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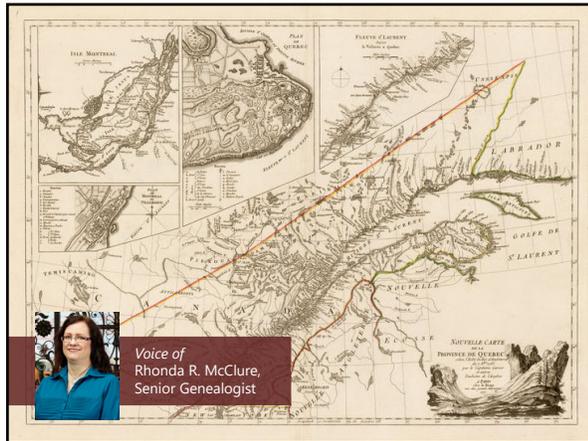
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**Identifying Residence**

- Identifying town and parish of residence are essential to working with most records in French-Canadian ancestry.
- If the family resides in the United States, eventually you need the locality of origin in Canada.
- There are some records that may assist you with this piece to the puzzle.

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**Records for Locality**

- Census Records
  - In the United States
  - In Québec
- Immigration and Naturalization Records
- City Directories
- Voter Registration

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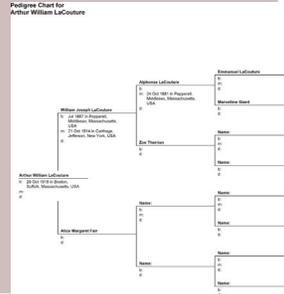
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### Work from Known to Unknown

- Effective French-Canadian research requires working from the known to the unknown.
- Armed with names, you will be surprised what you can do.




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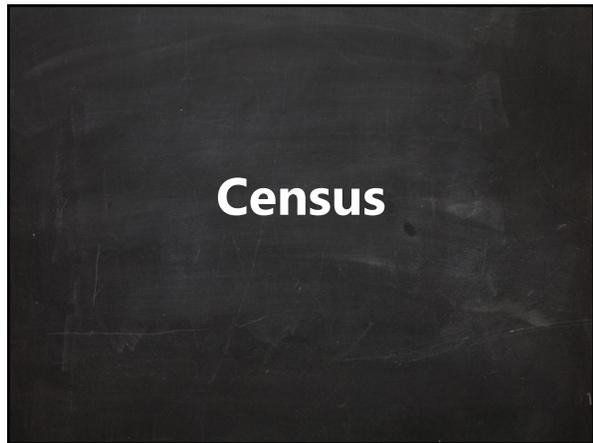
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### Understanding the Border




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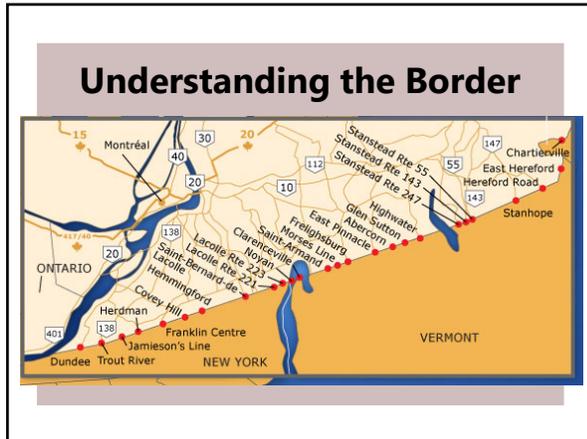
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### American Census

- Because of the close proximity of some states to Québec, families often migrated back and forth
- Many families came to the United States for employment
- They may have returned to Canada to give birth to their children
- Census records help in showing where a family resides at a given time and may offer insight into Canadian origins

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### State Census

- Some of the states that border Québec or have seen many Québécois reside have kept state censuses at some point:
  - New York: 1855 to 1925, though not necessarily for each county in each year
  - Massachusetts: 1855 and 1865
  - Rhode Island: 1865 to 1935

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## U.S. Federal Census

- U.S. Federal census begins in 1790 and is available through 1950
- 1790-1840 known as “head of household” enumerations
- 1850-1950 list everyone in the household
- 1880-1950 list relationships of individuals in the household to the head of the household

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## Canadian Census

- Provincial and Canadian national census records exist
- 1792-1842: known as “head of household”
- 1871-1911: Canadian national censuses
- 1825, 1831, 1842: Québec (southern areas) enumerated as part of Lower Canada
- 1851-1861: Same southern areas enumerated as Canada East

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1920 U.S. Census - Massachusetts

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## Immigration & Naturalization

- Like census records, the amount of information gathered about an immigrant varies as you go back in time
- Border crossings from Canada to the U.S. were not recorded until 1895
- Naturalization records may assist with a more concrete age
- Relatives traveling later may supply you with needed information

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## Naturalization Records

- Prior to 1906, any court in the country could be used for naturalization
- The information requested varied by county and by state
- The entire process could have been accomplished in multiple locations
- Some indexes and digitized records do exist

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## Naturalization

- The address of Alphonse LaCouture fits with where his son was born
- Canada is sometimes considered part of Great Britain – they have the same monarch

L 236	
Family name	Given name or names
LAOOUTURE	ALPHONSE
Address	
Freetown	
Country of birth or allegiance	This was location of birth
1846-1848, 3-MEXICO SERIES	CAMBRIDGE LOWELL MASS
1849-1850, 3-BRITAIN SERIES	SUPERIOR OF ILLINOIS DO
What born for age	What born for age
April 18, 1858	Nov. 3, 1852
Date and address of witnesses	

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## City Directories

- If your ancestor resided in a larger city, then it may be necessary to turn your attention to city directories to identify where he lived
- Especially true of where families were living in Canada

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PORTLAND DIRECTORY. 175

Leighton Seward F., laborer, Eastern promenade, foot Beckett  
 Leighton Wendall, clerk, 10 Quebec  
 Leighton Westley A., baker, 90 Oxford

**Middle, boards 54 1/2 Congress**

**Lester James, laborer, rear 3 Cove**  
**Leveque Frank, hostler, 81 Brackett**  
**Leveque Meguil, plasterer, 99 Portland**  
**Levin Henry, tailor, 94 Brackett**

Leonard Patrick, laborer, 84 East Walnut  
 Leonard Patrick, laborer, 84 Washington  
 Leonard Thomas, florist, 648 Congress, house 8 Briggs  
 Leopold John H., steam engineer, 5 Danforth  
 LeProhon E. P., physician and French Consul, 885 Congress, house Ferry Village  
 LeProhon Edward M., civil engineer, 40 Oxford  
 LeProhon Ernest, clerk with Emery & Furbish, boards Ferry Village  
 Lermond Alden F., bookkeeper at Merrill, Prince & Co.'s, 146 Middle, boards 54 1/2 Congress  
 Lester James, laborer, rear 3 Cove  
 Leveque Frank, hostler, 81 Brackett  
 Leveque Meguil, plasterer, 99 Portland  
 Levin Henry, tailor, 94 Brackett  
 Levy Joseph, merchant tailor, Federal, two doors from Temple  
 Lewis A. C. Mrs., 4 Spruce

Portland, Maine - 1875

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PORTLAND DIRECTORY. 325

**CHURCHES AND CLERGYMEN.**

There are thirty-three places in the city where regular services are held as follows:

**BAPTIST.**

**FIRST BAPTIST**, 353 Congress; Rev. Wm. H. Shailer, D. D., 117 Pearl.  
**FREE STREET BAPTIST**, 86 Free; Rev. James McWhinnie, 122 State.  
**FREE WILL BAPTIST**, Casco, corner of Cumberland; Rev. Charles S. Perkins, 411 Cumberland.

**CATHOLIC.**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, 190 Cumberland; Rt. Rev. James A. Healey, Bishop, 307 Congress; Rev. Dennis M. Bradley, Rev. John E. Barry, Rev. Patrick F. Caffery, and Rev. John R. Powers, all at 307 Congress.  
**St. DOMINIC**, 78 State; Rev. Thomas H. Wallace and Rev. Michael C. O'Brien, 16 1/2 Gray.

Portland, Maine - 1875

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**Voter Registration**

- If your ancestor naturalized in a time when detailed information wasn't asked, voter registration records may supply the critical place of birth beyond a country
- At the very least, in order to vote, your ancestor would have had to have naturalized and his naturalization information will be listed in the voter registration

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### Name Variations

Québec Name	American Name
• Le Blanc	• White
• Roussel	• Russell
• Therrien	• Farmer
• Vien(s)	• Cummings

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### Dit Names

Lacour (de)	Bégon	1718
Lacourse	Bourbeau	1676
Lacourse	David	1713
Lacourse	Gélinas	1704
Lacoursière	Rivard	1697
Lacouture	Bailion	1758
Lacouture	Bridel	1760
Lacouture	Busseau	1761
Lacouture	Canac	1763

<i>équivalent</i>	<i>patronyme</i>	<i>année</i>
Lacouture	Cauchy	1759
Lacouture	Chevignon	1741
Lacouture	Clément	1767
Lacouture	Dufort	1766
Lacouture	Goness	1754
Lacouture	Mailly	1755
Lacouture	Callié	1761
Lacrossonnière	Couture	1695

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**American-French Genealogical Society**  
Preserving Our French Canadian Heritage...Connecting Generations Since 1978

About AFGS - Services/Resources - Education - Online Store - Join or Renew Membership Online

## Surname Variations

**Download Surnames Excel Sheet**

(Must have Excel or an Excel reader installed to view)

For those unfamiliar with "dit" names, the article below will explain what they are and why they are so important to understand when conducting French Canadian genealogical research.

"dit" Names etc.  
by  
Rita Elise Plourde

<https://afgs.org/site/surname-variations/>

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## Homework 1



- When did Achille Lebrecque arrive in the United States?
- Who else came with him?

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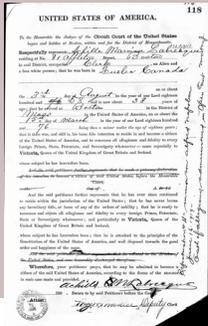
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## Homework 2



- When was Achille Labrecque born?
- What is the unique notation on this naturalization?

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# QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services  
[research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)

Chat with a Genealogist  
[AmericanAncestors.org/chat](https://AmericanAncestors.org/chat)

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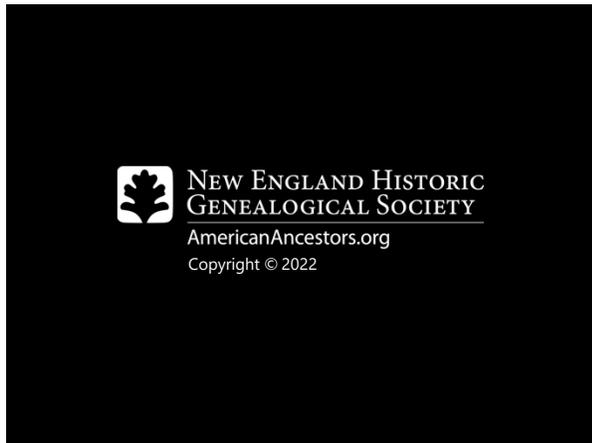
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