



Chapter 4 Sujets des Anglais



With the fighting over as of 1760, Joseph Poulin, the son, was free to look for a wife. On the 25th of January, 1762, at the age of 22 years, he married Angelique Rodrigue at St-Joseph de Beauce. She was the daughter of Jean Rodrigue and Dorothee Fugere. The marriage was blessed by Father Theodore, Recollet.¹ The Poulin couple was established on a large farm on the high ground of the parish of Saint-Joseph (Sector Callway). Nine children were born to this union, Josephat, Angelique, Joseph, Jean (**our 6th ancestor**), Marguerite, Charles, Pierre, Therese, and a second Pierre. Jean was born on the 24th of February in 1768 at St-Joseph. Two years later, in 1770, Joseph Poulin, the son, had the honor to be elected Marguiller (Church Warden). He was the 4th of this family to fill this important position. His father had been one in 1748, his uncle Pierre in 1755, and a third uncle, Claude, in 1765. The Abbey Verreau gave the list of heads of family having their benches in the little church. Among the names one can encounter Joseph Poulin (1748), Pierre (1755), and Claude (1765), and Joseph Poulin, the son. In the book of Marguillers de St-Joseph in 1780, one can read that Joseph Poulin and Pierre Poulin had the bench in the center of the chapel.² A census of the village of St-Joseph in 1762 shows that the family of Joseph, the son, consisted of one male, one female, one male infant, and one female infant (they must have been twins). He also owned six arpents of land, two bulls, one cow, one heifer, two horses, and two pigs.

In November of 1775, when Jean was only 13 years old, a strange thing occurred. Many men were seen on the Riviere Chaudiere moving north, towards Quebec. They were in very bad shape, starving and frostbitten. A small army of English Colonial Rebels under the command of Benedict Arnold had arrived in Beauce. They had traveled north up the Kennebec River through Maine. Then they portaged their boats to the lake that feeds the Chaudiere River. The habitants along the river gave them beef, mutton, flour, and oatmeal. A year earlier, in 1774, the British Parliament had passed the Quebec Act which allowed the French Canadians to keep their customs, language, religion, laws, and they would also be allowed to hold public office. This infuriated the English Colonists who wanted them punished and oppressed since they feared that the French could be used against them by the British. On the other hand they wanted the French as their own allies. In 1774 they sent an envoy to entreat the French to join them in a revolution against Britain. Then they sent a picked force of 1100 men to capture Quebec. In Canada a call went out for the Milice to muster for the defense of Quebec but very few responded. The Colonial Rebels moved on from Beauce and assaulted Quebec City on December 31, 1775. The attack failed and the fighting moved upriver to the Montreal region.³ One might think the Canadiens would be eager to join with the English Colonists against their British captors but most likely, it was a question of trust. The ancient resentment of the Colonials towards the French was only covered by thin veil of their desire to be allies. And while the French were ambivalent about fighting the English in Canada, several thousand men did travel south to join the Continental Army. Six years later it would be ironic that a powerful French fleet would save the rebellious English Colonists from defeat at Yorktown, Virginia, while making no move to recapture a weakly defended Canada. The United States was born with French intervention.

In 1777, Marie Huot, the wife of Joseph Poulin, the father, died eleven years after the birth of their last child. She was buried three days later on February 10th, 1777. Present at the funeral were Joseph

¹ Poulin, *Histoire de Poulin*, 81 and Poulin, *Troisieme Centenaire*, page 128.

² Poulin, *Histoire de Poulin*, 85 and Poulin, *Troisieme Centenaire*, page 128 (only nine children are listed and no dates of birth are given in this book); the census is on page 80 of the *Histoire* book (the meaning of 'taurailles' (heifer) was found by David Kammer and is probably a colloquial term as 'Génisse' is more commonly used).

³ Morrissey, *Quebec 1775* Morrissey, *Quebec 1775*, 8-66.

Poulin, his brother Pierre, Jacques Ducharme, Jean Doyon and many other friends and family. The service was conducted by Abbe Verreault, the parish priest of Saint-Joseph.⁴ Old Jean-Baptiste also died in the same year at the age of eighty-nine and was buried in the parish of St. Joseph of New Beauce on the 12th of August. Present were Joseph Poulin, Pierre Poulin, Claude Poulin, their sons, Jean Jobin, and many others. The service was conducted by Father Verreault.⁵ On the 5th of December, 1780, before the notary Louis Mire of Beauport, Joseph, the father, sold his land to Sieur Joseph Lessard, raising 360 livres at 20 sols a livre. After this date he definitely lived on the south bank of the Riviere Chaudiere. It is good that he never changed the name (title?) since 1780 as the property continued to be owned by Poulins.⁶



This house is situated on the site of the farm of Joseph Poulin, the son. It is located on the east riverbank of the Chaudiere (Sector Callway). It became the property of Leo Poulin, of St-Joseph.

In 1791 on December 26 the Constitution Act by the British Parliament divided Canada into the upper and lower autonomous regions, roughly corresponding to downriver and upriver. Unfortunately the Act failed to establish means of responsible government and trouble ensued as we shall see later.⁷ Jean Poulin, farmer and captain of the Milice, was married in 1792 to Charlotte Roy at St-Joseph. They had twelve children, Charlotte, Louise, Jean-Joseph, Angele, Olivier, Angelique, Pierre, also known as Pierrot (**our 7th ancestor**), Abraham, Fereol, Marie, Slivie, and Catherine, seven girls and five boys. Pierre's birth date is not listed. From 1796-1797 the Poulins of St-Joseph participated actively in the construction of the second church of Saint-Joseph, in replacement of the first wooden chapel. This second church burned in 1864.⁸ On 18 July 1799 on an occasion recalled by Antoine Lamotte, priest of St-Joseph, a bell was

⁴ Poulin, *Troisieme Centenaire*, page 112.

⁵ Poulin, *Histoire de Poulin*, 62-63.

⁶ Poulin, *Troisieme Centenaire*, page 112. This transaction appears to have been a loan rather than a sale.

⁷ Pierre Tousignant, *Constitutional Act, 1791*, Thecanadianencyclopedia.com, retrieved 05/10/10.

⁸ Poulin, *Histoire de Poulin*, 86.

blessed that weighed 225 pounds. It was named “Antoine” by Joseph, the son, and Angelique Lessard, wife of Joseph Nadeau, leaders of a group of parish godfathers and godmothers respectively.

In 1799 Joseph, the father, passed away at the age of 84, after a life of hard labor and of working to cut out a home in the forest. He was buried after a service by Father Lamothe the next day, on the 11th of November, 1799. Present at the burial were Joseph and Etienne, sons, Jacques Lessard, Augustin Morency, Antoine Vachon, Pierre Lessard and many others.⁹ In his life Joseph had been a Captain of Milice. At this time one of the functions of a captain de Milice was to investigate sudden deaths that occurred in the parish to perform an inquest to establish the cause of death.¹⁰ Joseph Poulin, the son, outlived his father by only one year. He died on the 30th of August, 1800, at the age of 60 and was buried at St-Joseph.¹¹ About this time an epidemic raged throughout Quebec and many people died. The type of disease that caused this is not known.¹²

The War of 1812 began in that year when the United States declared war on Britain. The Canadians and British were so badly outnumbered that they took a defensive stance. Most of the battles took place along the border in the west between Lake Michigan and Montreal. There were several battles in this year but still the Americans had accomplished nothing. In 1813 the Americans briefly occupied York (Toronto) but soon left. They also occupied Fort George for a time. There were also battles on Lake Erie in 1814 and a few successes by both sides further stalemated the situation. The Americans had expected that the largely American population of Upper Canada would rise up and assist them but that did not occur. The war ended in a stalemate without accomplishing anything except the finalization of the border between the U.S. and Canada, except for the border with Maine. The only significance of the war for the Poulin family was that they might have become Americans at that time. It was very close. But the war did instill in Canadians a sense of nationalism that was lacking before.¹³



The family records are very sparse following this time period. Pierre Poulin, also a farmer, was married to Apolline Vachon in 1829 in St-Joseph. They had ten children, four girls and six boys, Olive, Euphémie, Genevieve, Augustin, Prospère (**our 8th ancestor**) also known as Tare, Joseph, Lucie, Jean, Thomas, and Charles.¹⁴ Prospère's date of birth is not listed. At this time trouble had been brewing on the horizon and was about to boil over in both Lower and Upper Canadas. As mentioned before the Canada Act had attempted to make the French equal citizens of the British colony of Canada. But adequate controls of power were not set in place and there was a lot of political and fiscal abuse. The French people of Quebec sympathized with Louis-Joseph Papineau (photo at left), a prominent politician of the time. Early on, the lines were not drawn exclusively along ethnic lines but as each side became more hardnosed things began to develop that way. Towards the end, the other side consisted mainly of established merchants and transplanted 'Britishers' who were becoming the majority in the cities. They wanted political advantage over the French population, especially the merchant class. The conflict was further fueled by the fact that in the early 1830s Canada was experiencing a depression and many French Canadians were close to starvation. Also British immigrants had brought cholera with them, which killed many of the French habitants. In March 1837 the British Parliament rejected the demands of Papineau's *Partie Patriote* (Patriot Party). The Patriotes began to organize boycotts and rallies and prepare for war.

⁹ Poulin, *Troisième Centenaire*, page 112.

¹⁰ Poulin, *Histoire de Poulin*, 80.

¹¹ Poulin, *Histoire de Poulin*, 87.

¹² Poulin, *Troisième Centenaire*, page 110.

¹³ <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0008442>; retrieved 5/21/10.

¹⁴ Poulin, *Troisième Centenaire*, page 132.

Late in the year the government tried to arrest the rebel leaders and Papineau had to flee for his life but his followers picked up the baton, in the form of la Fils de la Liberte (Sons of Liberty). On the English side the anti-French hatred boiled to the surface. Most of the fighting took place near Montreal. The rebels defeated a British force at St-Denis on November 23rd, 1837, but were then defeated at St-Charles two days later on the 25th and again at St-Eustache on December 14. After the battle the Anglophone Canadians went on a widespread looting and burning rampage in the French villages. The following year the rebels tried again but were defeated at Napierville and Odelltown. They had a small victory at Beauharnois but were soon scattered by a large British force. Twelve of the leaders were hanged and fifty-eight were shipped to Australia. Although the French were the majority of Quebec's population and also the majority of its legislature they were labeled 'rebels.'¹⁵ Immediately following, in 1839 a new war broke out (well, almost broke out). It is known as the Aroostook War and it was a dispute between Canada and the United States as to the exact location of boundary between Maine and Quebec. It was mostly the direct concern of lumberjacks who needed to know which country owned which portions of land. Despite a lot of chest-thumping no fighting occurred, and in 1843 the Treaty of Paris established the current boundary at the St-Croix River. Unfortunately the treaty was not descriptive enough and it took several more treaties to finally figure it out.¹⁶



The battle of Saint-Eustache.

In 1861 Prosperé Poulin, also a farmer, married Caroline Gilbert in St-Francois de Beauce. Together, they had twelve children six girls and six boys, Adeline, Apolline, Euphemie, Thomas (**our 9th ancestor**) , Philibert, William, Eugenie, Albertine, Augustin, Alfred, Eustache, Gustave, and Stephanie who drowned in the Chaudiere River at the age of twenty-one. Thomas was born in 1868. At this time the United States was embroiled in a bloody Civil War and many French Canadians joined Union regiments. If one checks the archives of the State of Maine at Augusta there are no Poulins registered, but there are 21

¹⁵ Thecanadianencyclopedia.com, retrieved 05/10/10. See "Papineau Rebellion."

¹⁶ Thecanadianencyclopedia.com, retrieved 05/10/19. See "Aroostook War" and "Boundaries."

Poolers, many with birth places listed as Canada, St-Joseph, St-Francis, St-George, etc.¹⁷ At any rate, twenty-one Poolers signed up and their experiences seem to reflect a microcosm of the veterans: one failed to muster, one was rejected (he was 53), one was killed in action, two died of wounds, one died of disease, three were disabled and released from service, four deserted, seven mustered out with two reenlisting, and three had incomplete records.

Why did so many Poulins sign up? Especially those of Canada? Some may have joined for a bounty, when it was offered, a bounty of two or three hundred dollars was a lot of money in those days, probably more so in Canada. This contingent no doubt accounts for the 'no shows.' Or perhaps the volunteers looked at enlistment as steady employment, twelve dollars a month and all the beans, salt pork, and hard tack you could eat (the weevils were free). A few young men may have sought adventure. Others may have joined to fight against England, which seemed to be a sure thing early in the war. During that time England had protected some Confederates at sea and it looked like the U.S. would declare war on Britain. However, President Abraham Lincoln said, "One war at a time," and that was that. And some of the young men must have really believed in the Union cause. They would not have cared much about preserving the Union but perhaps they felt strongly about slavery, especially the two men who reenlisted. Slavery had been abolished throughout the empire by Britain in 1833 including Canada, which became the terminus of the 'Underground Railroad.' By 1860 Canada had about 40,000 black people, many of whom were descendants of slaves of New France in the Colonial period. The French Canadians in general supported the allowance of non-English and non-French immigrants to Canada.¹⁸ Even Mexico had given up slavery by this time leaving the 'home of the free' as the only North American country still clinging to this abominable institution. Everyone, except the United States, had given up slavery without a fight.

One man in particular seems to be a likely candidate as a Civil War relative. He is listed as John Pooler, eighteen years old, born in St-Joseph, P.Q. He could have been the son of our ancestor Pierre and a brother to Prospère. He enlisted into the 21st Maine Infantry Regiment at Augusta, Maine, on 9/10/1862 for nine months of service. He claimed his residence as Skowhegan, Maine, and listed his profession as hostler. His complexion was light, eyes hazel, and hair brown. He took part in the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana, and the assaults on the fort on May 27 and June 14; the Rebel garrison there surrendered on July 8. He was honorably discharged April 25, 1863 when the regiment was disbanded. The unit had lost 27 men to combat and 145 to disease.¹⁹ On April 27, 1864, John reenlisted in the 9th Maine Infantry Regiment. He arrived at the regiment's location in Virginia just in time to be involved in "severe fighting" in eight battles during the next six months, all in Virginia. His unit participated fully in driving Robert E. Lee's army into surrender. In the final engagement only 201 men were present for duty (a regiment is

¹⁷ Archives of the State of Maine at Augusta. When I went to Canada I checked the phone book and there are no Poolers in that area. Then I checked the census records at Waterville, Maine. In 1850 there was a Poulin family living there at the time. I checked the 1860 records and a family with the same first names were now listed as Pooler – and there were no other Poulins. Something happened to make Poulins think it was necessary to Anglicize their name as Pooler, although it's baffling how 21 men from different locations did the exact same thing. Perhaps word got out that, "If you give your name as Pooler you can enlist?" After the war some of the Poolers who lived in Maine kept that name but those who returned to Canada did not. Five entries of the name Pullen was also found in the archives but I understand that they are descended from Poulins of Brittany who assisted in the conquest of England by the Normans in the 11th century and they were given land at York as a reward and were English after that. In fact they may be ancestors of Herve Poulain who is mentioned in the introduction, or his son since the conquest of England took place in 1066 and the account of Herve is in 1034. Another possibility of the name Pooler is that the recruiters were spelling the name phonetically, but again, spelling it exactly the same way 21 times is not likely.

¹⁸ <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0006458>; retrieved 5/21/10.

¹⁹ Archives of the State of Maine at Augusta, also <http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/archives/military/civilwar/reghis.htm>, and <http://www.civilwarreference.com/regiments/detail.php?regID=1292>, retrieved. 5/20/10. He may have said he was a resident of Skowhegan just to gain acceptance in the foreign army. Since there were no IDs at this time it was common for men to lie about all sorts of things.

supposed to have 1,000 men although it was common for the older units to have three or four hundred by this time in the war). The Regiment was mustered out on July 13, 1865.²⁰ If this was actually Jean Poulin, he married Philomene Rancourt after the war in 1867 at St-Francois.²¹



The Habitant Farm by Cornelius Krieghoff, 1856.

In 1888 Thomas Poulin married Elmina Philomene Plante at St-Francis and they lived in Beauceville. She was usually called by her middle name, Philomena. They had twelve children, Joseph William (**our 10th ancestor**), Leonide, Alberta, Armoza, Placide, Emile, Achille, Theotime, Mandoza, Eva, Aurore, and Antonia.²² Joseph, who was referred to by us grandchildren as ‘Pépère’ (familial French for ‘grandfather’) was born the first of twelve children on October 29, 1889. He left school at a very early age, as did many young boys of his time, to be useful to large families on a farm, or to help support the families by seeking employment. His formal schooling ended with the third grade when he was about ten years of age. No doubt, he helped on the family farm, and at some unknown early age he went off to work at the Thetford Mines some twenty-five miles from home where he worked at mining asbestos. It is not known if or where he boarded.

When jobs became scarce, he did several years of seasonal work as a logger on the Kennebec River in Maine. My Dad said that Pépère would walk from Beauceville to northern Maine in the Spring, drive the logs down the Kennebec River to the mills in southern Maine and walk all the way back in the fall. It was a trip of about 300 miles. They slept out in the woods and fields under huge blankets that they would roll out at night; fifty men to a blanket. The logging company maintained a chuck wagon to cook their meals outdoors. It was dangerous work and some of the men were killed or injured, especially when

²⁰ Archives of the State of Maine at Augusta, also <http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/archives/military/civilwar/9meinf.htm>, and <http://www.civilwarreference.com/regiments/detail.php?regID=1280>, retrieved 5/20/10.

²¹ If birth dates for this time period were available it would be easier to compare possible candidates.

²² The information in this section was taken from a typed list of ancestors given to me by Martha Poulin Kammer; unfortunately this list only contained years of marriage, not dates of births and deaths.

attempting to free up a log jam.²³ While there in Maine, Pèpère heard he might find steady work at one of the many mills along Maine's rivers. How long he stayed in Maine or how many seasons he worked as a logger is unknown. When in Skowhegan he lived with his Aunt Celina, one of his mother's sisters, whose married name was Plante. Off season, he probably worked on the family farm.

In September 1918 a terrible influenza broke out in Canada. It arrived on the ship Araguaya which docked at Halifax. The ship was bringing servicemen home from Europe. Because of the blackout in war news carried out by the Allies no one knew where the flu had originated, but it was born in the trenches of WWI. Many people called it the Spanish Flu because news of it first appeared in Spain since there was no blackout on news there. The flu killed some 30 million people throughout the world including 50,000 Canadians.²⁴ In that year, on October 11, 1918, Joseph enlisted in the Canadian Army, in spite of anti-conscription riots in Quebec earlier in the year. He was almost twenty-nine years old at the time. According to his enlistment record he gave his occupation as 'farmer' and he is listed as a rifleman. At this time, Canada was still part of Great Britain, so his unit was actually part of the British Army. He was rated 'normal' at a medical examination a few days later on the 14th, and he embarked from Vancouver on December 21, 1918 aboard the S. S. Teesta. He disembarked in Vladivostok, Russia, on January 12, 1919.

This is a very obscure episode of World War One. The Allies were there to help anyone who wanted to get out of Russia, which had already started its Communist Revolution. They were especially interested in retrieving 50,000 soldiers of the CHECH Legion. There was some fighting with the Red Russians but the Canadians were mostly involved in garrisoning Vladivostok. Finally the Allies were withdrawn.²⁵ Pèpère departed Siberia four months later on May 19, 1919 aboard the "Empress of Russia" and arrived in Vancouver on May 29, 1919. He was discharged from service June 12, 1919. Thus he was in the service eight months.²⁶ Two weeks later the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919 – Armistice Day.

After WWI prohibition became a strong issue in Canada as well as in the United States. Quebec had always been against it and even banned it in 1919 whence it became known to moralistic Canadian anglophiles as the "sinkhole" of North America. Notwithstanding, Quebec soon became the object of many a tourist vacation for Canadians and Americans alike and the Province earned a lot of cash by the sale of booze, which was government controlled.²⁷

Two years after discharge, on April 5th, 1921, Pèpère married Alida Lessard (whom we grandchildren called Mémère, familial French for grandmother). She was from St. Joseph, a farming community several miles north of Pèpère's native Beauceville on the Rivière Chaudière. Alida was born on April 28, 1900, the eighth child in a family of fifteen children. For two years beyond the eighth grade at the local parochial school she attended a vocational school where she took up tailoring. Her natural talent for sewing enabled her in later years to earn much needed money for the growing family. The two newlyweds lived with the paternal Poulin family until sometime after the birth of their first child, Gaston Gerard Poulin, on January 28, 1922.²⁸

But that year tragedy struck the Poulin family when the farm in Beauceville went into bankruptcy. Leo Poulin elucidates on the conditions involved in the bankruptcy:

²³ The information in this section was furnished by Martha Poulin Kammer and recollections by Gus Poulin.

²⁴ <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCETimelineBrowse&Params=A3PER24SRT126>, retrieved 5/22/10; the origins of the flu was discussed on the History Channel.

²⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siberian_Intervention; and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Siberian_Expeditionary_Force; retrieved 5/22/10.

²⁶ Information from discharge papers.

²⁷ <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0006515>; retrieved 5/21/10.

²⁸ Martha Poulin Kammer and Solange Poulin Turcotte; Joseph's service information came from his discharge papers.

Our grandparents [Thomas and Philomene] gave the farm to [their son] Uncle Placide (July 3, 1919) with the proviso that our grandparents remain there till their death, and until Uncle Mendoza and Aunt Aurore and Aunt Antonia reach adulthood. In addition, he, Placide, was to give each one of these three \$300, and was also to give \$300 to Joseph, Theotime, Achille, Emile, and Eva. Placide borrowed from the bank to pay all these people. Then he could not meet his obligations to the bank, so the bank took him into court. Since grandfather had also endorsed the loan, he too was obligated. Psychologically he was unable to accept this situation and he became depressed. All this happened in March and April of 1922. The 1929 crash worsened Uncle Placide's condition. He was a woodsman contractor, and things turned out badly for him. Therefore, he returned the farm to Grandmother [Philomene] who at the time was living with Aunt Aurore in Skowhegan. That same day, August 31, 1929, she transferred the property to my father, Achille.²⁹

Leo Poulin was eventually able to buy back the farm. But in March-April, 1922, Joseph's father Thomas became severely depressed about losing the farm and the land. He took some type of poison, was nursed by Philomene but she was unable to save him. It was a sad time for all the families involved.³⁰ This event (along with prospects of a job in Maine) may have contributed to Joseph's decision to emigrate to the United States. In the end, life under the English had reduced to French-Canadiens to subsistence level.

²⁹ Letter from Leo Poulin to David and Martha Poulin Kammer, dated December 12, 1988; courtesy of Solange Poulin Turcotte.

³⁰ Related by Leo Poulin to Martha Poulin Kammer.



Thomas Poulin and Elmina Philomene Plante³¹

³¹ Photo courtesy of Solange Poulin Turcotte.



Joseph Poulin and Alida Lessard³²

³² Photo courtesy of Solange Poulin Turcotte.

D'innu-prime

+ L'an mil Sept cent Soixante Deux Le vingt quatrième j^r du mois de Janvier, après avoir publié aux prêtres des paroisses par trois dimanches consécutifs, les bans de Mariage —

Mariage Entre Joseph Poulin, fils de Joseph Poulin, et d'Angelique paré d'opere et mère de la —

de Joseph — pourpr. de St Joseph de la nouvelle Beauce d'une part, et Marie Angelique Rodrigue —

Poulin — fille de Jean Rodrigue, et de de feu Marie Dorotee fugera adps pere et mere aussi de l'ette —

d'Angelique — paraisse de l'autre part, ne s'étant trouvé aucun empêchement civil et canonique, —

Rodrigue — je Souffigné Missionnaire des paroisses de la nouvelle Beauce, ay reçu d'eux mutuel —

consentement de mariage, et leur ay donné la bénédiction nuptiale avec les —

ceremonies prescrites par l'ait Ste Eglise catholique apostolique et romaine, en —

presence de Joseph Poulin, Pierre Poulin, Jean Poulin, Pierre Poulin, Claude Poulin, —

et Thérèse Poulin, Angelique Poulin, pere, grand pere, oncle, frere et sœur de —

l'epoux, et de Jean Rodrigue, Francois Rodrigue, Jean Bousque, Charles Mathew, —

Augustin Ouzoux, Rosche Labbe, pere, frere, beau frere et cousins de —

l'epouse, tant parents qu'amis des dits Epoux, dont quelques uns ont signé avec —

nous, les autres ont déclaré ne savoir signer, de ce lequel après lecture a eux —

faite suivant l'ordonnance.

Joseph Poulin, Pierre Poulin
 Claude Poulin, att. paraisse Poulin
 Jean Bousque

L. M. A. D. J. Theodore Ch. M.

L'an mil Sept cent Soixante Deux Le vingt sept Janvier, par moy Souffigné —

Baptême Missionnaire de la Beauce, a été baptisé avec les ceremonies ordinaires Genevieve —

de Genevieve — Victoire, née d'heur Environ sur les dix huit heures du soir, fille de Joseph Vachon —

Victoire — et de Genevieve paré d'opere et Mere en legitime mariage, de l'ette paraisse —

Vachon — de la nouvelle Beauce. Son parrain a été Alexis Vachon et Elisabeth

Joseph Poulin the son's marriage contract, 1762.

"Un Canadien Errant"
"A Wandering Canadian"

Un Canadien errant, banni de ses foyers, (*bis*)
Un jour, triste et pensif, assis au bord des flots, (*bis*)
"Si tu vois mon pays, mon pays malheureux, (*bis*)
"O jours si pleins d'appas vous êtes disparus... (*bis*)
"Non, mais en expirant, O mon cher Canada! (*bis*)

Parcourait en pleurant des pays étrangers. (*bis*)
Au courant fugitif il adressa ces mots: (*bis*)
Va, dis à mes amis que je me souviens d'eux." (*bis*)
Et ma patrie, hélas! Je ne le verrai plus!" (*bis*)
Non regard languissant vers toi se portera..." (*bis*)

Translation:

A wandering Canadian lad, exiled from his home,
Wandered in tears through a foreign land.
One day, sad and thoughtful, seated beside a stream,
To the flowing current he addressed these words:
"If you see my country, my unhappy country,
Go, say to my friends that I remember them."
"Oh, days so full of delight, you have vanished,
And my country, alas, I will never see her again."
"No, but in dying, Oh my dear Canada,
My gaze will turn in sorrow towards you."

As a result of the Seven Years War France lost Canada to the British in the Treaty of Paris, 1763. By the 1800's, English oppression had not let up; although somewhat appeased by the right to keep their language and religion, the French and disadvantaged Anglos alike could stand the political and economic inequalities no longer. In 1837-38 Louis Papineau and Dr.E.B. O'Callaghan led a revolt in lower Canada, which was soon crushed. Another rebellion sprouted in Upper Canada with similar results. Hundreds of rebels had to flee their homes in exile; thus, the popularity of this song which was written in 1842 by Antoine Gérin-Lajoie. The next few decades saw rising tensions between England and the United States. Twenty-three years later, when the Civil War broke out, as they also had done during the American Revolution, hundreds of French again flocked south to join the American ranks. They would have well remembered this song in their times of loneliness and homesickness.