

# François Savoie (1621 - abt. 1685)

Son of Tomaso Francis Savoie [uncertain] and Unknown (Unknown) Savoie

Husband of **Catherine Lejeune** — married about 1651 in Acadie 📍

Descendants :

Father of Françoise Savoie, Germain Savoie, Marie Savoie, Jeanne Savoie, Agnes Catherine (Savoie) Levron, Catherine Savoie, Francois Savoie, Barnabe Savoie, Andrée Marguerite Savoie and Marie-France Savoie

Died **about 1685** in **Port-Royal, Acadie**

Francois Savoie is the Ancestral Patriarch of the Acadian Savoie Family.

Francois was born around 1621. Many people say that Francois was the illegitimate son of Tomaso Francesco, but this has not been proven or disproven. It is most likely the wishful thinking of researchers who want to find a royal connection. Regarding Francois' location of birth.

However Massignon speculates that he may have come from Loudin France because the name Savoie is among the many Acadian names that are found in the nearby Seigneurie d'Aulnay (comprising of the villages of Angliers, Aulnay, Martaizé and La Chaussée). However, Francois' birth record has not been found.

Francois probably came to Acadia in the 1640s as he married in Acadia around 1651. His bride was Catherine Lejeune. Between 1652 and 1670, they had 9 children: Françoise, Germain, Marie, Jeanne, Catherine, François, Barnabé, Andréé, and Marie-France.

While Francois and Catherine were raising their family, Port Royal was captured in 1654 by **Robert Sedgwick**, who led 300 British soldiers and volunteers.:

"The [French] soldiers at Port-Royal, who numbered about 130 ... put up a brief defense against Sedgwick. Setting up an ambush between the landing site of the English troops and the fort, the Frenchmen fired on the attackers but proved no match for the experienced Roundheads. The French soon "took their heels to ye Fort." On August 16 the fort surrendered... Sedgwick granted honourable terms,

allowing the defenders to march out of the fort with flags flying, drums beating, and muskets at the ready. The soldiers and employees working at the fort were offered transportation back to France and given enough pelts to cover their wages."

Although the commander of Port Royal left for France, most Acadians, including the Savoie family, remained in Acadia. They were permitted to retain their land and belongings and were guaranteed religious freedom.<sup>[7]</sup> Dunn describes life in Acadia during the 16 years of nominal British rule:

"During the years of British rule, most of the Port-Royal population moved upriver away from the town. Using the agricultural practices initiated under D'Aulnay, the Acadians dyked and cultivated extensive salt marshes along the river and raised livestock. Through necessity, residents had reached an accommodation with New England traders who had become their sole source for the goods that they could not produce themselves... New England traders exchanged their goods for Acadian produce and furs... There were seventy to eighty families in the Port Royal area in 1665."

By 1671 the British had ceded Acadia to France and French settlement resumed. At that time, the family homestead had 6 arpents under cultivation and they had 4 cattle. It is not clear where the farm was located. By 1707, their son Germain had a farm upriver at the Belisle Marshes, east of the fort on the north bank of the Dauphin (Annapolis River).

Note: An arpent in an old French dictionary from early 1900s is described as between 30 and 51 acres (1 acre = 100 square metres), depending on the country.

#### Timeline

**c1621** birth, in France

*1632 Treaty Saint-Germain-en-Laye cedes Acadia to France; Razilly brings ~300 elite men*

*1636 Arrival of the first French families to settle permanently*

**before 1651** arrival in Acadia

**c1651** marriage to Catherine Lejeune, in Acadia

**c1652** birth, daughter Françoise

*1654 British capture Port-Royal; French settlement ceases*

**c1654** birth, son Germain

**c1657** birth, daughter Marie

**c1658** birth, daughter Jeanne

**c1659** birth, daughter Catherine

**c1663** birth, son François

**c1665** birth, son Barnabé

**c1667** birth, daughter Andréé

*1667-70 Treaty of Breda cedes Acadia to the French; settlement resumes*

**c1670** birth, daughter Marie-France

**1671** residence, Port Royal

**c1??? death**

#### Sources

- 1671 Acadian Census at Port Royal: Francois SAVOYE, 50, wife, Catherine LeJEUNE 38; children: Francoise 18, Germain 17, Marie 14, Jeanne 13, Catherine 9, Francoise 8, Barabe 6, Andree 4, Marie 2; cattle 4, 6 arpents.

Note : Francois was a plowman.