

Lorraine W. Rivard Naze

By Kathy Horan-Grampsch

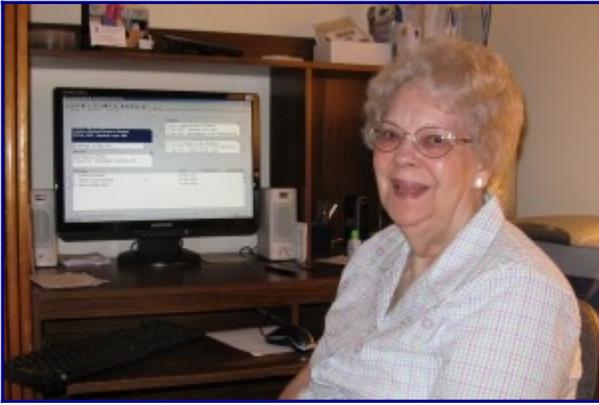
It's always a pleasure to welcome back members from the Northwest Territory, Canadian & French Heritage Center to the Canadian Genealogical & Heritage Society of Minnesota. One such member is Lorraine W. Rivard Naze.



During a recent social outing I met Lorraine's daughter Nancy and her husband Tim, who mention to me that Lorraine had been involved in genealogical research for many years. They encouraged me to contact her and recently I had the pleasure of spending the afternoon with Lorraine and her husband Glen Edmund Naze.

Lorraine Winifred Rivard grew up in Marshall, Minnesota, the daughter of Homer J and Vinne (WA) Anderson Rivard. The family moved to Minneapolis where Lorraine attended High School. She received a two year teaching certificate from Winona College in 1941 and while there, met her future husband Glen. Lorraine and Glen were married September 28, 1943 in St John's Lutheran Church, Mound, Minnesota, just 5 days before Glen was sent overseas. Lorraine taught country school for three years. Two of those years were at Lyndale, Mn, and four years at Mound, a second grade and three fourth grades. Glen served our country in the Army Air Corps during World War II. On 20 June, 1944, Glen parachuted into Germany where he was captured and held as a prisoner of war for eleven months. His experience is included in the book *Long Hard Road, American POW's During World War II*, by Thomas Saylor, a professor at Concordia College. After Glen's returned they lived in Mound for six years, then settled in Hopkins where they raised three daughters, Linda Lois, Nancy Adele & Sharon Joanne.

Twenty five years ago Lorraine did not know the name of her great-grandfather. While visiting her mother's first cousin, Mildred Nicholson Rivard (wife of Earl Rivard), she was looking through a baby book of one of Mildred's children, which included a genealogy chart of her ancestors. The name of Lorraine's great-grandfather was there and her start into genealogy research was off and running. She began with one notebook and over the years has expanded that number to 73, then reduced to 53. It is a very impressive collection.



Lorraine grew up as Revard, her father went into WWI as Revard. However, Lorraine knew that the name was originally Rivard. The story behind this change is that her father's brother, Earl Rivard, was one of two Earl Rivard's who were in the same grade in the convent. The Sisters announced to the family that they were changing her uncle's last name to Revard. There were no protests. Everyone went along with this change. All of Lorraine's uncle's boys and girls are still using Revard. Lorraine changed her name back to Rivard while she was in High School.

Many of Lorraine's sources came by US Mail through correspondence with other Rivard's throughout the country and Canada. More sources were attained by Canadian society members, and Dorothy Chandler, whom she is related to through the Lord family line. One of her most useful sources is from the Canadian collection, "The Acadian Miracle" by Dudley J. LeBlanc.

Acadian names in the Rivard family ancestry include: Amirault dit Tourangeau, Aucoin, Babin, Bariault (Barrillot), Bayols, Blanchard, Bonnevie, Bourg, Brault, Coleson, Comeau, Daigle, Ducharme, Garceau, Gaudet, Gauthier, Girouard, Granger, Hebert, Helie dut Tillet, Lambert, Landry, Laure/Lord, Leblanc, LeJeune (Briard) Levron, Martin, Mellanson, Mius d'Azit, Pitre, Savoie, Trahan, and Vincent.

Lorraine has done extensive research on the fur trade and has the signed contract information for many of her ancestors. Some of these include the following:

1. Robert Rivard: 1689-1692 and 1695-1698; after that he started his own fur trading company with 3 or 4 of his friends.
2. Mathurin Rivard: 31 Aug 1691, 16 Aug 1692, , 27 May 1701 (Mathhurin and his brother Claude were 2 of the 51 Frenchmen that went with Cadillac to Detroit to start a colony there) 1702, 10 Jul 1703, 2 aug 1704, 18 may 1708, 1 Apr 1712, 2 May 1713
3. Jean-Baptiste Rivard: 21 Jun 1743, 21 Jun 1745, 18 Apr 1751 (To Detroit), 31 May 1752
4. Louis Didance Rivard: 16 Feb 1797, 5 Jan 1798, 30 Jan 1799, 16 Oct 1799, 30 May 1803, 28 Dec 1804, 17 Jan 1807

The oldest line in her family dates back to the 1300's to Guy de Comeau, Pouilley-en-Auxois, Cote D'or, Burgundy, France.

A Rivard Forum member, Lorraine and her daughters attended a reunion they held in the Province of Quebec in 2001. She visited the Cap-de-Madeline Church in Batiscan and toured much of her ancestor's homeland.

When asked what her most exciting discovery was Lorraine answered, "there are too many to count!", but shared the following story.

"About twenty years ago, sometime prior to 1983, the only information I had on my husband's family (Naze from Belgium) was that his great grandfather, Prosper Naze, had settled in the very small village of Rosiere in Door County, Wisconsin in 1856. Glen's cousin's wife had found that out for me. There was little chance that I would learn any further information on this line at that time. Our middle daughter lives in Pennsylvania. We had driven out there to visit her family and were on our way back home. Our plan was to stop in Savanna, Illinois, to visit friends who had moved there from Hopkins, Minnesota. As we drove through eastern Illinois, Glen said that he was getting a terrible migraine headache and didn't feel much like visiting with anyone. We decided not to stop in Savanna but to

continue on home. We stopped for the night in Madison, Wisconsin.

I usually look in the telephone book for names that I am researching whenever we stop. So I looked up "Naze". Sure enough, there was a "Brenda Naze". I called her, identified myself, and asked her if she knew who her ancestors were. She said yes, she had to make a 4-generation chart when she was in high school, and her father was Michael, her grandfather was Jean Baptist, Sr. As we talked, she asked me if I knew a Byron Glime from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. He was her cousin, and his mother was a Naze. I said no. She gave me his address and his telephone number.

When I got home, I called him. He asked me if I had ever seen the series of newspaper articles from the Algoma (Wisconsin) Record-Herald newspaper that told the whole story of the Belgians that settled in the area. I said no, and he said he would send me copies. I did not know what a treasure of information was in store for me. The articles told how handbills had been distributed to taverns in Belgium telling about the advantages of settling in Wisconsin. One particular man had walked from his home in Grez-Doiceau, Belgium, to the City of Antwerp to transact some Business. Since it was quite a trip and he was thirsty, he stopped in an inn for a glass of beer. He saw a pamphlet on another table nearby, picked it up and read it, even though it was written in Dutch. It told about the fertile land that could be bought for \$1.25 an acre. It was the dream of every peasant in the Old World to own his own land, cultivate it, plant it and reap the harvest for himself. He put the pamphlet in his pocket and carried it home.

After many weeks of talking with his neighbors and relatives, nine families made the decision to come to Wisconsin. When they arrived in Green Bay, the men walked south to look at the land that was for sale. It was very good, level land. They thought they would settle there. Fate was to intervene, though, for while the men were gone one of the young boys died, a boy of five years. When the men got back home, the funeral arrangements had already been made. However, on the day of the boy's funeral, the local priest was visited by his friend, Father Edward Daems, who was pastor of a settlement in northeastern Wisconsin, an area known now as the Upper Peninsula of Wisconsin (Door and Kewaunee Counties). He talked them into visiting his parish. He said the soil was excellent and there were many French-speaking people already there. The decision was made to settle in Father Daems parish.

The articles continued and the whole story was told of the Belgians who settled in Door, Kewaunee and Brown Counties. Byron told me that he thought a booklet had been printed with all these articles in it. I was able to purchase one. The articles and booklet told of the arrival of Prosper Naze, the terrible fire of 1871 and how almost everyone lost their buildings and farm animals.

This was the beginning of an extensive search for more information on Glen's ancestors. We joined the Belgian-American Club of the Upper Peninsula of Wisconsin, went to Belgium twice, staying with members of the club there and finding Glen's cousins. At the time, and even now, this seemed almost eerie, almost as though it was all supposed to happen in just such a manner. Who knows?"