genealogy of one of France's and Canada's prominent families of the seventeenth century continues with this installment.*

## Chief Pontiac's Rebellion, 1763-1765

Born about 1720, the celebrated Ottawa warrior named PONTIAC rose to principal chief of the combined Ottawa, Ojibway, and Pottawatomie Indian confederation in a region destined to form part of the American Midwest states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana.

It's believed he led a sizable contingent of Ottawa braves, in the eventful summer of 1755, who enabled a small French force to ambush and resoundingly defeat the numerically superior army of English regulars and colonial militia led by General BRADDOCK near modern-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Because of his impressive intellect, charisma, and organizational skills, PONTIAC has been called North America's "Indian Spartacus" – after the resolute slave/gladiator leader who briefly led a rare and almost successful revolt against harsh and dissolute Ro-

man masters in 71 BC Italy.

Following the surrender of New France, British Army Major Robert ROGERS (1731-1795), the renowned frontiersman and woods ranger commander, was sent by English authorities into newly conquered areas of the Midwest to take possession of former French forts. The character-flawed ROGERS was slated to die lonely and penniless, some 30 years later and 3,000 miles removed from his favorite wilderness, in a dirty, foul-smelling debtors prison at London, England.

PONTIAC rightfully objected to invasions of tribal territory by land-hungry ex-enemies from the south and plotted against the new occupiers of Canada. In 1762, the chief secretly ordered special Ottawa messengers – carrying ominous, black-beaded war belts – to visit various Indian tribes (even those along the far-off, lower Mississippi River) urging them to unite in warring against a common British foe.

The Ottawa leader's intent was that each tribe attack English forts near them, then mount a combined assault against neighboring white settlements. A preemptive strike took place in May of 1763 when the important fur trading post at Michilimackinac was seized and

its British garrison massacred after being caught completely off guard during a seemingly innocent lacrosse game, similar to soccer. The players were PONTIAC's warriors who, in addition to their game sticks, carried weapons concealed beneath robes or blankets.

According to plan, the Pennsylvania and Virginia frontiers swiftly exploded with vengeful Indian war parties. Settler cabins were burned, farms and crops destroyed, resisters killed and hundreds of whites, including children (much preferred as Indian adoptees), carried into tribal captivity.

Opposing the hostiles was a small number of British army units stationed in the Québec area; almost no troops were to be found in the Great Lakes region at the time. Two relief columns of English infantry immediately set out for trouble spots, one under Colonel, later Brigadier-General, Henry BOUQUET (1719-1765).

A very competent professional, this French-speaking Swiss mercenary commanded the Royal Americans regiment of redcoated regulars (none of whom, by the way, were American-born). BOUQUET would quickly enough inspire both fear and respect among Ottawa opponents.

His mission was to relieve an Indian siege of Fort Pitt (Fort Duquesne under the French *regime*) on the site of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A colleague of BOUQUET, Colonel John BRADSTREET (1711-1774), was dispatched to counter Indian activity against Detroit. BRADSTREET, a native Nova Scotian, later attained the rank of two-star general in

Britain's army.

Accompanying this latter force was one battalion of 300 French-Canadian militia. Present, too, were militia units from the royal colonies of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. It was a unique instance where former and future enemies – English, French, and Americans – joined to fight the same aborigine foe.

At a council of Indian Confederacy members on 27 April 1763, PONTIAC eloquently recited the litany of wrongs committed by England against native Americans. He promised next to secretly attack the British fort in Detroit on May 7 at the head of a substantial contingent of Ottawa warriors. But someone, possibly *Canadien*, betrayed his plan to the English. Having lost the vital surprise element, there could be no triumphant repeat of the Michilimackinac lacrosse ruse and PONTIAC resigned himself to a time consuming siege of the stockaded enemy stronghold.

The effort proved unsuccessful because supplies and ammunition were daringly smuggled into Detroit through a makeshift and inefficient Indian blockade. Unwisely believing themselves strong enough to lift the siege, the British garrison boldly marched out and stormed a nearby Ottawa encampment. They were soundly trounced on 21 July 1763 at the Battle of Bloody Ridge, and victorious red forces resumed the siege of the fort.

Of 12 English stockades attacked by the Indian Confederacy, eight were actually captured and their garrisons wiped out. Several subsequent British

retaliatory expeditions against the Ottawa met defeat, too, and the Midwest frontier was transformed into an even more desolate and strife-torn area.

One accidental victim was Antoine, IV, GODEFROY DE VIEUX-PONT (1736-1763). The 27-year-old son of fur trader Pierre, Lord DE ROQUET-ALLADE, Antoine was probably the only Frenchman among 1,000 fatalities, primarily English settlers, killed by Ottawa braves in the Detroit region. PONTIAC's were vehemently anti-British and, like most Canadian Indians, staunchly pro-French. It all comes down to the fact that Antoine's death was a classic instance of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Hostilities continued in haphazard fashion through 1764. One year later on 17 August 1765, PONTIAC inexplicably abandoned the long crusade against British injustice and formally petitioned his Anglo enemies at Detroit for peace. In the following summer of 1766, the chief insisted on concluding a separate treaty with Sir William JOHNSON (1715-1774), a poor ex-Irish immigrant who became the fabled and wealthy New York Colony fur trader/merchant (husband of a Mohawk tribal princess). He served ably, over many years, as the influential superintendent of North American Indian affairs for Great Britain.

In evaluating PONTIAC's use of Indian warriors in the fight against whites, one must weigh the negative aspects of stone age savages in combat situations. Ferociously fearless and totally skilled in the use of deadly weapons – including smoothbore muskets and more accurate rifles – these red ad-

versaries were also proudly individualistic and, hence, always resentful of authority, unrepentantly superstitious, often disorganized and, from a strictly military viewpoint, never completely reliable in battle.

Much credit must, therefore, go to the immense diplomatic and organizational talents of PONTIAC for assembling the largest and most successful confederacy of Indian tribes in American history. Add to that the undisputed truth that the Ottawa chief came so close to achieving a nearly impossible objective.

The tragic climax occurred when a Kaskaskia warrior, in the pay of British fur traders, murdered 49-year-old PONTIAC in 1769. Instant retaliation followed as a regional coalition of furious Indians joined together to launch a short but bloody war against the Illinois tribe to which the assassin belonged, and all but exterminated them.

One family member, Jacques, III, GODEFROY DEMAUBEUF (1722-1795), played a key role in PONTIAC's Rebellion. A fur trader and official Indian interpreter, he went on to become a rich farmer and landowner. Jacques was shrewd enough to marry an influential Indian chief's daughter at Kaskaskia (Illinois) in 1747, aged 25, which helped ensure his success in the fur trade. MAUBEUF became a good friend of Chief PONTIAC and was suspected by authorities of inciting local tribesmen to rebel against the English.

The Major commanding Detroit's army garrison arrested Jacques and threatened him with death by hanging,

without the nicety of a trail, unless the trader used his influence with local tribes to counteract mounting resentment against the British. MAUBEUF cooperated and proved instrumental, following PONTIAC's untimely death, in assisting authorities and Ottawas during the reconciliation process.

Following PONTIAC's rebellion, Jacques received a commission as Ensign (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant) in the local English militia at Detroit. The unit was commanded by his brother-in-law Alexis TROTTIER DES RUISSEAUX, husband of MAUBEUF's older sister Marie-Catherine. Jacques first marriage to the Indian princess was childless and she died some time before 1758.

In the latter year, the widower married again at Detroit. MAUBEUF's second spouse was Louise CHAPOTON, daughter of a retired French army surgeon. She was also the sister of Jacques'

brother-in-law Alexis. Three children resulted from this union.

Louise died in 1762 during childbirth — a sadly common occurrence before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century of more sanitary techniques. In a politically advantageous move, MAUBEUF married for the third time to another Indian maiden, the comely daughter of a Miami chieftain, and the couple had one son.

Jacques' namesake son (1758-1833) by Louise was a fur trader and Indian agent. He was later appointed superintendent of Indian affairs for the Northwest U.S. by Army General William H. HARRISON (1773-1841). Twenty-nine years afterward, this shrewd War of 1812 leader became America's short-lived ninth president. HARRISON died just one month after moving into the White House, evidently worn out by the fatiguing political campaign that preceded his election victory.

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# La Famille Vadenay

by: Betty Vadner Haas

*Editor's note: This piece is taken from La Famille Vadenay, A Genealogical Journey From France to Québec to the United States with the author's kind permission. The book is in the AFGS Library and can be purchased from the New England Historical and Genealogical Society.*

## The Town of Vadenay France

Vadenay, sometimes referred to as a village and sometimes as a town, is in the Champagne area of France, in the Department of the Marne, latitude 49 degrees 4 min N, longitude 4 degrees 24 min E.<sup>1</sup> The village is slightly north of Châlons-sur-Marne and about 100 miles east of Paris. It is in a mountainous area on the route between Reims and Bar-le-Duc, traversed by the Noblette River and near its confluence with the Vesle River. In the past commerce consisted mainly of raising sheep for wool and harvesting several species of wood for timber. The town experienced the effects of three wars: 1870 French-Prussian War and the First and Second World Wars. The area was part of the site of the second Battle of the Marne in 1918.

In 1351 the territory was a tributary of the *Ordre du Temple*, a prestigious religious/military affiliation of the

Crusades.<sup>2</sup> This Crusading Order was founded in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. After the Holy Land was recaptured by the Muslims in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Order settled in France, where it became a major landowner. Three towns south of Vadenay include *au Temple* in their name, suggesting their area was held by the Order. The Templars individually did not hold property, but the Order accepted all gifts of land and coin, and became privileged and wealthy. Their vineyards in Champagne did not pay taxes as did private vineyards. This was a threat to the King. In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century the King, wanting to seize the Order's multitude of assets, disbanded the Order.<sup>3</sup>

Prominent in the town of Vadenay is a fine stone church, built by order of Napoleon III to thank the people of Vadenay for the 1100 hectares (approximately 2720 acres) of land he expropriated in 1857 to create a military camp and also to thank them for their tolerance toward soldiers who came on leave to party in the town.<sup>4</sup>

In 1990 I exchanged correspondence with Catherine MARION, Director of the Archives, Department of the Marne. She referred me to a local genealogist, M. Jean-Paul DENISE. M. DENISE said Vadenay's parish registers

did not begin until 1732, although perhaps the Vadenay town hall held pre-1732 records. M. DENISE's research revealed that there were one or more Remy families in the town in the early 1700s. He found a notarial record of a Nicolas REMY, laborer in Vadenay, who on 7 February 1637 acquired "*part de Grange*" (term unknown). In those years few people could write so notaries drafted deeds, wills, marriage contracts, and other documents. Since REMY families lived in Vadenay before and during the years my ancestor would have lived, M. DENISE thought the ancestor whom I sought could possibly be Pierre RÉMI of Vadenay and not Pierre-Rémi VADENAY.<sup>5</sup>

The Library of Châlons-sur-Marne sent me several documents. One is titled *La Revue de Champagne et de Brie 1892*, containing a genealogy of the GODET family, who for several centuries held one of the prominent places in the history of Châlons and owned many *seigneuries* (landed estates) in Champagne, including one in Vadenay.<sup>6</sup> M. DENISE reviewed the genealogy of the GODET family of Vadenay in *La Revue*, but found no reference to a Pierre RÉMI. Before the French Revolution, Ange-Joseph REMY, Vicomte de Vadenay, was Seigneur de Vadenay. He acquired this land in 1773 by marrying Marie Françoise Éléonore GODET de NEUFLIZE, daughter of the last seigneur de Vadenay. He escaped capture in the French Revolution; but she was less fortunate and was guillotined in 1794. The Chateau de Vadenay was sold in 1808.

The Library was also sent a page from *Précis de la statistique générale du département de la Marne, Tome II*. This article includes these statements:

"Vadenay paid a part of its tithe to the cathedral in Reims. The clergy of that city shared ownership of the *seigneurie* with the d'avenay, and in a letter from Louis, King of Navarre, the territory is called *LeVadenois*, suggesting an ancient jurisdiction of some importance."<sup>8</sup>

In May 2000 Laurier VADNAIS made a trip to Vadenay to explore the area for genealogical evidence. With permission I have excerpted from his website. Laurier's history states that around 1066 a German named Valdin established himself along the river, calling his home Vaudensis. Another story ascribes the town's name to the helmet of a Roman soldier, the helmet carrying the name Vadenay. Laurier believes there was migration of farmers from impoverished Champagne to Normandy where the soil was more fertile. People only had a first name then and gave their name according to where they came from. Hence our migrating ancestors were further identified as being 'from Vadenay.'" Increasingly, evidence indicates that our ancestor's name may have been Pierre RÉMY of Vadenay.

It is appropriate at this point to look at the history of the New World into which Jean Baptiste came in the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## Colonization of the New World

Early Exploration: As early as 1000 AD Vikings visited the North American Continent and established on Newfoundland a small colony, which succumbed to cold, scurvy, and native hostility. While there is no record, it is pos-



sible that the French and Portuguese fished off the Grand Banks before the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, which is when the earliest recorded exploration took place.<sup>10</sup>

In the first three decades of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, fishermen were familiar with parts of the American coast. Newfoundland was regularly fished by English, French, Spanish, Italians, and Portuguese. However, none of these penetrated the interior waterways.

Early explorers from Europe, searching for a sea-route to the Far East, had sailed the length of the American coast, from Florida to Nova Scotia. By 1534 it was known that America was a separate continent, and that it had to be penetrated to reach Asia. During the ensuing years numerous attempts were made to find a Northwest Passage, a water route from the Atlantic to the Pacific, through the arctic islands of Canada, a passage that would lead to the fabulous wealth of the Orient.

In the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Spanish largely controlled the seas. They explored and laid claim to Florida and Mexico.

The French meanwhile had pierced the continent through the St. Lawrence, where later they would build strategic forts. However, they made few settlements while going westward through waterways and establishing the territory which would be called New France. Much of this territory was occupied by the Iroquois, who were ferocious warriors and presented a constant threat to establishing settlements.

In 1609 Henry HUDSON sailed from Greenland south to Chesapeake Bay. He entered the mouth of the Hudson River and sailed up to the confluence of the Mohawk River at the site now occupied by Albany. In 1630 the Dutch claimed the territory along the Hudson from New Amsterdam (later New York City) to Albany.

The history of exploration in the New World was tied with the history of the European countries. Of major significance was the interaction between France and England.

## **French Colonization in the New World**

In 1534 King François I sent Jacques CARTIER to find a trade route to the Orient. CARTIER's discovery of the St. Lawrence River sparked an immigration of Frenchmen to the North Atlantic coast and to the area later to be known as New France. The 1541-43 original Québec colony on the St. Lawrence River failed to survive. Severe cold, scurvy, and Indians were obstacles to success; but more significant was France's failure to provide manpower suitable to colonization. However, pioneer settlements provided a springboard for later expansion in three significant areas: the quest for a route to the Pacific, the search for furs, and the missionary impulse to convert the Indians.

In 1603, 70 years after CARTIER, Samuel de CHAMPLAIN undertook his exploration of New France. Bent on discovering a passage through the continent to the Far East, CHAMPLAIN in 1611 dispatched a young peasant,

Etienne BRULÉ, to learn the languages of several Indian tribes and to learn the lore of the forest. BRULÉ became known as a *coureur de bois* ("runner in the woods"). By 1680 there were 600 of these adventurous, high-spirited men who roamed the woods, trading illegally in beaver skins, occasionally serving as guides and interpreters for the French or for missionaries in dealing with the Indians. Their vices were embarrassing to government and clergy, but they were important to the settlement of the colony and to advancing the frontier. As fur traders became more controlled by large companies, the illicit *coureurs de bois* evolved into respectable *voyagers* (travelers, explorers).<sup>11</sup> These *voyagers* became invaluable guides, leading both French and English along the network of rivers and into the interior of the continent.

CHAMPLAIN's first colonization effort was in Acadia, what is now roughly New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. His claim came to an abrupt halt in 1613 when the English leveled his encampment and carried off French prisoners. In 1654 New England colonists overran Acadia and the area remained in English hands until Charles II restored Acadia to France in 1667. Twice more the area was to change hands. Finally in 1713 Acadia was ceded to the British by the Treaty of Utrecht. The French withdrew. Although Acadia was in British hands in 1713 there was no conflict until 1755 when the British drove 6000 of the 10,000 French Acadians from their homes, reportedly at bayonet point. Many of these refugees were transported by the English to Louisiana.<sup>12</sup> There they became known as Cajuns, a corruption of the word

Acadians.

CHAMPLAIN befriended the Algonquian, Montagnais and Huron and used his relationships with them to learn survival methods, penetrate unknown territory and to establish a fur-trade network from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Lake Huron and beyond. His friendship extended to helping these tribes against their enemy the Iroquois. CHAMPLAIN's decision proved to be fateful, as this effort helped sow the seeds of a long-standing hostility between the French and the Iroquois, and made the Iroquois potential allies of the neighboring English and Dutch settlements.<sup>13</sup> The Iroquois, who tortured and killed their captured enemies, were dreaded by the settlers.

In 1620 CHAMPLAIN proposed to Louis XIII that Québec be built into a fortified community. Louis pledged 200-300 colonists would be sent each year, but it was too late. An English privateering squadron in 1629 intercepted the first vessels of French colonists, supplies and ammunitions. The colony starved. Champlain surrendered Québec to the English. The Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye in 1632 restored the colony to France. CHAMPLAIN rebuilt Québec and advocated farming rather than relying on supplies from France. Immigrants were granted parcels of land fronting on the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries.

### **The France-England Relationship 1689-1870**

Rivalry and conflict between England and France had been ongoing for centuries. It is no surprise this relation-

ship was mirrored in the New World. These countries fought four North American wars between 1689 and 1763, collectively referred to as the French and Indian Wars. The last of these resulted in the English triumph over the French for control of the continent.

King William's War 1689-97 was part of a larger European war, fought by the Grand Alliance (Holy Roman Empire, the Netherlands, England, Spain, Savoy, Sweden, and a number of German states) against France over the succession to the throne of England. In North America French and English colonists raided each other's settlements. By the 1697 Treaty of Ryswick William III was acknowledged King of England and Louis XIV lost most of his conquests made after 1679. The continental conflict was ended but the colonial problem was left unresolved.

Queen Anne's War 1702-13 corresponded to the European War of the Spanish Succession, which was fought between Great Britain, the Netherlands, and the Holy Roman Empire against France and Spain. In America, the principal events were: the English 1702 capture and burning of St. Augustine, Florida, a Spanish possession; the French 1704 capture and burning of Deerfield, Massachusetts, and the massacre of many of its inhabitants; and the British conquest of Acadia in 1710. The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht ended the European war. Under the terms of the treaty the French ceded Acadia (as mentioned before) as well as Newfoundland and the Hudson Bay territory to the British. The fall of Acadia marked the beginning of the English conquest of New France.<sup>14</sup>

King George's War 1744-48 corre-

sponded to the European war of the Austrian Succession. The French captured a British fort at Casco, Nova Scotia, taking prisoners to their fortress at Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island, the island which guarded the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. With great difficulty the British captured the Louisbourg fortress. At the conclusion of the war Louisbourg was returned to the French.

The French and Indian War 1754-63 expanded in Europe into the Seven Year's War. In North America in early years the French and their Native American allies won many battles, aided by friction between Britain and the colonists. When William PITT rose to political power in England he made victory in America a top priority. He began treating the American colonists as allies, not subordinates, which produced a major reversal in English fortunes in the war. The British again seized the fortress at Louisbourg, destroyed Fort Frontenac on Lake Ontario, and captured Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh). General WOLFE captured Québec in 1759. The conquest was completed by forcing the surrender of the last defenders of Canada at Montréal. The Treaty of Paris 1763 ended French control of Canada. France ceded to Britain all its territories east of the Mississippi River. In compensation for the territories west of the Mississippi given by France to Spain a year earlier, Spain agreed to cede Florida to the British. France in its attempt to avenge its defeat supported the American rebels. Meanwhile the British antagonized the colonies by trying to tax them to pay for England's debt incurred by the war. Eventually, these tax issues were a major factor in precipitating the

## American Revolution.<sup>15</sup>

Each monarch's personal interest in, and financial ability to support, his projects, dictated much of the exploration, exploitation and settling of the North American continent.

<sup>1</sup> France, *Official Standard Names approved by US Board on Geographic Names*, published 1960. One volume of a multi-volume set listing small towns in the world. Akron-Summit Public Library, Akron, OH.

<sup>2</sup> J. Chalette, "*Précis de la statistique générale du département de la Marne*," Tome II, Ch G/2. Châlons-sur-Marne Archives.

<sup>3</sup> Correspondence with Dr. Constance Brittain Bouchard. Dept. of History, Univ. of Akron, April 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Laurier Vadnais, "*La Petite Histoire du Patronyme Vadenay*," from his website.

<sup>5</sup> Correspondence with French genealogist M. Jean-Paul Denise, Châlons-en-Champagne, June 24, 1990.

<sup>6</sup> Nouveaux Documents sur la Famille Godet. Extraits des Archives de L'État Civil de Vadenay. *La Revue de Champagne et de Brie* 1892. Châlons-sur-Marne Archives.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> J. Chalette, "*Précis de la statistique générale du département de la Marne*."

<sup>9</sup> Laurier Vadnais, [www.fgagnon.com/vadnais](http://www.fgagnon.com/vadnais)  
<sup>10</sup> Gerald A. Graham, *A Concise History of Canada*, [New York: Viking Press, 1968]

<sup>11</sup> Nancy Wartick, *The French-Canadians: The Peoples of North America Series* [New York, 1989].

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Gerald S. Graham, *A Concise History of Canada*.

<sup>14</sup> James S. Pula, ed., *The French in America 1488-1974. A Chronology and Fact Book*. [Oceana, 1975].

<sup>15</sup> Encyclopedia CD, Microsoft Encarta 97.

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### PRE-PUBLICATION OFFERING OF ANCESTRAL LINEAGE OF CATHERINE de BAILLON

The ascendancy line of the author, Leo R. Milette has been recently completed. Results of that work – a 10 year research effort – has produced 2 books. The first covers his ascendancy down to the settlers of early Canada (generation lines 114-107) and ties into Jean Miville dit Deschênes, son of Catherine de Baillon (generation lines 106 and 105) and ends with Adam/Eve (generation line 1 – where it all began.

The author has separated the results of his research into 2 books. The second book contains information applicable to all descendants of Catherine de Baillon and is now made available to the public. The book is spiral bound and contains 511 pages, 8.5 by 11 inches. It has about 4760 names encompassing an array of notables and their wives. They include Emperors, Barons, Dukes, Princes, Margraves, Lords, Counts, Earls, and soulless Kings and Queens of numerous countries and others of special interest. To name a few, they include Charlemagne' St. Vladimir I of the Ukraine in Russia; Kaiser Otto I, the Great, King of Germany; the Pharaohs, Rameses and the Cleopatras of Egypt; Lothar, King of Italy; David, Abraham, Methuselah and other biblical figures which are too numerous to enumerate.

All information appears on 5 generation charts and includes many lateral ascendants. The author has gone to great lengths to fully document this information. All facts are stated as found in referenced material with no assumptions made nor any conclusions drawn unless facts point to such a finding.

This voluminous work is now available for purchase at a cost of \$300 (includes postage, shipping and all applicable taxes). Your request must be prepaid in American currency and please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery. Mail request to:

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# Louis Truchon and Marie-Francoise Beauchamp

by: Roy F. Forgit

*(The following is excerpted from the book: "A Study of the Family of Jean-Louis L'EVEILLE and Lisa MIREAULT of St.Jacques-de-L'Achigan, Quebec". It is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author. A copy of this book is in the A.F.G.S. Library.)*

The presence of Louis TRUCHON in New France is first recorded on the third of February, 1675, on a baptismal record found in the parish book for Pointe-aux-Trembles on the Ile de Montréal. This was a small village located nine miles downriver, that is north-east, from Montréal itself. He was not the father, but the godfather (*le parain*). What is more of interest is that this baptism actually took place on the Ile Ste. Thérèse, where the traveling missionary priest had gone to perform the sacraments for the colonists. The child was baptized as Louis GAUTIER, and was the son of Maturin GAUTIER and Nicole PHILIPPEAU. The godmother (*la maraine*) was Marie CHENIE, wife of Jean BRISU DE LA MARCHE. See Exhibit 4-1.

Six years later on the 1681 Census we find Louis TRUCHON as yet unmarried at age 35, a *habitant* farming on the Ile Ste. Thérèse. That small island in the St. Lawrence River is located south of Repentigny and just to the northeast of

the Ile Jésus. There he farms 9 *arpents* of land, owns a *fusil* (a rifle), and 4 bushels of corn. He would have cleared his own land, felling trees to build a log hut for shelter, likely with the aid of his neighboring colonists. He fed himself by fishing and hunting, as well as with his crops. The rifle was very necessary for defense against Indian attacks and for service as a militiaman when called by his Seigneur, Sidrac-Michel DUGUE.

Granted in 1672 to Sidrac DUGUE (or DUGUAY), titled Le Sieur De Bois Briant, Captain of the Carignan Regiment, the Ile Ste. Thérèse was the largest of a group of seven islands at the confluence of the Riviere des Prairies and the much greater St. Lawrence. It measured two and one-half miles long by one mile wide, and was said to have excellent soils. After the death of DUGUE in 1688 these lands were divided among his children, since his wife, Marie MOYEN, had died the year previous to his passing. They had wed in 1667. In 1691, this seigneurie was obtained by Charles-Gaspard PIOT DIT LANGLOISERIE thru his marriage to Marie-Thérèse DUGUE, eldest daughter of the original grantee. It would later become a parish with the seigneurie of Varennes and of La Trinite.<sup>1</sup>

The Ile Ste. Thérèse by 1681 had a

total French population of 53 people, numbering 28 males and 25 females, of whom there only 9 married couples. The other 35 were either children or single men. There was a real shortage of marriageable-age women in New France. The noted historian Benjamin SULTE provides the surnames of the fourteen *habitants*, or colonists, who farmed there in 1681. They were recorded as DUGUE, BRIEN, CATIN, GAUTHIER, TRUCHON, LIMOUSIN, RAGUENEAU, DESMARES, VOINE, HAYET, MASTA, BOUSQUET, TRAJEAN, and CHOQUET.<sup>3</sup>

For a comparison of just how small the entire French colony on that western edge of the Laurentian wilderness in 1681 was, we have the following:<sup>3</sup>

| <u>Place</u>            | <u>No. of Families</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Total Population</u> |                        |
| Ile Montréal            | 216                    |
| 1,418                   |                        |
| Ile Jésus               | 4                      |
| 27                      |                        |
| Lachenaye               | 14                     |
| 72                      |                        |
| Repentigny              | 22                     |
| 114                     |                        |

Also residing nearby on the Ile Montréal in 1681 was the family of one Jean BEAUCHAMP, 43, and his wife Jeanne LOISEL, 34. Their *enfants* were Marie, 12, Françoise, 10, Jean, 5, and Pierre, 2. The possessions of BEAUCHAMP were similar to those of TRUCHON: ... "1 fusil, 3 betes a corne, et 9 arpents en valeur". Thus he owned a gun, 3 bushels of corn and 9 acres of cleared land.

We learn that this couple had begun their life together in New France well before the arrival of Louis TRUCHON, as Jean BEAUCHAMP and Jeanne LOISEL had wed at Montréal in 1666. Jean had been born in 1644, and was a native of the parish of Ste.Marguerite in the Diocese of La Rochelle, Province of Aunis. Jeanne was born at Montréal in 1649, and thus was all of age 17 when she was married.

It is in the marriage contract of 13 April 1687 and the actual marriage record of the 14<sup>th</sup> that we learn the names of the parents of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE. He was the son of Pierre TRUCHON and of Perrine SIROUIET of Gavarl (?) in the Diocese of Nantes, Bretagne. This marriage was at the Parish of St.Enfant Jésus, in the riverfront village of Pointe-aux-Trembles, on the Ile Montréal. His bride was Marie-Françoise BEAUCHAMP, who was the second daughter of Jean BEAUCHAMP and Jeanne LOISELLE, as above. The priest makes due note in marginal entries of the ages of the groom, 38 *ans*, and of his child bride, 16 *ans*. Marie-Françoise had been baptized on 11 September 1670. See their marriage record, Exhibit 4-2.

Notably, their marriage was the second of that date, as the entry begins: "This same day and year as of the above... ". Perhaps this explains the rather unusual fact that twelve people signed at the bottom of their page. The other two to marry were Jean DEROCHE and Marie BEAUCHAMP, ages 37 and 14. A reading of that record informs us that the two brides were not sisters as we first assumed, for their parents were not the same.

In the above we learn, too, that the “dit” name of *L’Eveille*, “The Awakener”, was one applied as a nickname to Louis TRUCHON by his friends and acquaintances of New France, but not to his father, Pierre TRUCHON. As we shall see, this “dit” name will become the family surname in later generations, a common fact among *Quebecois* families. As to the family’s place of origin in France, other records use the name Daborel and/or d’Abbaretz, in the old district of Boisbriant, also Diocese of Nantes. We have located on the Michelin Website maps a village named Derval, but none by these other names. The city of Nantes is near the mouth of the Loire River, thus the modern district’s name of *Loire-Atlantique*. See Exhibit 4-3.

Although only speculation as of this writing, it is possible that Louis TRUCHON was a soldier under the command of his Seigneur, Sidrac DUGUE. At the time when the Carignan-Salières Regiment arrived in New France in 1665, Louis would have been 18 or 19 years of age. The regiment is variously said to have had 1300 to 1400 men, most of whom are not named in any records. Several related facts would support the theory, however. First is that DUGUE, a Captain of the regiment, was from the same area of Boisbriant as was TRUCHON, and may have recruited him. Secondly, it was common practice for officers who had decided to remain in Canada and accept land grants to keep their best men with them as colonists. Lastly, new research indicates that the origins of *dit* names were military in nature.<sup>4</sup>

Louis would take Marie-Françoise to live on his modest farm on the Ile Ste.

Thérèse, as proven by the recorded births there of at least two of their earliest children. A son, Louis TRUCHON, was baptized on 1 January 1691 and a daughter, Marie TRUCHON, on 28 July 1693. Although these baptisms are in the parish book of St. Enfant Jésus at Pointe-aux-Trembles, the priest most likely traveled to their island home to perform these baptisms. We would question, too, why no other children were born to them before baby Louis in late 1690, as more than three years and eight months had elapsed since their 14 April 1687 marriage. The loss of such records was common. For example, we found that on 17 December 1694 a son, Jean-Baptiste LEVEILLE was said to be baptised at St. Enfant Jésus. Born on the previous day, his father is stated as “Jean” LEVEILLE, but the mother is Françoise BEAUCHAMP! The genealogist Tanguay does not list this baby, who may have died as a young child. His next birth of record for the family is Pierre TRUCHON, born on the 13<sup>th</sup> and baptized the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 1696.<sup>5</sup>

Then, on 24 March 1699, another son was discovered to be baptized as Jean-Baptiste LEVEILLE. He is said to have been born at Pointe-aux-Trembles on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, an indication that the family may have left the farm on Ile Ste. Thérèse. This son will grow to become the next of line of your direct ancestry, marrying Marie-Josephe ETHIER in 1725.

One can ask here why would Louis TRUCHON, the pioneer colonist, have given up his fertile farmlands, which he had cleared with his own hands before 1681? One answer is that there existed terrible dangers to his wife and chil-

dren from Indian attacks. It is well related by historians that the settlement of lands all around the Ile Montréal was delayed or abandoned by the French during that era. Since the pre-dawn of 25 August 1689, when in the Massacre of Lachine a war-party of some 1500 Iroquois warriors had attacked and killed 200 colonists, their lives had been changed.

The village of Lachine was situated at the southwest corner of the Ile Montréal, at the Lachine Rapids. Its name derived from the early belief that the St. Lawrence River was a route to the China Sea! The Iroquois were feared as savages, and justly so. We quote as follows from the historian DECHARLEVOIX:

"They invented a number of other unheard-of tortures, and thus, in less than an hour, two hundred persons, of every age and both sexes, perished in the most frightful tortures."<sup>6</sup>

At Lachine 120 other people were taken away as captives, and all but two of the houses were burned. The terror continued until mid-October, and all of the Ile Montréal was said to have .. "...remained a prey to the victors, who overran the greatest part of it, leaving everywhere bloody traces of their fury, which the French were not able to oppose."<sup>7</sup>

Frontenac was then at Quebec, the Capitol, having been re-appointed only recently as Governor of New France. He arrived at Montréal on 22-November-1689 to take charge of a military force to pursue the Iroquois into New York in the hope of rescuing the many hostages. Of the five tribes of the Iroquois, the

Mohawks and the Senecas were known to be the cruelist to captives. These hostilities would continue, as they were in fact a part of the larger conflict between England and France for control of North America.

Four other children would be born to Louis TRUCHON and his wife Françoise BEAUCHAMP, but these births were at Lachenaie. They were GUILLAUME in 1702, Marguerite in 1704, Louise in 1704, and lastly Marie-Catherine in 1708. All of the four were recorded as being baptised at St Francois-de-Sales Parish on the Ile Jésus, although the actual baptisms may well have been performed by a missionary priest. See Exhibit 4-4.

Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE would live to the stated age of 80, certainly a remarkably long life for his era of history. His February of 1724 passing at Lachenaie, on the north shore of the *Riviere des Milles Iles*, indicates that this was where he had spent his latter years. His burial was at St.Francois-de-Sales Cemetery on the Ile Jésus. See Exhibit 4-5.

As it was written, his wife of thirty-six years is not mentioned on the 15 February 1724 funeral record of Louis TRUCHON DIT L'EVEILLE, nor were any of his sons present. We find this to be a departure from custom. They may have been away from their homes on hunting expeditions, as it was a practice to trap for furs in the winter.

His widow Françoise BEAUCHAMP would remarry on 20 April 1729, at Lachenaie. Her second husband was the widower Jacques



ROBIN, whose first wife had been Marie ETU. (Records state her name as Marie TETU-FLAMAND.)

Using that earlier baptismal record of Françoise BEAUCHAMP as being on 11 September 1670, we calculate her age at her second marriage as 58. She would live out as remarkably long a life as did Louis TRUCHON. Her passing at Lachenaie at age 82 was at *St. Henri de Massecouche* on 28 May 1752. She was buried in the cemetery of that parish on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Present at her interment were Jean-Baptiste GUIBORD and Jean CHARPENTIER. In other records we learn that another son of hers, named Pierre TRUCHON, had been wed to a Marie-Josephe CHARPENTIER on 10 June 1720. Thus the Charpentier family was connected to that of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE as well.

The Seigneurie de Lachenaie derived its name from that of the original owner, Charles AUBERT de la CHESNAYE. Born in 1632 at St. Michel, Diocese of Amiens in Picardie, France, he had come to Canada as a lowly clerk of the Company of New France, a fur-trading stock company. As a young man possessed of a strong entrepreneurial spirit he would be engaged on his own in the fur trade and the grain trade, as well as the fisheries. For a time, Charles LACHENAYE would be the richest man in Canada. Beginning in 1662 he amassed so much land that he controlled more of the *seigneuries* than anyone else in Canada ever had, before or since. Yet he would die in debt after a forty-year career, and his holdings were split among his many creditors.<sup>8</sup>

A son of AUBERT DE LA

CHENAYE, by the same name, became the Seigneur de Lachenaie before 1689. The notary ADHEMAR registered a contract on 9 July 1689 for Charles AUBERT de la CHENAYE, *fiils*. We believe that Louis TRUCHON, as well as his sons, signed as *censitaires* to farm lands of this man.<sup>9</sup>

It is to Lachenaie and Repentigny that we go next to locate the sons and daughters of Louis TRUCHON and Françoise BEAUCHAMP, for there the lands are a fertile plain, well-watered by the clear streams flowing from the Laurentian Mountains. That area would become the wheat center of Canada for another one hundred years. Not until the advent of canals and the building of the railroads which opened Ontario to settlement would better farms be found.

#### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>Munro, William B., "Documents Relating to the Seignorial Tenure in Canada, 1598-1854", p.112.

<sup>2</sup>Sulte, Benjamin, "*Le Regiment de Carignan*", *Melanges Historiques*, Vol.8, ed. by Gerard Malchelosse. Pub. G.Ducharme, Montréal, 1922, p.115.

<sup>3</sup>Sulte, Benjamin, "*Histoire des Canadiens-Francais, 1608-1880*", Vol.V, *Wilson & Cie*, Montréal, 1882, p.72 and charts on p.89 of 1681 census.

<sup>4</sup>Lepine, Luc, "The Military Roots of the *dit* Names", *American-Canadian Genealogist*, Issue #98, Vol.29, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2003.

<sup>5</sup>Tanguay, *Dictionnaire Genealogique*, p.363.

<sup>6</sup>DeCharlevoix, Rev.P.F.X., S.J., "History and Gen.Description of New France," translated by John G.Shea, Loyola University Press, Chicago, 1870, Vol.4 of 6, p.29.

<sup>7</sup>Ibidem

<sup>8</sup>Harris, R.C. P.56.

<sup>9</sup>Ibidem, p.82.

#### *Exhibit 4-1*

A baptism in 1675, the first record of Louis TRUCHON in New France, at the Ile Ste. Thérèse. A translation of the original French, of a page in the Parish Book of St. Enfant Jésus at Pointe-aux-Trembles, on the Ile de Montréal, Quebec

The third of February, 1675, has been baptized Louis, son of Maturin de Ste. Gautier and of Nicole Philipau, his wife, habitants of Ste. Thérèse. The godfather has been Louis Truchon (He continues at top of next page, repeats the name Truchon), the godmother Marie Chenie, the wife of Jean Brisu de la Marche.

L.A.Grenier, priest

(Note: The previous entry, has "de la chenaye", indicating that this missionary had been to the north of the Ile Thérèse for an earlier baptism.)

#### *Exhibit 4-2*

The 14 April 1687 Marriage of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE and Marie-Françoise BEAUCHAMP at the Church of St. Enfant Jésus, Pointe-aux-Trembles, Ile de Montréal, Québec. A translation of the original French, of pages 79-80 of the Parish Book, from Roll # 1128e of the Drouin Film Files of the A.F.G.S., Woonsocket, R.I.

This same day and year as of the above has been celebrated in this church

the marriage between Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE (*in the left margin he wrote: age of 38 years*), habitant of Ste. Thérèse, son of Pierre TRUCHON and of Perrine SIROUIET, the father and mother of the parish of Gavarl, Diocese of Nantes, in Bretagne, and Marie (*again in the margin he wrote: age of 16 years*) BAUCHAMP, daughter of Jean BAUCHAMP and of Jeanne LOISEL, his wife, of this parish, after 3 banns having been publicized at 3 sermons of Masses consecutively, and without anything of objection, the consents to marriage were made in the presence of Jean BAUCHAMP, Jacques BAUCHAMP, Sydrac DUGUE, Seigneur de Ste. Thérèse, Jacques BIZARD, Mayor of Montréal, Pierre BERAUDS, Joseph LOISEL, Jean BECQUEL, François CHENIE, and others, female friends and male friends, of whom many have signed with me, the others having declared not to know how to sign, of this requirement of the ordinance. (*twelve signatures follow, including that of the priest, at bottom.*)

DUGUE

Jean-Cesaire DARIN

Marie MOSIER

J. BIZARD

L. BECQUEL

Jean DUPUIS

Pierre BERAUDS

Jeanne GERVAISE

Simon ALLARD

Louis BERNARD

François CHENIE

LEQUIEN, priest

*Note: Exhibit 4-3 was a Michelin Map of France, not reproduced here.*

#### *Exhibit 4-4*

A Listing of the Children of Louis TRUCHON DIT L'EVEILLE and Marie-Françoise BEAUCHAMP, with their marriages, where known.

Louis, n. Ile Ste. Thérèse, b. 01-Jan-1691, Pointe-aux-Trembles + Elisabeth BESSIERE, m. 29 November 1718, St. François-de-Sales, Ile Jésus

Marie, nee Ile Ste. Thérèse, b. 28-July-1693, Pte.-aux-Trembles + Louis PLOUF, m. 1714

Pierre, n. 13, b. 14 June 1696, Pte.-aux-Trembles

+ (1) Marie-Josephe CHARPENTIER, m. 10 June 1720, Riv. Des Prairies

+ (2) Charlotte BOESME, m. 3 July 1730, Lachenaie

Jean-Baptiste, n. 23, b. 24-Mar-1699, Pte.-aux-Trembles + Marie-Josephe ETHIER, m. 26 November 1725, Repentigny

Guillaume, n. et b. 14-May-1702, Lachenaie, record @ St. Francois, I.J. + Marie-Thérèse FONTAINE-BIENVENUE, m. 16-July-1724, Vercheres

Marguerite, nee 10, Lachenaie, B. 11 May 1704, St. François, I.J. + Pierre ARPIN (HERPIN dit POITDEVIN), m. 17 February 1721, Contrecoeur

Louise, nee vers 1706 + Antoine EMERY, m. 1728

Marie-Catherine, nee @ Lachenaie, b. 27 May 1708, St. François, I.J. + Bernard CROTEAU, m. 1728, St. Charles, Lachenaie

#### Exhibit 4-5

The 15 February 1724 Burial of Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE, age 80, at the Cemetery of St. François-de-Sales, Ile Jésus

A translation of the French original, from the Parish Book, as found in the Drouin Film Files of the A.F.G.S., Roll # 1135

The fifteenth of February, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-four, by me, priest undersigned, has been buried in the cemetery of the parish the body of the deceased Louis TRUCHON dit L'EVEILLE, age of eighty years, following the sacraments. Sworn in the presence of Nicholas THIBAUT, Joseph CHARTRES and others.

PLANTE, priest

Note:

The summary of the life of Louis TRUCHON by the Genealogist René JETTY states that he died at Lachenaie, which is across the *Riviere des Millelles* from the parish of St. Francois de Sales on the Ile Jésus. As he was buried on the same day, no doubt it was only a short crossing when made on the ice in February. There was as yet neither a church nor a cemetery at Lachenaie.

His age at death of 80, if correct, would give us a birth year of 1644. The 1681 Census had stated his age then as 35, giving a birth year of 1646. But, the 1687 Census had his age as 38, yielding a third estimate for his birth as 1649!

(R.I.P.)

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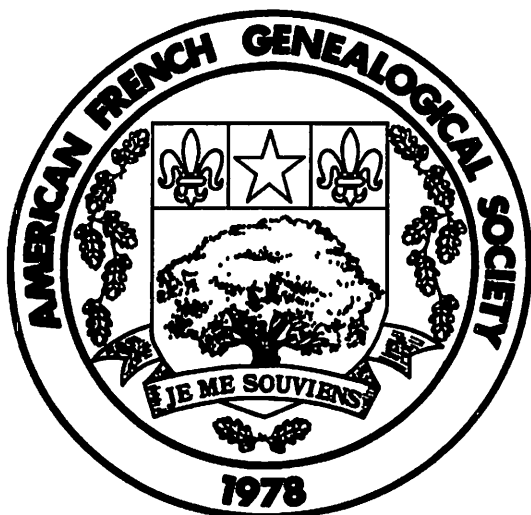
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# The Deerfield Captives and Their Descendants

by: Jeanne Marie Gendreau Carley

Early in the snowy morning of February 29, 1704, 112 Deerfield, Massachusetts residents were taken captive by French-led Indian raiders and marched on a long, cold and arduous 300-mile trek to Canada. Other Deerfield citizens had suffered a worse fate. Homes had been set afire with sleeping occupants inside. Many young village men had been killed in the famous Meadow Fight nearby. By the time settlers in other villages had tried to come to the rescue, Deerfield was a smoldering ruin. Today, a four-foot tall grassy mound in the Old Burying Ground stands in tribute to the 50 men, women and children who died in the pre-dawn attack. The inscription on the single gravestone says simply, "1704".

Among those kidnaped was an eight-year-old girl whose widowed mother, Elizabeth CORSE, and her aunt Mary FRENCH were killed on the trip to Canada, along with several others. Elizabeth and her three female cousins (FRENCHs) survived the three-week trek through heavy snow, into woods, up mountains and by sleigh across the partly frozen waters of the Connecticut River to Lake Champlain and River Richelieu. Where rivers weren't frozen, the group had to wade through icy waters. Sometimes when the children became exhausted, they were carried on

the backs of their captors. In Montreal, the young hostages were ransomed from the Indians, taken in by French families, baptized Catholics and became citizens of New France. The orphaned Elizabeth CORSE Jr. was one of those young prisoners who remained in Québec, and she eventually married two French Canadians and raised a large family there. Elizabeth CORSE was also my ancestor.

Growing up in Minnesota with known French and German ancestors, I assumed our family had no Indian or English ancestry, so finding an English ancestor was indeed a surprise! Even before this discovery my interest in colonial history had led me to Deerfield while I was living in Massachusetts and New York. And I kept being drawn back to Deerfield. In 1989, I participated in a seminar on New England-New France, 1650-1850, which included talks on the Deerfield captives. Although unaware then of my Puritan heritage, I was fascinated with these victims of Queen Anne's War (also called War of the Spanish Succession) and their stories. I questioned the seminar speakers to learn as many details as possible from their research. (My own slide lecture was a comparative study of New England and Québec folk art and architecture). By the time I finally stood before the poignant common grave in Deerfield, I had found

my own connections to this violent tragedy.

My eventual discovery of Elizabeth CORSE and her ancestry has inspired my study of the social history of her background and the harsh life on the English frontier of northwestern Massachusetts. These colonists were victims of a series of wars between New France and New England which had begun in their mother countries, but involved the New World colonies as part of their struggle for control of North America. Elizabeth's ancestral story begins in Deerfield, the daughter of Elizabeth CATLIN (born 1667 Newark, NJ.) and James CORSE, who arrived about 1690 from England or Scotland and married that year. (Sheldon's History of Deerfield says he died 15 May 1696 and a copy of his estate inventory is dated July, 1696). Elizabeth and James CORSE had three children, James, Ebenezer (who escaped the raid) and Elizabeth Jr., born in February 1695. (When I researched at the American-French-Genealogical Society Library, I learned Elizabeth CORSE had been gallicized to CASSE. It left me wondering – what were the French doing in Deerfield? Finally, the memories of 1704 struck me like a thunderbolt!)

Elizabeth's grandparents were John CATLIN, Jr. (born 28 June 1643 Wethersfield, Conn.) and Mary BALDWIN (1644) of Milford, Conn. who married in Wethersfield on 23 Sept. 1662. This family of ten suffered the largest number of losses in the Deerfield raid. John CATLIN, Jr. was killed defending his home along with his son Jonathan. His married son Joseph was slain in the Meadow Fight and the rest of his children and several grandchildren were

taken captive, including Mary FRENCH's new-born son who was also killed. Only three of his married daughters who lived elsewhere survived the raid: Sarah, married to Michael MITCHELL, Esther married to Ebenezer SMEAD and Hannah married to Thomas BASCOM. Ruth and his youngest son John were ransomed and returned in 1707 to Deerfield, but the four young granddaughters and their friends remained in Québec. (The first son John, died in infancy.) Grandmother Mary BALDWIN, who was taken to the Sheldon house was supposedly saved through an act of kindness – she offered a glass of water to a wounded French officer, so the story goes. But she too, succumbed to a heart attack a few weeks later on 9 April. She was the daughter of Joseph BALDWIN, one of the first settlers of Milford, Wethersfield, Conn. and Hadley, Mass. and Hannah WHITLOCK of England.

The CATLIN and BALDWIN families were intertwined by marriage. John CATLIN's father, John CATLIN, Sr. who came from England or Barbadoes (no documentation) to Wethersfield, married Isabel WARD, who when widowed, married her third husband, Joseph BALDWIN and the father of Mary, John CATLIN Jr's wife.. The Baldwin genealogy can be traced back to the 1500's in Buckinghamshire, England. John CATLIN Jr., after moving to Branford, Connecticut, near New Haven, left there to become one of the founders of Newark, NJ. (This is described vividly in the "History of Newark" and commemorated by a plaque on a hotel adjacent to the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark.) About ten of these Connecticut settlers, including his in-laws, the

WARDS, came by boat to an area near downtown Newark in 1665). CATLIN is reputed to be the first teacher there by 1676, the schoolmaster being most feared along with the minister. A bronze tablet near his original home/school was erected in 1940 to honor him. He purchased a large tract of land known as the "Neck" in 1673-4, became a selectman and town's attorney (1678) (not a lawyer but an "honest brother to take care that all town orders should be executed, and if a breach occurred, to prosecute the offender").

When he sold his property after the title had been contested for years, the CATLINS moved briefly to Hadley, Mass. and then to Deerfield (1683/4) as permanent residents. John CATLIN, Jr. was known as "Mr." and played a prominent role as selectman and town meeting moderator. The CATLIN property, as seen on early maps, was in the center of the village surrounded by a stockade; it was replaced by another house directly across from Deerfield Academy in Historic Deerfield. There is another tablet dedicated to the CATLIN family in the Memorial Hall Museum of the Pocumtuck Valley Assn. in Deerfield.

As for young Elizabeth CORSE's life in Canada, records show that she lived with Pierre ROY and his wife, Catherine DUCHARME at La Prairie just south of Montréal. "On Tuesday, July 14, 1704 was baptized by me, undersigned priest, Elizabeth CASSE, who born at Deerfield in New England..." (This was the opening sentence of the talk by Barbara AUSTEN at the 1989 Deerfield Seminar I attended, but the name meant nothing to me then). "At the age of 9, she was baptized by Father

MERIEL at Notre Dame of Montréal, daughter of Jacques CASSE and of Elisabeth CATLIN, both of 'Dearfield' New England. Her godparents were Gilbert MAILLET, a master mason of Montréal, and Catherine DUCHARME," mother of 16 children. In May 1710, "Elizabeth COSS" became a naturalized citizen of New France. At the age of 16, she had a "natural" child (the French term for illegitimate) by an unknown father. Her daughter was named Marie-Françoise, who was born at La Prairie 20 April 1712 and died three weeks later. This was unusual in New France at this time so one can only speculate on the details of this event.

Later that year, she married Jean DUMONTET dit LAGRANDEUR (parents Jean and Georgette FORAND) on 6 November. His origin is unknown, but one source, *Captors and Captives*, says he was a Huguenot from New York. Though they lived in La Tortue near La Prairie, Jean's occupation is not known. They had eight children from 1715-1728, the last one born five months after Jean's death. He is said to have been 70 at his death, making him 53 at the time of their marriage, but since ages often were exaggerated, he was probably much younger. Four of their eight children either died shortly after birth or a few months later; the posthumous Pelagie lived only 15 months.

Not long afterward in January 1730 at Notre Dame de La Prairie, Elizabeth, now 34, remarried a 26 year-old native of La Prairie, Pierre MONET, whose parents were Francois MONET dit LAVERDURE, (thought by descendants to be a soldier in the Deerfield raid), and Marie DUMAS. Pierre, who was

born in March, 1704, was nine years her junior. In the marriage act, her parents are called "Gymse CASSE and Elisabeth QUETELINE" Another interesting note: Elizabeth's oldest living daughter, Elisabeth/Isabelle DUMONTET, born in 1717, married Pierre's brother, Francois MONET, Jr. in May 1732. (They are my ancestors). According to notary records, Pierre MONET exchanged a farm of over 60 arpents in St. Jacques with Jean-Baptiste DUMONTET, his stepson, for the real estate and personal property inherited from his father, Jean DUMONTET. Next the MONETs were habitants in the village of St. Lambert. Also in 1730, Elizabeth's brother, James CORSE, a hunter and fur trader, left Deerfield to try to bring her home, but with a new husband and family, she chose to stay in Canada. From this second marriage, eight more children were born but only one survived to marry from this union. One son died at 21 while the others died young - a few weeks old to nine years old. Elizabeth died at La Prairie in 1766 and Pierre died at age 70 in 1774, Later the name changes to MONETTE. (There are various versions on the number of her children). Several generations later, Elizabeth's descendant, my grandmother Odile DESLAURIERS was born near Montréal and moved with her husband, Paul GENDREAU to Little Falls, Minnesota with their first four children in 1881.

Recently, I was amazed to find that my links to the Deerfield pioneers also involved one of the French officers who led the raid. One of those who accompanied the leader, Jean-Baptiste HERTEL de ROUVILLE, was Ensign René BOUCHER, the grandson of my ancestor Gaspard BOUCHER, and the nephew of Marquerite-Louise, his daughter, also my

ancestress. Rene's father was Pierre BOUCHER, the governor of Trois-Rivières and later creator of one of the most successful and populous seigneuries named Boucherville, nine miles south of Montréal. He and the HERTELs were Canadian nobles, given the rank because of their service to the Crown. Pierre BOUCHER had lived with Indians and learned their language, represented the French colony to Paris entreating Louis XIV to send more troops, organized a local militia, etc. BOUCHER was one of the most prosperous French Canadians, but not in comparison with the French nobles. Rene's mother, Jeanne CREVIER, and the second wife of Pierre BOUCHER, was a daughter of my Crevier ancestors. Most of the other Frenchmen involved in the raid have never been identified, but it's possible that Elizabeth CORSE's future father-in-law, François MONET Sr., may have served in the Canadian troupes or local militia. None of these approximately 20 soldiers in the troupes or militia have actually been identified. Since the majority of the raiding party were Natives, only the names of the Indian tribes have been named.

For those who would like to learn about their Deerfield-French ancestry, a great deal of material is available in English and French. It all began with the first-hand narrative of Deerfield's minister, Rev. John WILLIAMS' best-selling "*The Redeemed Captive Returning to Zion*" in 1707. He and his wife and six children were taken to Québec and two years later, he returned with four children. His wife and baby son were killed on the trek and his daughter Eunice married a Kahnawake Mohawk tribesman and remained in Québec with



her new family. Eunice is the subject of a more recent historical tale, "The Unredeemed Captive" (1994) by John DEMOS, a Yale historian, which tells her dramatic story and those of the other captives in riveting detail. He also reveals the terrifying events on the trip through the Connecticut Valley to Fort Chambly, the French fort just south of Montréal where the surviving captives were first taken. It is not only an interesting family story, but is well-researched despite frequent references to the biased work of Eunice's father who was vehemently opposed to Catholicism and the Jesuits. However, in DEMOS' notes (page 295), there is an error about the CORSE family — "James CORSE was the son of Elizabeth CORSE, a widow captured in the "massacre"(true). "His mother had remarried in Canada; her new husband was a Frenchman, by whom she had several additional children." (Untrue as the widow CORSE was killed on the journey and her daughter Elizabeth stayed in Canada).

Another early work listing the names of Deerfield families is George SHELDON's "History of Deerfield" (1895). Two other essential books which identify the 1,641 captives taken throughout New England are C. Alice BAKER's "True Stories of New England Captives" (1987) and Emma Lewis COLEMAN's "New England Captives Carried to Canada, 1677-1760", 2 volumes, 1925. (These are available at the AFGS Library).

Most people are familiar with Bostonian Francis PARKMAN's classic "A Half-Century of Conflict" (Boston 1892) and his retelling of the "Sack of Deerfield". But today's scholars find him

extremely prejudiced, and though a colorful writer, his work has been discredited. Unfortunately, several writers later followed his themes and instead of doing their own meticulous research, continued the errors and extremism of PARKMAN. A later and more objective history that deserves reading is "The French Canadians, 1760-1967" published in 1955 and revised in 1968, by Mason WADE. A New Englander educated at Harvard who taught and researched in Canada, Wade's monumental history of New France received critical acclaim.

One of the best scholars and most prolific writers on early Canadian history has been W. J. ECCLES, whose original "France in America" was revised 18 years later (1990) because his and other scholars' research caused them to review the history in a new light. Much that was written before was based on false premises and assumptions made by previous historians. Several theories appeared dubious and in some instances erroneous. In addition to extensive revisions, one chapter had to be completely rewritten from an entirely different perspective. Eccles is also the author of "The Canadian Frontier, 1534-1760", "Canada Under Louis XIV, 1663-1701, and "Frontenac the Courier Governor".

Other recent studies that help explain the wars and relationships between the French, English and Native communities are Harvard's Richard Melvoin's "New England Outpost: War and Society in Colonial Deerfield" (1988) and the newest "Captors and Captives" (2004). Melvoin's scholarly work sets the stage prior to the raid with a detailed account of life in this frontier outpost, including

the lives of the Pocumtucks, the colonial settlers and their relationships. One particular tragic episode involves Mary Baldwin CATLIN. A young woman living with another Deerfield family was suspected of being pregnant; her husband had been captured and held by Indians. When it is finally discovered that Sarah Smith is ill, four women of the village, including Mary Baldwin CATLIN, visit her and find a newly-born child dead from suffocation. Although some young boys witnessed a rape, she is accused of a crime (murder rather than adultery) and after an inquest and jury trial, was executed by hanging in 1698. In Rev. Williams' tirade of sixty-four printed pages, which preceded the hanging, his vituperative accusations against the hapless woman's "evil nature" gives an insight into the moral attitudes of the Puritans.

"Captors and Captives" by Kevin SWEENEY and Evan HAEFELI is considered by colonial historians as "the most knowledgeable and even-handed treatment using newly found archival research". The authors reconstruct events from multiple points of view, through the stories of many individuals that converged in the February raid and trace the captives' lives in Québec. Well over two-hundred captives taken in various raids chose to live in New France for many reasons rather than return to their former homes. There are charts of all the people involved on both sides and careful factual documentation. SWEENEY, whose doctorate is from Yale, is professor of history and American studies at Amherst. HAEFELI, a Hampshire College graduate, wrote his senior thesis on the Deerfield raid under SWEENEY's supervision. He spent a summer in Québec studying French and became more aware

of the role played by New France in American history. After graduate study and teaching at Princeton, Haefeli is now at Tufts University.

At the end of February, 2004, Historic Deerfield celebrated 300 years by holding a re-enactment of the events of that fateful morning. There was a display of artifacts, photos and oral histories focusing on the lives of all participants in the fairly new Henry Flynt Center. Lectures were given by Kevin SWEENEY, authentic colonial food and drinks were served at the Deerfield Inn, and several informal discussions were held by "English colonists", Natives, and French (from Québec), all attired in their 18<sup>th</sup> century dress. At the Memorial Hall Museum, which updated its changing views several years ago on Native Americans, there is a new room devoted exclusively to the Pocumtuck inhabitants of the region and also to the descendants of Eunice Williams.. Hundreds of people from the US and Canada, many of them descendants, traipsed through the slushy melting snow on a beautifully warm weekend and tried to imagine how it had all happened so long ago.

During the year, Historic Deerfield held three Reunion weekends welcoming descendants of the Deerfield participants with special activities and lectures from January to December. To commemorate the raid and the captivities, a trip was taken in July following the captives' paths to Canada with tours in Montréal, Québec, Boucherville and other historic places. In Deerfield, walking tours highlighting 1704 are given to visitors of the village during the summer-fall season.

Historic Deerfield's April, 2004 bi-monthly magazine featured the 1704 events: color photographs of the rivers and meadows that were part of the captives' route to Canada and a picture of the old Sheldon house with its famed "Indian House" hatchet-marked door, the most memorable relic to survive the attack. There was information on the 1704 exhibit which tried to be respectful of all the participants - English, Native and French, articles by Professor Sweeney and Deerfield's president, Philip ZEA (the latter speaks about the CATLIN family and their furnishings), and a story on the descendants who trace their roots to Deerfield. Historic Deerfield now has a website, [www.deerfelddescendants.com](http://www.deerfelddescendants.com) or [www.historic-deerfield.org](http://www.historic-deerfield.org) and tries to respond to the genealogical needs of this community. Many requests come from west of the Mississippi as well as Massachusetts residents who have learned about their Deerfield ties within the last five years. Books are available from HD and as the site develops, it will add research tools - inventories, grave-stones, images of houses, etc.

As Mr. ZEA remarks, the cultural significance of the raid and its aftermath is that generations later, Deerfield remains an Anglo icon of sacrifice and bravery but is actually the result of an intriguing pan-cultural mix of cousins with differing memories and yet linked by blood and ancestors. "And so the natural confluence of rivers, peoples, cultures, human nature, myth and truth gives '1704' its meanings and volatility and begs the final point: the difference between a hero and villain depends upon who tells the story.

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- Letter/chart from Elizabeth Hall Payne, Anaheim, CA*
- Genealogy Charts of CATLIN and Baldwin (From the Connecticut Society of Genealogists)*



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LAPEARL, Napoleon B.: Born in Malone, NY 18 June 1864. Looking for date and place of death, circa 1918-1920 possibly Providence area. He was the first spouse of Marie-Ellene (BOURGET) LAPEARL-LEBOEUF.

LAPEARL, Olive (HENNING): Born in Providence, 25 February 1900. Looking for the name of her parents. She was married first to Raymond N. LAPEARL on 8 May 1916, and her second marriage was to a Manuel CAMPOS and she died in Providence, 8 July 1951.

MARSHALL-ELFSTROM, Blanche Ellene (LAPEARL): Born in Providence 6 January 1896 the daughter of Napoleon B. LAPEARL and Marie-Ellene BOURGET. Looking for a date and place of death. She married her first husband Leo R. MARSHALL on 27 October 1914 and she married her second husband Fred G. ELFSTROM on 19 February 1923.

MARSHALL, Leo R.: Born in Providence 2 November 1896. Looking for the name of his parents and his exact day and date of death in 1973.

Please send any replies to RLFortinNH@aol.com, or via snail mail to 79 Wilkins St., Manchester, NH., 03102.

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Show me a man who is a good loser and I'll show you a man who is playing golf with his boss.

~~~~~  
Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people.

- W.C. Fields

~~~~~  
In Las Vegas I saw women tossing room keys at Tom Jones. That's O.K. at Tom's age. Right now I'd get pooped just picking up the keys.

- James Stewart

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# Excess Books

Several years ago, we purchased the inventory of books owned by the former Drouin Institute. Like most collections purchased in one lot, there were books which we already owned. The following contains the titles of those duplicates. If you are looking to purchase a particular repertoire, please take a few minutes to look over this listing. Some of these books may be out of print and available no where else at this time.

All books are in fair to good condition unless otherwise indicated. Bear in mind that there is only one of each title, and they will be sold strictly on a first come, first served basis.

When ordering please describe the book completely, or even better, copy the page and circle the item(s) being ordered.

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A young mother asked her husband to take the two-year-old girl for a walk. The husband was busy working on a project, but with a deep sigh (the kind that let his wife know he was not pleased), he grabbed the carriage and began walking around the block in the hot sun.

"Honey," shouted the wife from the second-story window.

"Leave me alone!" he called back. "We're all right."

An hour later his wife once again pleaded, "Honey."

"Well, what do you want?" he replied in a gruff way. "Is there anything wrong in the house?"

"No, honey," replied the wife. "But you've been wheeling little Suzie's doll all afternoon. Isn't it time for the baby to have a turn?"



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# Notary Records Can Help Us Paint A Picture of the Past

by: Janice Burkhart, AFGS Librarian

When we begin our genealogical research, we usually exhaust all the information we can find in the vital records. We diligently record the important dates and places such as date and place of birth, date and place of marriage and date and place of death and burial. We eagerly search for those important names of parents and grandparents and are thrilled to be able to fill in one more name on our five generation chart or family group sheet. But sometimes we wonder what life was like for these ancestors of ours. What were their living conditions? How did they manage their daily lives?

If you are of French-Canadian descent, you might be able to answer these questions because in Québec people relied upon Notaries to record many of the events of their daily lives. Marriage contracts were signed prior to a marriage taking place. An *inventaire* or listing of all of a deceased person's possessions would be made to protect the inheritance of heirs or minors. Papers would be written for; the sale of land, for the lease of land, for the division of land among heirs, for the care of an elderly parent, to hire a person for a job or for an apprenticeship, to build a house or other building, to set out terms of indenture, just about anything that required two or more people to agree on certain

terms. These contracts can offer a marvelous glimpse into what life was like for our ancestors.

Many of these contracts have been inventoried in works that index the contracts of various Notaries. The AFGS Library contains many of these books. Sometimes the book contains an alphabetical index but other books must be searched page by page. Our Drouin Film Collection also has some indexes and some actual contracts. The best source for an index of these records, however, is the Parchemin Project.

The Parchemin Project is a database which currently has the acts of Québec for the period of the French Regime. In these records you will find the name of the notary, a short abstract of what is contained in the act and the date of the act. These records can be searched on many fields but the one genealogists will probably use most is the name. These records are available at many locations including: the National Archives of Québec at both Montréal and Québec; and the Public Library of Montréal (Salle Gagnon). You can find out more about this collection on line.

Once you have located the act you want, the Notary and the date of the contract, you can write to the National Ar-

chives of Québec and request a copy of the contract. Keep in mind that the contract will be handwritten and in Old French. It might be difficult for you to translate the document but when you do, you are sure to gain some insight into the daily life of your ancestor.

I have included here an impressive inventory of Philippe de RIGAUT, Marquess de Vaudreuil which was translated for AFGS by Richard and George CHRISTIAN, long time members of our Society. You will see how very thorough the listing of goods was. Now, obviously, this is the inventory of a very wealthy estate. We have contrasted it with a list of goods found in the *Inventaire* of a much poorer family. Each document helps us to imagine how each family endured the day to day routine all those years ago. Wouldn't you like to know more about how your ancestors fared? Take a look at the Notarial Records and see what you might find.

### **Inventory of the Goods of the Succession of The Marquess De Vaudreuil<sup>1</sup> 1726, 15 July**

In the year one thousand seven hundred twenty-six, the fifteenth day of July at two o'clock in the afternoon, We, Pierre Raimbault, Councillor to the King and His Procurator at the Seat of the Royal Jurisdiction of Montréal, fulfilling the duties of Lieutenant General at said Seat having been brought to the residence of the late high and powerful Seigneur Mister Philippe de Rigault, Marquess de Vaudreuil, Knight Grand Cross of the Military Order of St-Louis, Governor and Lieutenant-General for the King in all of New France, at the peti-

tion of Sir Jean de Latour, tradesman in this City in the name and as deputy Procurator of solicitor Pierre de Rigault, Squire, Seigneur de Cavagnal, Captain of the troops of the Naval detachment, procurator of Lady Louise Elisabeth de Joibert, Marquise de Vaudreuil, widow of the Said *Sieur* Marquess de Vaudreuil, guardian of her minor children, said appointment brought before Attorney Dubreuil, Royal Notary at Québec the twenty-ninth of October of the previous year and in the execution of our Ordinance being at the end of the Request presented to us by Said Seigneur de la Tour dated the eleventh of this month for the Preservation of the rights of said Lady and said minor children and concerned parties have in the presence of *Sieur* Ignace Gamelin, junior, tradesman of this city, stipulating for Mister Adhémar de Lantagnac, deputy guardian of said minor children of Said Seigneur and Lady de Vaudreuil in virtue of the power of attorney of said Seigneur de Lantagnac deposed at Québec on the preceding twenty-nine June. And also of the deputy of the Procurator of the King to said See in the absence of the other adult children — have followed through with the Inventory and description and status of the goods movable and immovable in the succession of Said Seigneur late Marquess de Vaudreuil, exhibited and declared by said *Sieur* de La Tour, after his having sworn in our hands [*i.e.*, Bible in hand - Trans.] for all to see with nothing sealed nor diverted under the penalties of the Ordinances ( . . . ) The furniture found in this City appraised and assessed by Seigneurs Ignace Gamelin, senior, and Pierre Chartier, Merchants of this City and the real estate together with whatever furniture will be found

on the Vaudreuil land which will be made, and the appraisal on the lands by Seigniors René de Couagne, merchant townsman of this city and Jean-Baptiste Angers also townsman, architect and Royal surveyor, Sworn by us and appointed as officials in this matter by our said ordinance of the said day the twelfth day of this month. They shall travel at once to the locales and for this purpose will draw up their written reports which thereafter they will report to us and added to the present Inventory; they have sworn for this presentation before us in the presence of said Sieurs de La Tour, Gamelin, junior, and Said Deputy of said Procurator of the King, to carry out the Said appraisals and assessments, each one confident in his soul and conscience and with regard to the present time Such as follows [*word erased*].

[Have signed: - ]

Latour

Gamelin

Ignace Gamelin

P. Chartier

J.B. Anger

R. Decouagne

Le Pallieur

P. Raimbault

Du Laurent

Clerk Comis

In the first place: - in the principal room —

Two maps of the government of Montréal at Ten Pounds for both — here...10

A small painting representing St. Louis at Ten Pounds — here...10

Two dozen old straw chairs at ten sols each — here...12

One wooden pine table with a

drawer at four Pounds — here...4

Two old oval pine tables with folding chairs at three Pounds — here...3

In an adjoining room next to the principal room at the right-hand side: -

A mirror with a glass border with its crest in the same pattern at Eighty Pounds — here...80

A chest of drawers (of sixty) of olive-wood with olive compartments (. . .) of wood at seventy Pounds — here...70

Twelve chairs of turned wild cherry-wood, garnished by wool fabric with blue serge dust-sheet at thirty Pounds each — here...360

A sofa of the same wood and trimming as the chairs with its dust-sheet also in blue serge at ninety pounds — here...90

Two hickory arm-chairs garnished with wool fabric at forty pounds each — here...80

Two old small round tables at forty Sols each — here...4

A painting of a crucifix with its gilt wood frame at fifteen pounds — here...15

Another painting representing the Blessed Virgin and the Child Jesus with its frame of sculptured wood at fifteen pounds — here...15

Two other paintings without frames Representing the King and the Queen at ten pounds each — here...20

Two square beds of blue serge decorated with jonquil ribbon with the mattress of wool and a feather bed, a straw mattress, a bolster, a printed blanket, and the bed boards as one-hundred eighty pounds each — here...360

A worn room tapestry of blue serge at thirty pounds — here...30

A blanket of quilted cotton at thirty pounds — here...30

A *Rouen* linen sheet measuring three ells, somewhat worn, at seven pounds — here...7

(illegible)...56

In another room to the side: -

Five old plain linen sheets at three pounds each — here...15

A blanket with double Normandy stitching at nine pounds — here...9

A used "ditto" [*blanket, as above - Trans.*] of *Bourdeaux* stitching at four pounds — here...4

Two printed cotton coverlets with eyelets and quilted at forty pounds each — here...80

A printed coverlet quilted and cut in a crescent shape for a bed at twenty-five pounds — here...25

Eight cotton handkerchiefs at fifty sols each — here...20

A wool and horse-hair mattress covered with *Mely* linen with its bolster and its straw under-mattress, the whole valued at forty pounds — here...40

An old green cloth carpet at forty sols — here ...2

A marble mortar without pestle at ten pounds — here...10

Three *Illinois* beef hides somewhat worn at three pounds each — here...9

Two chair cushions decorated with large feathers and covered with a large tapestry at Eleven sols each — here...2

Nine fruit baskets at twelve pounds — here ...12

Three hand-bells, assessed at three pounds each — here...9

The stubs of eight resin candles at four pounds for the whole — here...4

Two nondescript tables of wild-cherry wood and three drawers et six

pounds each — here...12

A green cloth carpet at eight pounds — here...8

Two hearths each consisting of two andirons, a shovel, pincers and small tongs at sixty-five pounds the pair — here...130

Another old pair of andirons at twelve pounds — here...12

A large iron cooking-pot with its cover at sixteen pounds — here...16

Another medium (ditto) [*cooking-pot - Trans.*] with its cover at eight pounds — here...8

Another old iron cooking-pot at four pounds — here...4

A large tin decanter of about four flagons at ten pounds — here...10

A new pierced tin-plate lantern at fifty sols — here...2 10

Three axe-heads at forty sols each — here...6

An old broken grill without handle at ten sols — here...10

An old fireplace trivet at fifteen sols here...15

Two old defective copper candle holders assessed together at thirty sols — here...1 20

Three post-hole diggers assessed together at seven pounds — here...7

Another whole one [*digger*] at thirty sols — here...1 10

Two slate hammers with their anvil at three pounds for the lot — here...3

A pair of large hand-held tongs for applying wallpaper at forty sols — here...2

Another pair of tongs for shoeing at thirty sols — here...1 10

A pivoted square at twenty sols — here...1

Seven punches and thirty stone-cutting chisels at ten sols for the whole — here...5

Two brick hammers assessed together at fifty sols — here...2 10

Two old long-handled *Biscayan* axes at twenty sols the whole — here...20

A pilot hand-saw at six pounds — here...6

An old iron skillet at fifty sols — here...2 20

Three iron curtain rods and assessed together at six pounds — here...6

An old flat-iron at thirty sols — here...1 20

An iron quarry chisel at three pounds — here...3

Nine carpentry tools assessed at twenty sols each — here...9

An old horse harness with its iron-work, a small saddle, a leather collar and a ridge-band at fifteen pounds — here...15

Six wheel rims and six hubs, the whole — here...12

Eleven iron hoops for a wheel-barrow with one hundred old nails at (twenty) thirty pounds for the whole — here...30

A pile of old iron items at six pounds — here...6

An old play table at eight pounds — here...8

And after having tended to business until the ringing of seven o'clock we have stopped the inventory and put off its continuation until tomorrow at two o'clock in the afternoon And have signed with us and our Assistant Clerk—

Latour Ignace Gamelin

Gamelin

P Chartier

Le Pailleur

P. Raimbault

DuLaurent - Assistant clerk

And the sixteenth of said month and year two hours in the afternoon We moved to said residence and following the request and everyone as above being present, have continued as follows, to wit:

In the above-mentioned room: -

A large mirror in antique style whose whole frame is broken at twenty-five pounds — here...25

An iron foot-warmer at ten pounds — here...10

Thirteen sheets of tin at eight sols each sheet — here...5 4

Ninety-four small iron flat bolts at six sols each — here...18 16

Fifty-nine larger flat bolts at six sols each — here...17 14

Fifty-nine other flat bolts with springs at six sols — here...17 14

Ninety-six flat-head bolts with their nuts at two sols each — here...9 12

Forty iron *mantonnets* [washers?] for flat bolts with springs at two sols each — here...4

Twenty-two plate bolts at ten sols each — here...11

Sixteen cramp irons with slide bolts at one sol each — here...16

Thirteen door handles with their plates and screw-nuts at ten sols each item — here...6 10

Four pairs of small old iron hinges at ten sols the pair — here...2

Six iron handles at five sols each — here...1 10

One pair of door hinges at fifty sols — here...2 10

Fifty-six pairs of hinged button pegs three inches long at ten sols the pair — here...28

Sixty-four pairs of joined round top iron pegs two and a half inches long at eight sols for the pair — here...25 12

Sixty-five pairs of pegs of differing sizes assessed one in the other at twenty sols a pair — here...65

Eight clamps for woodwork at twenty sols each — here...8

Thirty large tailed [?] flat iron bolts at twenty-five sols each — here...3 20

Two door latches at ten sols each — here...1

Nine medium flat bolts U... unmatched and broken at ten sols each — here...4 30

Two spring flat bolts at fifteen sols — here...1 10

Five pairs of small hinges at five sols the pair — here...1 5

Two small iron door weights at fifteen sols each — here...1 10

A pair of small hinges at fifteen sols — here...15

Nine door locks with their access keys and wall hooks (at forty sols each) at six pounds each — here...54

Eight wardrobe locks at forty sols — here...16

Three locks of different sizes and without keys assessed altogether at six pounds — here...6

Forty-seven horseshoe cramp-irons at two sols each — here...4 14

Fifty-two pounds of old tin dishes at twenty sols the pound — here...52

One large flask of sweet almond oil at six pounds — here...6

A clothes brush at ten sols — here...10

A backgammon board (unadorned) adorned with ivory pieces of ebony and leather with two horns at (D....) at twelve pounds — here...12

Six pounds of indigo dye at fifty sols per pound — here...15

One pound of poor quality strands of brass wire passed through a draw-plate at fifty sols — here ...2 10

A pound and a half of gum Arabic at three pounds per pound — here...4 10

Two pounds of lead paste [lead-white] at thirty sols per pound — here...3

Two pounds of blue paint pigment at fifty sols per pound — here...5

One half pound of vermilion pigment at four pounds — here...4

Two pounds of ochre pigment at ten sols per pound — here...1

Six glass bottles at fifteen sols each — here...4 10

Six kegs of lamp-black at twenty sols each — here...6

Twenty-eight pounds of Royal Sugar [honey] at twenty-five sols per pound — here...35

An old divided stove of which one entire plate and the others broken with one sheet of the tin chimney and a tripod at forty pounds — here...40

In another room to my left of said room: -

A small iron stove with its chimney at sixty pounds — here...60

An iron plate for a broken brick stove with a section of the chimney at ten pounds, the whole — here...10

Four iron fire-protecting plates at fifteen pounds each — here...60

A chest containing three hundred thirty-four window panes of nine by ten inches at forty pounds per hundred — here...133 12

Five old pine wood cots at three pounds each — here...15

An old axe at twenty-five sols — here...1 5

A wooden wardrobe of pine-wood

with four panels at thirty pounds — here...30

A chest of one hundred window panes of six inches by nine inches at four pounds — here...60

A broken ladder at four pounds — here...4

A large broken pine wood oval table without feet at three pounds — here...3

In the kitchen: -

A large maple table at six pounds — here...6

Two large benches (?) [*question-mark in original - Trans.*] at twenty sols each — here...2

An old wardrobe at five pounds — here...5

A turnspit wheel with its iron arm at twelve francs — here...12

An iron bracket for the fireplace at 15 francs — here...15

In the cellar:

Fifty pounds of tallow candles at ten sols per pound — here...25

Some four thousand roofing nails at three pounds per hundred — here...120

Some eight thousand floor nails at thirty-five sols per hundred — here...40

Some fifteen thousand small slate board nails at four pounds per thousand — here...60

Two sandstone jugs at three pounds each — here...6

Two earthen jugs at twenty sols each — here...2

A shallow basin at thirty sols — here...1 10

Two old shallow basins at fifteen sols each — here...1 10

One hundred measures of [alcoholic] spirits in seven half-kegs and (...) each item at eight pounds per measure — here...10 40

Two hundred fifty pounds of iron bars at thirty-five pounds per hundred — here...437 10

Thirty-five pounds of bulk lead at five sols per pound — here...8 15

And after having completed more than six hours, have ceased inventorying and put off the continuation until Thursday next at eight o'clock in the morning and have signed with us and our clerk

Latour Ignace Gamelin  
Gamelin  
P Chartier  
LePailleur  
P. Raimbault  
DuLaurent

And on the eighteenth of the said month at said nine o'clock in the morning and following the request and everyone as above being present to continue said inventory, said *Sieur de La Tour* has declared that *Sieur de la Côté*, Merchant of this city had given him the previous day the effects hereafter listed as belonging to the said late *Sieur the Marquess de Vaudreuil* which have been appraised as follows,

To wit —

Three scythe-hammers with their anvils at three pounds each and accessories — here...9

Five small hand saws at thirty sols each — here...7 10

Twenty-six auger bits at four sols each — here...5 4

Two plane blades at ten sols each — here...1

Three pairs of large hand-held tongs for applying wallpaper at twenty-sols each pair — here...3

Three pairs of poor quality clip-pers at ten sols each — here...1 10

Sixteen dozen flint stones at ten sols per dozen — here...8

Five gross large needles [*for sewing leather or thick materials - Trans.*] at three pounds per gross — here...15

Eight pairs of hinges at six sols per pair — here...2 8

Twenty mattress needles at four sols each — here...4

Fourteen carpentry fasteners at twenty sols per each — here...14

Four pairs of ironing-board covers at fifteen sols the pair — here...3

Six flat-irons with two pairs of ironing-board scissors at eight sols each — here...3

Two mortise-chisels at fifteen sols each — here...1 20

Five rabbit-planes at eight sols each — here...2

Fifteen small sharp-end files at five sols each — here...3 15

Four sickles in poor condition at ten sols each — here...2

And in addition has been declared that *Sieur de la Côté* has handed over to him the sum of seven pounds fifteen sols which he owed for the merchandise which he had sold in [in favor of] the account of our said *Sieur Marquess de Vaudreuil* and has signed.

Latour

*Crossed out:* then it was declared that *Sieur Guy Marchand* in this city owes to the said succession the sum of

six hundred sixty-four pounds, ten sols, (on account). Remaining from that of nineteen hundred twenty-four pounds, twelve sols, earned from the sale which said Guy had made of the goods which he had in hand for sale conditionally in favor of the account of our said *Sieur de Vaudreuil* according to an invoice signed by said *Sieur Guy* that he had in hand and that the said *S. Guy* had given back to him what had not been sold and that the said *Sieur de La Tour* had shown in the inventory and an assessment had been done such as follows,

To wit —

Eighty pounds of ground sugar at fifteen sols per pound — here...60

Eleven pairs of fine wool stitched stockings at five pounds per pair — here...55

One hundred eighty-seven tin sheets at six sols each — here...56 2

Six and one half ells of *Laudeve* fabric at six pounds the ell — here...39

Fourteen ells of *Laudeve* fabric at eight pounds the ell — here...112

Twenty-four ells of *pinchina* coarse woolen cloth at four pounds and six sols per ell — here...108

Eighty-eight ells of grey serge . . . at one pound five sols per ell — here...110

Twenty-seven and a half ells of printed linen cloth at two pounds ten sols per ell — here...67 10

Twelve ells, one third of *Rouen* fabric, and two thirds [other] at two pounds and ten sols per ell — here...30 16

Fifty-eight ells of *Rouen* fabric and two thirds at two pounds and five sols each ell — here...130 10

Sixty-four sheets of gold leaf at



four sols per sheet — here...12 16

Five collarettes [fabric collars] at two pounds each — here...10

Three ells and three quarters of silver ribbon at three pounds per ell — here...11 5

Thirty and a half-ells of watered-silk [*moiré*] ribbon at ten sols each — here ...15

Four pitchers at three pounds each — here...12

Four gauze fabric trimmings at three pounds each — here...12

Eight dozen pairs of men's and women's gloves assessed at twenty sols per pair — here...96

A gold ribbon to edge a hat at ten pounds — here...10

Two and a half ounces of silver ribbon in pieces and braids for hats at six pounds per ounce — here...15

Nine packets of silk cord at fifteen sols per pack — here...6 15

Two and one half section of small white ribbon together making up sixty ells at two sols per ell — here...6

Two rat-tail files at five sols each — here...10

Seven other files of the same format and medium-size at fifteen sols each — here...5 5

One tin lantern at one pound and ten sols — here...1 10

Four scythes at fifty sols each — here...10

Four anvils and four anvil hammers at four pounds per pair — here...16

Four pounds of mill rope at twenty sols per pound — here...4

A silver trimmed hat at eight pounds — here...8

An old used hat also trimmed in silver at two pounds — here...2

Four cross-saws at three pounds each — here...12

Four pounds of sprinkling powder [graphite?] at five sols per pound — here...1

A large iron cooking-pot at fifteen pounds — here...15

A medium iron cooking-pot at eight pounds — here...8

Eight pounds of strong glue at thirty sols per pound — here...12

Five plain fans at ten sols each — here...2 10

Four taffeta fans at twenty sols each — here...4

Three pruning knives at fifteen sols each — here...2 5

Two pairs of *grenada* garters at twenty sols per pair — here...2

Sixty-eight pounds of rice a five sols per pound — here...17

Eleven pairs of *St. Mexant* men's socks at three pounds per pair — here...33

Twenty-seven ells of *Beaufort* linens at two pounds five sols per ell — here...60 15

Five ells of *Olonne* linen at ten sols per ell — here...2 10

(*Crossed out: and signed by Latour*) Thereafter said *Sieur de la Tour* has declared that by order of Mrs. the Marquise and Attorney de Cavagnal, her lawyer, to prevent the spoilage of the wines and other spirits from the household stock, and to satisfy current debts notably for two thousand *minots* of wheat which had been borrowed from the King's warehouse, he sold along with a few others items to the extent of seven thousand seven hundred twelve pounds and ten sols, the status of which he had presented as signed by him and certified as true and attached to the present documents after having been signed by said *Sieur Gamelin*, attorney

of said *Sieur* de Lantagnat, by our said deputy, by ourself, and our deputy clerk, and by the said Appraisers who after having examined it said that the items therein contained seemed to them to have been sold at the highest price and said *Sieur* de La Tour has signed:

Latour

In the yard —

Seven cords of fire hardwood at three pounds ten sols per cord — here...23 10

Two hundred hickory boards and planks appraised at fifty pounds per hundred — here...120

And at the sound of noon have stopped doing the inventory and have signed with us and our clerk

Latour

Ignace Gamelin

Gamelin

P Chartier

LePaillieur

P. Raimbault

DuLaurent

Clerk C.

And on the twenty-seventh of said month at seven o'clock in the morning continuing the said inventory, following the request and everyone as above being present, said *Sieur* de La Tour has declared that are owed to the said succession the sums hereafter listed, to wit —

By *Sieur* Guy the sum of six hundred seventy four pounds and twelve sols — here...674 12

By said man named Danguueil dit

Lamarche the sum of Two hundred sixty six pounds and eleven sols and four *deniers* [farthings] according to the bill of said Danguueil signed by him dated July sixteenth one thousand seven hundred twenty-five and which we have charged — here...266 11

By Nicolas Jetté and his wife, the sum of three hundred pounds in principal for which they have reserved fifteen pounds of income to the benefit of Jacques Danguueil -by an act passed before Attorney Michel LePaillieur, Notary, the twenty-ninth of November one thousand seven hundred twenty-two. Of which Danguueil and Jetté his wife have ceded to Said *Sieur* de Vauvreuil by an action passed before the Same notary on July sixteen one thousand seven-hundred twenty-five, that said *Sieur* La Tour had reintroduced a verdict obtained by said *Sieur* La Tour against both Jetté and wife, and charged here in principal...300

By Dame de Repentigny the mother, the sum of fifty-eight pounds for twenty-two *minots* of wheat which she received from Madame de Vaudreuil — here...58

By the [*man*] named Dubois, carpenter, the sum of twelve-hundred pounds in principal for the price of the site which he purchased from said *Sieur* de Baudreuil making sixty pounds of annual income for which he owes the arrears since the contract that said *Sieur* de La Tour has declared being in Québec in the hands of Attorney De Cavagnal here in principal...1200

And by the [*man*] named Blot the sum of Nine-Hundred pounds also placed in settlement making forty-five

pounds of annual income following the contract which is in the hands of said *Sieur de Cavagnal* — here...900

And also, by the said *Blot* the sum of one hundred pounds for loans made by him, independently of said constitution and that he does not know how much said *Blot* owed in arrears — here...100

And has also declared that there is with *Sieur Le Verrier* a tall spring clock belonging to the said succession which had been examined by said *Sieur de Couagne* who appraised it with the said *Sieurs Gamelin* and *Chartier* for the sum of two-hundred pounds — here for said clock...200

And to the said *Sieur de La Tour* signed with the said *Sieurs de Couagne Gamelin* and *Chartier*

Latour  
P. Chartier  
R. Decouagne  
Gamelin

And in proceeding, there appeared before us said *Sieurs Angers* and *de Couagne* experts named by us for the assessment of the real estate and furnishings outside the said residence. Who told us that for the execution of their mandate they had taken the given measurements and completed the appraisals of the houses and sites pertaining to the said succession and community, located in this city as well as the land and Seigniorship of *Vaudreuil* located at the upper end of this island and with the animals and utensils which are on the farm of said seigniorship and which they appraised to wit: the *Vaudreuil* residence with the site on which it is built. The yards, gardens,

and other buildings thereon; and the site which is facing the Side of the River, for the sum of fifty thousand pounds — here...50,000

And another site located on the front of *Notre-Dame Street* for the sum of twelve-hundred pounds — here...1200

Said land of *Vaudreuil* for the sum of nine thousand pounds — here...9000

And the livestock and utensils to that of three hundred four pounds, following the plan which they made of the said houses and site and their deposition which were presented to us signed by them in the date of the twenty-second of this month, remaining attached to the present inventory, after the said *Sieurs Angers* and *de Couagne* have affirmed having made the said assessments — each one confident in his soul and conscience — and have signed with the said *Sieurs Gamelin*, deputy-guardian, said deputy *Sieur* said *Sieurs Gamelin* and *Chartier*. We and the clerk (~~crossed out:~~ *Sieur de La Tour* who has declared not knowing anything of other goods other than those mentioned in the present inventory belonging to said succession and community of which the act.)

J.B. Angers  
R. Decouagne  
Ignace Gamelin  
LePallieur  
Latour  
P. Chartier  
Gamelin  
P. Raimbault  
DuLaurent  
Clerk

And at the very moment said *Sieur* de la Tour declared that he had paid upon the order of Madame de Vaudreuil and said *Sieur* de Cavagnal the cash which he gained from the sale of the items involved in the condition he represented on the eighteenth of this month attached to these presents, the amounts hereafter,

To wit —

To *Sieur* Hervieux, thirteen pounds and ten sols — here...13 10

To *Sieur* Antoine, farmer, sixteen pounds — here...16

To *Sieur* Guy four hundred four-teen pounds — here...414

Attorney Descarris [Decarrie] four pounds — here...4

Lamalice for the chimney sweep-  
ing and two ladders seven pounds —  
here...7

To Dusseaux, barge-master, forty-  
two pounds for freight — here...42

To Marin hired carpenter eighty  
four pounds thirteen sols for the remain-  
der of his wages — here...83 13

For charges of hauling paid to the  
man named Le Duc six pounds —  
here...6

For four cords of fire-wood to the  
concierge sixteen pounds — here...16

For a plow and a pair of tethers  
fourteen pounds — here...14

Four pounds paid to the Notary for  
sending the act of assignment of  
Danguetil Lamarche — here...4

To Cavalier, carpenter, one hun-  
dred ninety-three pounds and ten sols —  
here...193 10

Returned to the King's warehouse  
three thousand eight-hundred seventy-six  
pounds ten sols worth of wheat which  
was owed — here...3876 10

And Said *Sieur* de La Tour has  
signed and declared not having any  
knowledge of any other matters con-  
cerning said succession and community  
other than what is contained in the above  
Inventory.

Latour

That being done we withdrew and  
left the whole matter in the power of said  
*Sieur* de La Tour and those named be-  
low have signed with us on said Day and  
Year.

Latour

Ignace Gamelin

LePallieur

P. Chartier

Gamelin

P. Raimbault

DuLaurent

Clerk C.

To No. 5 Let us attend:

to the deputy....22 10

to the Deputy...15

to the clerk.....15

52 10

(1) Judicial Archives of Montréal.  
Closing of the inventory. S.S.P. Read-  
ing of Mr. Fernand Lefèbvre.

*Editor's note: As a contrast to the above,  
we present the following, taken from the  
Red Drouin Series, Book three...*

### **"As Poor as Job" Thus Was Your Ancestor, Jean Daigle**

We all know that most of our an-  
cestors were poor. This makes their  
worth all the greater. However, rare are

the colonists who experienced living conditions as pitiable as those which your ancestor, Jean DAIGLE, endured.

Jean DAIGLE, from Vienna, Austria, came to Canada as a soldier. Once free from his military obligations, he considered establishing himself in the country. With this purpose in mind, he acquired land at Bourg-Royal (Charlesbourg). Sadly, exploiting this land provided so little that he was not even able to pay the debt he incurred to buy it. Facing this failure, your ancestor wished to seek his fortune elsewhere. He then allied himself with two famous adventurers, RADISSON and CHOUART, who hoped to make big profits by unseating the Hudson Bay English traders. But, there again, the hoped-for gains were never realized and Jean DAIGLE returned from this journey as empty-handed as he was at his departure.

Despite this set-back, DAIGLE decided to get married. On November 14, 1685 he wed Marie-Anne PROTEAU, daughter of Etienne PROTEAU and Marguerite SÉGUIN.

Once again, riches were not realized by Jean DAIGLE. In fact, your ancestor did not like the sedentary life. He much preferred the adventurous life of a sailor or guide. Thus it was during one of his journeys in 1698 or 1699 that he died. He left his wife with seven children.

Some time after his death, an inventory of the deceased's possessions was drawn up. It reveals to us, with painful objectivity, the miserable conditions under which the DAIGLE household lived. The one-room dwelling was 12 by 15 feet. Nine people inhabited this cramped space. As for furniture, there was a pine chest for clothing and only one bed for the whole family. Neither table nor chairs. Kitchen utensils were limited to a grill, a hook, a pail and a bucket. Dishes were even more rudimentary: two earthen bowls, a platter, two plates and soup spoons. All in all, very few items.

After a lifetime of hard toil, this was all that the DAIGLE household had accumulated.

---

---

Some day when you're feeling important,  
Some day when your ego's in bloom  
Some day when you're feeling  
You're the most important man in the room,  
Take a bucket and fill it with water,  
Stick your hand in up to the wrist,  
Pull it out, and the hole that remains  
Is a measure of how much you'll be missed.  
You may splash all you wish when you enter,  
Stir the water around galore,  
But you find when you finally leave it,  
It's exactly the same as before.  
So, as you follow your daily agenda,  
Always do the best you can.  
Be proud of yourself, but remember  
There is no indispensable man.

- Author unknown

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# The Beginning of the End

by: Albert Boissonault

*Editor's note: The following is taken from the book Je Me Souviens – A Family Remembrance, by Albert Boissonault, and is serialized here with his widow's permission. This is the last chapter in the series. His book is in the AFGS Library.*

The wider expansion of the family began on November 24, 1977 as Roger married Mary Katherine FITZGERALD of Ashland, Wisconsin, and brought her back to Agawam. Alan married Agawam resident Linda Dianne CAMPBELL on August 3, 1979, and on March 31, 1980 our first grandchild, Melissa Dianne, was born to them. She was followed by her sister Debra Ann-Alexina on May 24, 1981. February 6, 1983 was a double red letter day beginning with the Sunday morning church service, during which I was received into the Protestant Episcopal Church. Two active church members, Roger and Mary, were not present at the service, but a phone call from Roger to the church gave us the glad news that we were now the grandparents of Amanda Mary, their new-born daughter. Later that month, on February 27, we travelled to Newton for the marriage of David and Maureen Louise COVENEY, who had worked with him at IBM's Boston office. On May 12, 1983, Alan and Linda celebrated the birth of the first boy in the family, Daniel

Edouard Albert, who was joined by his cousin Marc Albert, son of David and Maureen, then living in New Hampshire. From there David's job has taken him to Lexington, Kentucky, Binghamton, New York, and back to Lexington where he and Maureen now live. We are fortunate that Alan lives next door and Roger only a couple of miles away in Feeding Hills.

Going back to 1977, I had turned 68 years old that fall and decided that it was time for me to retire. Although I was still healthy, I thought that it was time for the younger men to move up in grade, and so turned in my badge in January, 1978. Until 1983, our lives went along on an even keel, but during that year, I began having physical problems. After several tests I underwent exploratory surgery just after Easter, leading to a diagnosis of inoperable lymphoma, cancer of the lymph nodes. The tumor was attached to my aorta and though the doctor stated that to remove it would kill me, they were able to substantially reduce it with chemotherapy. It would be several years before it would begin to grow once more and the chemotherapy treatments resumed.

In September, 1983, it was Ellie's turn to become ill with a kidney stone attack. When dye was injected into the kidney, her temperature shot up to 108.6°

leaving her in a coma very near death. Although the doctor was concerned about losing her, she happily proved him wrong and regained consciousness. The kidney was removed as soon as she was strong enough to undergo the operation and though the doctors had worried about brain damage, she completely recovered.

Ellie returned to her job in December, and continued to work for the Postal Service until 1987. After taking early retirement, she then worked for a weekly newspaper, the *Chicopee Herald*, until 1990, when we decided to spend the winters in Florida. We were able to spend that winter with her mother in Bellevue (her father had died in 1988) but in 1991 I started off the New Year in the hospital with pneumonia. While I was there, they discovered the symptoms of colon cancer and I was duly operated on for that. That pretty well wiped out travel that year.

In 1992, we did manage to make it to Florida again, but in the coming winter of 1993, it seems doubtful. I have developed congestive heart failure and really should stay near our doctor. In addition, my very strict no-salt diet will present a problem while traveling. At this point I take each day one at a time – but as I said before, life is full of surprises.

As I approach the twilight of my years, I can look back and reflect on some of those surprises. I have lived much longer than my parents, and have certainly been afforded many more luxuries than they ever enjoyed. Ellie and I have visited Michigan, Colorado, Canada, Florida, and many of the states in between. Though my stepbrothers have all

passed away, my sisters and I are all living, Estelle in Nova Scotia with her husband Smith BATEMAN, Gay in the Dracut home she shared with her husband Al SOUZA before his death in 1992, and Edith in Rochester with her husband Jack MUIR. Though we are separated by distance we are lucky to be able to see each other from time to time. Who could have guessed during our troubled childhood that we would end up long-lived and well off!

Throughout the years our sons have grown into fine, upstanding men who have never given us a problem and have married lovely women whom we were proud to introduce as our daughters-in-law. In addition, what joy and gladness our grandchildren have added to our lives over the past few years!

As I reminisce over those years, certain things stand out in my memory. I remember Alan, at the age of ten, applying for and getting his first job, working at the bean farm on the next street. I remember the hours David spent in researching and mapping the cemetery to earn his Eagle Scout award. I remember 13 year old Roger and his friend succeeding in constructing a usable car out of parts from three wrecked cars. Of course they have also accomplished much more important deeds: Alan was promoted to lieutenant in the Fire Dept., David graduated from Boston College, and Roger almost single-handedly added a family room and two car garage to his house.

We have been proud of all of their achievements but none more so than the way in which they have become responsible husbands and caring fathers.



I have no doubt that they will be as lucky with their children as I was with them; certainly they are giving them an equal amount of love. Their mother and I have been blessed with their caring and that of our grandchildren. The love of our sons has been like a rich and satisfying meal in our lives. Our days now are like

the dessert from that meal; even though there are physical ailments, my sweet tooth has been gratified with an abundance of love from our grandchildren. As we fade from view certainly no one could ask for a more rewarding end to a magnificent repast.

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### **American History Factoids**

Until 1796, there was a State called Franklin which is now part of the State of Tennessee. There were other short lived States including Jefferson, Shasta, Klamath (all between Oregon and California), Superior (Upper Michigan) and Nickajack (Northern Alabama).

Deleware was originally part of Pennsylvania.

Utah was originally established as the State of Deseret.

West Virginia was originally established as the State of Kanawha. Texas is allowed to divide itself into as many as 5 new States.

According to the writers of the U.S. Constitution, a National tax would be an External Tax. An Internal tax is a local tax within a State, Territory or the District of Columbia.

In 1914, the first year that the Federal Income tax was imposed, only one percent of the U.S. population was required to pay the new tax. Per capita, the average tax was .41 cents per person.

Until 1863, postal service in the United States was free. In that year, the U.S. entered an international treaty requiring nations to pay for their mail delivery to other countries.

Although Betsy Ross ran a munitions factory from her basement, she did not design the American Flag. It was designed by Congressman Francis Hopkinson, a naval flag designer, who was paid by the U.S. government for his design.



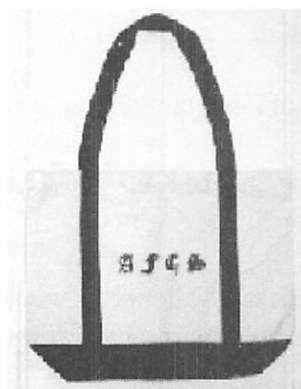
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# AFGS RESEARCH POLICY

## 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.***



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### Weird Presidential Facts

President Garfield could write in Latin with one hand and in Greek with the other... *simultaneously!*

Thomas Jefferson's original draft of the Declaration of Independence criticized the institution of slavery. This original draft was also written on hemp paper.

President James Buchanan was the only bachelor to occupy the Oval Office. His niece, Harriet Lane, played the role of First Lady.

President Washington was the wealthiest man in American at the time of his election as President, but he had to borrow money to attend his inauguration. His enormous wealth was attributed the vast property that he owned which produced almost no cash flow.

John Tyler, who was President from 1841 to 1845, joined the Confederacy twenty years later and became the only President named a sworn enemy of the United States.

President Andrew Jackson believed the world was flat and FDR was so superstitious, that he would never leave town on a Friday and never sit at a table with 13 people.

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the right  
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- I will be courteous to research facility personnel.

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- 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 electronic

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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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 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. 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 call and leave a message on the AFGS phone, (401) 765-6141.



# PARTING SHOTS

## Paul P. Delisle, Editor

We have lost a good friend and a loyal member. Henri Paradis was active in the Society and a past member of the Board of Directors. He died in April of this year at the age of 77.

Searching through the internet, we found something that could prove useful to genealogists. The Veterans Administration has a website, and on that website is 3.2 million records for veterans buried at 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War. The VA's *National Gravesite Locator* also has records for some state veterans cemeteries.

The VA's gravesite navigator includes names, dates of birth and death, military service dates, service branch and rank if known, cemetery information and grave location in the cemetery. Our sources say the site will be updated daily.

In the future the VA hopes to add records for veterans whose family requested grave markers from the VA. Those markers have gone to private cemeteries or cemeteries overseas.

The photograph on the cover was submitted by AFGS member Barbara J. Smith. She gives the following information about the couple:

Raymond J. HOWE, born on 16 August 1893 in North Brookfield, MA, son of Edward and Georgianna (BENOIT). He died on 26 November 1977 in Springfield, MA.

Esmeralda BELLIVEAU, born on 9 May 1896 in West Boylston, MA, daughter of Rock and Robertine (MOGE) of St. Michel de Yamaska, Québec. She died on 27 June 1986 in Southbridge, MA.

---

Any man who laughs at women's clothes has never paid the bill for them.

Four-word story of failure: Hired, tired, mired, fired.

For every judge operating in an official capacity, there are 100 who are self-appointed.

The more you know, the more you know you ought to know.

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Raymond J. Howe & Esmeralda Belliveau  
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