

Minnesota Pioneers – I. Joseph Potvin dit St. Louis

Submitted by Kathy Horan-Grambsch

*3rd great-grandfather of CGHSM Members Kathy Horan-Grambsch & Warren Kramer

Joseph Potvin dit St. Louis, together with his family, arrived in St Paul, Minnesota on July 21, 1847. The family traveled from the area of Longueuil, Chambly, P. Québec, entered the United States at Plattsburg, Clinton, NY and boarded the steamer Jeanette in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, for the last leg of their journey to St. Paul.

In the spring of 1848 the family resided on a claim of 57 acres, 2 miles south of St Anthony Falls where Joseph kept a tavern and his sons cut logs for the Catholic Church in St. Paul and also Fort Snelling. After a few years the claim was sold to Dr. Borow for the sum of \$1,000 and became part of the University of Minnesota.

In July of 1852, Joseph traveled with Pierre Bottineau, Peter Raich and Peter Gervais to the western prairie, which was named Bottineau's Prairie (became Osseo in 1856), and made a claim on Sections 20 and 21, (now Maple Grove) and farmed there for the next few years.

Joseph married Genevieve Dubuc on February 13, 1827 at St-Antoine-de-Longueuil, Chambly, P. Québec. **Their children were:**

- Joseph Jr (23 Apr 1828-9 Sep 1922) m. Elizabeth LaBreche
- Francois Xavier (1830-19 Feb 1896) m1) Marie Margaret Normandin m2) Regina Louise LaCerte
- Jean Baptiste (2 Jun 1832-) m. Adelaide Trombley
- Pascal (14 Feb 1837-28 Mar 1913) m1)Marie Landry m2) Marie Philomene Bolduc
- Aurelia (1840-) m. Herbert Dufour
- Julienne (May 1842-17 Sep 1929) m. Antoine Charles LaBreche
- Israel (3 Jan 1846-21 Jul 1915) m. Agnes Bellaire

After the death of his wife Genevieve in 1874, Joseph married Marie Louise Trudeau on 31 Jan 1876 in St Anthony Falls, Hennepin, Minnesota.

Joseph was born 28 Jul 1807 in Canada, the son of Joseph Gabriel Potvin dit St.

Louis and Marie Ann Thom. He died 28 Feb 1893 at the home of his son Joseph in Osseo, Hennepin, Minnesota. He was buried 2 Mar 1893 in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Osseo, Hennepin, Minnesota.

Sources:

- Québec Vital Records, Drouin Collection; ancestry.com
- PRDH; Minnesota Genealogical Society
- Les Anciennes Familles de Longueuil, Emile Palardeau; Minnesota Genealogical Society
- Naturalization Papers; Minnesota Historical Society
- First and Early Settlers of Hennepin County; Minnesota Genealogical Society
- 100 Year History of the City of Osseo
- General Land Office Records; www.glorerecords.blm.gov
- Minneapolis Journal, Sunday, 30 Dec 1906, page 5; Minnesota Historical Society
- Death Certificate; Hennepin County Service Center
- Church Register, St Vincent de Paul; Minnesota Genealogical Society

- Obituary, Echo de l'Ouest, 9 Mar 1893, page 3; Minnesota Genealogical Society
- Ruth Charest