



Généalogie et Archives Saint-Laurent

Newsletter

Fall 2025

WHAT HAPPENS DURING OUR OPEN RESEARCH HOURS

THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS - 1 - 4 PM

You might be surprised by the variety of questions and visitors we assist each week! Our volunteers help local residents, out-of-town researchers, and international genealogists explore family histories, property records, and community heritage. Recent examples include:

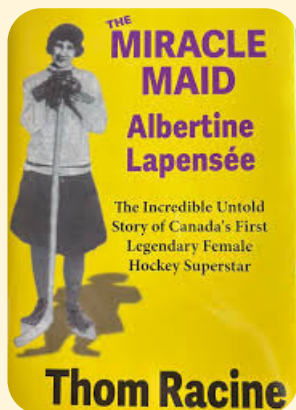
Assisting with requests for 1970s class photographs and lists of teachers for an elementary school reunion in Cornwall. Providing historical information on Cornwall's trolley bus era, requested by a researcher in North Carolina.

Supporting a Chicago visitor tracing the property ownership of relatives near Eamer's Corners around 1900. Locating 1930s land records for the 1st Concession of Osnabruck Township for a researcher in Michigan.

Answering email requests from Quebec regarding a local couple who passed away in the 1980s, and exploring their family lines back several generations. Assisting a phone inquiry from Saskatchewan about an unwed mother in Stormont County in the late 19th century, working to uncover the identity of an unknown father.

Guiding researchers through 1940s orphanage records, helping to piece together childhood histories that can be difficult to trace. Meeting with a visitor originally from Alberta whose DNA results challenged her expected ancestry; we reviewed documentation, correspondence from Greece, and explored possible connections to Turkey.

We regularly welcome genealogists from across North America:
Utah, Florida, Chicago, Michigan, North Carolina... ..and many more!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Annual General Meeting
- Monday, Nov. 10, 2025 at 1 pm
- Cornwall Public Library Upstairs
- Guest Speaker: Thom Racine discussing his book *The Miracle Maid*





NEW ON G  N  ALOGIE QU  BEC! A LITTLE BIT OF US!

Earlier this year S  bastien Robert from G  n  alogie Qu  bec digitized some of our microfilms from local parishes. Those have now been added to the website genealogiequebec.com, and are now available to search.

Under Cornwall in the new Alexandria, Dioc  se d' (Catholiques) collection there are 10 parishes. You will see some (4) under Cornwall in the Ontario alphabetical. There now several parishes (Ingleside, Martintown, etc) not previously available or with fewer years on Ancestry.com. Recommendations would be to browse and see what is there.

The path to find them on the website is the following: Tools - Drouin Collection Records - Ontario - Alexandria, Dioc  se d'. The following screenshot shows the layout.

The screenshot shows the G  n  alogie Qu  bec website interface. The top navigation bar includes the logo, a search bar, and links for 'Tools', 'LAFRANCE (BMD)', 'Help', and 'DNA'. The 'Tools' link is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, a red circle highlights the text 'Drouin Collection records    2025'. The main content area displays a list of records under the heading 'Ontario/Alexandria, Dioc  se d' (Catholiques)/'. The list includes various parishes and collections, such as 'Alexandria (Sac  -Coeur)', 'Alexandria (St-Finnan's)', 'Apple Hill (St-Anthony)', 'Collected data and Memories of R. J. MacDonald', 'Cornwall (Blessed Sacrament)', 'Cornwall (Christ-Roi)', 'Cornwall (Cimet  re Notre-Dame Cemetery)', 'Cornwall (General history of Diocese Alexandria-Cornwall)', 'Cornwall (H  tel-Dieu)', 'Cornwall (Nativit  )', 'Cornwall (Orphelinat)', 'Cornwall (St-Columban's)', 'Cornwall (Ste-Croix)', 'Cornwall (Ste-Th  r  se-de-Lisieux)', 'Cornwall (St-F  lix-de-Valois)', 'Cornwall (St-Fran  ois-de-Sales)', 'Cornwall (St-Jean-de-Bosco)', 'Cornwall (Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens)', 'Crysler (Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire)', 'Dalkeith (St-Paul)', 'Dioc  se d'Alexandria', 'Finch (St-Bernard)', 'Glen Nevis (Ste-Marguerite d'  cosse)', 'Glen Robertson (St-Martin-de-Tours)', 'Glen Walter (Pr  cieux-Sang)', 'Green Valley (Ste-Marie-de-L'Assomption)', 'Greenfield (Ste-Catherine-de-Sienne)', 'Histoire d'un dioc  se - Alexandria-Cornwall', 'Ingleside (Our Lady of Grace)', and 'Lancaster (St-Joseph)'.



- ✧ Alexandria, Diocèse d' (Catholiques)
 - ✧ Alexandria (Sacré-Cœur)
 - ✧ Alexandria (St-Finnan's)
 - ✧ 1830
 - ✧ 1840
 - ✧ 1850
 - ✧ 1860
 - ✧ 1870
 - ✧ 1880
 - ✧ 1890
 - ✧ Baptêmes
 - ✧ 1860
 - ✧ 1870
 - ✧ 1880
 - ✧ 1890
 - ✧ 1900
 - ✧ 1910
 - ✧ 1920
 - ✧ 1930
 - ✧ 1940
 - ✧ 1950
 - ✧ 1950
 - d1p_80601991.jpg
 - d1p_80601992.jpg
 - d1p_80601993.jpg
 - d1p_80601994.jpg
 - d1p_80601995.jpg
 - d1p_80601996.jpg

- ✧ Alexandria, Diocèse d' (Catholiques)
 - ✧ Alexandria (Sacré-Cœur)
 - ✧ 1910
 - ✧ 1920
 - ✧ 1930
 - ✧ 1940
 - ✧ 1950
 - ✧ 1950
 - ✧ 1951
 - ✧ 1952
 - ✧ 1953
 - ✧ 1954
 - ✧ 1955
 - ✧ 1956
 - ✧ 1957
 - ✧ 1958
 - ✧ 1959

The decade folders and the yearly folders under each are empty but clicking on the decades and years under a **particular type of religious ceremony**, e.g. baptisms, does give the records:

- ✧ Alexandria (Sacré-Cœur)
 - ✧ 1910
 - ✧ 1920
 - ✧ 1930
 - ✧ 1940
 - ✧ 1950
 - ✧ 1960
 - ✧ 1970
 - ✧ Baptêmes
 - ✧ 1910
 - ✧ 1920
 - ✧ 1930
 - ✧ 1940
 - ✧ 1950
 - ✧ 1950
 - d1p_80610915.jpg
 - d1p_80610916.jpg
 - d1p_80610917.jpg

- ✧ St-Regis
 - ✧ 1760
 - ✧ 1770
 - ✧ 1780
 - ✧ 1790
 - ✧ 1800
 - ✧ 1810
 - ✧ 1820
 - ✧ 1830
 - ✧ 1840
 - ✧ 1850
 - ✧ 1860
 - ✧ 1870
 - ✧ 1880
 - ✧ 1890
 - ✧ 1900
 - ✧ 1910
 - ✧ 1920
 - ✧ 1930
 - ✧ 1940
 - ✧ 1950
 - ✧ 1960
 - ✧ 1970
 - ✧ Baptêmes
 - ✧ Dictionnaire Français-Iroquois
 - ✧ Grammaire iroquoise
 - ✧ History of St. Regis
 - ✧ Index
 - ✧ Letters of St. Regis
 - ✧ Mariages
 - ✧ Sépultures
 - ✧ The Fate of Glengarry
 - ✧ Williamstown (St-Mary's)



When great-grandma goes wild!

Claude Damisé (~ 1648-1705) & Anne Lamarque (1649-1686)

by Ginette Guy Mayer

Many of us with French Canadian roots have one, two or ten Filles du Roy (Filles du Roi) as ancestors. The scheme from King Louis XIV to bring women of marriageable age to the new colony allowed the population to grow. Les Filles du Roy are often called “Mothers of the nation.” One such woman was Claude Damisé, my 6th great-grandmother in the Mayer (Maillé) line.

Claude Damisé was born in the parish of Saint-Nicholas-du-Chardonnet, France, with birth dates estimated but the most logical based on PRDH would be 1648 . She was the daughter of Étienne Damisé and Geneviève Pioche. When her mother was widowed, she put her two children, Claude and a young son Jean, into the La Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital.[1] The Paris “Hospital” was a dumping ground for all types of marginalized women and socially unacceptable women, including orphans with no one with the means to care for them. Jean remained there until his mother remarried in 1665. Claude opted to come to New France as a Filles du Roy in 1668. She brought with her a small dowry, clothes and a few supplies to start her new life. She stayed at the Maison Saint-Gabriel in Montreal.

On December 10, 1668 Claude marries Pierre Perthuis dit Lalime (1643-1708). He had come to New France in 1665, a soldier in the Salières Company of the Carignan Regiment. He became a merchant and fur trader. From 1670 to 1691, they had 12 children.[2]

All is well so far...but in 1675, my great-grandmother takes on a lover, she has an illegitimate son, André-Jean (1676-1745) and the father is recognized as Jean Paradis. Records have been made, so it implies that the affair was well-known, and happened mid-marriage. So the couple Claude and Pierre Perthuis stayed together. A childless couple adopted the boy. In 1682, a scandal brings Claude and her husband Pierre to court. A Montreal cabaret owner, Anne Lamarque (1649-1686), dit Folleville, is arrested for an immoral lifestyle. Anne was married to Charles Testard and is believed to have several lovers on the side, and several children from different fathers. The charges against her were adultery, promiscuity, running a brothel and...witchcraft. (Continues next page)



Claude and Pierre rented a room to the woman at the time, and they were called in to testify as witnesses to some of her “activities” as she was residing in their home. The parish priest had nothing good to say about Anne Lamarque, she had neglected to receive communion at Easter! Witnesses said she had a “grimoire” a book of spells, a thick volume in Latin, Greek and French. It was said that she could mix love potions. Her husband had also called her “a devil and a sorceress.”[3]

Anne ‘Folleville’ stood her ground. She said the book was about herbs and medicines. She said the parish priest “was not worthy to say mass and...committed so much sacrilege, being in mortal sin himself, that she threatened to beat him like a dog and tear his robe.” Apparently, she was not the only one to disapprove of the irascible priest.

The trial went on from June 20th until July, with more than a dozen witnesses for and against Anne. The parish priest called for her to be banished from Montreal. The authority —the Montreal elite —was not so inclined. Anne, an independent businesswoman with friends and acquaintances at all levels, was acquitted, and her business remained in operation until her death.

[1] Macouin, Jean-Paul. Les familles pionni  res de la Nouvelle-France dans les archives du Minutier central des notaires de Paris. Archiv-Histo, Montr  al, 2024

[2] HoneysKorner, “Claude Damise: A Fille du Roi in Montreal,” Tale of a Family (blog), February 1, 2020, <https://talesofafamily.blog/?s=Damise>

[3] John Kalbfleisch, "Second Draft: New France didn't share New England's hysteria bout 'witches'," The Gazette, June 24, 2016, <https://montrealgazette.com/opinion/columnists/second-draft-new-france-didnt-share-new-englands-hysteria-about-witches>

10 decembre 1668

Le 10 me

M 14

Pierre
Perthuis
et

A este fait et solennis   Le mariage
de Pierre Perthuis filz de feu Sylvestre
Perthuis et de Mathurine Rasficot
ses P  re et M  re de la paroisse de St.
Denis A Ambroise Dioc  se de Tours.
avec Claude Damis   fille d'Estienne



Drop in to see us if your membership is due for renewal!

Cold cases solved by genealogical genetics

(from Journal de Montreal, Samedi 4 octobre 2025)

Recently, genealogical genetics, the combination of DNA testing with traditional family history research to explore ancestry and familial relationships, has helped solve decades-old cold cases. The murder of a young girl in Quebec was solved 17 years after the fact, and another was solved in 2023 after a 49-year wait.

There are some ethical concerns about the ability to find people even though they have never given a DNA sample. They are found by tracing the distant relatives who have given DNA to various testing banks and making connections. Right now, the use of the material is limited to the last attempts at solving hard crimes.

Here is a brief rundown of how it works.

- 1- DNA is found at the crime scene - coming from blood, weapon, etc.
- 2- There are 1,000,000 genetic profiles registered in the DNA National Data Bank owned by the RCMP in Canada. It contains DNA from various criminals, missing persons and volunteers.
- 3- If the DNA bank does not hold any information, then the police compares the DNA found with the profiles compiled on commercial genealogical sites.
- 4- They then use common practices to deduce the nearest match, for a relative either grandparent, uncles, cousins, etc.
- 5- The police then needs to review and enquire with hundreds of individuals link to the crime by DNA. Then they follow the trail to find the suspect.

The ethics of the process is always under review but for those who have been waiting decades to finally get answers it is of great value.