

GODIN (Gaudin) Family

The Second Generation Born in New France

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(Jean-) Francois Gaudin

- Baptized Aug 27, 1700
 - Parents are Charles (II) Gaudin and Madeline Perron
- Married on 12 Jan **1722** in Pte-aux-Trembles to **(Marie-) Catherine (de) La Rue**
 - Born 1700
 - Daughter of **Jean-Baptiste (de) La Rue** and **Catherine Garnier**
- Died Mar 5, 1785 Quebec City.

Children:

1. **Jean-Baptiste** b Feb 22, 1723 – m Oct 10 1763 to Marie-Madelaine Piche(t) at Ste Anne de la Perade
2. **Athanase** b Feb 22, 1723 – m Oct 6 1749 to Marie-Therese Piche(t) at Cap-Sante
3. **Marie-Therese** b Feb 24, 1726 -d Nov 27 1728
4. **Marie-Catherine** b Mar 7 1728 - d Aug 29 1730
5. **Marie-Therese(II)** b May 30 1730 - m Oct 8, 1761 to Francois Couture at L'Ecureuils - d 28 Feb 1805 at St-Jean-Deschaillons
6. **Jean-Francois** b 6 May 1732
7. **Charles** b 23 Oct 23 1734
8. **Louis-Joseph** b Jun 15 1737 - m 1767 to Genevieve Petit
9. **Pierre** b Jun 20, 1740

Notes:

Jean-Baptiste and Athanase are twins, their wives are sisters 11 years apart in age.

The marriage date was 1722 (original record was found, see the end of this document) but other references incorrectly record the year as 1720 or 1721.

Historical Record

Jean-François was an infant when his father Charles moved from L'Ange Gardien to his land located in the relatively newly formed Seigneurie of Bélair. The old Seigneurie today includes the cities of Donnacona and Cap Santé, located between Three Rivers and Quebec City. Historical towns and locations within the region included Les Ecureuils (founded 1672), Neuville (founded 1684), Portneuf, and Pointe-aux-Trembles (there is a region in Montreal with this name also). These place names were sometimes used interchangeably depending on which church or notary maintained the records.

Jean-François, like most boys, grew up helping his father and two older brothers with the outdoor chores which included mending the fences, clearing the land, gathering firewood, planting and harvesting. As he grew older he helped with hunting and fishing while his mother and sisters took care of the chores closer to home. He attended Mass every week and on special religious days, and he received a basic education likely with the indirect support of the local priest which included reading and writing. Jean-François had several cousins and uncles that also recently settled in the area, and the Godins in the area became very numerous.

1722, (12 janvier) Pte-aux-Trembles, Q. s
 III.—GAUDIN, JEAN-FRANÇOIS, [CHARLES II.
 b 1700 ; s 5 mars 1785, à Québec.
 DE LA RUE, Marie-Catherine, [JEAN-BTE II.
 b 1700.
Jean-Baptiste, b s 22 février 1723 ; m 10 oct.
 1763, à Marie-Madeleine PICHÉ, à Ste-Anne-de-
 la-Pérade. — *Athanase*, b s 22 février 1723 ; m 6
 oct. 1749, à Marie-Thérèse PICHÉ, au Cap-Santé.

—*Marie-Thérèse*, b s 24 février 1726 ; s s 27 nov.
 1728. — *Marie-Catherine*, b s 7 mars 1728 ; s s 29
 août 1730. — *Marie-Thérèse*, b s 30 mai 1730 ; m 8
 oct. 1761, à François COUTURE, aux Ecureuils ;
 s 28 février 1805, à St-Jean-Deschaillons. —
Jean-François, b s 6 mai 1732. — *Charles*, b s 23
 oct. 1734. — *Louis-Joseph*, b s 15 juin 1737 ; m
 1767, à Geneviève PETIT. — *Pierre*, b s 20 juin
 1740.

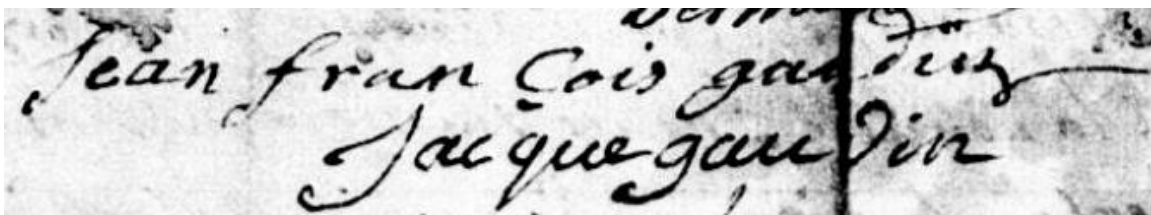
but the name Athanase, our ancestor, was rather unusual and not in regular use.

At the time of Jean-François marriage in 1722 the colony had been active for over 100 years and the Godin family has been in New France for 70 years. Descendents of Charles (I) and Marie already numbered to over 100. Charles (I) was alive to see his grandson Jean-François but he died before Jean-François became a teenager.

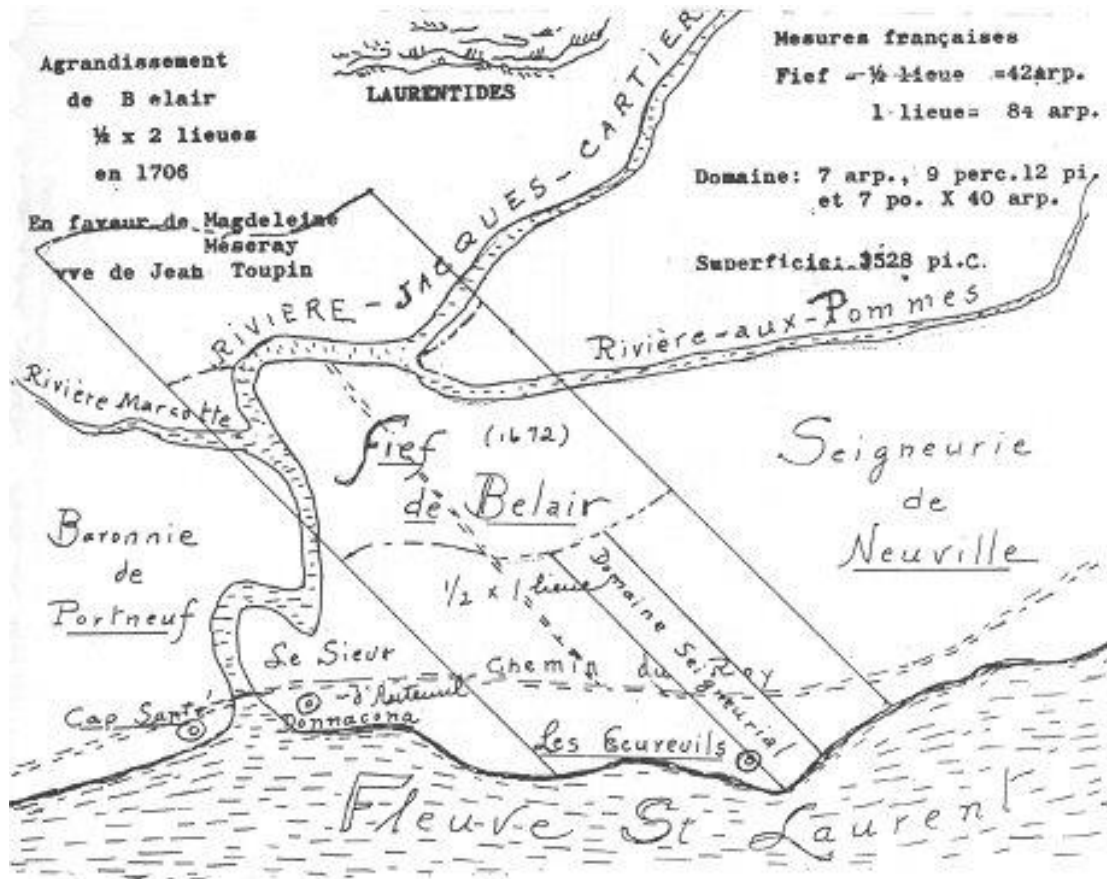
In 1725 the following notarized document appears in the record:

« Procès-verbal de chaînage, lignes et bornes de terres situées au bout des premières concessions du bord de l'eau dans la seigneurie de Neuville. La présente pièce concerne directement: Jacques Gaudin; François Gaudin; les deux enfants de Pierre Léveillé (Léveillé); François Dusaut (Dussault); les trois enfants du nommé Château-ver (Châteauvert) (arpenteur Noël Bonhomme dit Beaupré) 5 février 1725 »

This document describes the development of a new concession of land and the allotments to various people. Jean-François and Jacques, brothers and both sons of Charles (II), received 3 arpents of land each. The interesting part of this document that it contains the first recorded signature of our ancestor Jean-François, and that of his brother Jacques(s).



It is not known exactly where his land was located but the Belair concession was relatively small. He was likely in the Third Rang, above and likely with access to the Jacques-Cartier River. The river is very picturesque and has been nominated a Canadian Heritage site. The original fort and first true settlement attempt of Jacques Cartier, *Charlesbourg-Royal*, has been positively located, after years of speculation, at the present site of Cap Santé.



The Belair Concession



The Toupin-Dussault home at Les Ecureuils (Donnacana), picture taken in 1926

New France at the Time of Jean-François

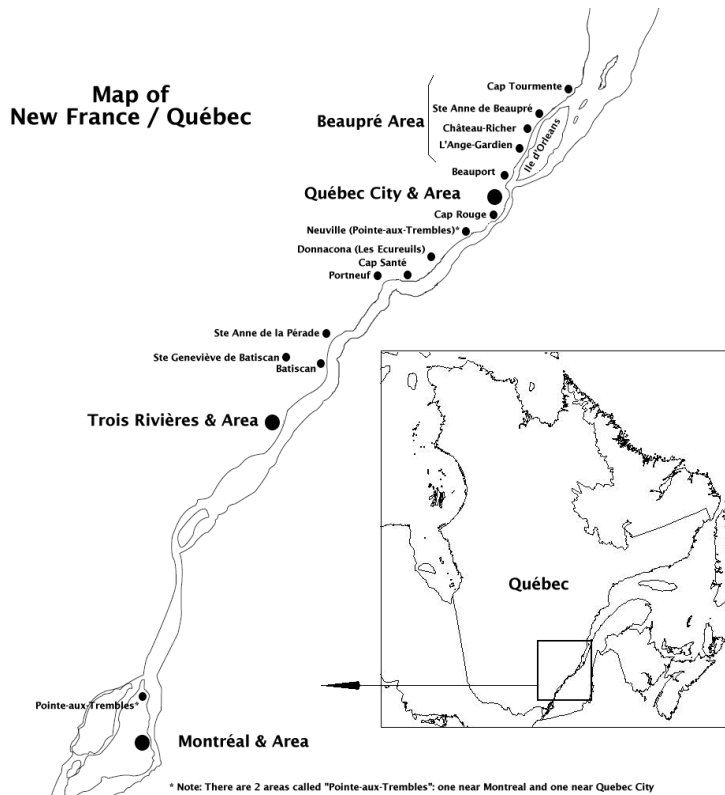
In 1701, England, the Holy Roman Empire, the Dutch, Portugal and Savoy formed the Grand Alliance to stop France's political involvement in Spain. The War of the Spanish Succession occurred as a result of the French attempting to unify Spain and France under a single monarch, upsetting the delicate balance of power in Europe.

This war also spread to the colonies where it was known as Queen Anne's War. The Spanish and the French colonists, along with their Indian allies, skirmished with the English throughout America. There was general unease in New France as the population of the English in the New England area was many times that of New

France and the English held control over shipping. The Governor of Quebec, Philippe de Rigaud, felt confident of the fighting ability of the Canadians. In 1711 he stated that they did not fear the undisciplined English as much as the Iroquois. Several raids on English forts and settlements were organized by the French and their Indian allies. These served to disrupt the English settlers that preferred to hide in their forts that to risk fighting the experienced and often well-led French militia.

Where the English remained superior was in naval warfare and in the ability to transport large numbers of soldiers. In 1710 the English laid siege and captured Port Royale, Acadia, from the French. Port Royale, the capital of Acadia, had been under repeated attacks by the New Englanders since the city was founded in 1605. This time it would not be returned to the French. Those French citizens wishing to remain had to swear allegiance to the British Crown. The Acadians felt no particularly strong ties to France, the country that abandoned them, but they were put in a difficult position; if they swore allegiance to the English Crown they could be called upon to fight against their French brethren so many of them chose to leave the region and settle in other parts of French America.

Militia training in New France continued to be an important aspect of life. Militia Captains were chosen from among the local population and led the training for fighting in the wilderness and in protecting their homesteads. A Godin relative was among those chosen as Militia Captains. They were reminded of the seriousness of their situation when, in 1711, a major English expedition of 90 ships with almost 12,000 men sailed for Quebec City but floundered at Isles-aux-Oeufs and abandoned the attack as a result. The colonists feared additional attacks as their ability to resist such large forces was in doubt. The estimated number of militia that could be mustered in the Quebec City area at the time was only 3350.



The war ended with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. In North America this treaty gave the English control of Newfoundland and peninsular Acadia (Nova Scotia) but the French retained Cape Breton Island, known as Isle Royale and of Isle St Jean, now known as Prince Edward Island. In 1720, King Louis XV funded the construction of Fortress Louisburg. The purpose of the fort was to control access to the lucrative fishing grounds and to protect interior New France from any future invasion fleets from the New England area. The construction would cost the King over 30 million Livres over its 20 years of construction, making it the most expensive project undertaken in North America at the time (the King once commented that he was spending so much on this fort that he should be able to see it from Paris). The fortress, which remained ice-free and well protected from the elements, became a very busy port and was the second largest French colonial city in North America, with only Quebec City being larger.



Fort Louisburg in 1751

There would be relative peace in the New France colony for a time but the habitants would often face challenges. One task was remaining self-sufficient. The land, rich and bountiful when it was first broke, was now exhausted and yielded less every year. There was too much emphasis on wheat farming in the colony and national failures often occurred by not diversifying. The bad harvests were in 1689, 1691, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1723, 1732, 1736, 1737, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1750, 1751, 1756, 1757 and 1758. Some areas were hit harder than others. For instance, the habitants of the Neuville, Ecureuils and Pointe-aux-Trembles the area where Jean-François made his home, had to supply 1/10th of their harvest to help supply food to the rest of the colony during the disastrous year of 1714. Cattle theft by the natives, who were also facing food shortages, became problematic. There were several outbreaks of disease and some were more serious. For instance, a smallpox outbreak in 1702 and 1703 took many lives.

Although there were hardships including the occasional Indian raid on outlying forts and posts, there would be relative peace in the colony from 1713 until 1744. The population of New France grew to 25,000 by 1720, mostly from natural growth.

In the middle of the 1700's there was a marked contrast between New France and Europe as a whole. For instance, France had a population of about 19 Million in 1750. In 1754, the total population of the Quebec colonies was 54,000, with 8000 in the city of Quebec and 4000 in Montreal. Prince Edward Island (Ile Saint-Jean) and Cape Breton (Ile Royale) had a population of 8600 people, with half residing in Louisburg.

In 1744 the War of the Austrian Succession broke out in Europe and word of this reached the French in Acadia in May of that year. The colonial French immediately began a series of somewhat successful pre-emptive attacks on some of the smaller English settlements but failed to recapture Port Royale and this invited the wrath of the English. The population of Acadia was too small to resist the subsequent English counterattacks. In 1745, a force of over 8500 English soldiers and militia laid siege and eventually overwhelmed the 1360 soldiers and militiamen of Fortress Louisburg. All the French in and around the fortress, over 4000 in numbers, were rounded up and sent to France without their effects. After having invested so much in the Fortress, the French lost it in less than 2 months.



Flag of New France

Nature and bad luck negatively affected the fortunes of the French. In 1746 there was a smallpox outbreak in Quebec but the governor of Quebec rounded up whatever men were well enough to fight, about 700 strong, and sailed for Port Royale. He would be accompanied by 600 Indian allies. He was to meet up with a very large French fleet consisting of 64 ships under orders to recapture Acadia and burn down and ravage the New England coast. Unfortunately for the French, the fleet encountered very unfavorable winds and severe storms. Several ships were struck by lightning and one strike ignited the powder magazine killing several. The Quebec expedition disembarked and waited for the fleet to arrive but when it finally did after almost 100 days at sea, its men were sick from disease. They camped on shore for several weeks but many of the men were seriously ill and many died, including the commander of the expedition. A second force from France arrived and, although they briefly lay siege to Annapolis Royal, illness had taken its toll among them and there were too few men fit to fight. The attack was called off and the French fleet returned to France. Although a powerful country in Europe, France was incapable of protecting her interests in Acadia. The Acadians were abandoned to their fate.

The Acadians still lived in smaller settlements in Acadia while the English controlled the main ports and the larger centers. Although the French in America were concerned over the loss of the Fortress, it would be returned to the French in 1748 after the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. The English, upset at losing the seaport, decided to begin construction of another at Halifax. It would soon become the busiest English seaport in North America.

The Acadians and the British colonials dislike of one another soon led to another war in 1754. Once again the Fortress at Louisburg was captured. This time, however, the English forced all the remaining Acadians to swear allegiance to the English king otherwise they would be expelled.

Fortunes continued to go badly for the French. In 1756 few supply ships arrived in New France. The colonists were faced with feeding the thousands of French army regulars that managed to make it to the colony, and this led to food shortages. Additionally there were crop failures for three years starting in 1756, and grasshopper plagues in 1758 and 1759. Rationing came into effect with limitations on how much food a family could purchase. Horsemeat was offered by the nobility but the peasants wanted nothing of it. They detested horsemeat, as they felt that the horses were friends of man, that religion prevented them to eat these helpful creatures, and stated they would rather starve. Women near Quebec City protested the meager rations of bread (2 ounces per day) in 1758 and it took some persuasion and threats for order to be restored. The following winter (1757-1758) there was a serious smallpox outbreak. The rations increased to ½ pound per day in 1759 with the arrival of 9 of the 12 ships that set sail from France.

The French had several successful campaigns in the American Interior including an attack on Fort Necessity that led to the surrender of George Washington but once the English forces

became better organized the tide would turn in their favour and the French Crown would be excluded from the continent.

Jean-François lived to see what is considered the “golden age” of New France, a time of peace and growth from 1713 to 1744, but he also saw the invasion and fall of New France to the English in 1760.



Cultural Development

The culture of the Habitants of New France evolved differently than that of the European French or the English. There was no need for anything more than to have a healthy family living in a comfortable home with good land, a late frost, a few sous to buy tools and clothing, good neighbours, a government that maintained order, a fair Seigneur, and God watching over all of them. Even with these basic comforts, two of Jean-François' daughters died at 2 years of age. Deaths were frequent in the colony and many family lines came to an end with the premature deaths of children and parents.



House at Cap Santé built in late 1600's

Contact with the European world was limited to hearsay although the French soldiers that often took up residence with a habitant would be pressed to speak of life in France.

The only taxation on goods was on wine, spirits and tobacco which was set at 10%. The tax on hides and furs was removed in 1717 because many of the coureurs-de-bois were evading it by trading with the English and Dutch.

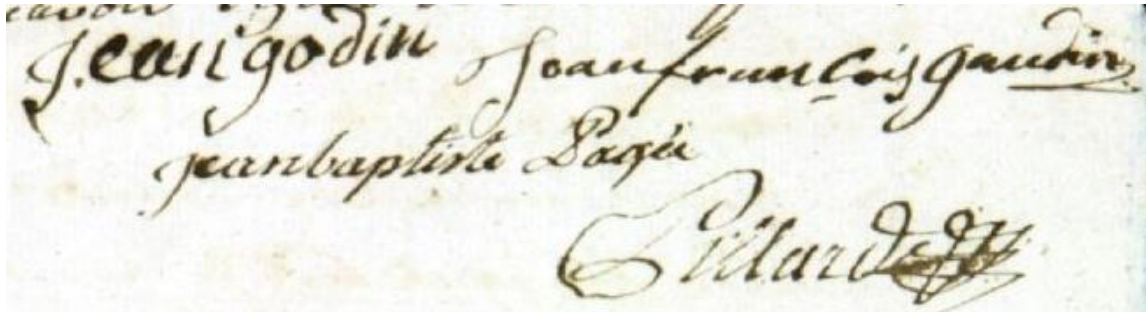
At the time there was no written press. There was no secondary schooling other than that offered by the seminary or the nunneries, and these were often for religious vocation. In 1691 the Bishop allowed priests to select teachers from among the population and were instructed to select those with good morals. Teachers were to remain under the control of the priests and, according to an ordinance passed in 1727, teachers had to be approved by the bishop. Preference was given to teachers that had recently arrived from France

as they would have had a better educational background. The youth were often taught only

what they needed to know to become productive and spiritual individuals within the colony. According to studies on education in New France, priests had many responsibilities in the community and very few had time to teach. The teaching profession did not pay well and many teachers found other professions. For instance, a typical agreement was for a teacher to receive room and board and a very small salary (100 livres) for private teaching or tutoring. The girls tended to stay within the home and learn how to read and write, and skills such as sewing, weaving, cooking and in how to manage a home and family. They learned the skills from their mothers and literacy from a teacher that may make the rounds of several homes in a week. The boys tended to spend more time away from home learning farming, fishing, hunting, and other activities that would sustain a family.

Teaching tended to happen in the home rather than a school building. In the 1750's there were 123 parishes in New France but fewer than 20 had schools. Most of these parishes had a stone church, a cemetery, a windmill and a watermill. It is difficult to determine the level of literacy in New France but one way was through the public and notary records, and viewing how many people were able to sign their names in an even, legible manner. An ordinance in 1678 required all married couples to sign their marriage certificates. The study concluded that approximately 40% of the population could read and write, with those living in larger urban centers having a higher rate of literacy. Literacy was slightly higher for males but generally there was less of a literacy gender gap in New France than in most other parts of the world.

Our ancestor Jean-Francois Gaudin and his cousin Jean Godin seemed able to read and write, as evident in a document signed on March 6, 1746. It was a notarized document signed by the two Godins, an in-law Jean-Baptiste Pagé and the notary on a Tutelle document for the children of Jean Godin after the death of their mother.



Signature page of the will and tutelle for the family of Jean-François (son of Charles (I)) in 1769. This Jean-François that died was the son of Charles (I). He had 12 children. Jean-Baptiste Pagé was a neighbour.

Cote : CC301,S1,D4319 Centre : Québec Acte d'assemblée pour les enfants héritiers de Jean-François Godin . - 7 juillet 1769 et 11 juillet 1769 File# 03Q-cc30151...x7

Boys tended to spend time as apprentices with a master craftsman to learn a trade. Craftsmen were becoming common as people developed skills while working on the many construction projects about the colony which included bridges, churches and other buildings, defensive works and finer crafts such as weaving and tool making. The highest concentrations of craftsmen were in the larger centers in Louisburg, Quebec City and at the Forges of St. Maurice where metal was produced domestically.

Jean-François' children married unusually late in life. Customarily people married as soon as they matured and marriages for those in their 20's was already considered late in life. Athanase, our ancestor, married at the age of 25 as normally expected, but his brother Jean-Baptiste married at the age of 40, his sister Marie-Therese at the age of 31 and Louis-Joseph was 30 when he married. It is difficult to understand why these marriages were so late in life for this family as there would have been considerable pressure from the priest and the community. One thought was that Jean-François was perhaps unable to care for the land himself, but he would live to be 85 years old. One of his firstborn twins, Athanase, would be our ancestor.

Extra Notes:

List of Jean, François and Jean-François Godins in New France to 1750, with father and years indicated to the right. Note most are related to each other and lived within a few miles of each other:

Jean-François: Charles (I), 1675-1769 (died Pte-aux-Trembles)
François: Pierre (II), 1667-1718
Jean-François: Charles (II), 1700-1785 (died Quebec) (Our Ancestor)
Jean: Pierre, of Charles (I), 1708-1733
François: Jean-François of Charles (I), 1710-1756
Jean : Jean-François of Charles (I), 1711-?
Jean: Jean-François of Charles (I), 1713-? (yes, a second son with the same name)
François: Antoine, of Charles (I), 1729-1738
Jean-François: Charles (II), 1732-?
François: François of Jean-François of Charles (I), 1741-1741
Jean: Jean-Rene (Acadian), 1767-?

Jean de La Rue, Catherine's father, was a militia captain, a higher social standing in the community.

(282^{ème} feuille)
 Après la publication de trois banns de mariage
 faite en l'Eglise paroitte de St. Francois de la ville
 de Neuville entre Francois Gaudin fils de Charles
 1722 Gaudin et de sa femme de légitime par son mariage
 avec de sa femme de cette paroisse St. Francois de la ville
 de la paroisse avec ensemble d'une part de de Catherine
 d'une autre part fille de Jean LaRue capitaine
 Mariage de famille et de Catherine de Gaudin sa femme
 de Jean LaRue de sa femme de cette paroisse St. Francois de
 Gaudin la ville de Neuville d'autre part ne s'estant trou-
 vé de aucun empêchement légitime Nous deux curés
 cath. avons donné la bénédiction nuptiale selon la forme
 prescrite par nosse seigneur l'Eglise le 12^e
 Janvier 1722. En présence de la part de l'Épouse
 de Charles Gaudin son père Jean Gaudin laq.
 Gaudin, de la part de l'Épouse Jean LaRue son
 père. Francois LaRue aut. Samuel prêtre papiste
 plusieurs autres témoins de la part de la mariée
 nés sans être témoins.
 Jean Francois Gaudin Jean LaRue
 Francois de LaRue. Et moi notaire
 Gregoire Bouché Dr. en Ch.
 1722

Above, the marriage record of François and Catherine. François' birth record has not been located.