

Acadiens in Grey - APPENDICES

Acadians Who Found Refuge in Louisiana,

February 1764-early 1800s

THIBODEAUX

[TIB-uh-doh]

ACADIA

Pierre Thibodeau, born in c1631 perhaps at Marans, on the southwest edge of Poitou near La Rochelle, France, was recruited in 1654 by Emmanuel **Le Borgne** to settle in Acadia. In c1660, he married 17-year-old **Jeanne**, older daughter of **Jean Thériot** and Perrine **Rau**, at Port-Royal. Being a miller by trade, Pierre built a mill, perhaps powered by the tides, at Prée-Ronde on Rivière-au-Dauphin, today's Annapolis River, above Port-Royal, "and soon became prosperous." In the late 1680s, Pierre was briefly imprisoned by Acadian governor Louis-Alexandre des Friches de Meneval and had to pay a small fine for trading brandy to the Indians. Despite these troubles, in 1695 the governor of New France, Louis de Buade, comte de Palluau et de Frontenac, granted Pierre land between Mount Desert and Machias in present-day Maine "with a league on either side of the said river [then called K8askag8she] by two leagues depth, to be measured from its mouth, with the islands and islets if any be found there." But Pierre and his sons probably never settled there. Instead, in the late 1690s, under orders from Acadian commander Joseph Robinau de Villebon, Pierre explored the northern shore of Baie de Chignecto, an arm of the Bay of Fundy. In the spring of 1698, he founded the Acadian settlement of Chepoudy on the estuary of a wide river that flowed into the bay, and Villebon granted him a *seigneurie* there. In 1702, Pierre, along with fellow Acadian Pierre Gaudet l'aîné, refused to recognize the authority of the *seigneur* of nearby Chignecto, former Acadian governor Michel **Le Neuf de la Vallière et de Beaubassin**, who had granted control of the area to his son-in-law, Claude-Sébastien **de Villieu**. **De Villieu** claimed that the Chepoudy, Petitcoudiac, and Memramcook settlements, whom the locals would call the trois-rivières, were in his father-in-law's fiefdom. The case was referred to France. Meanwhile, the King's representative in Port-Royal, Mathieu de Goutin, one of Pierre's sons-in-law, noted in a report to the King's ministers in October 1702 that Pierre "had 'equipped and borne the expedition of the first exploration there [at Chepoudy] under the late M. de Villebon's orders. There are presently seven hundred toises of ditch made. He has made a trial planting of wheat, which grew well. He now has six grown

boys, as well as one already settled, and eight married daughters who have children in a condition to develop the settlement. There are in addition a grist-mill and a sawmill ready to run. ..." In March 1703, a decree from the Council of State at Port-Royal granted the settlers of Chepoudy, Petitcoudiac, and even Chignecto "possession of the settlements they had made ...," but, a biographer of Thibodeau adds, "The final verdict [on the legitimacy of Pierre's *seigneurie*] did not reach Acadia until after the pioneer's death. A decree of the Conseil d'État, dated 2 June 1705, defining more precisely that of 20 March 1703, confirmed **La Vallière's** [and **de Villieu's**] claim. The dream of a *seigneurie* at Chipoudy was dispelled." Pierre died at Pré-Ronde in December 1704, in his early 70s.

Pierre and Jeanne had 16 children, all born at Port-Royal. Amazingly, all of their children--including seven sons--survived childhood and created families of their own. Their nine daughters married into the **Landry**, **Lejeune dit Briard**, **Robichaud dit Cadet**, **Boudrot**, **de Goutin**, **Le Borgne de Bélisle**, **D'Amours de Louvières**, and **Bourgeois** families.

Oldest son Pierre *l'aîné*, born at Port-Royal in c1670, married Anne-Marie, daughter of Jean **Bourg** and Marguerite **Martin**, at Port-Royal in c1690. In the early 1690s they lived at Minas but eventually moved to the l'Assomption side of the river at nearby Pigiguit. Pierre *l'aîné* died at l'Assomption, the date of his death unrecorded. He and Anne-Marie had a dozen children, including seven sons who married into the **Vincent**, **Benoit**, **Boudrot**, **Comeau**, and **Bourgeois** families. Pierre *l'aîné* and Anne-Marie's five daughters married into the **Comeau**, **Barrieau**, **Lanoue**, **Breau**, and **Girouard** families.

Jean, born in c1674, married **Marguerite**, daughter of **Emmanuel Hébert** and **Andrée Brun**, probably at Chepoudy in the *trois-rivières* in February 1703. Jean, like his older brother, also took his family to Minas, where he died at Grand-Pré in December 1746, in his early 70s. He and Marguerite had 11 children, including five sons who married into the **LeBlanc**, **Cormier**, **Melanson**, and **Doiron** families. Jean and Marguerite's four daughters married into the **Richard**, **Cormier**, **LeBlanc**, and **Aucoin** families. (Daughter **Cécile**, born at Minas in November 1712, married **Pierre dit Palette Cormier** at Grand-Pré in July 1730 and went with him to the Rivière-des-**Hébert** settlement at Chignecto. She died a widow in her late 70s during exile.)

Antoine, born in c1676, married Marie, daughter of Jean Préjean *dit* Le Breton and **Andrée Savoie**, probably at Chepoudy in October 1703. Antoine died sometime in the 1750s, in his late

70s or early 80s. He and Marie had 11 children also, including three sons who married into the **Landry** and **Girouard** families. Seven of Antoine and Marie's daughters married into the **Breau**, **Boudrot**, **Hébert**, **Gaudet**, **Doiron**, and **Robichaud** families.

Pierre *le jeune*, born in c1678, married Anne-Marie, daughter of Martin Aucoin and Marie **Gaudet**, probably at Chepoudy in November 1706. Pierre *le jeune* died probably at Chepoudy in October 1734, in his mid-50s. He and Anne-Marie also had 11 children, including three sons who married into the **Trahan**, **Melanson**, and **Saulnier** families. Six of Pierre *le jeune* and Anne-Marie's daughters married into the **Comeau**, **Blanchard**, **Brasseur dit Brasseux**, **Cormier**, **Pitre**, **Morvan**, **Savoie**, **Guénard** or **Gainer**, **Rivard**, and **Loisseau dit Francoeur** families.

Michel, born in c1680, married **Agnès**, daughter of **Claude Dugas** and Françoise **Bourgeois**, probably at Chepoudy in November 1704. Michel died probably at Chepoudy in November 1734, also in his mid-50s. He and Agnès had 14 children, including six sons who married into the **Richard**, **Lefebvre**, **Trahan**, **Savoie**, **Breau**, **Thibodeau**, and **Lanoue** families. Michel and Agnès's two oldest daughters, **Marguerite**, born probably at Chepoudy in December 1705, and **Agnès**, probably at Chepoudy in November 1706, married brothers: Marguerite married **Alexandre Broussard dit Beausoleil** of *haute rivière*, Annapolis Royal, in February 1724, and Agnès married **Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil**, also of *haute rivière*, in September 1725; the two families settled at Chepoudy and then at Petitcoudiac during the following decades. Four of Michel's other daughters married into the Girouard, Comeau, Martin, Aucoin, and Darois families.

Claude, born in c1685, married Élisabeth, or Isabelle, daughter of Pierre Comeau l'aîné and Jeanne **Bourg**, probably at Chepoudy in November 1709. Claude and Élisabeth had 13 children, including two sons who married into the **Doucet** and **Guilbeau** families. Six of Claude and Élisabeth's sons either did not survive childhood or never married. One of their daughters married into the **Lemire** family.

Youngest son **Charles**, born in c1689, married **Marie-Françoise**, another daughter of Pierre Comeau l'aîné and Jeanne **Bourg**, probably at Chepoudy in December 1715. Charles died at Port-La-Joye, Île St.-Jean, today's Prince Edward Island, in August 1756. He was a widower and in his late 60s at the time of his death. Two of his sons, Olivier and **Amand**, both born at

Chepoudy in c1733 and c1734, followed their cousin Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil to Louisiana in February 1765.

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

In 1755, descendants of Pierre Thibodeau could be found at Annapolis Royal; l'Assomption, Piguit, in the Minas Basin; Chignecto; Chepoudy and Petitcoudiac in the *trois-rivières* area west of Chignecto; and at Port-La-Joye and Malpègue on Île St.-Jean.

LE GRAND DÉRANGEMENT

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

LOUISIANA: WESTERN SETTLEMENTS

Thibodeaus were among the earliest Acadians to find refuge in Louisiana. Three **Thibodeau** families, one led by a widow, five **Thibodeau** wives, and several individuals--19 members of the family in all, including several newborns--reached New Orleans in February 1765 with the large party from Halifax via Cap-Français, St.-Domingue, led by Alexandre and Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil, who had married granddaughters of Pierre Thibodeau, the family's progenitor. After a brief respite in the city, the **Thibodeaus** followed their **Broussard** cousins to the Attakapas District, where they helped create *La Nouvelle-Acadie* on the banks of Bayou Teche:

Marguerite Thibodeau, age 60, came with husband Alexandre Broussard dit Beausoleil of Petitcoudiac, age 66, and four children, ages 24 to 14. Marguerite and Alexandre were victims of the epidemic that struck the Bayou Teche settlement in the summer and fall of 1765. She died in early September, two weeks before he died, and was buried au dernier camp d'en bas, as the Acadians called it--the camp lower down, at what came to be called Fausse Pointe.

Brigitte **Breau** of Grand-Pré, age 45, widow of Charles **Thibodeau**, came with three children--Jean-Anselme, called Anselme, age 15; Anne *dite* Nanette, age 10; and Marie-Louise, age 2. Brigitte also was a victim of the epidemic of 1765. Her **Thibodeau** children survived the malady and remained in the Attakapas District. Her daughters married into the **Dugas** and **Louvière** families. Her son married twice and settled on Bayou Vermilion. Daughter Marie-Louise, wife of François **Louvière**, died at Attakapas in December 1796, in her early 30s. Anne *dite* Nanette, wife of Pierre **Dugas**, died at her home near the bridge at La Butte, St. Martin Parish, in November 1817, in her early 60s.

Paul **Thibodeau** of Annapolis Royal, age 37, came with wife Rosalie **Guilbeau**, age 24, son André-Paul, age unrecorded, and Anne **Thibodeau** of Pigiguit, age unrecorded, probably an orphaned cousin. Paul and Rosalie had more children in Louisiana.

Olivier **Thibodeau** of Chepoudy, age 32, Paul's first cousin, came with wife Madeleine **Broussard**, age unrecorded, and four children--stepdaughters Anne and Isabelle **Landry**, ages 11 and unrecorded; daughter Marie, age 2; and son Théodore, age 1. Madeleine was pregnant when they reached Louisiana. Daughter Marguerite-Anne was born on the Teche in May--the first recorded Acadian birth west of the Atchafalaya Basin. Daughter Marie, wife of Joseph **Sonnier**, died at her home at La Butte, St. Martin Parish, in June 1815, in her early 50s; her succession was filed at the St. Martinville courthouse the following January.

Amand **Thibodeau** of Chepoudy, age 31, Olivier's brother, came with fiancée Gertrude **Bourg** of Île St.-Jean, age 16, whom he married at New Orleans on 17 February 1765--the first recorded Acadian wedding in Louisiana. They had many children on upper Bayou Teche.

Élisabeth, or Isabelle, **Thibodeau**, age 27, came with husband Charles *dit* Lasers **Pellerin** of Port-Royal, age 35. She became pregnant on the voyage to Louisiana. Her daughter was born on the Teche in August or September 1765. Élisabeth remarried to fellow Acadian Joseph **Martin** at Attakapas in c1770.

Marie **Thibodeau**, age 25, came with husband Pierre **Surette** of Petitcoudiac, age unrecorded, and a 3-year-old daughter. Marie also became pregnant on the voyage to Louisiana. Her son was born on the Teche in June 1765. Marie remarried to Jean-Baptiste, son of fellow Acadian Germain **Semer** of Grand-Pré, at Attakapas in c1768 and died at her home at Grande Pointe on upper Bayou Teche in July 1810, age 70.

Madeleine **Thibodeau**, age 15, probably an orphan, came alone. She married Jean-Athanase, son of fellow Acadian Michel **Trahan**, probably at Attakapas in the late 1770s.

Baptiste **Thibodeau**, age unrecorded, came alone.

Catherine **Thibodeau**, age unrecorded, came with husband Simon **LeBlanc** of Grand-Pré, age 28, and two children, ages 5 and 3. Catherine was pregnant when they left Halifax and gave birth to a daughter aboard ship in January 1765; the baby was baptized at New Orleans on February 20, soon after their arrival. Catherine died on the Teche the following November,

probably one of the last victims of the epidemic that struck the Acadians there that summer and fall.

Joseph **Thibodeau**, age unrecorded, came alone. He died at Attakapas in September 1765, probably a victim of the Teche valley epidemic.

Louise **Thibodeau**, age unrecorded, came with husband Pierre **Gautrot**, age unrecorded, and a 10-month-old daughter. Pierre died in New Orleans soon after the family reached New Orleans. Louise took her daughter to Bayou Teche.

Most of the **Thibodeaus** who went to Bayou Teche with the **Broussards** survived the epidemic of 1765 and remained at Attakapas. Four of them, including two brothers and a first cousin, created vigorous family lines on the western prairies: