

Pierre Robitaille

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Translated by Robert Martin

Although there is a great deal more to this story, I have translated just the essential parts for the purposes of the Robitaille Reunion. Please check the website in the next few weeks for the whole story.

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Three Robitaille brothers homesteaded in the St.Lawrence Valley during the 17th century : *Philippe*, *Jean* and *Pierre*. All had families but only Pierre continued the name Robitaille in North America.



Sketch of Pierre Robitaille, from Picardie, France.

It is interesting to note that the name *Robitaille* may originate from the words *Robert* and *Taille*. Robert also comes from Robin, Robineau and Roby. Taille means village or an ancient fiefdom called La Taille, cutter of wood.

From Picardie (northern France)

Jean Robitaille and *Martine Cormont*, Pierre's parents, were from *Picardie*, in northern France. Pierre Robitaille indicated his place of origine on his marriage certificat on May 5 1675, at Québec.

The Robitaille boys had gone to school as it was obvious that Pierre could sign his name very well.

Towards New-France

Nicolas, who had gained land in the area of Gaudarville, Québec in 24 novembre 1670, gave it up to his brothers *Pierre* and *Jean* when he returned to live in France.

Maufay-Robitaille

Pierre Robitaille, 18 years old, was witness to Jean's marriage certificat on November 16 1670.

Pierre Robitaille began farming his own land while helping his two brothers. He soon learned that having land was extremely important. He then acquired from the Jesuites, three more parcels of land (trois arpents moins neuf pieds de front et trente de profondeur) on March 20, 1672 near St-Gabriel. However, as the saying goes, his bit off more than he could chew. He gave up approximately one third of his land because it was too much for him (October 4, 1674).

Five years later, at the age of 23, he met Suzanne-Marie Maufay (or Maufait), daughter of Pierre and Marie Duval. She was born on October 13, 1661. She had just turned 14 when he asked her to marry him. On Thursday, May 5, 1675, they married in Old Québec (Québec City). Pierre and Marie Duval gave Pierre Robitaille his dowry of one pig, 6 shirts, 6 handkerchiefs, 1 blanket, 1 pair of bedsheets and 6 towels.

After the marriage, the happy couple went to their farm at Gaudarville which is today in Ste-Foy (city touching Québec City) and close to Robitaille Street.

In 1681, Pierre Robitaille, 30 years old, had in his possession 1 gun, 6 cows and 16 parcels of land. He was a success!

Second Generation

The happy couple had 13 children : André, Marie-Suzanne, Pierre, Charles, Jean, Marie-Agnès, François, Joseph, Romain and Romain, Louis, Claude and Charlotte-Catherine, 10 boys and 3 girls. *Romain*, born on May 5, 1695, died at 2 months of age. *Louis*, 5 years old, *Claude*, 3 years old, died almost at the same time in March, 1703.

Pierre died on May 8, 1715. Marie continued for another 15 years. Finally, at 69 years of age, she died on September 21, 1730.

Bibliography

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