

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

They were given in charge of the Parish Priest of St. Gabriel d'Iberville, and very poor care was taken of them. In the fall of 1893, a flood inundated the Parochial House of St. Gabriel and two volumes and several parts of the other three were destroyed. Two years later, His Grace, the late Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax, had a copy made of the remnants of these registers, from which, in the spring of 1899, I made a duplicate for the Dominion Archives. These registers comprise the years 1707 to 1748, but there are several gaps in the entries of births, marriages and deaths.

A few months ago the archivist discovered other registers in Louisiana dated between 1773 and 1859, and these are now being transcribed.

In a document dated in Paris in 1766, it is said that the Registers of the Parish of St. Pierre et St. Paul de Cobequid had been destroyed by the English. The Abbé de l'Isle Dieu, the writer of the letter, speaks of two young Acadians, Joseph Mathurin Bourg and Jear Bro, natives of St. Joseph de la Rivière-aux-Canards, as having in their possession copies of their baptismal Certificates. These two Acadians who studied for the priesthood in a little Seminary of the Diocese of St. Malo, were ordained priests in Canada in the year 1772.

Certificates of baptism were necessary before their ordination, and it would appear that the extracts which they had were made from the Registers of the Parish de St. Joseph-aux-Canards, which were then in France. It is probable that these records may have been taken to France by the Acadians who were deported to Virginia, and finally having been sent to England, were taken to St. Malo and Morlaix. It is from these places that in 1772 and 1774 several families came to Baie-des-Chaleurs and Arichat.

Mgr Tanguay, in one of his works, states that he found the Grand-Prée Church Records in Paris in 1867. It is probable, however, he was mistaken, and that the Registers which he found were those of St. Joseph de la Rivière-aux-Canards. Both Mr. Marmette and Mr. Richard made search for these records, but no trace has so far been found of them. (a.)

The registers of the two Parishes of Piziquid: L'Assomption and Sainte Famille, may be discovered in some towns in France, for I do not believe they were destroyed at the time of the expulsion. They would be a great help to trace the genealogies of this district for which, so far, I have no official data, except that contained in the census for the years 1701, 1703 and 1714, and these are very imperfect as the names of the wives and children are not given.

Many of the families of this District emigrated to Isle St. Jean between 1749 and 1755, and from there were transported to France in 1758, where some remained and others came to Louisiana about the year 1784. Of those who did not emigrate from the Piziquid District over 1,100 were deported as prisoners, namely, 207 to Virginia on board the schooner *Neptune*; 263 to Annapolis, Maryland, on board the sloop *Ranger*; 230 to the same place on board the sloop *Dolphin*; 156 to Philadelphia on board the sloop *Three Friends*; 206 to Boston, on board the sloop *Seaflower*, and about 50 others were shipped on board divers vessels at Grand Pré.

*The Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis, December 4, 1755, says:

"Sunday last (Nov. 30) arrived here the last of the vessels from Nova Scotia "with French neutrals for this place, which make four within this fortnight who have "brought upwards of 900 of them. As the poor people have been deprived of their "settlements in Nova Scotia, and sent here for some political reason bare and destitute. "Christian charity, nay common humanity, calls on every one according to their ability "to lend their assistance and help to these objects of compassion."

Of the 900 mentioned in this notice, which should be 913, four hundred and ninety three came in the *Ranger* and the *Dolphin*, above referred to, and 423 from the Grand Pré District, namely, 242 on board the sloop *Elizabeth* and 178 on board the sloop *Leopard*.

(a.) Rivière-aux-Canards was a very populous District and I trace many families in the Maritime Provinces and in the District of Montreal, whose ancestors were from that Parish. I might add that Pierre Gaudet, born at Paradise, on the Annapolis river, on the 8th of January 1723, my grandfather's grandfather, was married at Rivière-aux-Canards in 1747 to Marguerite Augoin, and that both of them died at Memramouk, N.B., in the beginning of the last century at a very ripe age, leaving two sons whose descendants are very numerous.