

# Interesting People in my Ancestry

by Lorraine Rivard Naze

Louis Hebert (Louie A-Bear) was an apothecary in Paris. His father was an apothecary in the court of Catherine de Medicini. Samuel de Champlain talked him into going to Quebec in order to start a colony there. He sold his business and went to Nouvelle France in 1617. He was given a grant of a seigneurie in New France. This is the first grant of land ever given in the New World. He had no plow and no horse. With a pick and an axe and the help of one servant, he farmed 10 acres. A plow arrived from France a few months after his death. One source says he had an ox. He died in 1627 after suffering a fall. He was the only person in Quebec at that time that had raised crops and sold food to the colonists. He is known as the "First Farmer of New France". We have been to Old Quebec City and have seen his statue. On his deathbed he said, "...I die content, inasmuch as it has pleased our Lord to grant me the grace of seeing converted savages die before me. I crossed the seas to come and help them, rather than for any private interest, and I would willingly die for their conversion if such were God's good pleasure...."

Louis Hebert had 3 children. Anne died during childbirth, and Guillaume died early. Guillemette married Guillaume Couillard. Of Guillemette and Guillaume Couillard's marriage, their daughter Marguerite Couillard (her godfather was Samuel de Champlain, explorer and founder of Quebec) married the great explorer JEAN NICOLET, interpreter and liaison officer between the French and the Indians. Also of Guillemette and Guillaume Couillard's marriage, their daughter Marie married Francois Bissot, and their daughter Claire-Francoise Bissot married LOUIS JOLIET, discoverer of the Mississippi with Father Marquette. Both Nicolet and Joliet explored in Minnesota. Little did I know when I was teaching 4th grade history that I would find these two prominent men in my ancestry, not by blood but by marriage.

Martha French was captured during an Indian massacre in Deerfield, Massachusetts, in February 1704. This settlement had been the object of a massacre in earlier years. Martha was a Puritan girl of English descent. She and two sisters were captured, and after the Indians were done killing and burning houses, 112 captives were marched to Sorel, Quebec, arriving there in August. They had marched for six months. The story is that the French in Quebec had requested a bell for one of their churches. The bell was on a ship coming from France to Quebec when the English captured the ship and took the bell. It ended up in Deerfield, Mass. During the massacre, the French and the Indians took the bell and hauled it all the way up to Sorel, Quebec. Martha stayed with the Indians in Quebec for nearly two years before being repurchased by Antoine Pacaud, a merchant of Montreal, who then entrusted her to the Sisters of Notre Dame Cathedral in Montreal. Her father made several attempts to have her released in exchange for an English captive, but Martha did not want to go home. She and one sister were eventually converted to Catholicism, and Martha was baptized 23 Jan 1707 in Montreal. The third sister was released in 1705.

Sister Conception (Marguerite Roy), at the convent of Notre Dame, had a brother Jacques, who visited her in the convent many times and of course met the young French sisters. Jacques married Martha when she was 16 1/2 years old. They had a large family. Martha and her second husband, Jean Louis Menard (son of Jacques Menard and Marie Anne Roy) had three daughters, the second of whom (Marie Louise) married JOSEPH A. PLEISIS and became the mother of the eleventh Bishop of Quebec. Martha's grandfather was John Catlin, one of the founders of Newark, New Jersey. We have been to Deerfield, Mass.

Mother Marie Leone Paradis was a nun and a remarkable woman. She had decided early in life that she would serve the Lord. She started the order. "Little Sisters of the Holy Family". At that time, a girl could not become a Sister unless she was educated, since the Sisters taught

in the convents. Marie Leone saw a need for girls who were not educated to serve the Lord by providing the priests and bishops, also the teachers in the convents, with girls who could cook, bake, wash clothes, scrub floors, garden, etc. She worked with girls from New Brunswick, Quebec. It took many, many years for her work to be recognized and a distinctive habit to be acknowledged. She was beatified by the Pope when he was in Quebec many years ago. She is credited with 3 miracles. She is my second cousin three times removed. We have visited the home for retired Sisters in Sherbrooke, Que. There is a little museum there for her.

The Acadian names in my ancestry are as follows: Amirault dit Tourangeau, Aucoin, Babin, Bariault (Barrillot), Bayols, Blanchard, Bonnevie, Bourg, Brault, Coleson, Comeau, Daigle, Garceau, Gaudet, Gauthier, Granger, Hebert, Helie du Tillet, Lambert, Landry, Laure/Lord, Leblanc, LeJeune (Briard), Levron, Martin, Mellanson, Mius d'Azit, Pitre, Sa voie, Trahan and Vincent.

My great grandmother was Marie Lord. Her grandfather Jean- Baptiste Lord was born in exile. The Lords were deported to New England to which is now New York. Alex Brault searched for 4 years for his wife and children before he found them. The Braults were deported to Hingham and Braintree, Mass.

The story of the Acadians is unbelievable. They had lived in Acadia (which is now Nova Scotia) under the rule of the English from about 1715 until 1755. They were prospering in spite of the fact that the English raided and burned their settlements. During these times, the Acadians would go to the closest Micmac Indian settlement and live until they could rebuild. They felt that if the Indians were ever attacked by the English, they would have to fight against their friends, the Indians. In 40 years they were told to pledge allegiance to the King of England at least 7 times. If they took the pledge, their church would then be the Church of England, and they would no longer be Catholics. They were told they would have to leave Acadia if they would not pledge allegiance six different times, and nothing was ever done about it. Finally in 1755 the English put the men and boys over the age of 10 on ships and "dumped" them on whichever colony would take them. The English had promised they would not split up the families, and it took them many years to "dump the women and girls and the younger boys.

The English women would take the infants right out of the hands of the mothers and raised them as their own. The young boys were slaves. These Catholic French were illiterate and could not write anyone to find out where the others of their families were.

In 1785 Spain paid for 7 ships to transport Acadians to settle in Louisiana. These Acadians had the better life. The Spanish were also Catholic, and they already had churches built. These Acadians are now known as Cajuns. I think I am related to possibly 80% of the Cajuns in Louisiana now.

My maiden name is Rivard. The Rivards were in Quebec in the mid 1600s. Nicolas Rivard was the first to come. In 1648, he signed a contract to work at the fort in Nouvelle France for three years. His brother, Robert, came around 1663. All the Rivard/ Revard/Revor/Revoir, (etc.), families in the U.S. and Canada are cousins. (They are all descended from the two brothers. I am descended from both, since Nicolas' great granddaughter married Robert's grandson.)

My grandfather was born in 1865 and the family came by covered wagon from Ste-Marie de Monnoir, Quebec, to Kankakee County, IL. From Kankakee they came to Ghent, MN, and they settled amidst the Belgians there. My grandparents were farmers at Marshall, MN.

The great majority of my French ancestors were fur traders. My 6th great grandfather, Robert (1689-1692) signed for three years in 1689 and for three years in 1695. He made enough money during that time to start his own fur trading company along with 3 or 4 of his friends. His son, Mathurin (my 5th great grandfather) and his son Claude were among the 51 French-

Canadian fur traders that went with Cadillac to Detroit in 1701 to start a colony there. Most of Mathurin's sons also settled in Detroit. There is a plaque at a park in Detroit that lists all the names of the pioneers. Mathurin and Claude's names appear on it. I have records of 203 Rivards who signed contracts to trade furs from 1689 until 1815. These are all either my great grandfathers or cousins. This was a great occupation for these mostly illiterate people. One of my cousins signed 37 contracts from 1712 until 1757. (Many of these were only for 6 months.) Several of them became translators. The French and the Indians were very friendly towards each other.

Nicolas' youngest son, Antoine, was at the head of the Mississippi River in 1699! He eventually ended up in New Orleans, living on Bayou St Jean. We soon found him in New Orleans. In 1708 he and five others received concessions of land. By 1721 he was the wealthiest man in the area. He then owned all six concessions, and he had 11 Negro slaves, 2 Indian slaves, 30 cattle and 4 horses.

My Swedish ancestors came to Carver County, MN, and worked there for 3 years before land opened up for homesteading. They were married in Carver, MN. They settled in Walnut Grove, MN.

Glen's Belgian ancestor, Prosper Naze, came from Grand Leez, Namur, Belgium, in 1856. He settled in Door and Kewaunee Counties, Wisconsin. In 1893, Prosper's son, Jules, moved his family to Montpelier, ND. Glen's grandmother was Lucy Rubens. We have had a Belgian researcher search this line. The grandfather of Peter Paul Rubens, the great Flemish artist, had a brother; this brother is the ancestor of Glen.