

FRENCH-CANADIAN GENEALOGY—SOURCES AND RESOURCES

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How and where to locate original records or reliable secondary records and further details about the lives of ancestors, in addition to NAMES, DATES, PLACES

Always work from the KNOWN to the UNKNOWN.

Obtain copies of the ORIGINAL records for PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, GREAT-GRANDPARENTS, ... as far back as you can, before going any further.

KNOW what each INDEX resource contains and when it was first created as you begin tracing further into the past, and **always record your sources**.

REMEMBER: The actual records are most likely in FRENCH. Do not rely on mechanical translation engines available on the Web!

INDEXES

What are INDEXES?

Secondary sources with extracted and copied details from primary sources or original documents

Indexes usually contain data about births / baptisms, marriages, deaths / burials, other recorded events copied—transcribed—by someone from primary records. Always remember that a published transcription of an original record, in part or in whole, is not automatically guaranteed to be accurate. It just indicates that at least one reader saw and copied the details. **Always RECORD** your index source.

INDEXES OF NINETEENTH- (AND SOME TWENTIETH-) CENTURY RECORDS:

Parish *RÉPERTOIRES*: transcribed excerpts of vital records for a parish, arranged alphabetically or sequentially. Genealogical societies often provide lists of those that have been done. Mount Clemens Public Library has several and Burton at the Detroit Public Library has more, as does SFOHG centre in Puce, Ontario. The marriages of S^{te} Anne de Détroit 1701-1850 is now transcribed in a *répertoire*. See bibliography.

“BLUE DROUIN”- (See below)

ROOTS-WEB or other Internet e-mail lists for look-ups in these sources.

Type Subscribe in text of message

QUEBEC-RESEARCH-D-request@rootsweb.com

CENSUS records from Library and Archives Canada or LDS Family History Library

(Yes, these are **indexes** that rely on the accuracy of the census taker or the transcriber of the census.)

Or whatever will get you to **PRDH** for the older records in New France. This is the most difficult leg of the journey.

PROBLEMS with using only indexes:

The transcriber may have misread the original.

The transcriber may have “corrected” the original because of other known information.

Transcription of data in a record is usually incomplete. The record may have more details.

Publication of a reader’s notes can create and/or perpetuate errors.

Later research may have corrected a reader’s errors, judgments, or “guesses”

SEVENTEENTH- AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RECORDS (considered in **historical** perspective):**TANGUAY**

Tanguay, L'Abbé Cyprien. *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes*.

Éditions Élysée, 1975 reprint in seven volumes, originally published **1871-1890**.

Tanguay is the great-grandfather of French-Canadian genealogy. He selected and transcribed vital records from the beginnings of the New France colony to scattered references to late 18th century. Not all parish registers were consulted but he includes documentation for some original records that have since disappeared, such as some of the Sorel parish records. His work is flawed by many guesses, "corrections" or assumed additions; incorrect links of children to parents; and the suppression of illegitimate births. Tanguay's valuable work has been revised ever since it first appeared. Some corrections and additions were provided by LEBOEUF in the 1950s. Use Tanguay with extreme caution, especially for events without a precise date. Tanguay is available on CD-Rom and in some libraries in book form, and from the Web, a huge file. Remember that "n" is *naissance* (birth) and "b" is *baptême* (baptism); "s" is *sépulture* (burial), not death (*décès*).

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER DAY SAINTS, the Mormons: FHL and

FamilySearch Family History Library. BMD and Census records. <http://www.familysearch.org>

The largest genealogical data base in the world. You can access its card catalog and key databases online or at local Family History Centers, such as Roseville FHL on Twelve Mile. Unfortunately, this data **base** is not particularly helpful for modern French-Canadian genealogy as most of the contributions were taken from the older indexes and not from more current research. **Microfilms** of actual parish, notarial, and census records, though, can be borrowed and used at FHL centers and are VERY valuable, as are the internet digital images of records at FamilySearch.

"RED" DROUIN

Commissioned by the Drouin Institute, which researched "pedigrees" for pay and went out of business in 1970. Originally based mainly on Tanguay and, therefore, subject to the same cautions and restrictions. Now on CD-Rom. Called "red" because of the color of the cover of the book.

"BLUE" DROUIN: marriages-only dictionaries indexed by male and female last names that cover the years 1760-1935. The Blue Drouin in book form is rare; only 18 copies are accessible to the public. See also <http://www.francogene.com/qc-res/blue.php> for a description.

DENISSEN: Rev. Fr. Christian. *Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region*, Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 1701-1936, 1987 revision. [1701-1911 in the 1976 edition.]

Please note that two separate crews of individuals from DSGR worked in the 1970s and 1980s on the original publication and on the revision. Denissen's own notes, compiled before his death in 1931, have been lost. He was a contemporary of Clarence Burton. Father Denissen did not fully understand the French-Canadian "dit" (called or alias) naming system. Originally compiled at the end of the nineteenth century, most of his work for the older records relies on Tanguay. Even the 1987 revision suffers from not having consulted more modern research. Denissen anglicized (gave English spelling) to all first names; thus Pierre becomes Peter, Marie becomes Mary, Étienne becomes Stephen, Louis sometimes becomes Aloysius, *etc.* Useful as a starting point, but verify the records, especially the older ones. MANY corrections have been (and continue to be) published in other sources.

JETTÉ

Jetté, René. *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec*.

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal. **1983**.

Vital records up to **1730** only, based on PRDH as of **1983** but without references to many notarial records and other primary sources consulted since 1983. Valuable, but contains some errors or misreadings. Updates and corrections have been published in a variety of sources, including PRDH. Jetté recorded last names in a standard spelling.

FARIBAUT-BEAUREGARD

Faribault-Beauregard, Marthe. *La population des forts français d'Amérique* (XVIII^e siècle). Tome 1. Montréal: Éditions Bergeron. 1982; Tome 2. 1984.

This French-language compilation of data organized the baptisms, marriages, and burials in alphabetical order under each of these categories for each "fort". The sequence of events is thus lost. The author also standardized spelling. Note: she admits in her introduction that she enhanced the forts' records by adding her interpretation of who certain people are, their parents, *etc.*, based on her research, but she does not indicate her sources or when she does this. This is a valuable secondary resource, nevertheless.

PRDH *Programme de recherche en démographie historique* – Currently *BEST* for records from the mother colony, to 1799, less complete for originally-French settlements in modern-day U. S. [In English: Program of research in historical demography]

PRDH is a NEW reading and computerization of actual extant records, begun in the 1960s and committed to ongoing corrections and additions. It was originally designed to support research in demographics, population patterns, as its title states, so links were not attempted among families in the book form edition. Spelling is as found on the records (or **as read by** whoever did the reading from the originals!). You may well find the same ancestor listed under varied spellings and one or more "dit" or "dite," the feminine version, (called or **also-known-as**) names, but names have been standardized on the Internet version to ease searching. Contains references from early censuses, confirmations, lists of patients at some hospitals, *etc.* The Internet edition provides family links. All names recorded in the text of a document are transcribed, such as parents, godparents (although not identified as such), witnesses, officiating priests, and sometimes brothers or sisters or other relatives of married couples, if mentioned in the text, for all records, basically, to 1765. Later "certificates" are not as complete. Names of those who only signed a document, such as a marriage contract, are NOT listed if the names do not appear in the text. I have found some interesting information by examining copies of the originals to see all of the signatures. Some labels on the "certificates," such as whether an individual was present at an event (for example, the father and mother of a baptized child) can cause misunderstanding in interpreting the original event. All that can be said is that the parents were considered to be alive at the time of the record unless one or both signed as present.

PRDH: Programme de recherche en démographie historique (Program of research in historical demography). Gaëtan Morin Éditeur. <http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca>

Also available in book format (Burton and Mount Clemens), records to 1765; on CD-Rom to 1799 (very expensive), and on the **Internet** to **1799**, with some deaths after 1799 now included. There is an English version online. You can browse the Internet site at no cost but must subscribe to see the full "certificates" available. Cost is very reasonable. Background material on the site is wonderful. Take the time to read it and to examine the sample documents and to consult the glossary. Also see Name Variations.

FICHER ORIGINE

Contemporary research in primary documents to find the origins of immigrants to New France. This source is constantly updated, so record the date you access it and the name of the researcher(s). <http://www.fichierorigine.com>

PRIMARY RECORDS

CHURCH REGISTERS

Copies of vital acts for which you have precise information are available by mail from **Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec** <http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/> Look under Services. BANQ provides its users with print

or digital copies of documents that are part of its heritage collections and archives centers. There is an English version. See the website for full information. A BAnQ employee will contact the user to confirm the amount of the transaction and the payment terms.

Or, see the parish registers that have been microfilmed by **Family History Library**. Not all years and parishes are available. See catalog. **See especially the digital images on FamilySearch web site and Ancestry.ca that modern technology allows you to view.**

Although primary records are the closest a researcher can get to an actual event, they are not without errors committed by the priest or witnesses in recording or giving names or other details. Ages on death records are notoriously unreliable.

English language transcriptions of the MICHILIMACKINAC “St. Ann” (sic) Michilimackinac Marriage Register, 1725-1821;¹ Michilimackinac (sic) Register of Baptisms, 1695-1821; Register of Interments (Mackinac) (sic), 1743-1806; published in Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vols. 18 and 19. A digital transcription of the records is available in the Drouin Collection, Early U.S. Catholic Records at ancestry.ca under the letter M; Family History Library has a microfilm (#0865224) of the original Michilimackinac records. Please remember the entries before about 1741 are transcriptions, not originals.

And the **St. Joseph des Illinois** (sic, Fort or Poste St. Joseph, **Niles, Michigan**) registers, published by Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Vol. 13 (1926-27) English transcription, is available on the internet at the Glenn Black Miami site but has some errors. The **original register** is available at both Ancestry.ca and at FamilySearch.

STE. ANNE DE DETROIT PARISH REGISTERS

Available on microfilm at the Burton Library of the Detroit Public Library, Main Branch, Detroit, Michigan. The recently purchased microfilm to replace the old one is dismally dark! A transcription is also available there in a hard copy. Family History Library has a microfilmed transcription made by a Mr. Prudhomme. It has many errors. The Drouin Collection also has a microfilmed transcription. This Drouin transcription is one of the digital files located at Early U.S. Catholic Records at Ancestry.ca, under the letter D, which also has digitized the original Ste. Anne de Detroit records. You have to know what you are looking at when you access the Drouin Collection for Ste. Anne de Detroit. These Detroit records are not available at FamilySearch, but other Québec and Ontario Catholic Parish records are there, most of them the original versions kept at the churches. The Drouin records are mainly the civil duplicates or transcriptions sent to the government offices. L'Assomption Parish (now Windsor, Ontario) records are also at Ancestry.ca. See Sharon Kelley, ed., *Marriage Records Ste. Anne Church Detroit 1701 – 1850* (Detroit: The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc., 2001) for an index.

GÉNÉALOGIE QUEBEC – as of 20 May 2011, Bertrand Desjardins of PRDH announced an ongoing project that will lead to a full index (subjects and parents and spouses, full date, parish) of all baptisms, marriages, and burials of Quebec up to 1910, with a link to the image of the original document (Drouin collection). This is a for-pay site. See <http://www.genealogiequebec.com/>

The LAFRANCE: French America: Old and new records and effective collections.

All the catholic baptisms, marriages and deaths records from Quebec for the 1621-1824 period are now indexed with link to the image. With the Université de Montréal [PRDH] verification and quality, there are more than 1 260 000 records and 3 800 000 mentions who are available in this new database. 1825-1849 era will follow in the next months. Family crossings and links with other tools will also upgrade this unique database.

¹ Also found on the internet: "Annels [sic] of Fort Mackinac" by Dwight H. Kelton, Chicago, Fergus Printing Company. **1882**. Reprinted in **1992**, Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinac Island, Michigan. Pages 58-69. Beware!

There are 3 possible ways to search. You can search by individual, for BMD records. It's also possible to search by couple. The results will give you BMD records where couples are written. Finally, you can search by place with a precise date.

CENSUS RECORDS on microfilm may be ordered from Library and Archives Canada through interlibrary loan. See also Ancestry. For the **1901** and **1911** Canada censuses see: **Automated Genealogy** <http://www.automatedgenealogy.com/> The accuracy of census records depends on the accuracy of both the original recorder of the information and the persons who create an index to those records. Multiple faulty readings exist!

NOTARIAL RECORDS (INDEX is called *PARCHEMIN*. Full data base available in several Canadian cities.) See also CD-Rom of *Inventaire des Greffes des Notaires du Régime Français*, Quintin Publications, ISBN 1-886560-49-8, for an index of many of the early notaries. Published books also index these records, but the books are hard to locate. I have only a few. The CD was made from these books, records originally inventoried by Antoine Roy, who sometimes misread names. The SFOHG centre in Puce, Ontario, is privileged to own a full set.

Marriage Contracts: The marriage contract was a legal document, usually, but not always, written before the marriage. Notaries or sometimes priests or commandants wrote the contracts. (There were no lawyers in New France.) See my article on Marriage Contracts in *Michigan's Habitant Heritage*, July 2005, or on the FCHSM website <http://fchsm.org/> under the Journal button.

Other notarial documents: *Engagement* (hiring) contracts. *Vente*: Sale of possessions. *Inventaire* (inventory of possessions, usually after a death). *Obligation* (statement of debt for a loan). *Marché* (work, support, or bargaining) contracts. *Donation* (gift, life-benefit, or form of last will and testament). *Procuration* (power of attorney). *Tutelle* (appointment of tutors (guardians) for under-age children after the death of one and / or both parents. (For the period before 1765, this included all children under 25, whether married or not.) 197 different types of legal documents exist.

JUDICIAL RECORDS—one source:

Jugements et Délibérations du Conseil Supérieur de la Nouvelle-France. CD-Rom.

Quintin Publications, ISBN: 1-886560-63-3

This is an **index**, also available in some libraries (Burton) in book form.

Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec will copy full notarial and judicial transactions and also vital statistics records up to 1900 if a precise reference is requested. You can locate, see, and download or print documents that have been digitized at **BAnQ's Pistard Recherche avancée**. The hand-written documents are French.

http://pistard.banq.qc.ca/unite_chercheurs/recherche_simple?p_anqid=2010030507143815&P_rech_type=A

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ARCHIVES NATIONALES DU QUÉBEC (BAnQ)

http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/accueil.jsp?bnq_resolution=mode_1280

For colonial and other documents from the French period, see

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

Especially the Private Archives and Colonial Records section and the search engine **ArchiviaNet**

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020112_e.html

ArchiviaNet has been updated since I first began using it with a link to **Archives Search:**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search-recherche/arch.php?Language=eng>

A summary in French for each document is given and you may then view each page of the document. These are most likely also in French and handwritten. I use “select” and “copy” and then “paste” each of the pages into a Word document, where I can manipulate it by making it smaller or larger.

THE DROUIN MICROFILMS

These are primarily microfilms of **civil** parish registers, including late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries, some of them transcriptions. **AS OF EARLY IN 2007, ANCESTRY HAS MADE DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE DROUIN MICROFILMS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET, WITH A SUBSCRIPTION.** A partial, and flawed, index for some records became available in 2008.

A transcription of the records, an index, and some of the ORIGINAL records for **Ste. Anne de Detroit** and **L'Assomption** (now Windsor, Ontario) are part of the **Early U. S. French Catholic Church Records** on ancestry.com under the letter D. This is a wonderful tool, but be sure you know which version you are consulting. Don't miss it. Some libraries (St. Clair Shores, Mt. Clemens) have subscriptions patrons can use.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS)

Good news! The website of the Family History Library has added all of their Québec Parish records and also Ontario records to their **FamilySearch** site: <https://www.familysearch.org/>

Scan down to the world map and click on Canada. Both Québec and Ontario Parishes are available. For example, you can browse and view Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979 and Ontario, Roman Catholic Church Records, 1760-1923. Most of these records will be the **parish version**, not the civil copy that is usually found on the Drouin digital images on Ancestry. Sometimes one version will have details that are missing in the other, and sometimes one version is more legible than the other. Since this site is free and the images can be magnified, it is very precious. Saving images to your computer is easy and allows cutting the image to the precise record you want to insert in a Word document.

HISTORY Books-----All history books and articles are **secondary** sources.

Always check the date of original publication and / or reprint date. Remember that interpreting the past is an ongoing process. New documents, unknown to earlier writers, may have been discovered or have recently been consulted and cited for the first time. (I keep finding new details!) Many old sources now out of copyright are available on the Internet. Use with these cautions: Look at the bibliography for the author's sources. Are there primary records as well as secondary sources? How old are the secondary sources? Are only English translations used? Remember that translations of original French records must be considered secondary sources. Some translators know only modern French, not the French of the 17th and 18th centuries or even the French of modern Québec, a direct descendant of the French of New France. [Note this parallel: Speakers of English in the United States do not speak the “Queen's English” of modern-day Great Britain.]

Sources for some valuable records:

ADHÉMAR: Bases de données du Groupe de recherche sur Montréal. Propriété, bâti et population à Montréal, 1642-1805 [Property, building and population of Montréal] <http://cca.qc.ca/adhemar/Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec> [BAnQ]. Photocopies of notarial and other records.

Detroit Public Library: Main Branch, Burton Library, for microfilm of **original** Sainte-Anne du Détroit registers and a transcription of these records. The FHL and Drouin microfilms for the earliest records at Sainte-Anne are **NOT** primary records. They are useful transcriptions but have errors in reading. Other Detroit parish records are also available on microfilm, as well as Michigan Censuses.

National Archives of Canada [NAC] / *Archives nationales du Canada*, now called **Library and Archives Canada**: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/index-e.html>
Microfilms of documents and census records via interlibrary loan.

This is the source for *ArchiviaNet* and other Search Engines, a truly valuable tool if you can read French.

The Web site includes **digital** images of some original documents in French
SFOHG centre library in Puce, Ontario
Salt Lake City: Family History Libraries.

Microfilms of parish registers and census records (and a very helpful staff! My thanks to them).

Other selected SECONDARY sources and historical background:

Beauregard, Denis. Genealogy of the French in North America.

<http://www.francogene.com/gfna/gfna/998/>

Denissen, Rev. Fr. Christian. *Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region, 1701-1936*, Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 1987 revision. **See note below.**

Dictionary of Canadian Biography. Vol. I (1000-1700) University of Toronto Press. 1966 (1979 reprint)

And subsequent volumes. **A wonderful resource now available online**, but, like other older sources, in need of revision from more recent scholarship!

Dumouchel, Madeleine. *French Pioneers of the Western District*. Toronto: Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs, 1979. Available at Our Roots, Nos Racines: <http://www.ourroots.ca/e/>

Early Canadiana Online: <http://www.canadiana.org/> A collection of searchable works.

Eccles, W. J. *The Canadian Frontier, 1534-1760*, Revised Edition, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1974. [And anything else by him.]

Electronic New France / Nouvelle-France électronique: a web site by Joseph Gagné <http://pages.videotron.com/nfe/>

Faribault-Beauregard, Marthe. *La population des forts français d'Amérique (XVIII^e siècle)*.

Tome 1. Montréal: Éditions Bergeron. 1982; Tome 2. 1984. Note: she "fudged" the original records by adding her interpretation of who certain people were without indicating when she did this. A valuable secondary resource, nevertheless.

Lajeunesse, Ernest J., C.S.B., *The Windsor Border Region: Canada's Southernmost Frontier A Collection of Documents* (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1960). See pages 54-56 for Cicotte Ledger. For additional names, see Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, "Edward Cicotte Ledger 1749-1752 Containing Accounts of French Settlers at Detroit," *Michigan's Habitant Heritage*, Vol. 29, no. 3 (July 2008) 147-156.

Langlois, Michel. *Dictionnaire Biographique des Ancêtres Québécois (1608-1700)*. [now out of print]

Sillery: La Maison des Ancêtres Québécois. Tome 1 (Lettres A à C), 1998;

Tome 2 (Lettres D à I), 1999; Tome 3 (Lettres J à M), 2000; Tome 4, Lettres N à Z.

Sillery: Les Éditions du Mitan, 2001. Wonderful source for citations of original documents!

Les rapports des Archives nationales du Québec. 1920-1975. [RAPQ CD-Rom]

Les Publications du Québec. Gouvernement du Québec. ISBN 2-2551-17722-7

Marriage Records St. Anne Church Detroit 1701-1850. Sharon A. Kelley, Editor.

The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc. 2001.

Our Roots / Nos Racines: digitized books, magazines, and journals about Canada: <http://www.ourroots.ca/e/>

Peyser, Joseph L. *Edge of Empire*, Documents of Michilimackinac, 1671-1716. Translated by Joseph L.

Peyser, Edited by José António Brandão. East Lansing / Mackinac Island: Michigan State

University Press and Mackinac State Historic Parks. 2008. Peyser has several other books of

translations of documents from the same publisher, such as *On the Eve of the Conquest: The Chevalier de Raymond's Critique of New France in 1754* (1997); and *Jacques Legardeur de Saint-Pierre:*

Officer; Gentleman, Entrepreneur (1996).

Roy, Antoine. *Inventaire des Greffes des Notaires du Régime Français*,

Archives de la Province de Québec. Many volumes, some available from Quintin Publications in reprint and also available on CD-Rom. The **SFOHG centre in Puce**, Ontario, has a full set.

FRENCH IN AMERICA CALENDAR

See http://www.johnfishersr.net/french_in_america_calendar.html for wonderful images and maps.

Secondary sources sometimes provide references to primary sources in footnotes and bibliographies. The *Our French Canadian Ancestors* series by Thomas Laforest, Palm Harbor, Florida: Lisi Press, includes such references for sources of primary records, but, again, this series is still a secondary source.

Join the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan. Articles about our neighbors in Ontario do appear in this journal.

<http://habitant.org/fchsm/index.htm> See a selection of published articles available on the site.

Mail address: P. O. Box 1900, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1900

U.S. membership: \$25; Canadian: \$30 U.S. funds.

Michigan's Habitant Heritage, the Journal of the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan, is published four times a year. Back issues have indexes of some records. See the collection at the Mount Clemens and St. Clair Shores libraries and at Puce.

TRAVEL GUIDES

I found it very valuable to own travel guides for the areas I was researching. Some of these guides give historical background. Web sites for cities in the Province of Québec also have valuable information about the past.

MAP STUDY is absolutely necessary, as is an awareness that the names of some places changed over time. *Nouvelle France* / New France was called Canada from its beginnings, especially the St. Lawrence River valley. Parts of the United States, such as modern-day Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and all along the Mississippi down to New Orleans were part of New France and then Indian Territory and Upper Canada before they became the United States. After the capitulation of New France in 1760 (and Treaty of Paris in 1763), these territories came under British rule as far as the Mississippi, with the settlement along the St. Lawrence becoming the Province of Québec (not to be confused with Québec City). New France was never called Québec.). The western shore of the Mississippi was, for a time, under Spanish rule. Many Canadians from the American Mid-West relocated there after 1760 and again after the American Revolution. The settlement across the Detroit River in modern-day Windsor, Ontario, was part of and remained Canada after the American Revolution, but Detroit became part of the United States in 1796 (as a portion of Indian Territory and then the Northwest Territory), as did other formerly-French settlements east of the Mississippi. In 1791, British Canada was divided into Lower (*Bas*) Canada (downriver as the waters flow toward the sea, modern-day Province of Québec and primarily francophone) and Upper (*Haut*) Canada (upriver, away from the sea, modern-day Province of Ontario, and primarily anglophone). Michigan became a state in 1837. The union of Lower Canada and Upper Canada occurred in 1840. The Dominion Act of 1867 reunited the Maritime Provinces with Canada and created the provinces of Ontario and Québec.



Partie occidentale de la Nouvelle France ou Canada, 1755, Cartographer: Bellin, Jacques Nicolas, 1703-1772. Cr dit Biblioth que et Archives Canada. Domaine public, courtesy of the Library and Archives Canada website: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>

Maps like this can be found on the Internet.

SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE YOUR FACTUAL DETAILS COME TO LIFE:

Establish a timeline for your ancestors and incorporate the events taking place during their lifetime; do map work to place them in a geographic setting; consult Ancestry.ca and FamilySearch to look for details from original records that the indexes omitted; locate marriage contracts and other notarial records; search the indexes at BAnQ and LAC; check out the wealth of digitized articles and books at the *Roots and Racines* web site.

Finally, don't ASSUME anything and don't believe everything that has been written about our French-Canadian ancestors in books or on the internet. Remember that genealogy is on-going. The researchers published in the past were not always accurate. Go to the original sources, whenever possible.

GOOD LUCK! *BONNE CHANCE!*

Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, 2013