

The Allards



The Allard name in Quebec originated with three young men, not related, who emigrated from France to Quebec in the 17th century. **Francois Allard**, originally from Normandy, was married in the "chapel of Beauport" in 1671 to **Jeanne Anguille**. Pierre Allard, from the Vendee area of France arrived in Canada in 1680 and married Anne Lavoie at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre on 22 November 1683, then married Marthe Delugre in 1690. Simon Allard came from the town of Poitiers, France. He arrived in Montreal in 1686 and married Catherine Lacombe on 12 January 1705 at Riviere-des Prairies.

NORMANDY, FRANCE

Normandy derives its name from the Viking (Norse). The Vikings originated in Scandinavia, from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Viking in Old Norse means 'a pirate raid'. During the Viking period, the people of Europe were under constant threat. The Vikings were travellers - they sailed their longships up the rivers of Europe, some to establish trade and others to pillage the towns and ravish the countryside. The reason for the Viking expansion was the large population growth which overstepped the capacity of domestic resources. Rollo, a minor leader in the Viking fleet, led his forces on a failed attack on Paris, then he laid siege to Chartres. His army overran Rouen, France, and eventually settled and founded a colony which was governed by Rollo. In the 10th century, Rouen became the capital of the Duchy of Normandy until William Duke of Normandy (William the Conqueror) established his capital at Caen.



In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England, which he conquered and combined with Normandy, making England and Normandy one kingdom. Upon William's death, his lands were divided between his sons, with his eldest son, Robert, taking control of

Normandy, and his second son, Williams Rufus, becoming king of England. William Rufus eventually ruled Normandy after he overthrew his brother, thus maintaining the powerful kingship of his father. The English kings ruled Normandy until 1154, when Henry of Anjou (Henry II) was crowned king and ruled England, as well as Normandy, Anjou, and his wife's inheritance of Aquitaine. Henry's son, John, lost mainland Normandy to France under King Philip II. Insular Normandy, the Channel Islands, remained under English control. Henry III of England recognized the French possession of mainland Normandy under the Treaty of Paris; however, his successors often went to war with France trying to regain control of mainland Normandy.



Normandy was occupied by English forces during the Hundred Years War from 1345 to 1360 and again from 1415 to 1450. Normandy lost three-quarters of its population during that war. At the end of the Hundred Years War, the only territory on the European coast still held by England was Calais, which was lost during the reign of Mary Tudor.

THE COLONY OF NEW FRANCE

Samuel de Champlain was born at Brouage, France, in about 1597. He came from a family of master mariners. Champlain, a navigator and map maker, founded Quebec City in 1608. The French, mainly from Normandy, engaged in a policy of expansion into North America. Colonists from Normandy were the most active in New France, and settled Acadia, Canada and Louisiana. Interesting note: Honfleur and Le Havre were two of the principal slave trade ports in France.



Francois Allard was born at Blacqueville, **Upper** Normandy, in 1642. Blacqueville, 26 km northwest of Rouen, is a very fertile region of France famous for agriculture, with its many orchards and numerous livestock.

Francois Allard's Family

Jacques Allard was born in about 1612 and married Jacqueline Frerot, who was born around 1616. The couple had three children:

1. Jean Francois Allard, born about 1637.
2. Julien Allard, born about 1639, married Marie Deligny, daughter of Robert and of Marie Tache.

3. **Francois Allard**, was born in 1642, was christened in 1637, and died on October 25, 1725 in Charlesbourg, Quebec. He married **Jeanne Anguille**, daughter of Michel Allard and Etienne Toucheraine. Jeanne was born and christened in 1647 in Artannes, Tours, France. Francois and Jeanne were married on 1 November 1671 in Notre Dame, Quebec City.

People from that era in Europe were not noted for their good hygiene habits. It was generally believed that if you bathed, you would succumb to disease. Therefore, France and Quebec were probably quite smelly places at this time. The colonists in Quebec rarely bathed, afraid of getting sick. People usually bathed about once a year. The most common time was probably May so they would be clean for their weddings in June and would not smell too bad. Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide their body odour. Wedding guests also wore sachets of dried flowers to mask their odour. The Indians were amazed at this – they bathed on a regular basis, and always washed before they ate. They often said they could smell a European a mile away. This would have been a problem for the white men in their battles with the Iroquois – the Iroquois could smell them coming! Of course, the white people probably did not notice other people's body odour because they had grown used to it – they all smelled the same.

Francois Looks for Adventure

New France's slow population growth led to an initiative to bring young men to the thinly populated colony. The French were generally not too interested in emigrating to a distant land and it was generally discouraged by local authorities because of the fear of depopulating France. From 1608 to 1760 only 9,000 immigrants settled permanently in the St. Lawrence valley, 20 percent of these between 1663 and 1673. Most came from the coastal regions of France and were under age 30. Many of them were experiencing their first journey far from home.



Francois made a major decision when he was about 25 years old - to leave Normandy for a life in New France. He and his brother, Julien, made the bold move of leaving France. The government of France at that time was promoting settlement in Quebec, and was looking for young, strong and enthusiastic colonists. Most were agricultural workers and apprentice artisans. These apprentice-colonists were provided with transportation to Quebec and financial support in exchange for the promise before a notary to stay in Canada and work under contract for a period of three years.

The ship carrying Francois and his brother reached Quebec in mid-summer of 1666. It was an exciting event in New France. The people meeting the ship vied with each other to sign up the best workers.

Francois and Julien were actively recruited by local seigneurs and farmers to sign contracts with them because they were hardy young men. Julien obtained employment with Jean Guillet, a farmer near

Beaupre, Quebec, while Francois obtained a contract to work for Mrs. Anne Ardoin, the widow of Jacques Badeau at Notre-Dame-des-Anges, Beauport, Quebec. To reach her seigneurie, Francois' group had to travel by boat because at that time there were no roads. Madame Ardoin had a farm of 30 arpents (about 25 acres) fronting on the Saint Lawrence River and 15 paces from the mouth of Beauport Creek. She was a widow and needed the help a young strong man could give her in taking care of the farm and livestock.

The colony of Quebec at this time had a population of about 6,300 with a little over 1,000 troops of the Carignan-Salieres regiment. The population was spread out over three main centers: Quebec City, Trois-Rivieres and Ville-Marie (Montreal) with several settlements along the Beauport coast and Ile d'Orleans, small villages of about 300 people.

Madame Ardoin was very pleased with Francois' work. While in her employ, he acquired the farming skills he would need for his life in New France. He established solid relationships with his neighbours, learned how to cultivate the fields and raise animals, as well as understanding his duties and obligations in the seigneurial system, the semi-feudal system of land distribution used in the colonies. Under this system, land parcels were arranged in long narrow strips, called seigneuries, along the banks of the St. Lawrence River. Each land parcel belonged to the King of France who conceded the lands to landlords, or *seigneurs*, who were usually noblemen, members of the bourgeoisie or people awarded land for services rendered to the state (e.g., army officers). In return, the seigneur was required to build a manor house on the land and live there. He also was required to build a mill, have land set aside for roads, and maintain the timber and minerals for use by the Crown. Madame Ardoin was the seigneur - she had inherited her husband's property after his death. In 1663, women could inherit, and half of the seigneuries of New France were managed by women.

Madame Ardoin showed her regard and respect for Francois by sending a representative to Francois' wedding and paying for his wedding reception.

While many of the immigrants from France decided to return home, Francois found life in New France agreeable. He had established successful relationships with other settlers in the area and several opportunities presented themselves to him, such as a concession of land granted to him at Bourg-la-Reine. The colonial administrator, Jean Talon, decided to develop 30 small villages with about 40 families settling in each. The first three of these villages were located near Quebec City and were named Bourg-Royal, Bourg-Talon and Bourg-la-Reine. These villages were designed and built in the shape of triangles for security against attack from the Indians. It was in one of these new villages that Francois decided to settle in 1669.

Francois worked hard for two years and developed his farm to the point where he had enough income to support a family. Fortunately, this was the time when Louis XIV began a program to send young women to Quebec, and thus Francois had the opportunity to marry a young lady from France.

Filles du Roi

Because of the lack of white women in Quebec, the men in New France often lived with native women and many children were born of these unions. The Indian population readily accepted these children and they blended into the general native population. Hopefully these men learned some of the hygiene habits of the natives and were less smelly than their counterparts who had not lived with the natives. Many of these men have many descendents within the First Nations today although there are no records for these descendents.

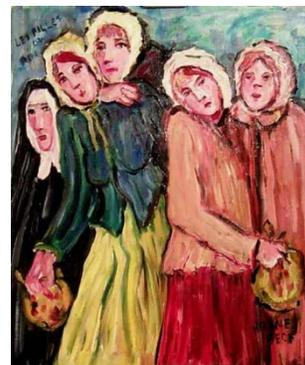
In order to discontinue the alliances between European men and native women without the men leaving New France for areas where they could secure a wife, the king of France, Louis XIV, initiated a program where he assisted young women from France financially to emigrate to New France where

they would be married to young men who had settled there. The "filles-du-roi", or Daughters of the King, program was initiated as encouragement for these young men to remain and settle Quebec. Some of these women came from good, middle class families, while others came from the streets. Orphan girls, daughters of debtors, streetwalkers, and runaway wives were amongst those sent to New France. Of the first 150 that came to New France, only 15 found husbands – the others ended up as domestic servants. Of course, the prettiest girls found husbands first.

Artist: Isabelle Larouche



Francois, taking advantage of the opportunity to meet and marry one of these brave young women, met Jeanne Anguille, who at that time was 24 years old from the village of Artunne, about 15 kilometres from Tours. Jeanne came from a good family who were of above average means. Her parents were Michael Anguille and Etiennette Toucheraine. They provided Jeanne with a dowry of 300 livres which was supplemented by the 50 livres the King provided when she married.



Marriage

Francois and Jeanne married in a little chapel in Beauport. Beauport was established in 1634. Francois belonged to the parish of Charlesbourg, where the marriage would have taken place but for the fact that the priest had already been through Charlesbourg and would not return there for a year. However, there was a priest coming to Beauport much earlier, at the beginning of November. Francois and Jeanne walked the 8 kilometres from home to the chapel where they would be married. Horses were scarce in New France, so walking was the main means of getting from place to place. The young couple was married by Father Guillaume Mathieu, S.J., a Jesuit missionary.

The marriage contract read as follows:

"On the first day of the month of November, one thousand six hundred seventy-one, and after the engagement and publications of the banns of marriage on the 25th and 28th day of October last, between Francois Alard, resident of the bourg of la Reine, son of Jacques Alard and Jacqueline Frerot, his father and mother, of the parish of Notre-Dame de Blacqueville archdiocese of Rouen, on the one hand, and Jeanne Anguille, daughter of Michel Anguille and of Teinette Toucheraine, her father and mother, from the parish of Artaine, archbishopric of Tours, on the other hand. Monsigneur the bishop of Petre having dispensed with the third bann and having found no objections, the Reverend Father Guillaume Mathieu, Jesuit, by virtue of the power granted him by Monsigneur the Bishop, has solemnly married them in the chapel of Beauport and has given them the nuptial blessing according to the form prescribed by the Holy Church, in the presence of Paul Vachon and of Noel Langlois.

(signed) Guillaume Mathieu, s.j.

The wedding ceremony was very formal. Madam Ardoin, Francois' employer, paid for the wedding reception to which were invited the couple's friends and acquaintances.



A Quebec Farmhouse in Summertime, Jane Corbus Luke, 1881

The house that Francois and Jeanne lived in was similar to the one in the painting above. It was probably built of brick and may have had a second story.



Habitants, by Cornelius Krieghoff (1852)

Children

The Catholic Church was very powerful and widespread in Quebec. Young couples of New France were told by the Catholic Church that it was their duty to have as many children as they could. In fact, in order to succeed in a new settlement reliant on agriculture, the more help the farmers had in the form of sons, the more chance of success. The women of the family also needed help in the house, and children went to work in the fields or the house as soon as they were able to. Many families had upwards of 15 to 20 children, with many of them dying between the ages of birth and 5 years old. It was not unusual for a wife to produce a baby every two years, so over a course of a 25 year marriage, 12 children could have been born.

Francois and Jeanne fulfilled their obligations and had a family of five boys and four girls.

1. Andre Allard was baptized on the 12th of September 1672 at Quebec. He was married to Marie-Anne LeMarche dit Laroche on 22 November 1695. Andre and Marie-Anne had six sons and three daughters. Andre died on December 6, 1735.
2. Jean Francois Allard was baptized on the 1st of August 1674 at Quebec City. He married Marie-Ursule Tardif on November 5, 1698. Marie-Ursule was born to Jacques and Barbe d'Orange in 1679 in Beauport. They had five sons and two daughters. After the death of Marie-Ursule, Jean-Francois married Catherine-Genevieve Dauphin on August 3, 1711, and had a further five sons and six daughters. Catherine-Genevieve was the daughter of Rene Dauphin Lajoie and of Suzanne Gignard.
3. **Jean Baptiste Allard** was baptized on the 22nd of February 1676 at Bourg-Royal, Quebec. He married **Anne-Elisabeth Pageau die Pageot** on February 23, 1705. Anne-Elisabeth was born on January 15, 1686 at Charlesbourg. Her parents were Thomas Pageau and Marie-Catherine Roy. Jean Baptiste died on December 23, 1748 at Charlesbourg.
4. Marie-Renee Allard was baptized on the 11th of January 1678 at Quebec City. She married Charles Villeneuve on May 7, 1703. Charles was born in 1674 at Charlesbourg to Mathruin and Marguerite La Marche dit La Roche. Marie-Renee died on June 23, 1746 at Charlesbourg.
5. Georges Allard was baptized on the 10th of February 1680 at Quebec. He married Marie-Marguerite Pageau on January 7, 1710. Marie-Marguerite was born on January 16, 1693. After her death, Georges married Catherine Bedard on January 30, 1713. Catherine was the daughter of Jacques and of Elizabeth Doucinet.
6. Marie-Renee Allard was born on May 18, 1683, at Bourg-Royal, Quebec, and was christened the same day at Charlesbourg. She died on October 9, 1684, only living 6 months.
7. Marie-Anne was born in about 1685 at Charlebourg. She married Pierre Boutillet on July 23, 1714, and after his death married Jean Renaud on November 18, 1720. Marie-Anne died on December 1, 1758 at Charlesbourg. Francois lived with Anne and Jean after Jeanne died until his death.
8. Thomas Allard was baptized on the 19th of March 1687 at Charlesbourg, Quebec. He married Marie-Charlotte Bedard on June 11, 1714. Thomas died on December 27, 1742 at Charlesbourg.

Life in New France

Francois and Jeanne lived modestly, according to the 1681 Census. They only had two livestock and 14 arpents of cleared land. One square arpent is equal to 191.83 feet. In Quebec, it was equal to 32,400 French square feet, or about 3,419 square metres. In order to meet the terms of his land grant, Francois was required to clear 1.5 arpents a year while carrying on the remainder of the farm operation.

They probably grew hops or hemp and raised livestock. They would also have grown fruits and vegetables. The St. Lawrence River valley is the most fertile region in Quebec.

By 1685, Francois added to his property by purchasing the land of his neighbor, Georges Steins, a stone cutter. In 1691, he acquired the harvested crop of Jean Gachin who had decided to move back to Europe.

The three older boys helped their father with the farming operation, seeding in the spring and harvesting in the fall, caring for the two livestock and any more livestock they acquired over the years, maintenance on the farm buildings and farm equipment and tools and keeping them operational and in a good state. They also had to carry water to the farm and deliver the grain to the mill to be ground into fine white flour for use at home. The family also built their own furniture – there were no furniture stores in Quebec at that time.

Jeanne was helped in the house by her daughters and they were kept busy with the house and garden. They also manufactured the cloth necessary and made the clothing for the family, no small task as year-round clothing was necessary – clothing for the heat of summer and the extreme cold of winter.

As she got older, Jeanne became very ill, and after several months of sickness, she passed away on March 11, 1711. She had lived a long and productive

life. She was a devoted wife and mother, nurturing and caring towards her children, and the strength of the family. After her death, there was a large emotional hole left in the family.

Life Goes On

Francois and the family carried on, but missed Jeanne incredibly. On 30 January 1713, Georges, having lost his first wife, married again, this time to Catherine Bedard. Anne also remarried in 1720 - to Jean Renaud. Anne and Jean took over the responsibility for caring for Francois into his old age.

On November 15, 1720, Francois ceded his land and buildings to Anne and Jean. He was 78 years old and decided it was time to make a decision about his properties, so in the house of Sieur Chandonne at Quebec City, before the notary Dubreuil, Francois signed the papers. He lived with Anne and Jean until his death on October 25, 1726. Francois and Jeanne are buried next to each other in St. Charles Boromee Cemetery at Charlesbourg.

Charlesbourg is now a borough of Quebec City. It became part of Quebec City in 2002 after a controversial province-wide city merger project. The name Charlesbourg originates from a chapel built at Bourg-Royal in honour of St. Charles Borromeo. Charlesbourg is rich in architectural heritage – it and Bourg-Royal are the only two examples of settlement layout remaining from that era. The church, the Jesuits' grist mill, and 15 houses dating back to before 1830 are examples. The population in 2006 was 72,810, many of whom are descendents of the Allards who settled this area.

The Allard Name in Canada

The Allards moved throughout Quebec to areas such as Sageunay and Lac-St-Jean as well as north throughout the province of New Brunswick and the south of the Gaspesie. Father Theophile Allard, the cure of Caraquet, founded a classical college, while Mgr Auguste Allard founded Allardville. The family also settled in the Yamaska region and Montreal.

Notable people with the name Allard are General Jean-Victor Allard, Chief of Defense Staff, Canadian Army, from 1966 to 1969. He was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1968. The Honorable Louis-Jules Allard served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec for Yamaska from 1897 to 1905. A name very familiar to people searching for their French Canadian roots is that of the genealogist, Alphonse Allard, Canon of the Diocese of Nicolet and cure of Ste-Brigitte-du-Sault. It is to his book, entitled "the Allard Foundation", that many genealogists look for the history of their ancestors in Quebec. The original is located in the National Archives of Quebec.