

# A BIT OF HISTORY

The following is a brief historical article from contributing writer and Terriot family genealogist Dr. Gilles G. Theriault. Gilles is also our Family Delegate for the **'Vital/Madeleine Theriault'** Great-Branch. He has had a very successful practice in dental surgery in Canada where he is a member of the Association of Dental Surgeons for the Province of Quebec. Gilles, his wife, Rachel and two children live in the Province of Quebec.



After a reconnaissance voyage by Champlain in 1603 along the coasts of Gaspé and Frenchmen's Bay (Bay of Fundy), the king of France named Pierre de Guast de Monts first Lieutenant General "of coasts, lands and boundaries of Cadie and New France" with the mission to create a French monopoly in the fur trade.

In April, 1604, Pierre de Monts sailed from Havre de Grace to occupy his new post. It was in Acadia where the first French settlers arrived.



*The Harvest: Acadia's families worked together to cultivate and harvest the beautiful crops from the dyked marshlands of Acadia.*

In the meantime, several recruits had come to join the small group of founders in 1632. Some 300 settlers were selected from the group and sent to Acadia. A trading post was established in Port Royal and at the mouth of the Saint-John River and some seigniories were granted. One was granted to

Charles de Menou d`Aulnay, who was owner with his mother, of a seigniorie in Poitou, in the region of Loudun, France. His domain consisted of the villages of Aulnay, Angliers, Martaizé and La Chaussée.

Our progenitor Jehan Terriot was born around 1600 in Grande Chaussée, Loudunais, France. He came to Acadia in 1632 with the commander of Razilly. On March 20th, 1632, the Treaty of Saint-Germain-in Laye had returned its

colonies of Quebec and Port – Royal to France, which earlier had been taken by the English and the Scots.

On the following May 10th, the king of France conferred upon the commander Isacc of Razilly, the Order of the Knights of Malta, and charged him with the responsibility for taking back Port Royal from the Scots, which had been established there since 1628. On June 20th, two sailing boats, the Saint-Jean (250 tons) and l'Espérance in God, left Rochelle, loaded with the necessary supplies for the expedition as well as with men.

Leaving Auray on July 28th, 1632, the flotilla dropped anchor at the mouth of the river La Hève (today, Le Have) on the south coast of Acadia, on September 8th, after one and a half months of sailing.

Jehan Terriot and his brother-in-law Martin Dupuy, established themselves about 15 kilometres from the fort and it was in this area that the core of the colony of La Hève settled.

Jehan Terriot and his family were witnesses of the take-over of Port - Royal by the English in 1654. His elder son, Claude was old enough to carry a weapon, and surely was among the heroic defenders of Port - Royal which resisted the assaults of the English for two weeks, in spite of their small number.

By September 2nd, 1670, Acadia was returned to France and Mr. de Grandfontaine was named governor. His first task upon his arrival in the colony was to conduct a general census of the colony. The census was entrusted to Father Laurent Moulins, missionary Cordelier, under the direction of Mr Hugues Rondin, French engineer in the service of Frontenac, Governor General of New France there. Censuses were conducted in Acadia in 1671, on 1678, on 1686, on 1714 and 1752.

The Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 left to France, the Ile of St-Jean (island of the Prince Edward), the île Royal (Cape Breton), and the northern part of Acadia, located on the north bank of the Bay of Fundy. But the peninsula of Acadia was given to England and renamed Nova Scotia.

In 1749, the English decided to colonize Nova Scotia with English settlers. Colonel Lawrence who had become governor, decided to end the years of conflict with the Acadians by giving the Acadians the choice of either taking the oath of allegiance or leave the country. Most Acadians chose to go into exile. The deportation of the Acadians started around the end of August or at the beginning of September of 1755. Families were separated, men, women and children meeting mostly on different boats. Some families were never able to get back together.

So these are a few historical notes that will allow us to understand the history of our progenitor Jehan Terriot.

As settlers of Acadia, our forefathers were subjected to horrible hardships during the period of the deportation which started in 1755. Who could have been

responsible for this deportation? For this question, the facts are clear. Charles Lawrence who gave the expulsion order will always carry the mark of the hangman. For executing his orders to the letter, Winslow, Murray or Moncton share in the responsibility. The role of the governors of the thirteen colonies and particularly William Shirley of Massachusetts was also at least of accomplices.

The question of the motives of Charles Lawrence is still unclear today. Were the Acadians dealing with a criminal or simply someone who was defending the best interests of his country? Whichever the case might be, it is a part of the history of our family. Although we must not be driven by the past, we must remember this event for the sake of keeping our family strong.