

CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN 2014  
Terriot Family Reunion: Fort Kent Conference  
**“Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”**

*JRT Theriault Conference Presentation*

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**INTRODUCTIONS**

A very special thanks to Madame Joan Levesque and the Baker Brook Historical Society, to Monsieur Guy Thériault and the Association des familles Thériault and Mr. Carl Theriault and his CMA 2014 Theriault Reunion Committee for this very special privilege to speak with you today on the history of the Theriault family.

The collaboration between the Association des familles Theriault and the Terriot Acadian Family Society to make this event happen is special and one that our cousin, Denis Thériault, former President of the Association strongly advocated at the CMA 2009 proceedings. Sadly, Denis passed away at the age of 57 in 2011. He would have enjoyed this gathering. Would you please join me in a moment of silence in his memory and the memories of all members of the Theriault family no longer with us today.

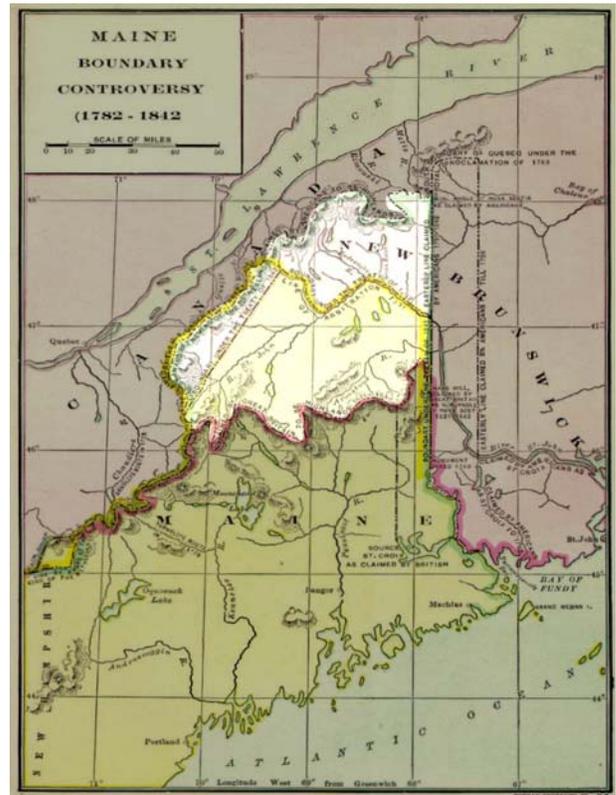
**GENEALOGY OVERVIEW**

Much has been written about the migration of the Acadians to the Madawaska region but very little has been written about the migration of the Theriault family to Madawaska; how that migration took place, who was involved and how were they related and when did they come up? We will take a look at who came up and when. And, to add some human interest to our story, we will talk about some of the Theriaults who distinguished themselves in some way.

But first, just a few notes about our presentation.

1. When we speak of Madawaska, we speak of the region highlighted in **Figure 1**, the area that was contested by the US and England as a result of the ambiguous boundary set by the Treaty of Paris in 1783 at the end of the

American Revolution. It is the area that basically includes Acadia of the Lands and Forests: a little piece of Québec, northwestern New Brunswick and

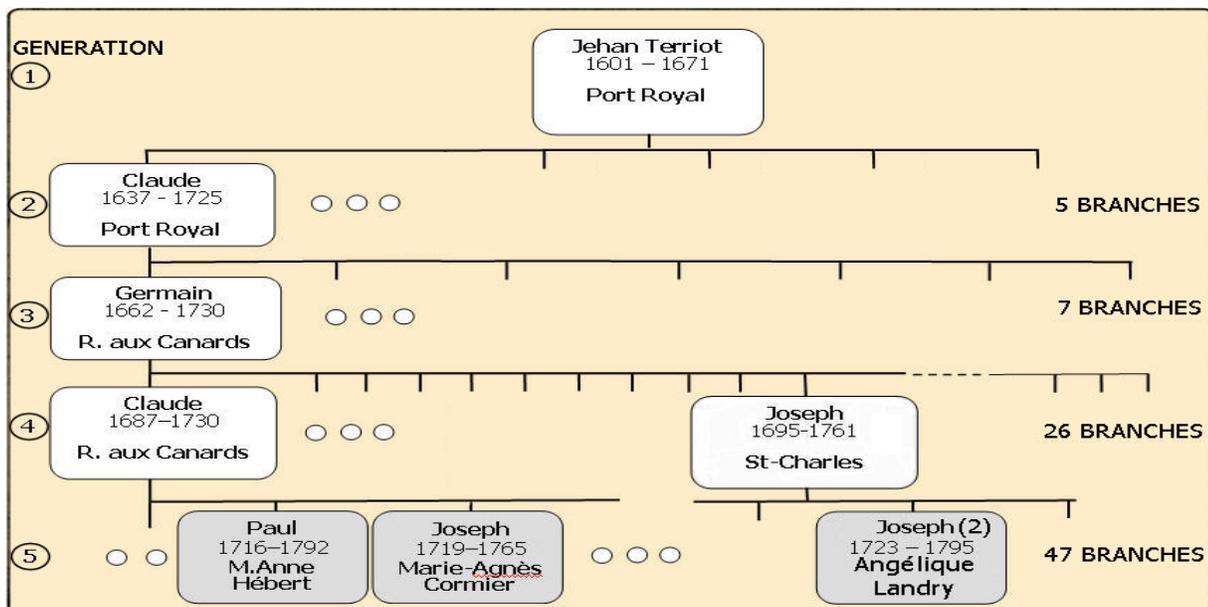


**Figure 1. Maine Boundary Controversy.**

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

the tip of northeastern Maine. It is the Madawaska that Father Thomas Albert speaks of in his ‘History of Madawaska’.

2. My second note regards the spelling of our family name. In my materials for this presentation, you will notice that I spell the name ‘TERRIOT’, which is one of the more than two dozen spelling variations of our family name. It is actually the most common spelling of our family name around the time that our progenitor, Jehan came to the New World in the mid-1600’s and actually the spelling is still used in France today. It is a convention that we established in the Terriot Acadian Family Society to be a little more inclusive of all of the descendants of Jehan Terriot, who spell their last name in many different ways. I use that spelling when I speak of the greater Terriot family, all of the descendants of Jehan and Perrine Terriot,
3. Finally, it is difficult enough to talk about all of the members of our family in its 15-16 generations especially, when many use the same first name. This is especially the case with the name ‘Joseph’. It will happen in my presentation today that I will be talking about Joseph, son of Germain who was born in 1695 in Grand-Pré. We will be talking about his son, Joseph, born in 1723 and who migrated to Caraquet, and his grandson, Joseph, who migrated to St Basile. For this presentation, we will change the son’s name to Joseph-2 and the grandson’s name to Joseph-3 for the purpose of our discussion today.



**Figure 2. Genealogy of Theriault Family of Madawaska.**

Let’s begin by introducing the main characters in this important piece of Madawaska Terriot history. As shown in **Figure 2**, all Theriault’s who migrated here before 1900 were descendants of just three of the 47 men of the Terriot fifth generation: Paul and his brother, Joseph, both sons of Claude; and Joseph-2 who was son of Joseph. All were grandsons of Germain, who was the son of Claude and grandson of Jehan. The

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

5<sup>th</sup> generation for the Terriot family spanned the years from about 1715 to 1785. So, these three men represented only 6% of the Terriot family in the 5<sup>th</sup> generation. This makes the Madawaska Theriaults a very small part of the family. (You might even say that they are a very selective group.)



**Figure 3. Acadian Migration Routes to Lower Canada.**

St John area until 1790, when Joseph-3 decided to migrate to Madawaska bringing his family of twelve children along with him. He was 41 at the time.

So, as we talk about the Theriault migration to Madawaska, we will come back to these three cousins whose branches are represented in Madawaska. We will be talking more about these three men throughout our presentation.

For these two brothers Paul and Joseph and their cousin Joseph-2, and their families, their years during the time of the Great Eviction period were extremely difficult. In 1759, the two brothers Paul and Joseph migrated with their large families from Beaubassin, Acadia to Lower Canada using the routes shown in **Figure 3**. We know that Joseph took 11 months to travel through the forests of New Brunswick and Québec before he finally arrived in Lower Canada. In the meantime, their cousin Joseph-2 had lost his first wife, Angélique after she delivered their only child, a son that they also named Joseph-3 in 1745. In 1754, Joseph-2 remarried to Marie-Josèphe Girouard and in 1786 he moved his family to the Caraquet area in the new province of New Brunswick where they helped found the new village of Caraquet. His son, Joseph-3 and his wife in the meantime, chose to stay in the lower

### **EARLY HISTORY OF MADAWASKA**

As shown in **Figure 3**, the Madawaska territory was originally the northwestern corner of the colony of Acadia. Earlier in the 1700's, there was not much interest in this part of the continent because England and France were concerned more with the areas that were more accessible to the St Lawrence and the Atlantic. So, when the colony of New Brunswick was formed in 1784, the English were more interested in populating the areas to the south for that same reason: because they were more accessible. At the same time, the Acadians found this lack of interest in the Madawaska area as very attractive thing and began migrating to the area in 1785, the year after the founding of New Brunswick. The first wave of settlers was the Acadians from the lower St-John River area who were followed the next years with a few French-Canadian families from Lower Canada who together settled the present-day areas of St-David and St-Basile.

So, Madawaska from the beginning, was a 'melting pot' for the Acadians and their French-Canadian cousins, many of whom were descendants of Acadians who had earlier fled to Québec around the time of the Great Eviction in 1755. For example, the two brothers, Paul and Joseph as I mentioned before

After arriving in Québec, Paul and Joseph were able to lease land from the local lords for subsistence farming. In those days, the economic system of the colony of Lower Canada was based on a seigniorial system. The land was owned by the nobility and rented to peasant farmers who farmed the land for their subsistence. This was not the case for Joseph-3 and his adult children in St-Basile who along with the other Acadians brought their Acadian culture and customs with them. The Acadian settlers were basically capitalists; they owned and worked their land as they did in Acadia not just for subsistence but to trade or sell a surplus and thus advance their wealth. The Acadians in old Acadia enjoyed a vigorous and profitable trade with the English, the French and especially the New England colony of Massachusetts.

There was another difference between the Acadians and the French Canadians; the Acadians were accustomed to making their collective decisions by organizing themselves under a very simple government of representatives. In Acadia, except for the first few years in the time of Lord d'Aulnay, the nobility just were not around in Acadia to make decisions. So, these two important differences in culture that is: property ownership and democracy would attract many to the Madawaska region.

After the American revolution, the Madawaska territory became a 'no-man's' land because the United States and England disagreed over the international boundary that was established by the Treaty of Paris in 1783. As shown in **Figure 1**, in the view of the Americans, the boundary went way north as shown by the BLUE LINE and for the English, the boundary went way south as shown by the RED LINE. In 1842, the Webster-Ashburton Treaty established a middle position as the boundary, essentially using the upper St-John River as part of the boundary.

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

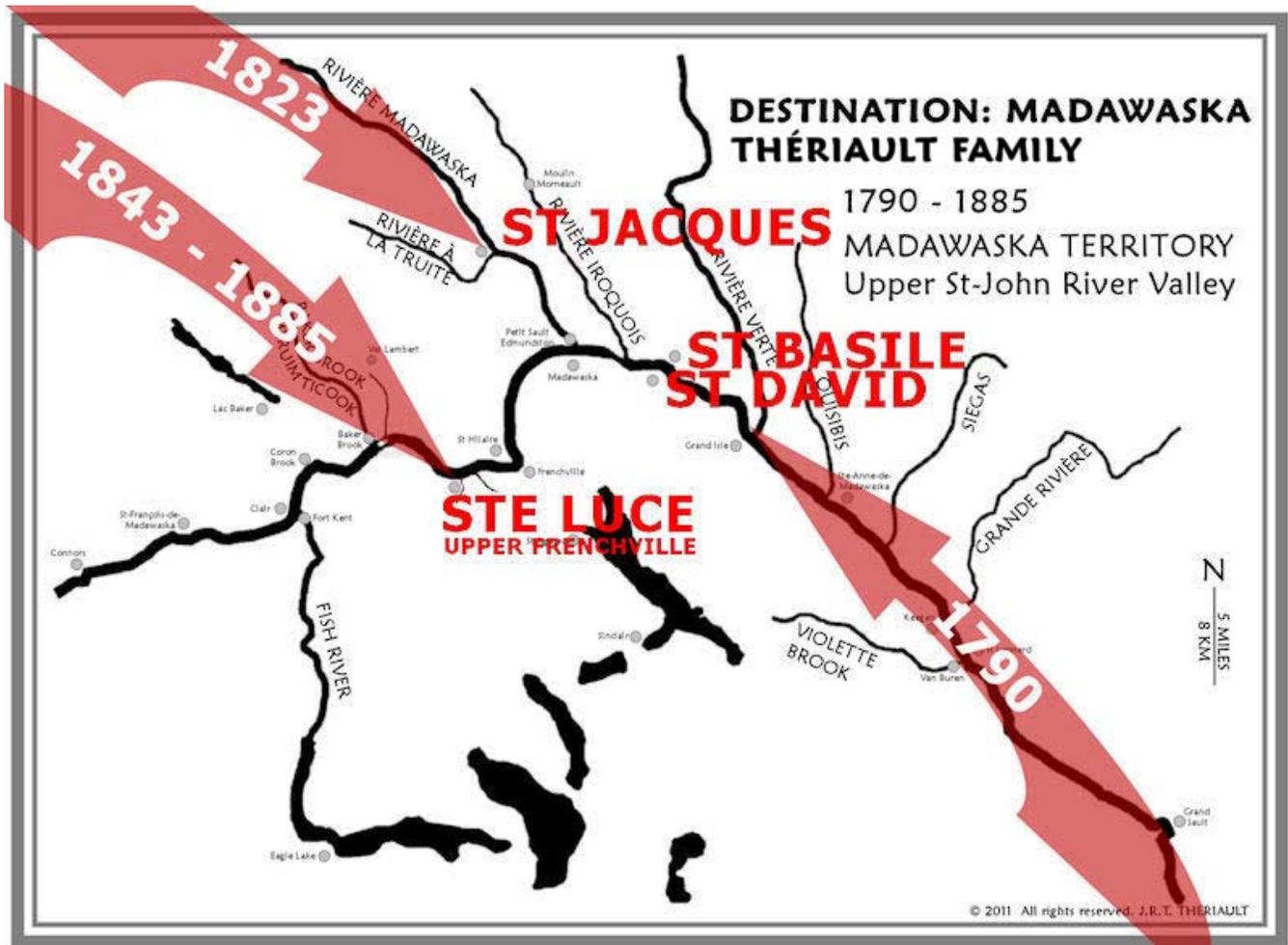


Figure 4. Theriault Migration To Madawaska.

- o 1790: Joseph-3 Theriault family arrives in St Basile/Rivière Verte.
- o 1823: Charles, descendant of Joseph and his wife Léocade arrive in St Jacques.
- o 1843-1885: Descendants of Paul & Joseph arrive in Ste Luce, and settlements south of St John River.

### MIGRATION OVERVIEW

So, let me first give you a brief overview of the migration and then we will go into each phase of the migration in detail. As shown in **Figure 4**, the Theriault migration to the Madawaska region occurred in three phases separated in time by 20-30 years:

- The first event of the migration occurred when Joseph-3, who in 1790 came up the St-John River to settle in the St Basile area and helped found the village and the eastern part of the Madawaska territory in present-day St. Basile and Green River and across the river in St David and Grand Isle;

## **“Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”**

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- The second event of the migration occurred 30 years later, in 1823 when Charles migrated south to present-day St Jacques. Charles was grandson of Joseph that we spoke of earlier who had migrated from Acadia to Lower Canada in 1759. Charles was the first Acadian to settle in present-day St-Jacques on the Madawaska River.
- As shown in **Figure 5** below, the third event of migration started twenty years later in 1843 but this time, the event continued for 40 years and included 18 settlers: fifteen who were descendants of Paul and three were Joseph’s descendants migrating to the western and southern areas of the Madawaska territory including Frenchville, Fort Kent and Van Buren and one or two villages on the Canadian side. We will re-view the table in Image 5 in detail later.

So now, let us take a more detailed look at the three phases or events of the migration.

### **MIGRATION TO ST BASILE**

The migration to the Madawaska territory was begun by the Acadians in 1785 when they moved up the St-John River. Joseph-3 and Marie-Madeleine delayed their decision to join their Acadian friends until around 1790 when they brought their family up the river to the settlement of St-Basile which was formally founded in 1792. At that time, many of his twelve adult children were old enough to marry and start their own families, so they started making their claims to land almost immediately to the surrounding areas of present-day Sainte Anne de Madawaska, Rivière Verte; and on the other side of the St John River to Grand Isle, Lille, and Van Buren. Today, most of the Theriault’s on either side of the St-John River at the eastern end of the upper St-John Valley are descendants of Joseph-3. These Theriault’s have a strong blood connection with the Theriault’s of Caraquet because of the father/son relationship of the settlers.

In presenting the history of these migrations, I would like to include some biographies of a few members of the Theriault family in Madawaska who distinguished themselves in their lives and who made a difference in the world around them.

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

### THERIAULT SETTLERS OF THE MADAWASKA TERRITORY: 1785-1885 PIONNIERS THERIAULT DU TERRITOIRE MADAWASKA: 1785-1885

**SUMMARY OF MIGRATIONS BY VILLAGE:** Frenchville: 9; St Francois: 2; St Jacques: 2; St Basile: 2; Caribou: 1; Fort Kent: 1; Daigle: 1; Van Buren: 1; Wallagrass: 1)

GENERATION	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>MIGRATIONS</b>								
<b>Legend: Settler[Archive Record ID] &amp; Spouse (Place, Year)</b>								
1	Claude	Germain	Joseph-1	Joseph-2	Joseph-3 [1408] & Madeleine Thibodeau (ST BASILE, ca 1790)			
2	Claude	Germain	Claude	Joseph	Charles	Charles[62] & Marie Léocadie Jouvin (ST JACQUES, ca 1823)		
<b>1842: Webster-Ashburton Treaty sets international boundary; 1843: Sainte Luce Parish, Upper Frenchville, Maine founded</b>								
3 -1	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Prosper	Thomas [1602] & Elizabeth Nadeau (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1843)	
3 -2	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jean	Vincent	Thomas [13169] & Constance Grondin (ST JACQUES, ca 1843)	
3 -3	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jean	Vincent	Bernard [13113] & Gènereuse Bernier (VAN BUREN, ca 1845)	
3 -4	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Thomas	Georges [2151] & Delina Nadeau (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1851)	
3 -5	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jean	Vincent	Charles [13125] & Sara Lamarre (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1853)	
3 -6	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Prosper	Charles [9636] & Elizabeth Charette (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1858)	
3 -7	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Thomas	Achille [3497] & Marie Lang (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1860)	
3 -8	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Olivier	Pierre [3925] & Marguerite Lavoie (DAIGLE, ca 1860)	
3 -9	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Thomas	Lambert [13132] & Olive Nadeau (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1861)	
3 -10	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Thomas	Adolphe [3503] & Marie Marquis (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1863)	
3 -11	Claude	Germain	Claude	Joseph	Anselme	Joachim	Charles [1956] & Sophie Emery (WALLAGRASS, ca 1864)	
3 -12	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Thomas	Octave [3505] & Angèle Charette (ST FRANCOIS, ca 1865)	
3 -13	Claude	Germain	Claude	Joseph	Anselme	Joachim	Francois 'Bonhomme' [1954] & Philomene Malenfant (CARIBOU, ca 1872)	
3 -14	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Prosper	Thomas [9641] & Amidée Pelletier (ST FRANCOIS, ca 1879)	
3 -15	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Jean-Jacques	Olivier	Joseph [11117] & Artémise Lajoie (ST BASILE, ca 1854)
3 -16	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Thomas	Antoine	Octave [3515] & Marie Roy-Voisine (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1861)
3 -17	Claude	Germain	Claude	Joseph	Jacques-Léon	Jacob Jacques	Charles	William [7072] & Anastasie Bouchard (FRENCHVILLE, ca 1867)
3 -18	Claude	Germain	Claude	Paul	Jacques-Jean	Jean-Jacques	Magloire	Michel [1187] & Marie Boutot (FORT KENT, ca 1870)

Figure 5. Thériault Settlers in the Madawaska Territory: 1785-1885

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

Of course we must give great credit to those courageous men and women who made the decision and commitment to travel long distances, in some cases with their children, to come to Madawaska and open new settlements. The work of starting with nothing and going on to clear and cultivate thousands of acres of land; develop new industries like the saw mills, grist mills and wool carding mills, some prior to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when everything was made by hand. Remember that education in those times was only for a select few. Those Theriault men and their female partners are listed in **Figure 5**, their names highlighted in light blue. These were the most distinguished members of our family.



**Figure 6. Site of Régis & Bénonie Thériault Mill (1839-1887) in present-day St Basile on Iroquois River at Route 144 shown by white star. (« Le site projeté pour la construction des moulins se trouve borné « du côté sud par Joseph Martin et du côté nord par la route qui se trouve entre la terre de votre Grandeur et celle d'un nommé Antoine Bellefleur ». Ref: Lettre du curé A. Langevin à Mgr Signay, le 8 décembre 1838, AAQ. « St Basile, Berceau du Madawaska 1792-1992. »)**

For the settlement of St Basile, there were the two grandsons of Joseph-3, Bénonie and Régis who constructed one of the early sawmills in the Madawaska region. In 1838, Father A. Langevin, pastor of St Basile, informed the Bishop of Québec that the brothers Régis (known as ‘le Capitaine’) and his younger brother, Bénonie asked for permission to build a saw mill on the parish land that they were renting on the Iroquois River at a location shown in **Figure 6**. They would also include a flour mill and wool carding mill. According to the historians of the period, the Theriault brothers were among the most important business men in the Madawaska region in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The mill produced exports in lumber and flour until 1878 when the mill was destroyed by fire. Before it was destroyed, the mill had been acquired by Levite Theriault, a grandson of Bénonie, who operated the mill until it burned in 1887. Léville produced some of the wood that was used to build the hospital for the Religieuses Hospitalières de St Joseph in St Basile.

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

Speaking of Levite, he too distinguished himself. He was born in 1837, the son of François-Régis Thériault and Julie Ringuet and he studied at the Collège de Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière in Lower Canada. Shown in **Figure 7a**, he was a political figure in New Brunswick during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was first native representative for Victoria County in 1867 and Madawaska County and he was a member of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick from 1886 to 1894.

He worked with the Religieuses Hospitalières de St Joseph to help build their hospital in 1876-77 and provided some of the the construction lumber for the hospital from his mills. On the day of the fire in 1887 which destroyed his mills, the Daily Telegraph headlined “The mills of Léville Thériault, a well known man in the New Brunswick financial world, were razed by fire. In 1892, he was donor of one of the bells of a three bell carillon erected for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St-Basile.



**Figure 7a. Honorable Léville Thériault** (Courtesy of Biography at the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online)

He was a school trustee and later was named a justice of the peace. He was the founder and a lieutenant-colonel of the 1st Battalion of the Madawaska militia. Unlike other Acadians, he supported the Common Schools Act of 1871 which initially abolished church-run schooling in New Brunswick and replaced it with a system of government-run "common schools." The Act was later substantially amended to implement a joint religious & secular schooling system. He died at Grand-Ruisseau in Madawaska County at the age of 59.



**Figure 7b. Senator Patrick Thériault** (Photo courtesy Archives des Religieuses Hospitalières de St Joseph)

And finally, there is one more member of this branch of the family who distinguished himself among many. He was born on the other side of the river in Grand Isle, Maine, a great-grandson of Joseph-3 and Marie-Madeleine. Patrick Therriault was born in 1875. He completed his studies at St. Mary's College of Van Buren in 1894. He had perfect command of both French and English and started his career in politics in 1904 as a Representative and later, a Senator of the State of Maine for several years. Senator Therriault, shown in **Figure 7b** was an ardent defender of the rights of Acadians and was very active in Acadian affairs. He was the conference speaker for the Acadian Congress in Saint-Basile in 1908. Later, he became interested in the history of the Madawaska region and purchased Prudent Mercure's notes on the history of the region. He gave

his collection of historical notes along with Mercure's notes, to Father Thomas Albert and commissioned him to write the History of Madawaska. So, it is because of Patrick

## **“Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”**

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that today we are fortunate to have the ‘History of Madawaska’ by Father Albert Thomas. Consistent with his leadership role in the area, he was responsible for organizing an international project to build the first international bridge for Van Buren and St Leonard.

So, that is how the first migration to Madawaska came to pass and these are the people associated with that migration.

### **MIGRATION TO ST JACQUES**

The second migration to the Madawaska region was by Charles Terriau in 1823. Charles was the grandson of Joseph and Agnès Cormier who had moved his family to St Jean Port-Joli in Lower Canada in 1759. Charles, who was no doubt attracted to the prospect of owning land in Madawaska and thus chose to migrate south from Ste Anne de la Pocatière in Kamouraska to the St-John Valley with his bride, Marie-Léocadie Jouvin some time after they married. Their trip started with about 50 kms of portaging before arriving at Témiscouata Lake where they were able to canoe the rest of the way to the lower Madawaska River in present-day St-Jacques. Charles established his claim by notching a few trees and built his first house (See **Figure 8**) on the western bank of the Madawaska River north of the mouth of the Rivière a la Truite. (See **Figure 9 below**).

Around Christmas time of the year they arrived, their son, Dolphis was born. Four years later, Charles’ two brothers-in-law, Pierre Plourde and Jean St Onge and their wives, came down from Kamouraska to join them. As shown in **Figure 9 below**, Charles’ 170 acre grant (shown in red border) covered much of the center of present-day St Jacques. His son, Dolphis Theriault donated the land for the parish church in 1860. Dolphis’ uncle Jean St Onge provided the land for the parish cemetery. So, when you walk or drive through the center of St Jacques, that land was originally cleared by Charles and his two sons and was part of his farm in the mid-1800’s.

And now, let us focus on those who made a difference and here, we must start with Pierre Plourde because although he was obviously not a Theriault, his role was important to the Theriaults of St Jacques. Around 1840, Pierre Plourde built the first mill in that part of the Madawaska region on the Iroquois River also shown in **Figure 9**. The Dolphis Theriault family and those of the Plourde’s and Morneault’s were one large family who worked together in the industries of wood, production of wheat, buckwheat and oats, and of wool in St. Jacques and Moulin Morneault.



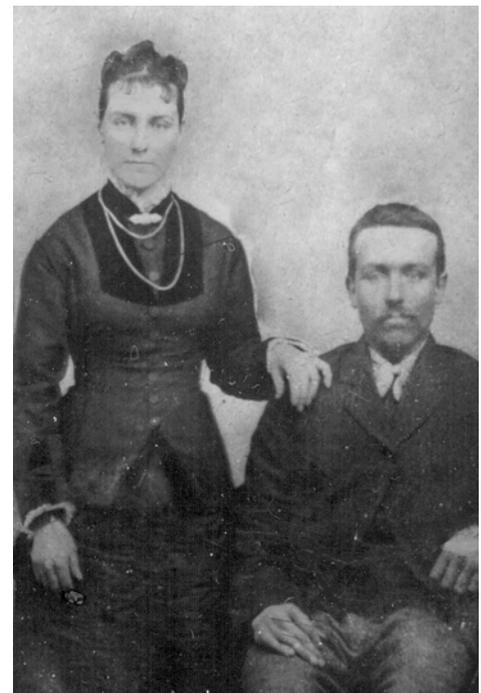
**Figure 8. First Homestead Built by the Early Settlers. Courtesy of CDEM, Université de Moncton at Edmundston, NB.**

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”



**Figure 9. 1848. First Thériault Family Land Grants in St Jacques. A satellite photo of current landscape with an overlay of the first grants in St Jacques.**

As an example of the close relationship between the families, when Dolphis lost his wife after she delivered their sixth child, Adolphe, he placed his six year old son, Joseph, and daughter Claudia with the family of David Rousseau and Caroline Plourde. Later, the Rousseau's took another foster child, Philius Morneault when Philius' father, Pascal Morneault died at a very young age. So, Joseph, was raised with Philius and they both learned mill construction and operation from their foster father, David Rousseau, a well-known and accomplished 'Capitaine' of the milling industry in Québec and a son-in-law of Pierre Plourde. So, Joseph and Philius were like brothers and worked together for decades until Joseph married. Many years later, Joseph decided to build his own mill in Baker Brook in 1907. As the Morneault's inherited Pierre Plourde's mills, the small hamlet, then known as Plourde Office became known as Moulin Morneault where Joseph Thériault was raised from the time that he was six years old. Joseph later married (See **Figure 10 for their wedding portrait**) and built his house



**Figure 10. 1882. Théogenie & Joseph Thériault Wedding Photo. (Terriot Acadian Family Society photo)**

## **“Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”**

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where he raised his family across the road from the former Pierre Plourde home where he and Philius were raised.

The milling industry was hard work and often catastrophic. In 1907, Dolphis’ elder son, Vital was killed while replacing a millstone (weighing a ton and a half) at the Morneault flour mill. We will see these points of interest in our Tour of St Jacques and Moulin Morneault tomorrow.

As with the Joseph Theriault and Philius Morneault relationship, another especially well-known pair of friends was Joachim, son of Joseph Theriault and his cousin and buddy, Fred Morneault, who was the son of Charles Morneault. **(See Image 11.)** Driven by these giants and others like them, the lumber industry grew into one of the major industries of the Madawaska region.



**Figure 11. 1909 - Fred Morneault & Joachim Thériault card game of ‘45’ noted by Pélagie Thériault Morneault in her beautiful handwriting.**

In 1907, Joseph decided to build his own mill in Baker Brook where the locals there did not have a mill to service them. Although Don Fraser had built and was operating a large 100 man mill in Baker Brook, they were producing lumber for export and were not servicing the local farmers, and there was no flour mill to service those local farmers. So Joseph built his mill about a mile and a half east of the village center and went to work for the farmers of Baker Brook, St. Hilaire and the area. Joseph’s health started to fail around 1912 when he turned his mill over to his son, Joachim. He died in 1915 at the age of 56. The Joachim Theriault family operated the mill until 1947.

In 1925, Baker Brook’s parish church of the Saint Coeur de Marie was built. Colonel Jesse Wheelock Baker, grandson of the founder of Baker Brook, John Baker provided the timber to build the church and Joachim Theriault milled the structural and finish lumber at his mill or with a transportable mill which he operated in the woods where the timbers

were cut.

Joachim made the headlines one day in 1925 when he could not get his transportable mill to start. After working on the mill for several days and trying unsuccessfully to start the machine, his pastor Father Lagacé gave Joachim a packet of religious medals to install on the machine and told him in his Madawaska French “Crank moi ça, Joachim!”. So, laughing a little, Joachim said “But Father, I have been cranking for 15 days. It won’t start!” Father Lagacé, now a little perturbed at Joachim’s less than complete faith said, “Joachim, do as I say.” So, Joachim returned to his rig and attached the medals to the engine. He cranked the engine and unbelievably the en-

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

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gine started on the first crank. Happily, Joachim was able to prepare the foundation beams for the church on time. ‘Le Madawaska’, the local paper in 2009 republished the account of the event by Joachim’s friend, Monsieur William Cyr. Joachim was 39 years old at the time.

Joachim’s mill was eventually replaced with the very modern J.D. Irving industrial mill that is there today. For the complete story on the Charles Theriault family in St Jacques and Baker Brook, get a copy of my book “Destination: Madawaska”, published by the Société historique du Madawaska.

There is also the story about Adolphe and his sister, Pélagie. Adolphe Theriault was the young brother of Joseph. As with the others, he was a lumberjack and a farm worker. After he married, he became very dissatisfied with the local work, so he emigrated to Nashua, New Hampshire in 1892. The family understands that Adolphe’s original destination was much further west but his wife became very sick as they were approached Nashua, New Hampshire, so Adolphe stopped there to allow his wife to regain her health. There, he took up a job digging ditches for the local water company, the Pennechuk Water Works Company. Over the period of his career of more than 20 years, he worked his way through the ranks to become Superintendent of the company. (See Figure 12 for a photo of his family)



**Figure 12. ca1900 - Adolphe Thériault family in Nashua, NH. Son, Marcel in center rear, as noted by Pélagie Thériault Morneault.**

His son Marcel in the meantime, after finishing 8<sup>th</sup> grade decided not to continue with high school and went to work as an electric meter reader in Nashua. He later fell in love with Anita Jodoin, a very pretty girl who was attending a private school in Montreal. Her parents made it clear that they did not like Marcel at all because he was not educated. So, Marcel knew what he had to do. During the Christmas school break of 1910, he went down to Boston University unannounced and approached several professors of the School of Law to tell them that he wanted to attend their School. At first, the professors told him that there was no way they could admit him. But after a lot of back and forth, the professors saw that Marcel would not be convinced and would not go away. In the end, he graduated at the top of his class ‘magna cum laude’ in the class of 1914. In the April 1914 edition of *Bostonia*, the Boston University’s Quarterly Journal, the Dean of the School of Law, Homer Anders, in his Annual Report wrote:

*“...Mr. Marcel Theriault, of Nashua, N. H., has been appointed section leader in our School’s Common Law Practice and Pleading section. Mr. Theriault, while a student here, won the friendship and esteem of his fellow students and of the faculty.”*

## “Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”

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Soon after starting at the university, Marcel married his Anita and they immediately started their family. Marcel’s first son, George went on to study Sociology at Dartmouth University and received one of his two PhDs from Harvard University. He continued his career as professor of Sociology. Much of his research and published works focused on the Franco-American culture and society.

In the years approaching 1920, Adolphe called on his sister Pélagie in Moulin Morneault to see if she could send one of her daughters, Rose to care for his wife who had become very sick. (See **Figure 13** for a photo of Rose.) At that time, another of Pélagie’s daughters, Josephine, who they called ‘Josée’ was teaching at the local schools and was on summer vacation. So, Josée joined Rose for the summer to help their beloved Uncle Adolphe. (See **Figure 13** for all three.) That summer, Josée developed a love and deep admiration for the nurses who were taking care of her aunt Hermine and arranged to enter the St Joseph School of Nursing (in Nashua, NH) in the Fall. Two years later, she graduated and started her nursing work at Mass General hospital in Boston. Not long after, she received a scholarship to study radiology at the St Louis Gradwohl School in Missouri in 1931. After graduating, she had planned to return to Boston to her career in nursing and radiology but instead was called home by her father, Charles because her mother’s health was failing. While caring for her mother Pélagie, she received a calling to a religious vocation. At that time, her older sister, Lucie now “Soeur Morneault” of the Religieuses Hospitalières de St Joseph was the Superior at the Hotel Dieu hospital in St Basile. After her mother’s death, Josée decided to dedicate her life to the work of health care in the Madawaska region. After taking her vows as Soeur St Charles, she eventually organized and operated a Nursing School in St Basile and also helped introduce radiology to the hospitals in St Basile and Edmundston.



**Figure 13.** 1921. Nashua, NH. (L-R) Rose & Josephine (Soeur St-Charles) Morneault w/their uncle Adolphe Thériault. (From Pélagie Thériault Morneault album.)

Time does not allow a more complete telling of this important story. The Terriot Acadian Family Society was honored a few years ago when Marcia Theriault, granddaughter of Marcel donated two important audio recordings by Soeur St Charles for preservation. On the recordings, Soeur St-Charles tells the story of her beloved Adolphe and his family, and the story of her life growing up in Moulin Morneault, her teaching career, her nursing career in the United States and finally her vocation with the Religieuses Hospitalières de St Joseph. I hope someday to publish that story about Josée, the girl from Moulin Morneault.

## **“Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”**

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In addition to the daughters of Pélagie Thériault and Charles Morneault who distinguished themselves in their lives, there were also the daughter and grand-daughter of Joseph Theriault, who dedicated their lives to work for the Religieuses Hospitalières de St Joseph. The first was Soeur Jeanne D’Arc Thériault (née Almida), and Soeur Marie-Ange Thériault (née Marie-Ange, daughter of Joachim who is still serving the people of Madawaska in St Basile.

So, that is how the second migration to Madawaska came to pass and these are the people associated with that migration.

### **MIGRATION TO STE LUCE & AREA SOUTH OF ST-JOHN RIVER**

The third and final migration event started about twenty years later in 1843. As we discussed earlier, this last migration was not just a single settler, this was a group of 18 settlers who continued to come for about 20 years. By then, the Webster-Ashburton Treaty had been enacted in 1842, and a year later, the settlement of Sainte Luce, now on the American side, had grown sufficiently to justify its own parish. So, the parish of Ste Luce was founded in 1843. That same year, Thomas Theriault was the first one to move to the Madawaska territory to marry Elizabeth Nadeau in the new parish and settled in Sainte Luce. The remaining 17 settlers followed over the next 40 years. Much of the Theriault migration in this third phase was to the Sainte Luce and Frenchville area. But there were exceptions.

Let’s take a look at the details of the Table of Theriault Settlers in the Madawaska Region in **Figure 5**. A detailed review of our family genealogy during this period reveals that of the 18 members of the family who moved to the Madawaska territory, 9 went to Frenchville, 2 to St Basile, 2 to St Francois, and one each to St Jacques, Daigne, Fort Kent, Wallagrass, Van Buren, and Caribou. Of these 18, 15 were members of Paul’s branch and the remaining three were from his brother, Joseph’s branch. The table shows each of the migration events and within the third event of the migration, it lists each of the 18 settlers in the sequence of their arrival in Madawaska beginning in 1843 and ending in 1879. At the top of the table, we show the generations so that we can see the relationships between the settlers. Of the 18 settlers, 14 were part of the 8<sup>th</sup> generation and the remaining 4, part of the 9<sup>th</sup> generation. In comparison, Joseph-3 was a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> generation while Charles was part of the 7<sup>th</sup>. We can see that many settlers came to join their brothers or first cousins with a few 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins.

So now to the Theriaults who made a difference;

One who was a member of these branches was Dr. Louis L. Theriault, grandson of Francois ‘Bonhomme’ Theriault who moved from Rimouski, QC to Caribou in 1872. Louis was born and educated in Van Buren where he attended St. Mary’s College. Afterward, he entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and received his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1918. He immediately began his medicine practice as an intern

## **“Migration of Thériault Family to Madawaska”**

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at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Philadelphia. Soon after, he returned to his native town and opened a practice which covered areas from Fort Kent to Presque Isle.

By the way, for those who are familiar with the Honorable Charles Kenneth Theriault, our State Representative for the State of Maine since 2008, he is a great-grandson of Charles and his wife Sophie who migrated in 1864 to settle in the Wallagrass area of Fort Kent. The pioneer settler Charles and his wife Sophie and listed on line 3-11 in our Table of Theriault Settlers (**Figure 5.**)

So, that is how the third event of the migration to Madawaska came to pass and these are the people associated with that migration.

This completes our review of the migration of our Theriault family to the Madawaska region. They did not come in large numbers at first. One, named Joseph-3 came in 1790, and a second, named Charles came in 1823 and finally when the international boundary was established, they came in a surge of 18 settlers from 1843 until 1879 to complete the migration of the Theriault family to Madawaska.

I wish we knew all members of our family here in Madawaska. I know we would find many more family members who made a difference during their lifetimes. Hopefully, by singling out these few individuals, we have gained a better understanding of the role that the Theriault family played in Madawaska.

If you know any other Theriault in these branches who distinguished themselves or made a difference in the world around them, please contact the *Terriot Acadian Family Society* by visiting our website at [www.terriau.org](http://www.terriau.org). Our e-mail address is listed there to contact us.