

LE BLANC FAMILY

The following most interesting sketch of the Le Blanc family is given in connection with the services of Bishop Le Blanc in the St. John Telegraph at the time .

From Flacide Gaudet of the department of Archives , Ottawa the telegraph secured the following information regarding the genealogy of Bishop Designate Le Blanc. Mr Gaudet is an expert in matters pertaining to the Acadians and this history of the family of the Bishop of St. John, which also contains matter of historical interest .

Daniel Le Blanc Mr. Gaudet said the father of Canadian Le Blanc, s was born in France in 1626 and was married to Francoise Gaudet in the spring of 1650. In the same summer he emigrated with several others to Port Royal , now called Annapolis Royal , and settled on the North side of the Annapolis River , which runs ^{along} the Belle Isle marsh . His Family consisted of seven children who were all born there six sons and one daughter. The daughter married Martin Blanchard and died while still a young woman. One of the sons took up a seafaring life and left home . Four of the others left Port Royal in the year of 1637 and settled in Minas Basin in Hants County , and the son of one of these brothers was called Rene and was the father of Rene Le Blanc the notary of mines at the time of the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755 and is referred to in Longfellow, s poem , Evangeline .

The youngest of the family of Daniel the original settler, was named pierre and made his home with his father and Mother on the old homestead . This Pierre was married twice his second wife being Madeline Bourg and he died at Annapolis River during the year of 1717. His youngest son Charles was born in September 1716 and married Madeline Girourd on January 10 1735. at the time of the expulsion of the Acadians he escaped deportation by crossing over the North Mountain with several others of his race , and sailed the bay of Fundy as far as Chutes Cove at which place several other of the Acadians had landed some time before to escape the government officials and had hidden several fishing boats with which they sailed up river some 24 miles to a place now called Morden, where they until December 9 of the same year.

Having learned from the Micmac Indians that all the inhabitants of Annapolis Royal and Annapolis River were embarked on board vessels (in all about 1663 souls) they thought their refuge was not a safe one. Some of those who had sailed were bound for Boston, others for Connecticut and others for New York, while the Snow Pembroke bound for North Carolina had sailed from Annapolis on December 8.

This confirmed Le Blanc in his beliefs he and his companions of misfortune numbering 120 men, women and children embarked in their boats and descended the Bay Of Fundy as far as Dittle passage by which they entered St Mary,s Bay. From there they sailed up the river about 5 miles and in the second week of December, being overtaken by a snow storm landed at a place, which is now known as Major Doucets Point. There they passed the winter of 1755-1756. Early in the spring of 1756 the Acadians embarked on board their fishing boats and sailed down St, Mary,s Bay and entered the Bay Of Fundy by the Grand Passage. They went to Grand Mansn Island and from there came to St John, where they learned that some weeks before their arrival that the Snow Pembroke which was carrying 230 passengers to North Carolina had arrived at St, John. The Acadian who were aboard had revolted seized the ship and brought her here. They decided to follow them and went up river to Nerepis where there had formally been a fort.

In later years several of them went to the province of Quebec Le Blanc and his party went to Cumberland Basin and then to Shepody Bay and to Petitcodiac river where they ascended as far as Moncton which was then known as the bend.

The misery of the adventurers was terrible. Here no food or supplies of any kind that would keep them in comfort for the winter, and after hearing that at Cocagne there was a company of Acadians they made for that point. From Cocagne they went to Miriamichi where they divided again, some of them remaining at Miriamichi, others among whom was Charles Le Blanc and his family, and several more, returned to Richibucto Harbor, which they entered and sailed a small river called the Aldhouane, There they found other Acadian who had taken refuge at that place.

From the summer of 1756 until the summer of 1760 they remained here and an arrangement was made with Colonel Frye, commanding officer at Fort Cumberland, with the principal Acadians who had taken refuge at Richibucto, Miramichi, Cocagne, Peticodiac, at the bend

(Moncton), and Memramcook. This arrangement was made for the submission of the acadians to the english government ,so that hearing this on their arrival Le Blanc and others and their families including Belliveau went back to Annapolis .In 1763 a census was made there which gave the number of the people which amounted at that time to about 92 souls.

In December 1767 those Acadians who were at Annapolis Royal and at Windsor,requested the government at Halifax for grants of land with the promise of taking the oath of the allegiance to the British Government.This request was granted and in July of 1768 the Halifax government issued a permit of occupation to the 44 Acadians at Windsor and Annapolis on land to the south side of St, Mary,s Bay. The territory was named the township of Clare,which is now one of the townships of Digby .Joseph Dugas who is one of the Acadians named in the census of 1763,was first to avail himself of the Authority.He and his wife and a young daughter,three and a half years of age,set out on foot from Annapolis and walked the distance of 45 miles arriving in 1766 at the same place where Le Blanc and his companions had passed the winter of 1755 1756 that is to say at Major Doucets Point .

The year following Dugas and several others came from Windsor and Annapolis amongst whom were Jean Belliveau and Charles Le Blanc .They each choose a lot of land and began to erect alog house, while thier family remained in Annapolis and in a return of the inhabitants made in 1770, in Annapolis Royal,but in the return of the following year their names are not included.The church of the old Acadian Missionaries who paid annual visits to St. Mary,s Bay mentioned the presense of Charles Le Blanc and his family wre amongst the Principal Acadian pioneers of St. Mary,s Bay and settled about 2 miles from Weymouth Bridge , and the place where he raised his homestead has been known for years by the name of Le Blanc,s Cove . It is there that Le Blanc died in 1805 and was buried in the old graveyard at Church Point,six miles from where he made his settlement.

He had six children,three sons ,and three daughters. the elder of the sons was named Charles and he was married in Clare about 1850.The second son was called Joseph ^{AND} was born in 1786 and married in 1813 to Rosalie Theriault,by whom he had nine children . Luke one of these children was born in 1824 and married in 1854 to Julia Belliveau.

They settled in the township of Clare and Digby at a place called Ohio, where Luke died in 1891. This Luke Le Blanc, whose wife died in 1907, and was buried by her son, that year taking charge of the Parish of St. Bernards was the father of the now Bishop of St. John.

The new Bishop of St. John was born in Ohio Oct 15 1870 in the parish of St. Joseph. He was baptized at St. Bernard's church on Oct. 19 and received the name of Edward Alfred. His first school teacher was his sister, Margaret who afterwards married Francois Gervais Comeau of Saulnierville and became the mother of the wife of Professor J. Alphonse Benoit, of Truro Normal School. He then went to high school at Weymouth Bridge for several an English School. From there he went to Meteghan River where he stayed for some time, In 1889 His Lordship attended St. Joseph College where he remained for two years and at the opening of St. Ann's College at Church Point, Digby County became one of the first pupils to attend that institute, and completed his arts course there, In the fall of 1895 Bishop Le Blanc went to Halifax to the Holy Heart Seminary and carried out his theological studies there. On June the 29 1898, he was ordained priest at Halifax by the late Archbishop O'Brien and a few weeks after his ordination was appointed Curate at Meteghan where he remained until 1901. In that year he received the appointment of parish priest of Caledonia which is composed of English speaking people, and which lies on the southeast of Nova Scotia in the electoral district of Shelburne and Queens. In 1906 His Lordship was transferred to the parish of Salmon River Digby county and in the year following the Archbishop appointed him the Parish priest of St. Bernard's native parish. It is from there that he was chosen to become the successor to Bishop Casey in the diocese of St. John.