

Acadians Who Found Refuge in Louisiana, February 1764-early 1800s

(From Acadians in Grey)

BERGERON

[BA-jeh-ronh, BER-jeh-ronh]

ACADIA

Barthélémy **Bergeron** *dit* d'Amboise, a storekeeper-turned-soldier from Amboise, Indre-et-Loire, France, reached Canada in c1685 and accompanied Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, the future founder of Louisiana colony, on an expedition to Hudson's Bay during King William's War. In c1695, while the war was still on, Barthélémy married Geneviève, daughter of Jean **Serreau de Saint-Aubin**, sieur de Passamaquoddy, and Marguerite **Boileau** and widow of Jacques **Petitpas**. They settled at Port-Royal. During Queen Anne's War, the English held Barthélémy and his family as prisoners at Boston, but they were exchanged for English prisoners in September 1706 and allowed to return to Port-Royal. In 1707, Barthélémy was living on the south bank of Rivière-au-Dauphin, now the Annapolis River, next to Abraham **Dugas**, just below the village at Port-Royal. In the 1730s, the extended family moved to the Rivière St.-Jean valley, where they pioneered the settlement of Ste.-Anne-du-Pays-Bas, now Fredericton, the capital of today's New Brunswick. Barthélémy and Geneviève's six children, including three sons who created families of their own, were born either in Québec or at Port-Royal. Their daughter married into the **Roy** and **Godin** *dit* Bellefontaine *dit* Beauséjour and *dit* Bellefeuille families.

Oldest son Barthélémy *dit* d'Amboise, *fil*s, born at St.-François on Île d'Orleans, Québec, married Marguerite, daughter of Claude **Dugas** and Marguerite **Bourg**, at Annapolis Royal in April 1721 and moved with his extended family to Ste.-Anne-du-Pays-Bas.

Michel *dit* de Nantes, born at Port-Royal in c1702, married four times, his first and third wives' names lost to history. His second wife was Marie, daughter of Abraham **Dugas** and Marie-Madeleine **Landry**, whom he married probably at Annapolis Royal in c1727. His fourth wife, whom he married in c1747 probably at Ste.-Anne-du-Pays-Bas, was Marie-Jeanne, daughter of Jacques **Hébert** and Jeanne **Gautrot** and widow of Jean **Arseneau**.

Youngest son Augustin, born at Port-Royal in c1710, married Marie, another daughter of Claude **Dugas** and Marguerite **Bourg**, probably at Annapolis Royal in c1730. He and his family also settled at Ste.-Anne-du-Pays-Bas.

[For more of this family in pre- and post-disperal Acadia and Canada, see [Book Three](#)]

By 1755, descendants of Barthélemy **Bergeron dit** d'Amboise could be found on Rivière St.-Jean.

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Pierre, son of Paul **Bergeron** and Benoîte **Chapagnon** of Craponne, Haute-Loire, France, probably not kin to Barthélemy *dit* d'Amboise, was born in France in c1720 and became a merchant. He came to British Nova Scotia by July 1742, when he married Marie-Anne, daughter of prominent merchant Nicolas **Gauthier dit** Bellaire, a prominent merchant, and Marie **Allain** of Annapolis Royal. According to genealogist Bona Arsenault, in 1743 and 1745, Marie-Anne gave Pierre two children, a son and a daughter. The family settled first at Chignecto and then moved on to Minas in c1745. Pierre died at Minas in January 1746, age 26. Daughter Marie married a **Gauthier** at Rivière-Ouelle, Québec, in c1768 while in exile. One wonders what happened to their son Maurice. No member of this family emigrated to Louisiana.

LE GRAND DÉRANGEMENT

[For the family's travails during the Great Upheaval, see [Book Six](#)]

LOUISIANA: WESTERN SETTLEMENTS

Descendants of Barthélémy **Bergeron dit** d'Amboise, *père* were among the earliest Acadians to find refuge in Louisiana. The first of them reached New Orleans in February 1765 with the **Broussard dit** Beausoleil party from Halifax via Cap-Français, St.-Domingue, today's Haiti. After a brief respite in the city, they followed the **Broussards** to the Attakapas District, where they helped establish *La Nouvelle-Acadie* along the banks of Bayou Teche. But the New Acadia on Bayou Teche was not kind to them:

Augustin **Bergeron**, aged 55, youngest son of Barthélémy *dit* d'Amboise, *père*, the family's progenitor in Acadia, came to Louisiana with his wife Marie **Dugas**, age 54, one of his sons, Jean-Baptiste, age 35, Jean-Baptiste's wife Catherine **Caissie dit** **Roger**, age 29, and their five children--Madeleine, age 15, Osite, age 13, Jean-Baptiste, *fil*s, age 11, Charles, age 9, and Joseph, an infant. Catherine was pregnant when she made the voyage; daughter Marianne was born at Attakapas on the

last day of May. Augustin, Jean-Baptiste, infant son Joseph, and newborn Marianne died in an epidemic that swept through the Teche valley settlement during the summer and fall of 1765. That fall, Jean-Baptiste's widow and her four surviving children moved to Cabanocé/St.-Jacques on the river to escape the epidemic. They did not return to the western prairies.

Augustin's nephew Barthélémy **Bergeron III**, age 25, Barthélemy III's wife Anne **Arceneau**, age 20, and their infant son Charles, also came to the Teche with the **Broussard** party. Barthélemy III and Charles died in the epidemic. Anne joined dozens of other Attakapas settlers who retreated to Cabanocé to escape the sickness. She remarried to a **LeBlanc** at Cabanocé in 1767.

Augustin's niece Cécile **Bergeron**, age 30, her husband Joseph **Dugas**, and four of their children, ages 14 to infancy, also came to Attakapas with the **Broussard** party. Infant daughter Mathilde died at New Orleans soon after the family reached the colony, and Joseph died in the epidemic. Cécile retreated to the river that fall. She and her daughters did not return to the western prairies, but her son did.

Augustin's niece Anne **Bergeron**, age 24, her husband Pierre **Arseneau**, age 34, their year-old daughter, and her sister-in-law, the widow **Bernard**, age 39, also came to Attakapas with the **Broussard** party. They all survived the epidemic and retreated to the river. Anne and her family returned to Attakapas by the 1780s. Anne died at Attakapas in March 1804; she was 63 years old.

Augustin's niece Marie **Bergeron**, age 20, came with her husband Joseph **Arseneau**, age 25. They survived the epidemic and retreated to the river, where they stayed.

Judith **Bergeron**, age 31, came with husband Jean **Arseneau**, age 37, and their four sons, ages 18 to 3. They all survived the epidemic and retreated to the river, where they also stayed.

In the following decades, Acadian **Bergerons** remained on the river or moved down to Bayou Lafourche, but none of them returned to the prairies, where their ancestors had suffered so terribly in 1765. When **Bergeron** families did settle in what became St. Martin, St. Landry, and Lafayette parishes during the late colonial and early antebellum periods, they were French Creoles from Pointe Coupee or upper Bayou Lafourche, not descendants of Barthélémy *dit* d'Amboise, *père*.