GODIN (Gaudin) Family

The Fifth Generation Born in Canada

By Paul Godin 2011 (<u>prgodin@gmail.com</u>) Updated September 3, 2011

(Joseph-)Louis Godin

- Born 15 Jun 1795
 - Parents Basile Godin and Louise Leboeuf
- Married on 25 May 1819 in the Cathedral in Trois Rivieres to Marie Anne Turcotte
 - o Daughter of Claude Turcotte and Marie-Josephte Lord
 - o b 1803-1804 (?)
 - o d 8 Oct, 1885 Ste Anne de la Pérade
- Died 23 April 1879

Children of Louis Godin

- 1. Marie Agathe: b 10 Jan 1821, m François Deveault
- 2. Rose Delima: b 6 Sept 1822
- 3. Anonyme: b&d 24 Mar 1824
- 5. Ludgen: b 30 Sept 1830, d: 12 Feb 1840 ()
- 6. Firmin: b&d 7 May 1832 6 5 gra 3 in
- 7. (Louis-)Nerée: b 27 May 1833, m Marguerite Perreault Jones you Vin
- 8. Antoine Philemon: b 12 Sep 1834 Cui fam Vin
- 9. Adele Flore: b 9 Nov 1835, m Maxime Pintal Guiggan Jan
- 10. Marie Zoe: b 15 Mar 1838, d 28 Mar 1838
- 11. Joseph Aime: b 24 Nov 1839, d 10 Dec 1839
- 12. Celeste: b 26 Nov 1840, d 24 Apr 1841
- 13. Marie-Philemène: b 29 April 1842, d 6 Feb 1845 Jan Din
- 14. Marie Olivine (first): b 13 Sep 1843, d 30 Sep, 1843
- 15. Joseph Philemon: b 4 Nov 1844
- 16. Marie Olivine (second): b 4 Sept 1848, m Emphram Sauvageau

Notes:

Each individual is confirmed with baptismal certificates and the signatures are indicated where available. All children were born in Ste Anne de la Pérade. Parish records are missing for 1827 and 1828. It is possible that there were children born to Louis and Marie Anne in this period although if this occurred they did not survive to adulthood. The list here is by far the most accurate and complete of any listings seen on-line as the original records have been found. Although Marie Anne's birth date has not yet been determined, she was between 8 and 9 years younger than Louis according to statistical information collected in 1852 and 1871. She would therefore have married young, likely between 15 and 16 years of age.

When examining the baptismal certificates Louis frequently signed them suggesting he was an educated man, at least with the ability to write. Most baptisms for other people did not have signatures. Where he did not sign it states that he was incapable of signing, standard language in these documents if the father was unavailable or simply did not get asked to sign. Louis was always listed as a menusier, a carpenter, but he indicated that he was a journalist at the baptism of Marie Olivine in 1848.

Quebec and Canada in the 1800's

The century started with promise. The Acadian expulsion aside, the British and the French in Lower Canada generally got along well since the reforms in 1783. The French were permitted to live as they always had and the English retained political and economic control of the colony. This arrangement suited all sides for a time.

In Europe the English had been at war against France continuously since 1793, shortly after the French revolution. The 1802 Treaty of Amiens brought a temporary relief from war but hostilities renewed in 1803 with Napoleon's rise to power. Great Britain and most of Europe eventually defeated Napoleon and the French in 1814.

Napoleon had planned to invade England but the English maintained naval superiority by an ambitious shipbuilding program and manning the fleet with conscripts from the merchant fleets. To avoid the conscription, many English merchant sea captains declared themselves citizens of the United States but many could not escape the English government agents that forced them into service. In addition, the British maintained a blockade of French territory and no nation could trade with France, including the United States who saw France as their ally. Napoleon, desperate for funds and realizing he could not halt the westward expansion of the Americans, sold the Louisiana territory in 1803.

In 1812 the Americans declared war on Canada and the British, citing among several reasons the support of the American Indians against American western expansion and the "humiliation of American honor". The humiliation was due the English trade embargo against France that prevented American trade with that nation, and due to the "impression" of former British subject to forcibly serve in the Royal Navy. The Americans also realized that the English were committed to the war in Europe and since the Americans outnumbered the Canadians by a large ratio they felt that they could finally expel the British from North America and incorporate Canada into their union. They were also of the false belief that the French Canadians would see them as liberators and willingly join their side.

Although the Americans had few victories against Canada they did manage to damage York (Toronto). The Royal Navy had been blockading ports along the American coast and in 1814 they raided coastal cities including Washington where they burned down the White House and other government buildings in retaliation for York, being careful to not damage residences and businesses. Both sides lost interest in prolonging the war and signed the Treaty of Ghent in 1814. Construction of defensive structures began in the 1820's including the Citadels in Halifax and Quebec City, the Rideau Canal and the fortress in Kingston to help repel any future American aggression.

In 1837 the Patriote movement with Papineau as its leader petitioned the government for reform in the colony but every recommendation was rejected and an armed rebellion soon began. The rebellion, supported by some Americans and English but opposed to by the Catholic Church, was quickly put down as few participated in it. The resulting investigation by the British brought about necessary change. Upper and Lower Canada were merged under the Union Act, and the Province of Canada was created in 1841 with the new capitol at Kingston. This proved to be an unstable structure as Lower Canada was growing at a much faster pace due to a large influx of immigrants from England and soon the English outnumbered the French. French Canadians, although outnumbered in Canada, voted as a block whereas the English tended to split their votes. This resulted in a succession of minority governments that were unable to function. In 15 years there had been 12 governments. Although there was talk of uniting Upper and Lower Canada into one union, to the French this would make them a minority group and they were concerned over being assimilated into English Protestant Canada. Another reform was needed, one where all could be united but the French would retain their own region. The Canadian Confederation was established in 1867. Canada would become one country with provinces.

Although these were historical times for Canadian political structure, Louis and his family did not feel the effects of these changes in day-to-day life, with one exception. The seigneurial system that had had served New France well during its growth period was in these modern times a hindrance to progress. It was abolished in December of 1854 and land ownership, for the most part, was passed to those occupying it.

The census of 1841/1842

The census of 1841/1842 was the first detailed census of the area after the establishment of the English government. This census only indicated the head of the household but it included details on the household. At this time the census documents are not available on line but can be viewed at the library, on microfiche. Information on Louis Godin was found here: Census of 1842, C-727, page 538, line 14.

The record indicates that Louis Godin is the head of the household. He is listed as a "Cultivateur" (farmer). There are 5 people in his house, 4 native of Canada and one native of Britanique. There are 2 males under 5 years and one over 5 years, none between 14 and 30 years. There is 1 married male 30 to 60, one married female 30 to 60 and 1 child 5 to 16 (school aged). All 5 are listed as being members of the "Church of Rome" (Catholic).

He had 45 Arpents occupied with 9 under cultivation (an Arpent is approximately equal to an Acre). The previous year's harvest (measured in "Boisseaux de Winchester", or English bushels):

- 30 bushels of oats
- 10 bushels of peas
- 2 bushels of buckwheat

He had 1 cow and 2 pigs.

Part of the census was to determine what was being manufactured within the household. For the family of Louis it indicated the following:

- The number of "Etoffe foulée" = 3
 (Etoffe= cloth, foulée = folded)
- Nombre de vierge coton ou autre petite étoffe manufacturier par chaque famille = 7
 This refers to cotton cloths made on site.
- Vierges de flanelle ou autre étoffe en laine = 3
 This refers to wool cloths made on site.

Taux de la rente seigneuriale payée pour terres tenue à titre de cens : $1 \frac{1}{2}$. This was the tax rate for the land paid to the seigneur.

Location : De la <illegible> rivière St Anne.

Census of 1852

The census conducted in 1852 indicated the names and the ages of those in the household. The census information is available on line and is currently part of a volunteer transcription project.

From the Collections Canada page for the census of 1852 in St Anne de la Pérade Champlain County. Subdistrict 71, page 2a:

NOMS DES PERSONNES	PROFESSION, ETAT	LIEU DE		RESIDENCE	Age au jour an-	SE	XE.	
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adilarile Gadin					17		1	
Marie Loelin	•				4		1	
Joseph Lonawille	la Minde	,		.*	10	,		

Line / Name / Occupation / Place of Birth / Religion / Residence / Age / Sex

- 1 Godin, Louis Menuisier Ste-Anne Catholique 58 M
- 2 Turcotte, Marie Anne Trois-Rivières Catholique 50 F
- 3 Godin, Uldoric Navigateur Ste-Anne Catholique 27 M (note: named Hildéric at baptism)
- 4 Godin, Louis Nére Journalier Ste-Anne Catholique 18 M
- 5 Godin, Edmond Ste-Anne Catholique 8 M (note: likely a nickname for Joseph Philemon)
- 6 Godin, Rose Delima Ste-Anne Catholique 28 F
- 7 Godin, Adélaide Ste-Anne Catholique 17 F (note: named Adele Flore at baptism)
- 8 Godin, Marie Ste-Anne Catholique 4 F

Page 2: Notable details are that Uldoric is not at home, and Edmond is the only one that goes to school.

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The fact that Louis is listed on the second page of the census book seems to suggest that he lived in town close to the church. The first persons enumerated were the two priests and their two "servants" followed by the three notaries. Maiden names are recorded for the women. The previous entry is for the school building suggesting that Louis' house is next to the school. Unfortunately the census taker did not record the basic information on the house as he should have.

It is interesting to note that his son Nérée, our ancestor, was listed as a journalist at the 1852 enumeration. He was only 18 years of age at the time and seems to suggest that he was an educated person of good character and good standing in the community.

Census of 1871

(Quebec, Champlain South District #132, sub-district 9, page45, line 8, film C-10078, reference RG31)

In 1871 Louis is listed as 76 years of age and living with Marie-Anne (67 years old) and Olivine (22 years old). He is listed as a "menusier" (carpenter). An interesting point is that it indicated that he and Marie-Anne are unable to write. He has always been capable in the past of signing his name in a consistent manner and worked as a journalist at one point in his life. It is not evident why he chose to state that he could not write but it was a frequent habit of the French to state that they could not write if they did not want to sign a document.

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This would be the last written record of Louis and Marie Anne. They lived in very historical times for Canada. They lived to see the last war fought on Canadian soil and saw the formation of Canada as a nation.