

SEARCHING FOR COUSINS

William Horn

My great-grandfather Louis Laramée came to Minneapolis (St Anthony then) in 1855. His grew up and was married in certain small villages near Montreal: Repentigny, St. Roch de l' Ashigan and St. Lin de Laurentides. The name Laramée was originally a "dit" name, appended to the family name of Fissiau. It was a fairly popular "dit" name, so there were unrelated families in his area who used it. By the Census of 1881, the "dit" names seemed to have disappeared. Perhaps the census required simplification. So in my search for present day relatives, I have to make it clear I am only looking for Fissiau-dit Laramées. The common ancestor is Jacques Fissiau-dit-Laramée, who arrived in New France about 1700.

With the help of CGHSM volunteers at the MGS, I found the addresses of 15 Laramées in the towns that interested me. I sent a form letter in French to all asking if they were perhaps my relatives. I enclosed an addressed envelope with Canadian postage. The stamps were the most difficult part, because you can't get them here except from a stamp dealer. The Canadian Consulate doesn't have any and the Canadian Post Office will not ship them into the USA. I used a friend in Canada.

The results were: No answer 11, returned for non-delivery 3, a cordial "Je ne peux vous aider" (can't help you) 1, but a bullseye on 1. That person, Guy Laramée of St. Roch de l' Ashigan, is in fact my fourth cousin! He had a good family tree from the Institute Drouin in Montreal. I will follow up with him as to the location of others of our clan.