

Among papers recently discovered by the department at La Rochelle are the church registers of Beaubassin, embracing the years 1712-1748, and three of St. Pierre-Miquelon from 1763 to 1776.

For practical purposes, M. Gaudet considers the primitive families to date back to the expedition of Commander de Razilly to Acadie in 1632, it being improbable that any of the Acadians, with the exception of the La Tours, traced their descent from the colonists who arrived in the country with De Monts and Poutrincourt.

The French Acadians are therefore mostly descendants of the De Razilly's "300 hommes d'elite," as *Renandot's Gazette* styles them; who were not all married men, because, with the exception of twelve or fifteen families, the rest were entered as "engages celibataires," 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.

The settlers from the earliest time were accompanied by spiritual directors, and M. Gaudet hopes, eventually, to discover the records of births, marriages and deaths which were kept by them until the year 1654, when Acadie passed under English rule. Researches are now being conducted in Europe, and it is hoped that traces of these registers may be found either at the Vatican or at Senlis.

From 1654 to 1664 there is a gap, and no registers containing entries for this period have been found.

A general census of Acadie was taken in 1671, and it is to this document that we must look for names of the early families of Acadie. This is reproduced in Appendix A of the present work. A nominal census of the Mines district for the year 1698 was taken, and Mr. Biggar has been instructed to search for this record in France.

At the time of Grandfontaine's arrival, the two principal settlements in Acadie were at Port Royal and Pentagoet. There was also a small settlement at Pobomkou and another at Riviere St. Jean. Later more settlements were found at **Beaubassin** at Mines of Grand Pree, at Riviere-aux-Canards, at Piziquid, at Cobequid, at Chipoudy, and at Petkoudiac, and later again at Memramcouk and Tintamarre. The last four mentioned were within the limits of the present Counties of Westmorland and Albert, in New Brunswick.

After reciting the names of a number of Acadian churches, M. Gaudet informs us that—