How extensive was the emigration?

- Between 1840 and 1930 roughly 900,000 French Canadians left Canada to emigrate to the United States. By French Canadians, it is understood that they came from Québec Province.
- According to the 1980 American Census, 13.6 million people claimed to have French Ancestors.
- In the 2000 US Census, approximately 9 million people claim “French” ancestry.
- In that same census in New England however, four states reported at least 10% of their population as having “French” or “French Canadian” ancestry: ME (14%), NH (10%), RI (11%) and VT (15%).
Causes of French Canadian emigration to the United States

- Logically, the French-Canadian would be the least likely to emigrate.
  - Culture, rural society, strong family ties, language, religion.
- What 'pushed' them out of French Canada?
  - For some, life had simply become miserable.

Push Factors

- Between 1784 and 1844 Quebec's population increased by 400% while it's agricultural acreage increased only by 275%.
- Farmers had to seek farming land in the Laurentians, the Lake St-John area and other areas where the land was not as fertile, the access to market not as good and the growing season was shorter.
- For many, farming was unprofitable and they had no money to invest back into their farms.

Push Summary

Poverty, overpopulation, debt and infertile soils pushed French Canadians off of their land. There simply were not any alternatives available in Québec province to improve the farmer's plight.

Pull Factors

- Farmers who left their land were naturally attracted to the factories of the United States, particularly the textile factories.
- Factory jobs were a dream come true for many emigrants.
- First real contact with electricity, running water and a steady paycheck.
Where did they go?

- In the early years, emigrants tended to head for the northern parts of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.
- Because of increased industrialization and the growth of railroads, emigration shifted to Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.
- Erie Canal project in NY, Papineau Rebellion circa 1835-1838

Distribution of French-Canadians in the NE States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ME FC pop % Dist.</th>
<th>NH FC pop % Dist.</th>
<th>VT FC pop % Dist.</th>
<th>MA FC pop % Dist.</th>
<th>RI FC pop % Dist.</th>
<th>CT FC pop % Dist.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>7,490 20</td>
<td>1,780 4.7</td>
<td>16,580 20.8</td>
<td>7,780 5.0</td>
<td>1,980 5.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>29,000 13.9</td>
<td>26,200 12.6</td>
<td>33,500 16.1</td>
<td>81,000 38.9</td>
<td>18,800 9.5</td>
<td>18,500 8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>58,583 11.3</td>
<td>74,598 14.4</td>
<td>41,286 8.0</td>
<td>250,024 48.1</td>
<td>56,382 10.9</td>
<td>37,914 7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>99,765 13.4</td>
<td>101,324 13.6</td>
<td>46,956 6.4</td>
<td>336,871 45.3</td>
<td>91,173 12.3</td>
<td>67,130 9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emigration Patterns

- Emigration of a family usually started with a couple of its members who would ‘check out’ the situation in a given town.
- Family members, cousins, uncles and aunts would usually follow.
- On return to Canada, their perceived wealth would attract others to New England.

Our Society - ACGS

- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- What do we have?
- How can we help you?
ACGS Library

Who are we?

- ACGS is an entirely volunteer organization
- Founded in 1973 – celebrating our 36th year!
- Located at 4 Elm Street, Manchester NH
- www.acgs.org

Common Genealogical Uses

- NEHGS family lines of Obama, Hilary and McCain
- Ancestry.com did the “Heir to George Washington’s throne” story

Reasons for Family History

- Religious (the LDS movement)
- Medical (OMIM, genetic pre-dispositions)
- Historical
- Cultural
- Personal
Family Histories

- Who is this person?
- How are they related to me?
- What was life like for him/her in 18.., 17..?
- Something to pass on for generations

What do we do?

- Mandates from charter
  1. Preserve
  2. Collect
  3. Disseminate/Publish
  4. Education and training

Library

- A great place to visit
- Open:
  1. Wednesdays 9am-9pm;
  2. Fridays 9am – 6pm;
  3. Saturdays 9am-4pm;
  4. 1st & 3rd Sundays, 1pm-5pm
- Other times by appointment

Library Holdings

- Births, marriages & deaths of Quebec, Maritime Provinces, Ontario, New England, NY and some mid-West states
- Drouin indices (“blue” and “red”)
- Acadian resources
- Female drouin, Loiselle index
Library holdings (cont.)

- Obituary collection
- Family files, genealogies
- NH & MA Vital records
- PRDH, Dictionnaire Genealogique
- DROUIN (digital)
- NEHGS Databases
- BMS2000 Database
- Ancestry
- LaFrance

Some items of note

- For French-Canadian, Acadian or Franco-American genealogy…
- Church records were thorough, but many missing
- Consider the Acadian’s “Grand Derangement”

Genealogy Software

- Efficiently collects, organizes and publishes your family information – including photos, source information, etc.
- Includes, but is not limited to:
  1. Family Tree Maker ®
  2. The Master Genealogist ®
  3. Brother’s Keeper ®
  4. Personal Ancestry File ®
  5. Legacy ®

Example….
Another example…

The “old-fashioned” way

• Four- or Five-generation charts
• Family Group records
• Fan Charts
• 10-, 12- and 15- generation charts

4 Generation Chart example

Family Group Sheet example
French Canadian records

- Served as official civil record until early 1900’s
- Reasons for meticulous record-keeping:
  1. Religious
  2. Socio-political

Digital Drouin

- Primary source documents
- Some 20 millions records
- Closest most of us will ever get to seeing or having 350+ year old records!
Publications

- Over 150 repertoires
- Over 30 CDs
- A-C Genealogist
- Approx. 50 other assorted publications
- Publications team

How a Repertoire Gets Done

- Permission to copy registers/records
- Copy registers/records
- Data entry and translation of records
- Proofing, proofing, proofing!!!
- Printing: Quality hardcover, easy to read
- Sale: Good value, can be shipped

Sample Repertory

- ABOTT, Thomas F.
- Address: 111 Main St.
- Date: 10 Jan 2005
- State: Maine
- Birthplace: Portland, Maine
- Occupation: Teacher
- Spouse: Emma A. King
- Children: John, Elizabeth

- CULBERTSON, Samuel F.
- Address: 123 Main St.
- Date: 10 Jan 2005
- State: Maine
- Birthplace: New London, Connecticut
- Occupation: Farrier
- Spouse: Martha A. Brown
- Children: Frederick, Sarah

- DOUGLAS, John W.
- Address: 456 Main St.
- Date: 10 Jan 2005
- State: Maine
- Birthplace: New London, Connecticut
- Occupation: Farmer
- Spouse: Mary A. Clark
- Children: James, Thomas

- LEE, Henry
- Address: 789 Main St.
- Date: 10 Jan 2005
- State: Maine
- Birthplace: New London, Connecticut
- Occupation: Blacksmith
- Spouse: Things Clark
- Children: George, Sarah

- SMITH, Robert
- Address: 910 Main St.
- Date: 10 Jan 2005
- State: Maine
- Birthplace: New London, Connecticut
- Occupation: Carpenter
- Spouse: Mary A. King
- Children: John, Elizabeth

Other Services

- Research Department
- Membership
- Conferences
- Library
- Speakers’ Bureau
- American-Canadian Genealogist
More Services/Affiliations

- Monthly TMG ® Users’ Group meeting
- Gaelic language class at library

Research Department

- Conducts research & translation services
- Fee-based
- Long distance vs. the brick wall
- Provides revenue for ACGS

Membership

- Largest revenue source for society
- Maintains database
- Key to mailing for A-C Genealogist
- Some 2000 active members in US, Canada and overseas

Conferences

- Mandated by charter
- Spring & Fall sessions
- Usually three topics or speakers
- Annual meeting follows Fall session
The *American-Canadian Genealogist*

- Trimester publication
- Extremely high quality
- Well known authors
- All members get copies
- Offered electronically now
- Labor & time intensive
- Greatest ACGS expense*

Our Newsletter

- *In this issue*….
  1. Spring educational offerings;
  2. Save the Date;
  3. Volunteer spotlight;
  4. Now on the shelves;
  5. Maple Stars and stripes;
  6. “We listened”;
  7. Tree of Life
  8. So much more!

Our website: www.acgs.org

Unique Aspects of FC Genealogy

- Population History
- Immigration
- Names
- Culture & Language
- Strategies
- Acadians
Population History

- Small, unrepresentative sample of the French population
- Limited immigration period
- 8500 contributing ancestors but only 1600 women
- Founding nucleus of current 6.5 million French Canadians

Patterns of immigration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre 1840</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern New York, Vermont, Aroostook ME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin 1840-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central MA &amp; RI: Blackstone Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Ct: Quinebaug Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME: Augusta/Waterville: Kennebec Valley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Genealogy & Medicine

- 28 Mendelian genetic disorders
- 22 with unusually high incidence
- None are prevalent in France
- Most have made their presence known in the Northeast US.

...and 2+million In US with French Canadian Ancestry

Settlers prior to 1759
Patterns

1860-1880
• NH & MA: Merrimack Valley
• Fall River/New Bedford MA
• Eastern RI: Providence County
• ME: Lewiston/Auburn Biddeford/Sanford
• Decrease in No. NY, VT & CT.

Patterns

• 1880-1900
  – Two thirds in valleys and in Mass or NH
  – 50% were in Mass
  – Increase in permanent migration with easier access to Canada
  – Largest number of immigrants

Anglicization by “botching” or homonym

• Occurs primarily prior to 1860
  – French ou becomes u; Boudreau/Budrow
  – French au becomes o; Perrault/Perro
  – French I becomes e: Thibault/Tebo
  – Paquet becomes Pocket
Anglicization by intention or synonym

- Occurred throughout immigration
- Roy/King; Laroche/Stone; Laroque/Rock
- Can appear anglicized in a census and in French in church records
- Sources for surnames, rarely for first.

Anglicizations

- Arpin/Harper
- Berthiaume/Barcomb
- Lussier/Lucia
- Guertin/Yatta

The first name dilemma

- Literally translated: Pierre/Peter, Etienne/Stephen, Narcisse/Nelson,
- Sounds like: Apolline/Pauline/Polly, Damase/Thomas, Philomene/Minnie
- Be suspect of Joseph; what happens to Symphorien, Celestin, Eusebe & Cyprien?
- …and of Marie: what happens to Phélonise, Arzelie, and Zénaïde?

“Dit” Names In Canada

- Means “to say”, also referred to as a “nickname”
- Most military had a dit name, usually an attribute
- Reflected skill, physical characteristic, where one lived and temperament as well!
- Look in reps for their common dit names
Cultural Aspects

In Canada - Illegitimacy
- No last name in Baptismal or marriage records; are listed as “anonyme”, “inconnu” or “illégitime”
- Parents are “inconnu”, godparents are suspect.
- Men will take a last name for their children.

And Consanguinity
- Jetté refers to “Enfant Naturel” and often names the father. Beyond that, if you can solve it, it will only be by inference.
- Taking the surname of a godparent is always a clue! -Women will often be without a surname in baptisms of her children
- Degree is always noted on marriage records
- Direct result of population history

…but I can’t read french

Roadblocks crossing the border
- No parents are listed on the marriage or there is no marriage!
- Working "sideways"
  - Look for baptisms of children & godparents
  - Others with same last name in the area
  - Work on the spouse as well
  - Utilize the census records on both sides
Assessing the Value of Records

- The basic genealogical rules apply
- Original Sources (THE records)
- Derivative Sources (reps)
- Vital records
- Verbal information
  - Primary
  - Secondary
I can't find them in Quebec

Other provinces populated by French Canadians

- North & south sides of Ottawa River in Ontario from Montreal region
- Northern New Brunswick and along the coast from Rimouski, Gaspe & Bonaventure
- Few but some in Western provinces of Alberta & Saskatchewan

Acadians

- If you find an Acadian name in Quebec or the Madawaska region, you most likely can trace them.
- If they were deported to the states or other countries, a knowledgeable researcher is your best shot.

Acadians in Quebec

Primary centers
- Charlevoix/Saguenay region
- Yamachiche
- One town in Bellechasse (I'll find it)
- Nicolet and along the Richelieu river
- All of far eastern Quebec; Cote du Nord, Gaspé, Bonaventure, Rimouski.

Cemetery Record sample
Marriage Record sample

Other Sources of Information

- Census records
- Church/parish records
- Courts
- Land offices
- Newspaper files
- Military records

Other Family Sources of Information

- Bibles
- Oral histories
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Funeral cards
Other Sources of Information

Other Area Resources

Putting Names to Pictures

• More than just a name
• Something to hand on or down

Family Associations & Reunions

• Manchester Historical Association - research room
• Millyard Museum
• Manchester City Library (NH Room and newspapers)
• NH Historical Society – Concord
• NH State Library – Concord
• NH Vital Records – Concord
• Pollard Memorial Library – Lowell, MA
• Mogan Center – UMass Lowell campus
• Family History Center – Nashua NH
• NARA – Waltham MA
• NEHGS – Boston MA
Questions?

The End ("Tout Fini")