

Acadians & French-Canadians In North America

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I. Overview of the founding of early settlements of Acadia & New France:

History of the development of Acadia & New France: Key dates, military activity, dispersion and wars.

KEY DATES:

- Evolution of Canada over time:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_Canada
- Acadia – 1604-1616: First attempts at settlement of the region of Maine, Nova Scotia
- Between 1654 and 1667, no new French families were settled as England was in control.
- In 1667, control returned to France; in 1670, the first Acadian census was conducted.
- In 1674, there was a very brief ownership by the Dutch.
- From about 1610 to 1763 – Controlled by French and referred to as “New France”
- 1755 to 1764 – Grand Dérangement (the Great Upheaval/Dispersement) of the Acadians, being dispersed along the east coast of the early American colonies, many were deported back to France or England.
- In 1764, Acadians began arriving in Louisiana (a Spanish-held territory)

Quebec -

- 1608 – the founding of the city of Quebec; French control.
- 1756-1760 began the British maneuvering to take control of the territory.
- 1763 to 1841 – British control; Records are referenced as “Upper” and “Lower Canada”
- Between 1841 and 1867 – the designation was Canada West and Canada East
- Confederation: July 1, 1867 – Formation of Canada as a nation. Union of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. And by 1870, the Hudson’s Bay Company lands known as “Rupert’s Land” had become the Northwest Territories.
- From 1870 to 1949 – Canada continues to add, designate boundaries for various provinces and territories.
- 1912 – An adjustment to the boundaries of the Northwest Territories enlarges Ontario and Quebec.
- The present-day Canada that we all know has only been in existence since 2003, which includes name changes for the various provinces or territories. At Confederation, there were four provinces; now there are ten provinces and three territories.

To see how the country of Canada evolved from the beginnings of Acadia and New France, check these maps at the Historical Atlas of Canada:

http://www.historicalatlas.ca/website/hacolp/national_perspectives/boundaries/UNIT_17/index.htm

Website created from the partnership of the Library of Congress in conjunction with the Bibliothèque nationale de France: <http://memory.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/fiaabout.html#track1>

A companion site that is dedicated to the shared history of France and North America is the site at <http://www.louisiane.culture.fr> (in French, you will need Adobe Reader and Flash player to view the site's information).

Canadian Museum of History – a collection of information, pictures, maps and additional resources and links regarding the history and development of the French presence in North America: <http://www.historymuseum.ca/virtual-museum-of-new-france/colonies-and-empires/colonial-expansion-and-alliances/>

Library and Archives of Canada: Pathfinders & Passageways <http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/206/301/lac-bac/explorers/www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/explorers/index-e.html>

The Newberry Library's project – Mapping the French Empire in North America: <http://publications.newberry.org/smith/exhibits/fe/fe.html>

II. Genealogical Societies and Regional Repositories: The help and resources of these societies and regional repositories cannot be over-stated – join one or more, especially for the areas that your family is from, as they often provide members special access to records that non-members cannot view. Online content is often specific to the region but there are also publications, queries, seminars and special collections in addition to incredible journal content and transcriptions.

To save on syllabus space, a listing has been posted on my website via Google Docs [here](#)

III. Key websites, tools and books:

Websites -

- Family Search – Free
- Ancestry.com – Free at your public library; fee for home research;
- Library and Archives Canada <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>
- Généalogie Québec/Genealogy Quebec, *Drouin Institute* <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/> (fee required)
2855 Belcourt, Longueuil, Québec, J4M 2B2 Archives of Quebec
- Beauregard, Denis. Genealogy of the French in North America. <http://www.franco-gene.com/gfna/gfna/998/>
- With links to many important websites: <http://www.francegenweb.org>
- RootsWeb – Guides for Acadian, French-Canadian, French, etc. <http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson24.htm#Acadians>
- Our Roots, Nos Racines: <http://www.ourroots.ca/e/>
- Early Canadiana Online: <http://www.canadiana.org/>
- Electronic New France / Nouvelle-France électronique: a web site by Joseph Gagné <https://electronicnewfrance.wordpress.com/>

Acadian Census Records

<http://www.acadian-home.org/census-acadia.html> Listings of the census 1671, 1678, 1686 and more, thanks to the microfilms of the Public Archives of Canada and others (these ARE transcriptions – be sure to verify with original records).

Quebec Census Records

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx> Listings of census records include 1825, 1831, 1842, 1851, etc. Remembering that records in some periods refer to “Canada East” for Quebec.

Books for History, Records and Background

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec <http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/>

The *Parchemin* - Notarial Records for Québec from 1635 to 1784, developed by the Archiv-Histo historical research society (French only), provides an abstract of each notarial record (date of the record, name of the notary, names of the parties, etc.).

Denisson, Rev. Fr. Christian. *Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region*, Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 1701-1936, 1987 revision.

Dictionary of Canadian Biography. Vol. I (1000-1700) University of Toronto Press. 1966 (1979 reprint) A wonderful resource now available online
<http://www.biographi.ca/en/index.php>

Drouin Institute (Institut Généalogique Drouin), “Red Book”, originally based mainly on Tanguay and, therefore, subject to the same cautions and restrictions. Called “red” because of the color of the original cover of the book. And “Blue Book” includes marriages only and is a bit rare to find – covers the years 1760 to 1935.
<http://www.francogene.com/qc-res/blue.php> Look also at the Family History Library – holdings of the Drouin collections of records appear in Ancestry! Also Allen County Public Library, American French Genealogical Society’s website:
<http://www.afgs.org/afgsrsrc.html> and the Detroit Public Library’s website:
<http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/featuredcollection/burton-historical-collection> and many more for these publications either in book form or microfilm. Utilize GenealogyQuebec here (English version): <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/>

Dumouchel, Madeleine. *French Pioneers of the Western District*. Toronto: Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs, 1979.

Eccles, W. J. *The Canadian Frontier, 1534-1760*, Revised Edition, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1974.

Faribault-Beaugard, Marthe. *La population des forts français d’Amérique (XVIIIe siècle)*. Tome 1. Montréal: Éditions Bergeron. 1982; Tome 2. 1984. This French-language compilation of data organized the baptisms, marriages, and burials in alphabetical order by fort locations. A valuable resource, but the author’s notes should be read as she made some “adjustments” to notations.

Jetté, René. *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec*. Les Presses de l’Université de Montréal. 1983. A compilation, more reliable than Tanguay, this is not a primary resource but a good tool to find families and their locations in time.

PRDH: *Programme de recherche en démographie historique (Program of research in historical demography)*. Gaëtan Morin Éditeur. <http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca>
There is an English version online – possible to look up names but to see documents, a fee must be paid (well worth it as the full original images are available without traveling!).

Tanguay, L’Abbé Cyprien. *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes*. Éditions Élysée, 1975 reprint, originally published from 1871-1890.

Part of the fun of Acadian & French-Canadian research is that WE ARE ALL COUSINS!
Please join in the fun of finding some of your cousins by entering your name, email and surnames to this Google Docs page – where we can all connect with each other!

Enter your first and last name, email and ancestral surnames! The links to use are:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DyUXA88VVue3qICekfNvI7enHcE4VOyRFNALfJqLQeA/edit?usp=sharing>

OR <http://ow.ly/GBqB30fRxzW>

OR use



FOR YOUR NOTES: