

The Leger Story

The first Leger of our line to come to America was Jean dit Richelieu Leger. He was born: 20 Nov 1694 in Fontevraud, France. We have no exact time when he came to America.

He settled in Quebec, married Marguerite Marchand 11 Dec 1726 in Quebec, and raised a family. His son Michel was born 28 Mar 1729 in Quebec. He married an Acadian, Angelique Pinet, Abt. 1756 in Louisbourg, Ile Royale, Acadie, Canada.. They had one son, Michel Prosper born Abt. 1757 in Louisbourg. Michel and his family were deported from Fort Louisbourg sometime in 1758. They were sent to France, where they had two daughters, Paulette and Angelique and two more sons, Louis and Jean Baptiste.

It is believed that the family came back across the Atlantic to Ile Miquelon, then deported to France again.

Michel may have been a sailor. There are a few instances where records of him were found in France in the following years, then only mention of his wife and children. A death notice was found in the "Burials at sea index, France", but no date or location is noted.

In 1785, an arrangement was made between Spain and France to resettle many displaced Acadians from France to Louisiana, which was owned by Spain at the time. Settlers were needed, and the Acadians were Roman Catholic as were the Spanish already living in Louisiana. Michel's widow, Angelique and the two younger sons, Louis and Jean Baptiste sailed to Louisiana on the ship Le Bon Papa, arriving at the port of New Orleans in July, 1785. They made their way to the Opelousas District where they were joined by the oldest son, Michel Prosper. Here they prospered, married, and raised families. Most Legers in Louisiana descend from these three Sons.

The Journey from Canada to France and then to Louisiana took almost thirty years. Each Acadien Family has a similar story of displacement, separation and hardship before finally reaching Louisiana which would become their forever home.