

**Another French-Canadian Cousin:
David Plouffe**

Campaign Manager for the 2008 Election of Barack Obama as President of the United States

Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, gfmoreau1@aol.com; Diane Wolford Sheppard, bluecolumbine@comcast.net; and Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, s.sommerville@sbcglobal.net, all FCHSM members

They are all around us in the United States of America, the unsung descendants of the original settlers of New France, and they constitute probably the least-recognized national or ethnic thread in the tapestry that became the United States. Sometimes their ancestry is obscured because they are known by last names from other national origins: Ciccone (Madonna), Rodham Clinton (Senator Hillary), Angelina Jolie (née Voight),¹ *etc.*; but when we see a recognizable French-Canadian name, our interest is aroused immediately. This was the case when, in following the 2008 presidential campaign, Suzanne Sommerville learned about David Plouffe (he pronounces it /pluff/), campaign manager for Barack Obama's successful presidential campaign. Suzanne's father's paternal grandmother's mother was **Louise Plouffe**, married to Michel Bigras, and descended from **Jean Plouf**, born around 1643, St-Martin, faubourg St-Marcel, v. et archev. Paris, Ile-de-France (Paris) Death: 1700-04-15 Burial: 1700-04-15 Montréal First marriage: 1669-06-24 Montréal with **Marie Madeleine Guillebeuf**.²

Suzanne quickly surveyed at ancestry.com the 1930 census for Delaware, David Plouffe's residence, but found no Plouffe families there at that time. The Plouffe name is, however, legion in the New England states, in particular, in Massachusetts. She shared her hope to find a connection between David Plouffe and Jean Plouf with Gail Moreau-DesHarnais and Diane Wolford Sheppard, and we agreed it was a worthwhile research project. Diane, who also descends from Jean Plouf, quickly made the breakthrough through an obituary of David's uncle, Paul Bernard Plouffe, and, with her meticulous research, found the documented links to establish David's French-Canadian ancestry.

The biography of David Plouffe on Wikipedia observes: "After winning the election on November 4th, Obama credited Plouffe in his acceptance speech, calling him 'the unsung hero of this campaign, who built the...best political campaign, I think, in the history of the United States of America.'"³ David Plouffe's many cousins in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere can be proud of him, regardless of their political affiliations.

We publish in this issue only the direct Plouffe paternal line of descent and will have documentation and further information about collateral lines up to the coverage available on PRDH in future issues of *MHH*.

I. Jean Plouf m. Marie Madeleine Guilleboeuf 24 June 1669 in Montréal; II. Louis Plouf m. Marie Truchon circa 1714 in Lachenaie; III. Joseph Plouf m. Marie Ursule Rondeau 14 September 1746 in Contrecoeur; IV. Joseph Plouf m. Marguerite Asselin 14 January 1771 in St-Ours; V. Louis Plouf m. Marguerite Saint Martin 25 September 1797 in St-Pierre, Sorel; VI. Louis Plouf m. Archange Laviolette 26 February 1821 in St-Ours; VII. Pierre Plouf m. Victoire Saint Martin 12 January 1847 in Ste-Victoire, Sorel; VIII. Paul Plouf m. Marie Philomène Cournoyer circa 24 January 1876 in Southbridge, MA; IX. Napoleon Plouffe m. Margaret Keating 14 September 1904 in South Natick, MA; X. Paul B. Plouffe married Margaret Hannah McKinnon in MA; XI. James Plouffe m. Frances Vincent; XII. David Plouffe m. Olivia Morgan.

¹ Gail's and René Jetté's research on Madonna (1994); Gail's and Diane's on Hillary (2007-2008); and Diane's on Angelina (2007-2008), all originally appeared in *MHH*. David is a distant cousin of all three women.

² PRDH www.genealogy.umontreal.ca Individu # 5983

³ Accessed 16 December 2008, quoted from "Text of Obama's Acceptance Speech," *The Baltimore Sun* (2008-11-05). Retrieved on 10 November 2008. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Plouffe