

GODIN (Gaudin) Family

The Earliest Generations

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Maurice Gaudin

- Born in <1535?> in Ardennes, France <?>
- Known as a “Cavalier de Givet” (possibly one of 3000 cavaliers present in Givet, located in the Ardennes and the site of a castle originally built in 1555)
- Married Huguette Pampelune approximately **1560**
- Died <location and date unknown>
 - Children:
 - Vorle Gaudin
 - Born <1565?>
 - Married to Brigitte Gozier

Vorle Gaudin

- Born in <1565?> in Campagne region <?>
- Known as “le teinturier” (a dyer of cloth)
- Married Brigitte Gozier approximately **1590**
- Died <location and date unknown>
 - Children:
 - Jacques
 - Born <1606?>
 - Married to Marguerite Nieule
 - Children:
 - Charles Gaudin
 - Claude
 - Born <1605?>
 - Married to Marie Bardin
 - Children:
 - Pierre Gaudin dit Chatillon

There is little reference information on the Gaudin family in France prior to the arrival of Charles to New France. The research and reference information that I have found on the Gaudin family in France is meager. The first official census in France wasn't until 1831. Until then, the onus was on the churches to record baptisms, marriages and deaths, and most of these records appear to have been lost or destroyed. The maintenance of records by the Church was required with the King's signing of the ordinance of Villers-Cotterêtes in 1539.

The information listed above is speculative. I've gathered this data from a large variety of sources but haven't seen any referenced documents such as certificates or other outside evidence to support this data. There are inconsistent dates and locations stated for births, marriages and deaths.

I've based the following conclusions on what I've read, and I was able to align these assumptions with a few genealogists:

- Charles Gaudin was the son of Jacques and Marguerite Nieul.
- Pierre Gaudin, the other Gaudin to arrive in New France at the time, was the son of Claude Gaudin and Marie Bardin.
- Jacques and Claude were the sons of Vorle Gaudin and Brigitte Gouzier
- Vorle was the son of Maurice
- Maurice, a cavalier de Givet, married Huguette Pampelune

The relationship between Jacques and Claude Gaudin of the early 1600's as brothers and the relationship of Charles and Jacques, the first Gaudin arrivals in New France, as cousins is speculative on my part but is a conclusion based on data from several genealogists independently studying each of the two primary Gaudin lines. The critical point is that many independently claim that Vorle is the father of Jacques and that Vorle is the father of Claude, therefore Claude and Jacques are brothers. With the lack of any evidence there is no way to prove or disprove this claim.

The brother relationship between Claude and Jacques certainly seems plausible. Their descendents, Pierre and Charles, were both of approximately the same age and had prime characteristics of age, marital and social status for the recruiters. They both left France within a year or two of each other.

If this relationship and common origin between the two Godin families could be confirmed it would be significant because the descendants originating from both these branches spread throughout Canada and the United States and number in the thousands. The majority of the Godins in North America would be related to each other as the majority of descendents came from either Pierre or Charles. Both these men arrived in New France at about the same time but one chose to settle near Quebec City whereas the other in the Montreal area.

As a side note, there was a prominent family of Godins in Le Havre, France, during the 1600's. They were fish merchants involved in trade with the fishermen that frequented the Grand Banks off the coast of Nova Scotia. They were very well organized and frequently leased or purchased fishing vessels and funded fishing expeditions. There are numerous records available from notary sites regarding some of the more prominent transactions. One record shows the Godin merchants legally threatening a person that had spread rumours that their fish wasn't fresh (sounds like it came out of an Asterix cartoon).