

The Godin Name

By Paul R. Godin, 2010
prgodin @ gmail.com

Introduction

Over 1500 years ago, a 13 year old shepherd boy lived in the Pyrenees region of France near the border with Spain. He was a Frank, one of the Germanic tribes that descended through Northeastern France (Gaul) as the Roman Empire fell in the 5th century. The Visigoths, another of the invading Germanic tribes, had settled nearby at Toulouse.

The boy was taught by his mother Quiterie to keep true to his Christian faith because the Visigoths, under the leadership of king Evaric, were followers of the heretical Aryan faith and were aggressively spreading their beliefs to the region. On August 30 in the year 475, the boy was tending to his flock when a band of men approached him. Led by Malet, king Evaric's lieutenant, they spoke with the boy and tried to convince him to convert to their faith but the boy staunchly held to his orthodox beliefs. The Visigoths were upset at his rejection and eventually beheaded him. According to legend, the boy's faith was so strong that God allowed his body to pick up his head and walk a considerable distance, head in his arms, into the town church where he died. Along the way he had stopped at a large rock to rest and today both the rock and the church are considered holy sites.

This boy, celebrated as Saint Gaudens of Toulouse, is part of the annual liturgy among the Orthodox Christians and has served as an example of faith and dedication to many Christians. The town where he lived is not far from Toulouse and is called Saint-Gaudens in his honor, and the French canton is known as Saint Gaudinois.

This is one of the earliest recorded references of the name Godin that can be found but there are others. The Godin name, whether related to our family or not, is an old name and has been in recorded use for over 1500 years.

Our Godin name is the only remaining link into our family's earliest history. This document contains the historical and current information collected on the Gaudin/Godin name including its historical use, the origin of the name and its distribution in various parts of the world. There are no direct proven ties to our family but perhaps this data may help us to understand our origins from a more general sense.



Tapestry: Saint Gaudens attacked by Visigoths in 475

Source: www.tourisme-stgaudens.com

Surnames

The regular use of a “name on a name”, or surname, started coming into common practice only after the first millennium. The French were among the first Europeans to use surnames, and by the 12th century, many had a given name and family name that was passed on through the generations. The practice started with the nobles and officials who’d often carried a title, rank or a distinguishing name along with their given name. The general population was slow to adopt surnames but it eventually became more of a common and acceptable practice for a person to carry both a family and a given name. By the end of the 14th century, surnames gradually became hereditary and followed a father-to-son patriarchal pattern.

Many in the peasantry, however, did not adopt a surname and, with a set of restrictions imposed by the church on given names, it was common for several people in a town or a group to have the same names. This was especially true in the military where a company of men could have a dozen or more individuals with identical names. To help differentiate these men it was common practice to add another name, a nickname, to set them apart from each other. These nicknames were often adopted by the person and frequently became surnames, and eventually became hereditary family names.

These nicknames were selected from several different possible sources or categories:

- Parent's name (“patronymic”): If two people had the same name, the name of the father was used to help differentiate between two people. Example: Arthur, fils de Guillaume (Arthur son of Guillaume) could eventually be contracted to Arthur Guillaume. The same held true for those that choose to retain their mother's name although this was less common.
- Occupation names or titles: Another way of distinguishing two people was to state their occupation, commonly used in towns. Examples: Guy le Mason, Jean le Clerc (clerk), Joseph le Fourrier (oven keeper), Charles le Duc (the duke), Arthur le Chevalier (the horseman).
- Descriptive or nicknames: These types of names were given by others to describe a particular characteristic of the person and these nicknames would sometimes be adopted as a surname. Examples: Guy le Blanc (the white), Jean le Gros (the big), Luc le Mieux (the better or the best), Claude le Doux (the gentle). They may also be due to an event or an accident, such as Guy la flamme (fire), Jean le noyer (the drowned).
- Geographical names and origin: The geographical origin of the person such as a town, canton, or country. Guy le Breton, Jean le Normand (the Norseman).
- Geographical description or address: These types of descriptions were very common, especially in military circles. Guy du bois (forest), Jean de la tour (tower), Claude de la vallée (valley), and Joseph du pont (bridge).
- Name of a family saint: Children would traditionally be baptized in the name of a family's favorite saint, and these names were sometimes selected as surname. Examples include Guy St-Marie, Jean St Louis.
- A famous character in literature, folklore, religion or other historical figures. Examples: Guy l'Arthur, Jean Martel, Anne Mathieu.
- Adopted from other dialects. Many French names originate from other dialects. Examples include Weber, Lombard, and Godin.

Another name was often kept by the French; a nickname of sorts called a “dit” name. Although surnames were in regular use and virtually all French people had both a surname and given name by the 16th century, some people became known by their “dit” name and for some individuals it eventually replaced the surname. People could call themselves whatever they wanted as there were no laws governing name changes at that time. This happened in French Canada rather frequently up to the beginning of the 18th century, creating a challenge for genealogists. A reason that people changed names was that even with both a given name and a surname it was still common for people to have the same names. The two traditions that contributed to this was the limited selection of given names at the time (the church and the priest decided what names were acceptable) and a tradition for a son or daughter to be named after a parent. In addition, people of a family tended to settle a short distance from each other so people with the same first and last name were often in the same small region. There are examples of this in our own family where Charles Gaudin named his son Charles who in turn named his son Charles. Three different Charles Gaudins living in the same small area, perhaps even under the same roof at times, could become confusing. This situation practically demanded the use of a nickname, or a “dit” name but our family did not adopt “dit” names although other Godin families did. Having several people with the same name in the same area does pose a challenge for genealogists but the adoption of a “dit” name also becomes confusing.

Middle and Hyphenated Names

Although used in various cultures, the middle name did not become popular for non-nobility until the 18th century. Prior to its common use, the middle name(s) often carried the titles or names of parents. In Catholic French Canada, often the middle name was a “spiritual” name, one associated with the Catholic religion. For instance, most girls had a middle name of Marie whereas boys would be Joseph. In other cases, middle names became a way to uniquely identify an individual and tended to be a name that was special to the parents, such as the name of an important relative, the name of a god parent or the name of someone important or popular. There were three names described in Latin: the “prenom” (first name), “nom” (second name) and surnom (surname or family name).

Hyphenated names seemed to become relatively popular in New France in the middle 1700’s. Reasons may have been to help uniquely identify an individual, and to satisfy two separate choices for names.

Origins of the name Godin

The name Gaudin/Godin was adopted from another language. Below are some of the more common stated sources for the name:

- Gaud, a hereditary baptismal name meaning “god” in Germanic.
- Waldan (pronounced “Gauden”), meaning “to govern” in Germanic,
- Gaut meaning “goth”, a German person (a nickname),
- Gaudium meaning “joy” in Latin,
- Gaude, a latin and old French word meaning a person that prays, or
- Gaude, an old French word for the color yellow used for dying cloth (gaude was used by a “teinturier”, a professional cloth dyer)

The term “Germanic” refers to the language group that belonged to what were considered the barbarians, including the Franks, Visigoths, Vandals, Lombards and other groups that descended from east-central Europe during the fall of the Roman Empire.

The ending of the name, “in”, is a diminutive, meaning it renders the word into a smaller or lesser form. An example in English would be “ling” or “let”, as in duckling and piglet, or “et”, “ette”, “elle”, “ot”, “on” or “eau” in French such as “poulette” (small chicken) and “chatton” (kitten). The “in”

diminutive is of Germanic language root and is not used in Latin but it has been used in Old French. As a whole, then, eliminating the Latin sources, the name Gaudin could be described as:

- Little God, perhaps meaning subservient to god, likely a baptismal name
- A minor government official
- A nickname for "German person"
- A person that tends to pray often
- A dyer (his skin is likely tainted yellow from using the dye called gaude)

We perhaps will never know for certain what the origin of the Godin name is, but it is very likely Frankish and not Gaul or Latin.

Spelling of the Godin (Gaudin) Name

A concern when doing the research was in areas where the name is spelled differently but is the same phonetically. We know of Gaudin, but there are also Gauden, Goden, Gaudain, Gaudan and Godain. The genealogical research had to take these variants into account. Some stated that there is a relationship between the Gaudin name and others such as Gauldin, Gaudeen and other variants that are phonetically further but I haven't seen any evidence to support this other than these names may have had similar root sources.

There are a variety of reasons why the name has been spelled differently; the most obvious are varying degrees of literacy and experience with the name. In an English-speaking environment, those with the name Godin frequently need to assist with spelling or enunciation. This is not necessarily the case in a French environment; literacy and familiarity are still factors, but there are other linguistic reasons and influences that affected the French language as a whole within the relatively recent past which had an impact on spelling of the name.

As the distribution of written text became more common in France during the 15th and 16th centuries, the inconsistencies in spelling and grammar between regions became more apparent. In 1539, King François 1st enacted the Ordinance of Villiers-Cotterêts. An extensive edict, one component stated that the French language is the official language of France and that Latin may no longer be used as the language for state administration. This was the first official recognition of the French language by France and it paved the way toward standards in grammar, form and spelling. The King created a royal press that was responsible for printing official documents in 1543, and this helped create a grammatical foundation for the French language.

The size of France and the proximity of other linguistic groups had created an inconsistency of the French language. There were several French dialects within France and these contained many words and expressions borrowed from the English, Spanish, Italian and German languages. Leading authors in France helped energize the movement toward a proper and consistent French language. In 1606, the first book on French grammar, *Thresor de la Langue Française* by Nicot, attempted to establish some standardization to the French language. One suggestion he made was to replace the "AU" with "O" such as in the word *oreille* (ear) for *aureille*. Later on the Académie Française was established in 1635 by the energetic statesmen Cardinal Richelieu with a primary purpose of standardizing French grammar and spelling and to establish criteria for the French language used in literature. The Académie began its difficult task of compiling the words and grammar used in the French language throughout the country and, in 1694, the *Dictionnaire de L'Académie Française* first edition was printed. This set the standards for the French language but the language continued to evolve. This is evident when reading accounts written by Jacques Cartier in the 16th century and other early texts & maps.

The *Académie* recommended changes to the French language as originally proposed by Nicot, including a departure from the classical Latin vowel groupings called diphthongs, a grouping of vowels that make the sound of a smooth transition from one vowel sound to another. An English example would be the “oi” in “choir”. In old (vulgar) French there were many diphthongs and the *Académie* sought to define and reduce their usage. Examples include the groupings *AE*, *OE*, *UI*, and *AU*.

The *AU* combination, such as the one found in “Gaudin”, was retained for a time as part of Vulgar Latin and Old French but in many cases it was replaced by the letter “O” by the French Middle period. This change affected all Latin-based languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French. This may have had some influence on changing the *AU* from the original spelling of the Gaudin name to the *O* of Godin. It may not have been a purposeful decision to change the spelling but one of “linguistic influence”.

One can still find the name “Gaudin” in French countries such as France and Belgium, and the name is still used by some in North America.

Other Godins in History

As a matter of curiosity, I recorded some of the oldest and most interesting records involving anyone with the Godin name. The name was not overly popular but does show up in various areas from time to time. Here are some of my findings (I included some URL reference but these may change over time):

387-410: The earliest reference located is that of the Bishop Gauden. Sometimes written as Gaudance or Gaudentius, he is seen as an early defender of the Catholic Church during the Aryan threat and a great supporter of Pope Leo the Great. One of the stonemasons working on a project supervised by Bishop Gauden, Marin, devoted his life to the church and eventually became an understudy of Gauden. Marin became St. Marin and the small country of San Marino carries his name. www.regard.eu.org, www.newadvent.org

704-707: Bishop of Soissons who was known as Gaudinus, or simply Gaudin. He was thrown down the town well by money lenders after he spoke out against them. He is considered a martyr and is a Saint. www.newadvent.org, nominis.cef.fr

910: A series of texts called Histoire Générale de Languedoc published by historians Devic and Vaissete in 1768 discuss the bishop Gaudin of Auxerre in the section entitled "Fuite des religieux de S. Bazile de Nîmes" (Escape of the religious people from St Basile of Nîmes). The authors describe how an abbey at Auxerre, located near Paris, had been severely damaged by a Viking incursion in 910 and had been rebuilt by Bishop Gaudin shortly thereafter. www.nimausensis.com



*Herald of Thibaud Godin,
Grandmaster of the
Knights Templar*

1291-1293: A famous Gaudin is Thibaud Gaudin. He was the treasurer of the Knights Templar Order and became the Grand Master in 1291 after the Grand Master Peter de Severy was beheaded in Acre. When the fortress at Tyre was about to be attacked by vastly superior forces, Thibaud Gaudin and the remaining knights set sail for Cyprus with the treasure of the Templars. He began planning a hopeless counter-attack to regain the lost territory but succumbed to an illness in 1293. He was the second-last Templar Grand Master before the order fell from grace.

1292 A Paris population survey indicated a "Godin de Hape, corratier" (a corratier is the person responsible winemaking). www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/names/paris.html, www.vieuxmetiers.org

1312 Cardinal Pierre Godin was named the first Magister Sacri Palatii, or Master of the Sacred Palace, the first person responsible for Christian instructional institutes worldwide. www.newadvent.org

1331 Gaudin appears in Jersey island documents. *Some Jersey Surnames: Their Origin and Meaning*, GR Balleine, 1940. www.societe-jersiaise.org

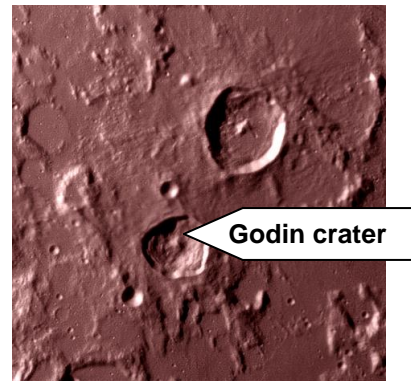
1675: Capitaine d'Armée Godin de Sainte-Croix was accused of conspiring with a lover to murder her family to gain their estate.

1728: Ambroise Gaudin, Secrétaire du Roi (Secretary to the King). www.paris-pittoresque.com

1704-1760 Louis Godin, French Astronomer. Lunar Crater named for him.

1799 to 1814. M.M.C. (Martin-Michel-Charles) Gaudin, Duke of Gaëte, was the highly respected and talented minister of finance, and founder of the Banque de France under the Napoleon government. www.napoleon.org

1815: Colonel Gaudin, 1 & 2nd battalion, 27th regiment, 2nd brigade, 19th division, VI corps. Waterloo campaign, reserves, under direct command of Napoleon. 18 June 1815.



1776–1833 A Swiss botanist, J.F.A.P Gaudin, gave his name to the Gaudinia genus of annual grasses.



1896-1982 Michael Freiherr Von Godin had an interesting association with Hitler. Toward the end of WW1 in 1918, Lieutenant-Colonel Von Godin signed the recommendation to award Corporal Hitler the Iron Cross. Von Godin, described as a sensible and moral man, was the Captain of the Munich police when in 1923 he led the group of police that put an end to Hitler's Munich Beer Hall Putsch. The police opened fire on the group being led by Hitler, wounding him and killing several of the rebels. Von Godin soon went into exile after numerous threats and was subsequently found, captured and jailed for his stand against the fascists. He was eventually released. After the war he became the Chief of the Bavarian police.

*Godin Lake, Godin Creek and Godin Mountain
(between Griffith and Godin Lake).
Map #780450 of Renfrew County, ON, CA
<http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca>*

Popularity of the Godin Name Today



Godin Guitar Logo

There are many modern references to the Godin name throughout Europe, Canada and the United States. Authors, actors, artists, architects, doctors, lawyers, professional baseball and hockey players, soldiers, politicians, professors, scientists, engineers, business men, a judge, a race car driver and even charitable foundations carry the name Godin.

In Canada there are 45 geographical place names with the name Godin including islands, rivers, a mountain and several brooks. geonames.nrcan.gc.ca

There are several roads named Godin in towns and cities including: Quebec City (QC), Saint-Hubert (QC), Verdun (QC), Three-Rivers (QC), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (QC), Neguac (NB), Beresford (NB), Paris, and other locations.

An internet search for the name Godin invariable required "-seth", meaning eliminate the sites that discuss Seth Godin, a popular author and a modern-day business visionary that is highly regarded for his opinions on new business ideas and on marketing trends in the internet era. Search hits on his name are in the millions.

Here are a few web sites that have the name Godin within the URL:

- The Godin Guitar Company (a Quebec-based company that is world renowned for high quality guitars): www.godinguitars.com
- The Godin Stove Company (French company created in 1840, famous for the "petit Godin" stove): www.godin.fr
- Godin London (computer programmers): www.godin.com
- Eric Godin, illustrator for Montreal Newspapers: www.ericgodin.com
- A Hotel in Montreal: www.hotelgodin.com
- A College in Montreal: www.college-gerald-godin.qc.ca



"Petit Godin" stove

Distribution of the surname Godin in Canada

The Godin name is not uncommon in Canada. In 2007 there are over 300 Godins listed in the city of Montreal's telephone directory, 300 in Quebec City and surrounding areas, 79 in both Fredericton and Saint John and their surrounding townships. There are fewer listed in western Canada but this number is rising. There are 31 Godins listed in the Calgary and area telephone directory, an increase from 3 in 1994; 35 listed in Edmonton and its surrounding townships, and 55 in Vancouver and area. The increases in Western Canada may be due to the general migration pattern, based on the economy, which has developed recently in Canada.

Statistical information is available from the USA, Canada and France on the distribution of surnames. This information can provide a clearer picture as to how common the Godin name is in these regions. Each country draws this data from its census information and each releases different values to the public. When compared to the USA and France, Canada has a greater sense of protection of privacy and little information is available on recent surname distribution, but the government has released all the details from two important censuses: the 1901 and the 1911 census. In the USA, the surname distribution information is current but is somewhat limited whereas in France there is considerably more information available.

Statistical records are an important genealogical resource. Canada has held regular census gathering activities since Jean Talon's first enumeration in 1666, making it the nation with the earliest regular census activities in the world. Our ancestor, Charles Gaudin, appears on this first enumeration.

A national volunteer project has completed transcribing the over 5 million records of the 1901 census. The entire hand-written record is available on line as scanned images and volunteers from across Canada have helped transcribe and proofread it. Records from the 1911 survey are also accessible on-line and through larger public libraries. Any more recent statistical data is released carefully and is very limited in its detail.

Here are the overall results searching the surname Godin from Canada's 1901 and 1911 surveys:

- 1901: There were 2,615 people out of 5,371,051 with the surname **Godin** representing less than 0.05% of the total, or 49 per 100,000.
- 1911: The census reveals 3,084 **Godin** names enumerated. The total population of Canada was 7,221,662; the people with the Godin name represented slightly over 0.04% of the total, or 42.7 per 100,000.

For reference, **Gaudin** surname totals for Canada in 1901 were 161; in 1911 were 145.

The census record on the following page is an image from the 1901 census. These documents are available as scanned images on line at automatedgenealogy.com.

Line
Ligne

Numbered in the order of visitation.		Personal Description.								Cite	
Dwelling House.	Family or Household.	Name of each person in family or household on 31st March, 1901.	Sex.	Colour.	Relationship to head of family or household.	Single, married, widowed or divorced.	Month and date of birth.	Year of birth.	Age at last birthday.	Country or place of birth. (If in Canada specify Province or Territory, and add "r" or "u" for rural or urban, as the case may be.)	Year of immigration to Canada.
Numérotés dans l'ordre des visites.		Description de la Personne.								Cite	
Dwelling House.	Family or Household.	Nom de chaque personne dans la famille au 31 Mars, 1901.	Sexe.	Couleur.	Relation de parenté ou autre avec le chef de famille ou du ménage.	Célibataire, marié, en veuvage ou divorcé.	Mois et date de naissance.	Année de naissance.	Âge au dernier anniversaire de naissance.	Pays ou lieu de naissance. (Si c'est en Canada spécifier la province ou territoire, et ajouter "r" pour rural et "u" pour urbain, selon le cas.)	Année d'immigration au Canada.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	30	Girard Joseph	M	B	Spch.	Mar	3 Sept	1857	41	Quebec	
2	"	" Clémentine	F	R	Chouse	Mar	1 Nov	1870	30	Quebec	
3	"	" Maria	F	"	Fille	6	12 Nov	1890	4	Sask	
4	31	Godin Achille	M	B	Chief	Mar	6 Juill	1866	34	Quebec	
5	"	" Emilie	F	"	Chouse	Mar	15 Sept	1860	40	Quebec	
6	"	" Bruno	M	"	Fils	6	30 Dec	1888	12	Quebec	
7	"	" Justine	F	"	Fille	6	25 Dec	1889	11	"	
8	"	" Charles	M	"	Fils	6	9 Août	1892	8	"	
9	"	" Alexandre	F	"	Fille	6	29 Août	1893	7	Sask	
10	"	" Emma	M	"	Fils	6	30 Mai	1896	4	"	
11	"	" Blanche	F	"	Fille	6	3 Dec	1897	3	"	
12	"	" Celestine	M	"	Fils	6	26 Juin	1900		"	

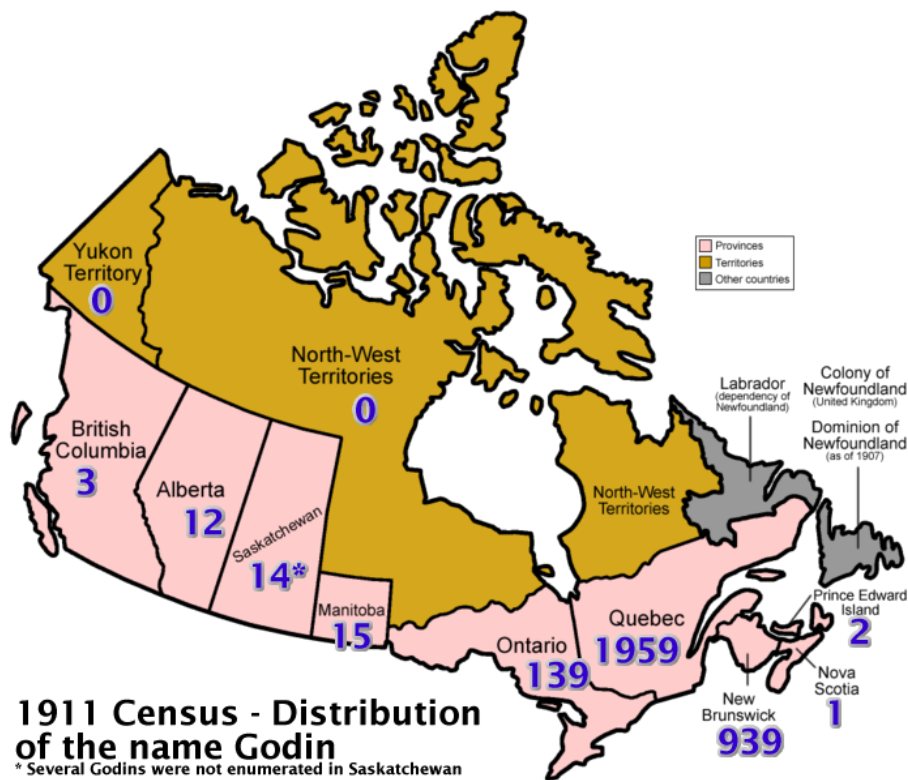
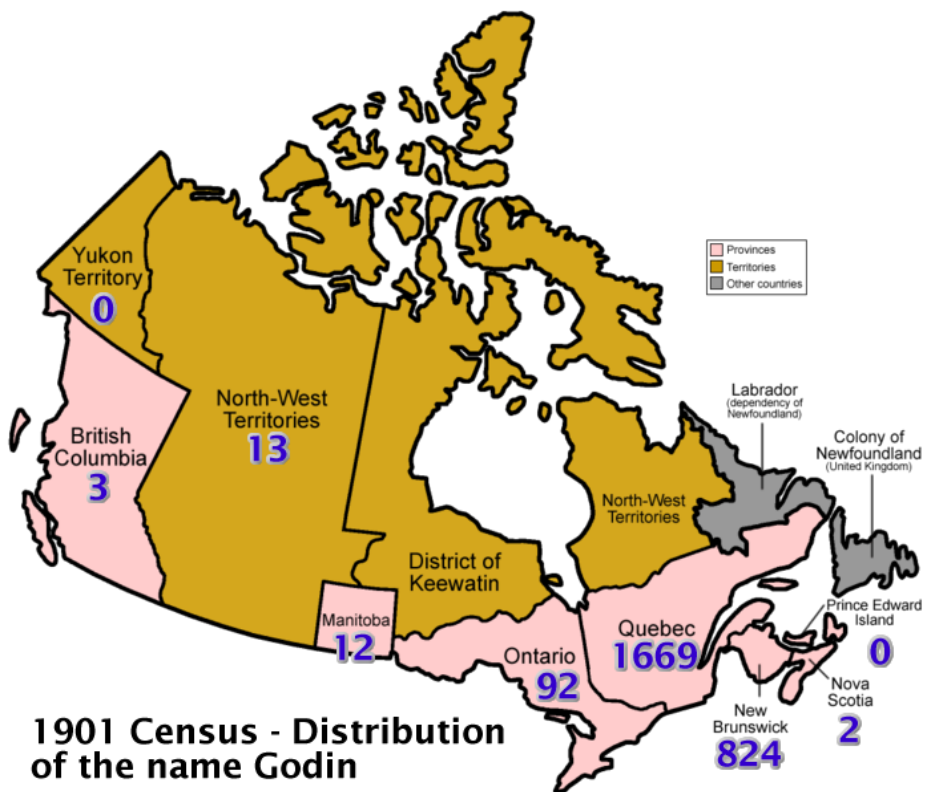
1901 Census of Canada: This copy of the original record from the 1901 census shows Achille Godin and his family.

Reference information: Province of NWT, District #205- Saskatchewan, Sub-District: Duck Lake, Page 4. www.statcan.ca

Distribution of the surname Godin in Canada

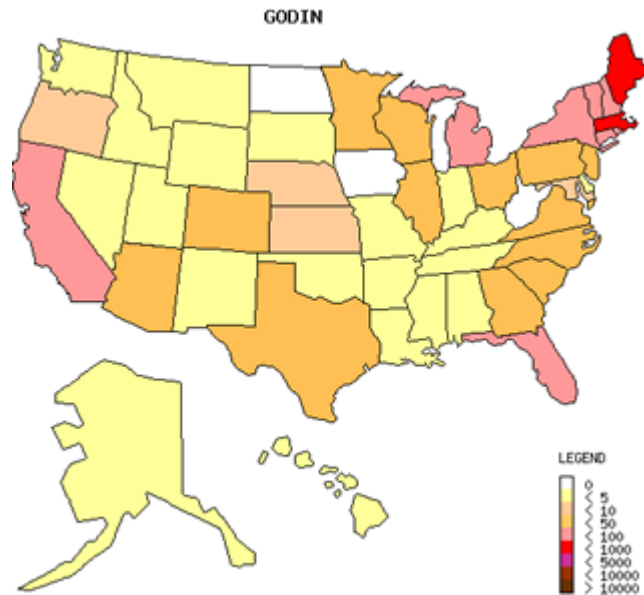
On the following page is the distribution map for the Godin name in Canada for the 1901 and the 1911 survey. Our family accounts for 9 of the 13 Godins enumerated in 1901 in the NW Territories. The enumeration records for our family in the 1911 census has gone missing or the family had been completely missed during the enumeration and is not likely to be located. These enumerations were difficult to conduct due to limited transportation and communications, and records were not frequently copied. None of the Godins from our family line appear in the 1911 census.

Note the significant population increase from the 1901 to the 1911 map (a 35% increase for the general population, an 18% growth for Godin).

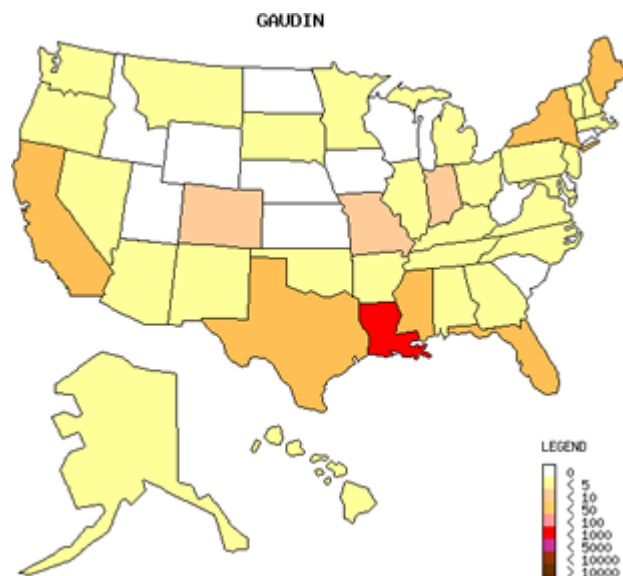


Distribution of the surname Godin in the United States

The USA has more recent statistical information available on family names. The distribution for Godin and Gaudin in the United States is at www.gens-us.net. Interestingly, the Gaudin spelling is concentrated in Louisiana and Godin in Maine. Note that the maps represent the total count and not percentages. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov), in the 1990 census the name Godin has a frequency of 0.001% and a ranking of 7536th, making it quite rare as a surname. Unfortunately, this is the only name-related data available.



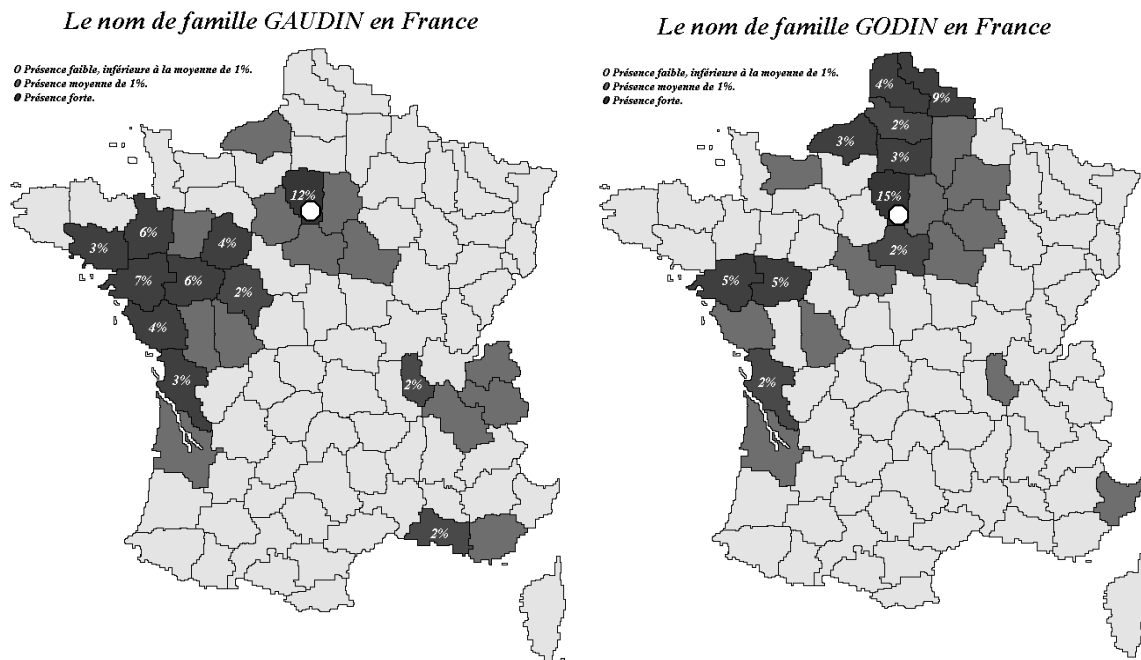
*Distribution of the Godin name in the U.S.A.
Year 1990, from www.labo.net*



*Distribution of the Gaudin name in the U.S.A.
Year 1990, from www.labo.net*

Distribution of the surname Godin in France

In France, the name Godin ranks 643rd and Gaudin 249th for popularity between 1966 and 1990 according to the site www.prenoms.com. The Godin spelling is considered uncommon with this ranking. There were 8,629 Godins born in France between 1890 and 1990 and 17,193 for Gaudin during the same 100-year period. The distribution maps are below for reference:



Distribution maps for births to family names Gaudin and Godin 1966-1990, generated from www.prenoms.com. The white dot is the approximate location of Paris.

There are several cities and towns in France that contain the Godin/Gaudin name (www.citescitees.com)

- 45480 Teillay Le Gaudin
- 71620 VilleGaudin
- 72210 Chemire Le Gaudin
- 79300 La Chapelle Gaudin
- 31800 Saint Gaudens

The distribution patterns for Godin and Gaudin are interesting. The areas with the highest density of Godin births are northern and western France. The Godin and Gaudins that settled in Canada in the 17th century, of the ones where their origin is known, have mostly come from the areas with the highest occurrence of Godin and Gaudin names in France today. The area covered by the map also generally coincides with the area occupied and settled by the Franks about 1500 years ago.

Not indicated on this map is Belgium, which borders the Northeast coast of France. There the Godin name is uncommon with 543 households in total using the name (www.familienaam.be). Based on a population of 10 million, the name is rare.

Other Godin and Gaudin families that arrived in New France before 1792

The Tanguay Genealogical Dictionary is an extremely valuable resource tool for genealogical information and fortunately was available on-line from the Quebec City library for download. Generally fairly accurate up to the mid 1700's, it contains records of baptisms, marriages and deaths for people who settled in New France/Quebec (not Acadia).

There were many Godin and Gaudins that arrived in New France. Some have surviving lineage whereas others do not.

Below, compiled from Tanguay and other sources, is the list of Gaudins / Godins who are original immigrants that arrived in New France (an immigrant also includes Acadians moving to New France). The list only includes the person what is the original immigrant and not the descendents, of which there are many. The details in the list are as written in the dictionary and contain supplemental data if more information was found elsewhere.

- Yves Gaudin, 45, from de la Rochelle, was a shipmate in 1656 on board the La Fortune. Traveled to but did not remain in New France. (not in Tanguay)
- Barthememi, born in 1608 in Quercy, France. Died 1697 at Pointe-aux-Trembles, Quebec. Was hired as a hand and a cooper on the ship Saint-Clement in 1643. He remained in New France. Was married to Marguerite Coignet, born 1606 in Quercy, France and died in 1689. Bought land near Quebec in 1649 from Jean Beauvard dit Lafortune. Daughter Marguerite married. No record of Jean's marriage, their only son. ref 3957-1-4-30
- Elie, born in 1621, married Esther Ramage (born 1624) before 1648 and died in 1672. Their first born is in Quebec in 1648. A Huguenot family that converted in 1662 to Catholic. There is documentation on a miraculous cure that occurred after Elie prayed. Their only son became a lay person. ref 3957-1-4-30
- Pierre dit Chatillon, Charpentier, born in 1632, son of Charles and Marie Baudin de St Vol, évêche de Langres, died 1700. Married in 1654, Montreal, to Jeannne Rousseliere from Xaintes, born 1632. Many of the Godins today, especially those in New Brunswick and northern American states, can trace their ancestry back to him. ref 3957-1-31, ref 3957-4-2-6
- Charles, our ancestor, born approx 1631 in Normandy, married in 1656 to Marie Boucher (born 1644). They had 17 children, 16 of which were married and 114 grandchildren. Many decedents. ref 3957-1-30, ref 3957-4-2-5
- Undated and no detail available (1750) ref 3957-4-2-5
 - Marie-Anne, de Tourville
 - Genevieve married François Rivet
 - Marie-Anne married J.B. Quevillon
- Genevieve married in 1751 Jean Francois Marcot at Cap Sante
- Jacques born in 1657 and died in 1735, St-Joachim (Seminarian). He had 2 arpents of Seminary land near the Sainte-Anne church in Sainte-Anne-du-Petit-Cap, documented in 1680. Ref wiki cartesainteanne1680
- Charlotte born in 1679 and died in 1759 Beauport

- Gervais dit LeGraveur born in 1665 Trinite diocese d'Angers, Anjou. He died in 1743 in Montreal ref 3957-4-2-6
- Joseph born 1718, died 1761 at Ecureuils ref 3957-4-2-7
- Nicolas dit de la Potherie, goldsmith, son of Nicolas and Catherine Allier, from N.-D. de Recouvrance, diocese de St Pol de Leon, Basse Bretagne. Married in 1723 in Quebec to Marie-Madelaine Gilbert. Had several male children. ref 3957-4-2-7
- Joseph married Madeleine Roy in 1725 ref 3957-4-2-8
- Joseph dit Lauillère-Tourangeau born 1702 tailor, son of Pierre and Marguerite Marie from Pontdurneau, diocese of Tours, Touraine. Married in 1730 in Montreal to Marie-Joseph Hery (born 1701). Died 1746 ref 3957-4-2-8
- Joseph-Louis born 1713 son of Jacques and Marie Marin of Marayne, diocese du Mans, Maine. Married Angelique Coutaut (born 1718) in 1734 in Quebec. ref 3957-4-2-8
- Jacques married in 1734 in Pte-aux-Trembles (?) to Anne Bergeron born in 1711 and died in 1770. There is no further information on this couple. There is another Gaudin-Bergeron marriage but this is from an earlier date. ref 3957-4-2-8
- Valcour (Acadian) married in 1734 in Pte-aux-Trembles (?) to Francoise D'Amboise ref 3957-4-2-8
- Louis born in 1691, died in 1749, St Frs du Lac ref 3957-4-2-9
- Jean-Rene from Ste Anne, Rivière St Jean, Acadia. Married in 1740 in Pte-aux-Trembles (?) to Francoise Dugas, Acadian ref 3957-4-2-9
- Nicolas et Tammequet married in 1747 in Rimouski (?) to Marie Agnes, a native Indian ref 3957-4-2-9
- Thomas married in 1747 in Rimouski (?) to Anne Tiganne ref 3957-4-2-9
- Rene, born in 1748, died in 1770 at Batiscan ref 3957-4-2-10
- Jean-Baptiste, married in 1759 in either Ecureuils or Riviere-du-Loup to Marie-Madeleine Bellefeuille ref 3957-4-2-11
- Jean-Baptiste, Acadian, married in 1762 in Ecureuils or Kamouraska to Angelique Bergeron, Acadienne. There are at least 2 other Gaudin-Bergeron marriages. ref 3957-4-2-11
- Pierre married in 1765 at either Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatiere or L'Isle Dupas to Marie Carpentier ref 3957-4-2-11
- Augustin married in 1780 in Ecureuils to Scholastique Piche ref 3957-4-2-12
- Jean-Francois married in 1792 in either Quebec or St Augustin to Genevieve Brousseau ref 3957-4-2-12

In other literature, a Noël Godin was killed near Trois Rivières by 10 Iroquois, his companion LaJeunesse was wounded in 1651.

Other Avenues for Research

There are other avenues for research on the name Godin. Here are a few:

- Google Trends (www.google.com/trends), an indicator of the popularity of search words and terms, has a list for the name "Godin" by country. Not surprisingly, France, Belgium and Canada are the locations with the top search requests but among the remainder include Netherlands, Luxembourg, Croatia, Serbia and Switzerland. Amiens, located in the general area of Normandy in France is the top search location for the name Godin. Studies have shown that "ego-surfing", or Googling up one's own name to see what comes up, is a fairly common practice.
- There are heraldry-based services available, such as a family crest, but these are meant for entertainment purposes only as they are not based on fact. Coat-of-arms are reserved for individuals with noble backgrounds and, according to tradition, only the eldest son may carry it. Even the wife of a noble cannot carry the family crest and must devise her own. Crests and coat-of-arms in Canada must be registered with the Governor General's office at www.gg.ca/heraldry/ to be officially recognized. I have not found any official coat-of-arms for Godin other than for the Templar Grand Master Thibaud Gaudin. Judging from our humble existence as "habitants" in Canada for a dozen generations, we are highly unlikely to have a noble background or a family crest, and won't be the long-lost inheritors of a French castle.
- There have been very few Godins in the military. In the US during World War II only 127 individual Godins were registered out of over 8.8 Million soldiers, most from the New England states. www.archives.gov. There were 23 Godin casualties from Commonwealth countries in the Second World War. www.cwgc.org.
- There are additional interesting statistics available on-line by family name. Here are some results for the Godin name for the US population (www.ancestry.com):
 - Life expectancy is average
 - More likely to be a laborer or in a specialized trade than a farmer
 - 14 served in the US Civil War, with 7 on the Union side and 7 on the Confederate side

Summary

The Godin name is an interesting name. It is less common than many other French names yet has been in use for a long time based on its occasional references throughout history, and likely has a Frankish origin. Originally a given or adopted name prior to the first millennium, by the beginning of the second millennium it became a surname. It's distributed throughout France and other parts of French Europe, and is also distributed throughout the USA and Canada. Most of the Godins that settled in North America can trace their origins to the northern and western coast of France.

There were several Godin arrivals in the New World but only a few had progeny that carried the Godin name. Those descendants continue to move into different areas of Canada and the USA. There are nearly 10,000 Godin-related descendents listed in the genealogy dictionaries for North America from the 1600's to the 1900's. Most of the Godins in North America can trace their lineage to the 1650's, to either Charles, our ancestor, or to Pierre (his possible cousin).

End