

## ***Historical Narrative / Richards    Author Unknown***

The land of Acadia was originally a French colony in what is now Nova Scotia in Canada's Maritime Provinces. Since the initial settlement of Acadia by the French in 1604, control of the colony was contested by France and England, exchanging hands a number of times. England captured Acadia's capital of Port Royal (now Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia) in 1710 and the resulting Treaty of Utrecht (1713) put control of Acadia into the hands of the British. The descendants of the French settlers of Acadia (including the Richard family) remained there, living under British rule until most of them were deported in 1755 for refusing to take an oath of loyalty to Great Britain at the outset of the last of North America's French and Indian Wars (1756-1763). Some of the Acadians escaped deportation by fleeing westward into Quebec, into the backwoods of New Brunswick, or on the various islands of the region.

Michel Richard dit Sansoucy arrived in Acadia by the early 1650s, settling in Port-Royal. (Some say that he was a soldier under Emanuel Leborgne. Shortly after arriving (ca. 1656), he married Madeleine Blanchard (daughter of Jean Blanchard and Radegonde Lambert). They had 10 children: sons Rene, Pierre, Martin, and Alexandre, and daughters Catherine, Anne, Madeleine, Marie, Cecile, and Marguerite. The daughters married into the Brossard, Terriot, Babin, Vincent, Forest, and Leblanc families, respectively.

After Madeleine Blanchard's death (sometime between 1678 and the early 1680s), Michel remarried to Jeanne Babin (daughter of Antoine Babin and Marie Mercier). Michel and Jeanne had two sons of their own: Michel and (another) Alexandre.

Michel Richard dit Sansoucy died (probably in Port-Royal) between 1686 and 1693. His widow Jeanne Babin then remarried to Laurent Doucet. The Richard family lived along the Riviere-Dauphin on the right (southeast) bank upstream of Port-Royal.

Several of the children of Michel Richard and Madeleine Blanchard left Port-Royal (after his death) and moved to Grand-Pre in the Minas Basin (Baie-des-Mines). The descendants of Michel and his two wives remained (for the most part) in Acadia until the French settlers were expelled from that region by the English in the 1750s. While some of the Richard descendants later made their home in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, others settled in Quebec (primarily Nicolet County area), and some went much further abroad to Louisiana and even back to France.