

ACADIAN GENEALOGY AND NOTES

BY

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The Genealogies of three Acadian families, namely: Bourgeois, Lanoue and Belliveau have been prepared in accordance with the desire expressed by the Department that I should publish a portion of my work during the present year. They are necessarily incomplete owing to the lack of official data—information to be gathered from the parochial Registers or nominal censuses.

The task which I have undertaken is extensive and tedious. Indeed it is only within the last eighteen months that facilities have been offered to me to collect information scattered over the United States and Europe. My work on its completion will be presented in the form of a Genealogical Dictionary, in alphabetical order, in several large volumes. But while the material has been gathered for over one hundred families, amounting to thousands of separate entries, the records of few of these families are at present complete. The three genealogies here given are offered as an example of the progress which has been made with the work, and it will be seen that access to the registers which are now missing, would enable me to make the records of these three families fairly complete.

With the system of co-operation which has been established between the Archives branch and historical investigators both at home and abroad, I have reason to hope that many of the documents essential for the completion of this work will be forthcoming. The papers which have already been located during the past year have placed me in the possession of information which at one time I despaired of finding. Amongst papers lately discovered by the department at La Rochelle, are the Church Registers of Beaubassin, embracing the years 1712-1748, and those of St. Pierre-Miquelon from 1763 to 1776.

Had I these Beaubassin records the branches of the Bourgeois family, residing at Chignictou, would not have been omitted in the genealogy of that family.

It is not an easy task to trace Acadian Genealogies.

For practical purposes we may consider the arrival of the primitive families to date back to the expedition of Commander de Razilly to Acadie in 1632. It is not probable that any of the Acadians, with the exception of the La Tours, trace their descent from the colonists who arrived in the country with de Monts and Poutrincourt.

The Acadians are therefore mostly descendants of the de Razilly's "300 hommes d'élite" as *Renaudot's Gazette* styles them; of the French immigrants that d'Aunay de Charnicay brought from 1639 to 1649; of those who came in 1651 with Charles de St. Etienne de La Tour; and subsequent small immigrations at divers dates.

As to the Le Borgnes, it would appear that they had very little to do towards bringing colonists to Acadie.

The first permanent settlers in Acadie therefore came in 1632. It is well to observe that de Razilly's "300 hommes d'élite" were not all married men because with the exception of twelve or fifteen families, the rest were entered as "engagés célibataires", who later on married young girls brought from France, and in all probability many of them returned unmarried to their native country after their term of agreement expired.