

The Origins of Canadian Family in France

Msgr. Tanguay on page 545 of Volum I of his Dictionnaire Genealogique writes that Francois Seguin, canadian ancestor of the family of this name, is the son of Laurent (Seguin) and Marie Massieu and was originally from Dombfe, archdiocese of Beauvais, in Picardie (France).

On the other hand, whe, in the afternoon of Wednesday 21 September 1672, the notary Frerot drew up the agreements or contract of marriage between the same Francois Seguin and his future wife, Jeanne Petit, the notary writes as follows:

"This is to draw up a contract of marriage which will take place and be celebrated according to the relasure of God in the presence of Our Holy Mother the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Catholic Church between Francois Seguin (called desrouttes haut) of Boucherville, son of Laurence Seguin and Marie Massieu, who live in the village of Dondenbray, province of Picardie, diocese of Beauvais, of the first part; and of Jeanne Petit, daughter of Jean Petit and Jeanne Gaudreau, living in the parish of Ste. Marguerite, LaRochele, of the second part...."

Basing their comments on the text of Frerot, genealogists have decided that Francois Seguin was born at Ons en Bray (Dondenbray). It is true that the family Seguin is originally from the country around Bray, one of the most typical corners of old Picardie. But where exactly was the Canadian ancestor of this family born?

Laurent Seguin, the father of Francois, married Marie Massieu 14 July 1643, and their marriage was celebrated in the very heart of Bray country, in the little church of Cuigy-en-Bray. Adrien des Melliers and Denis Tournant were the witnessed of the union. The husband is designated as "clerk". "Lord" Fouchard, priest, vicar of Cuigy, officiated at the ceremony.

This act teaches us the most interestin things. It tells us that the first known ancestor of the family was a "clerk". In old France, when one uses the word "clerk" one refers to a lay clerk (as opposed to an ecclesiastical clerk), a man endowed with a certain amount of education who fills the functions of notary and school master in his parish. The "clerk" sings at the music lectern at high masses and cermonies; he aids the pastor in part of the administration of the parish, taking care in time of need of the accounts of the church, some times drawing up the acts of baptism, marriage and burial. He is a person of importance in his village.

The following year, to be more exact, on 4 July 1644, at St. Aubin-en-Bray, a village neighboring Cuigy-en-Bray, the new couple had the first child of their marriage, Francois, baptised. This Francois was to become the Canadian ancestor of all the Seguin families of Presqu'ile. The god-father of the new-born was Francois Boudin and the god-mother Jehanne Dufour. According to the custom of the times, Francois Seguin received the name of his god-father.

On 19 November 1645 Renee Seguin, the daughter of Laurent (Seguin) and Marie Massieu, is baptised by M'Lord Jean Brassefer, pastor of Boutancourt. The father is again called "clerk of Jamericourt". The god-father is M'Lord Pierre Langloys, priest and pastor of the said Jamericourt, and the god-mother is Renee Mautemps.

Although Francois, the oldest of the family, was born at St. Aubin-en-Bray, Renee, the second child of Laurent (Seguin) and Marie Massieu, saw the light of day at Jamericourt. Once again the father is designated as "clerk" of the place and it is this function that permits him to see M'Lord Langloys, the pastor of