

With de Razilly came three Capuchin Friars who took charge of the Acadian Missions. These were followed by other members of the same order until the year 1654, when Acadie passed under English rule.

The settlers from the earliest time were accompanied by spiritual directors. It would be interesting to ascertain what has become of the records of births, marriages and deaths that must have been kept during this period. These should prove the most important of all Acadian documents for in them no doubt would be found the names of the Parishes in France from where the first Acadian families came. I hope, however, in the researches now being conducted in Europe, traces of these registers may be found, either at the Vatican or at Senlis.

For a period of about ten years, from 1654 to 1664, there was no resident Missionary in Port-Royal. The Jesuits during the years 1657 to 1662 were at Chedabouctou, and at Miscou, baie des Chaleurs, and it is probable that they made occasional visits to Port-Royal. However none of their Registers have been found.

In the summer of 1654, as we have seen, Acadie fell under English Domination, and although under the Treaty of Breda it was restored to France, it was not until the year 1670 that the King entered into actual possession, when the Chevalier de Grandfontaine occupied all the Forts in the name of his Royal Master and made his headquarters at Pentagouët, now Penobscot, in the State of Maine.

A general nominal census of Acadie was taken in the year 1671, and it is to this document we have to look for the names of the primitive families in Acadie. It is reproduced as Appendix A. A nominal census of the Mines District for the year 1698 was taken and sent to the Minister of Marine at Versailles, as shown by Villebon's letter of October 3rd, 1698.

Mr. Biggar has been instructed to search for this record in France, and possibly it may be recovered in the course of time. This would be a most valuable document as it should give, besides the names of the parents, those of the children and their ages. It is a link between the census for the year 1671, 1686 and 1693 of which there are copies in the Dominion Archives since 1904.

A copy of Port-Royal and Beaubassin for the year 1698 is also in the Archives, as well as copies of those of 1700 and 1701 for the same places.

At the time of Grandfontaine's arrival the two principal settlements in Acadie were at Port-Royal and at Pentagouët. There was also a small settlement at Pobomkou wrongly known as Cap de Sable, and another one at Rivière St.-Jean. A short time after new settlements were formed at Beaubassin or Chignictou, and at Mines, better known as Grand-Prée.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century other settlements were made at Rivière-aux-Canards, Piziquid, Cobequid, Chipoudy and at Petkoudiack, and later on at Memramcouk and Tintamarre. The last four mentioned were within the territory comprising the present counties of Westmoreland and Albert, in New Brunswick.

In the District of Port-Royal or Annapolis Royal there were for a time two churches, one in the town dedicated to St. Jean-Baptiste, and the other about ten miles above.

At Grand-Prée the patron saint of the church was St. Charles: at Rivière-aux-Canards, St. Joseph: at Cobequid, St. Pierre et St. Paul. In the district of Piziquid there were two churches: L'Assomption and La Sainte Famille. Ste. Anne was the patron saint of the District of Beaubassin.

If all the registers of these several churches were available, it would be an easy matter to trace the Acadian genealogies from 1632 to the year 1755, but unfortunately very few of them are in the country. In fact only two volumes of the Church Records of St. Jean Baptiste de Port-Royal are known to exist, and they embrace the years 1702-1755.

The originals are in Halifax and a copy has been in the Dominion Archives since 1882. The registers of St. Charles de la Grand-Prée aux Mines were brought to Louisiana by the Acadians at the time of the expulsion. There were five volumes of them embracing the years 1687-1755.