

THE CLOUTIER STORY

THE LINE OF ROGER CLOUTIER AND HIS FAMILY

THE ANCESTOR

Our ancestor Zacharie Cloutier was one of the first founding settlers of New France. Today, his descendants are numerous mostly in Québec, but also in Canada, in the United States and abroad. Our own Cloutier line now extends to the thirteenth generation.

Zacharie Cloutier's decision to come across the Atlantic and help start a populating process may seem surprising, but, it was taken in a particular context that is well worth looking into so as to understand the repercussions of that decision on his life and on that of his family.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The French founded Québec city and New France at the beginning on the 17th Century. But, what could have motivated these Europeans to come and live here and what was going on in France at that time?

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE

During the 16th Century, the religious situation in France was tragic and was the cause of internal wars and massacres. The successive kings did not succeed in uniting the country and in bringing peace and tranquility. In such a climate, we can understand that simple and peaceful people might have started thinking seriously about finding calm, freedom and personal prosperity somewhere else. On one part, it seemed in fashion in Europe to establish companies to explore new lands and to trade. Each European power wanted her share of new territories. Some individuals wanted to get rich quick; others wanted to spread their religious beliefs and evangelize the natives. Finally, others just wanted a clean and safe place to live properly and to raise their children on a piece of land of their own.

King Henry IV who converted from Protestantism to Catholicism succeeded better than the others in reestablishing peace in France and it is during his reign in 1604 that Acadia was founded¹. This first French settlement in America had mostly commercial aims and was totally dependent on the sponsors. Similar efforts were often undermined by political and military rivalries, French and British, and even court intrigues, all with negative results on this side of the Atlantic. After a few years, Pierre de Gua, Sieur De Monts, the founder of Acadia had his privilege revoked and Samuel de Champlain who was with him in Acadia from the beginning,

¹ Peace was not yet achieved; King Henry IV was assassinated in 1610.

returned to France in 1607. However, Champlain did not give up and he went back to America to found Québec city in 1608.²

THE FOUNDING OF QUÉBEC CITY AND OF NEW FRANCE

The settlement established by Samuel de Champlain in Québec had a slow and difficult beginning. The first family among settlers was that of Louis Hébert, a Parisian apothecary, in 1617. This Hébert has previously spent some time in Acadia with Champlain and knew him well. This time Hébert had his wife Marie Rollet, his son Guillaume and his daughters Guillemette and Anne with him. Champlain granted him land in 1623 in the upper town of Québec city. However, he did not enjoy it very long as he died at the beginning of January 1627 from an accident. His only son, Guillaume, married Hélène Desportes in 1634 and they had two daughters and one son, Joseph who married Marie-Charlotte de Poitiers in 1660. Iroquois killed Joseph the next year leaving just one son who died early. So, our first settler did not pass on his surname to descendants. However, his daughter Guillemette married in Québec city in 1621 to Guillaume Couillard and has had numerous descendants. Her sister Anne died giving birth to her first child whom did not survive.

In 1627, the colony comprised of about sixty men, five women and six young girls.

During this time, Champlain, a cartographer, explored the country as much as he could, going as far west as Lake Huron and Lake Ontario and to Lake Champlain to the south. Only the already hostile Iroquois prevented him from going further.

In 1629, the three Kirke brothers captured Québec city that was without decent protection, in the name of the British³. Most of the settlers then returned to France except Guillaume Couillard, his family, his mother-in-law Marie Rollet, in all, about twenty people. In 1632, the Saint-Germain-en-Laye Treaty ended the British occupation. When Champlain returned in 1633, he had to start from scratch as the British had killed all the livestock, brought away all supplies and destroyed all the structures.

Another Frenchman Robert Giffard, master surgeon and apothecary had already visited in Québec city for the Compagnie des Cent-Associés. He had spent the 1625-26 winter there

² During his explorations while staying in Acadia, Champlain was involved in violent and deadly clashes with the Indians of the Cape Cod region. If he chose to go further north on the St. Lawrence River for his second try at settlement, it is likely because he hoped to avoid other clashes. Hélas !

³ This takeover was felt like high treachery by Champlain and the other French because the Kirke brothers were half French by their mother and where all born in France. They were naturalized British only in 1639. One of their nieces married Pierre-Esprit Radisson. The Kirke brothers were also helped and guided by a French Huguenot captain from Dieppe named Jacques Michel. See TRUDEL, Marcel, *Histoire de la Nouvelle-France*, tome III, *La seigneurie des Cent-Associés*, Fides, 1979, page 32.

and had taken a liking to the country. He was back again in 1629 but was caught by the British⁴. Back in his native Perche, he planned and organized a project. He became associate with Pierre Le Bouyer, Sieur de Saint-Gervais, an advisor to the king, in order to set up trade and a settlement in New France. In 1634, he arrived in Québec city with about forty people coming from the Perche region. The “*Percherons*” do not have the reputation of being adventurers, but they seem to have the qualities sought by Giffard⁵. The group had six families with many children in each. These immigrants were:

Robert Giffard, Sieur de Moncel and de Beauport: his wife **Marie Renouard** and their children, Marie called Marie-Françoise and Charles. Then, they were Françoise, Louise, Marie dite Marie-Thérèse and Joseph, born here. In France, he was master surgeon and apothecary. Here, he was said to be “Ordinary Physician of the King” and “Seigneur”.

Noël Juchereau, Sieur de Châtelet and DesChâtelets: unmarried. In France, he had a law license, was Master of the ironworks of Échaumesnil, merchant and member of the Compagnie de la Nouvelle-France. In Québec, he was the General Clerk for the Compagnie des Cent-Associés, Director of embarkment for Canada at La Rochelle and General Attorney for the Communauté des Habitants de la Nouvelle-France. He returned to France in 1647.

Jean Juchereau, Sieur de Maure: his wife **Marie Langlois** and their children, Jean, Nicolas and Geneviève. Other children Louis and François had already died before the trip. In France, he was a clothier, wood merchant, wine merchant, owner of the “*Grefte hérédital au baillage du Perché*”. Here, he was a fur merchant, General Clerk of the Stores of New France; he was granted a fief at Cap-Rouge and therefore became a Seigneur in 1635.

Jean Guyon: his wife **Mathurine Robin** and their children, Barbe, Jean, Simon, Marie, Marie⁶ (sic), Claude, Denis and Michel. Then, Noël and François were born here. In France, he was master mason. Here, he was still master mason, and a private notary; he was granted the back fief Dubuisson and therefore became a “*seigneur bourgeois*” as did Zacharie Cloutier.

Henri Pinguet: his wife **Louise Lousche** and their children, Françoise, Noël-Joseph and Pierre. Other children Mathurin, Nicolas, Louise, Marie and Marie had already died in France. He was a merchant in France. Here, he owned the Pinguet fief.

⁴ See TRUDEL, Marcel, *Histoire de la Nouvelle-France*, tome III, *La seigneurie des Cent-Associés*, Fides, 1979, page 30.

⁵ LANDRY, Yves, *Pour le Christ et le Roi, La vie au temps des premiers Montréalais*, Libre Expression/Art global, 1992, page 41. In this document, a description of the *Percherons* by Father Jean-Joseph d'Expilly in his *Dictionnaire géographique, historique et politique des Gaules et de la France*, published in Paris between 1762 and 1770, is transcribed as follows, translated by us: “The inhabitants of this province [Perche] are generally steadfast to their work and are not prone to novelties. They have little vivacity but are hardworking. This, of course, applies only to the common people”.

⁶ May have died in France.

Gaspard Boucher⁷: his wife **Nicole Lemaire** and their children, Pierre, Nicolas, Marie, Marguerite and Madeleine. Other children Charles, Antoinette and Charles had already died in France. Here, he was a husbandman and a carpenter.

Marin Boucher⁸: his second wife **Perrine Mallet**⁹ and their children, Louis-Marin dit Beaubuisson, Jean-Galleran, Françoise, Pierre, Madeleine and Marie. Guillaume was born here. Arriving with them also was François, aged 17, and the son of Marin and his first wife Julienne Baril. Marin Boucher was a mason

Jeanne Mercier: unmarried. She married **Claude Poulin**, a carpenter, in Québec city in 1639. This couple had nine children: Marie, Pascal, Madeleine, Martin, René, Ignace, Marguerite, Marie (a second one) and Pierre.

Zacharie Cloutier: see the text “Generation 1” for details about him.

Before his departure from France, the King had granted Robert Giffard, the Beauport *seigneurie* near Québec city. He then could grant part of his seigneurie to fellow countrymen. Other *Percherons* arrived the following years, coming mostly from the areas of Tourouvre and Mortagne in Perche. There were: Jean Gagnon in 1640, Guillaume Pelletier in 1641, Pierre Gagnon, Jean’s brother in 1642, Louis Guimont, Julien Mercier, Jacques Loiseau, Pierre Tremblay in 1647, Nicolas Rivard and Marin Chauvin in 1648, Jean Roussin in 1650, Pierre Maheu and Robert Giguère in 1651, to name a few.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CLOUTIERS OF OUR LINE AND IMPORTANT EVENTS :

- 1491 John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) explored Newfoundland.
- 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered America.
- 1498 Louis XII was crowned King of France.
- 1515 Louis XII died and Francis I became King of France.
- 1534 Jacques Cartier made the first of three trips to Canada.
- 1547 Francis I died and Henry II became King of France.
- 1559 Henry II died and Francis II became King of France.
- 1560 Francis II died and Charles IX became King of France.
- 1574 Charles IX died and Henry III became King of France.

⁷ Future governor of Trois-Rivières, and later, founder of Boucherville.

⁸ He was Gaspard Boucher’s brother.

⁹ She arrived in 1635 with her children. See TRUDEL, Marcel, *Catalogue des immigrants 1632-1662*, Hurtubise HMH, 1983, page 44.

- 1582 The Gregorian¹⁰ Calendar replaced the Julian Calendar in most Catholic countries. In the Britain and its colonies, this event occurred in 1752.
- 1589 Henry III died and Henry IV became King of France.
- 1590 Birth of **Zacharie Cloutier**. (*first generation*)
- 1596 Birth of **Sainte Dupont**. (*first generation*)
- 1603 Samuel de Champlain made a first trip to America.
- 1604 Acadia was founded by Pierre de Gua, Sieur De Monts.
- 1607 Jamestown (Virginia) was founded by the British.
- 1608 Québec was founded Samuel de Champlain.
- 1610 Henry IV died and Louis XIII became King of France.
- 1617 Louis Hébert and his family arrived in Québec city.
- 1617 Birth of **Zacharie Cloutier II**. (*second generation*)
- 1628 Birth of **Madeleine Émard**. (*second generation*)
- 1634 Arrival in Québec city of **Zacharie Cloutier I** and **Zacharie Cloutier II**.
- 1634 Death of **Denis Cloutier**, Zacharie's father.
- 1634 Trois-Rivières was founded by Laviolette.
- 1635 Death of Samuel de Champlain.
- 1636 Arrival in Québec city of **Sainte Dupont** and her other children.
- 1642 Montréal was founded by Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve.
- 1643 Louis XIII died and Louis XIV became King of France.
- 1651 Birth of **René Cloutier**. (*third generation*)
- 1658 Birth of **Marie-Élisabeth Leblanc**. (*third generation*)
- 1677 Death of **Zacharie Cloutier**. (*first generation*)
- 1680 Death of **Sainte Dupont**. (*first generation*)
- 1708 Death of **Zacharie Cloutier II**. (*second generation*)
- 1708 Death of **Madeleine Émard**. (*second generation*)
- 1715 Louis XIV died and Louis XV became King of France.
- 1755 The Deportation of the Acadians began.
- 1760 New France became a British colony.
- 1760 George III was crowned King of Great Britain.
- 1776 The United States of America became independent.
- 1789 The French Revolution began.
- 1791 Separation of Lower Canada and Upper Canada.
- 1804 Napoléon became Emperor of the French.
- 1820 George III died and George IV became King of Great Britain.
- 1830 George IV died and William IV d became King of Great Britain.

¹⁰ POPE GREGORY XIII decreed the use of the present day calendar.

- 1837** The Revolt of the Patriotes.
- 1837** William IV died and Victoria I became Queen of Great Britain
- 1867** Creation of the Canadian Confederation.
- 1901** Victoria I died and Edward VII became King of Great Britain.
- 1910** Edward VII died and George V became King of Great Britain.
- 1914** The First World War began.
- 1919** The First World War ended.
- 1929** A world wide Depression set in.
- 1936** George V died and Edward VIII became King of Great Britain, but he stepped down the same year and was replaced by his brother George VI.
- 1939** The Second World War began.
- 1945** The Second World War ended.
- 1952** George VI died and Elizabeth II became Queen of Great Britain.

ORIGIN OF THE CLOUTIER SURNAME

“Before the 10th Century in France, family surnames did not exist. Only a name was used to refer to a person, usually the name received at the christening of the child”¹¹. Inevitably the use of aliases spread to permit identification of people with the same name, as the population grew larger. Of course, this was for the common people only as the nobles with their multiple names and surnames did not have this problem. In 1539, King Francis I decreed the creation of the civil records in his Villers-Cotterêts¹² edict in order to register the vital statistics of all his people and at the same occasion, he made obligatory the passing of the father’s surname to all his children. The men who did not already have a surname had to choose one. So, the surnames were found diversely: from a region (Champagne), from a city (Parisien, *Parisian*), because of a foreign origin (Lallemand, *the German*), from a relation (Legendre, *the son-in-law*), from a title (Marquis), from a trade (Cloutier, *nail maker or nail dealer*), from a location (Vallée, *valley*), from an animal (Lelièvre, *the rabbit*), from a plant (Poirier, *pear tree*), from a human quality (Ledoux, *the gentle one*), from human nature (Malenfant, *bad child*), from a physical disability (Lesourd, *the deaf one*), from a physical feature (Legrand, *the tall one*), from a character feature (Sanregret, *without regret*), etc.

Even if our ancestor was not in the nail business, it seems most probable that if we could go up one or two more generations in our line, we would find a nail maker¹³ or a nail dealer.

¹¹ FARIBAULT-BEAUREGARD, Marthe and BEAUREGARD-MALAK, Ève, *La Généalogie, Retrouver ses ancêtres*, Les éditions de l’Homme, 1987, page 113.

¹² The same edict ordered the use of French to replace Latin in the Justice administration and established the notary acts. In spite of the edict, the keeping of records in the parishes did not start until about 1600 in most of France. See MÉMO, *Encyclopédie générale visuelle et thématique*, Larousse, 1993, page 392.

¹³ At that time, nails were handmade, hammered one by one by specialized blacksmiths.