

Jean Francois Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour
(Capitaine de la Compagnie de Sieur Du Francois Verrier)

Jean Francois Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour was born about 1675 at St. Pierre, Medreac, St.-Malo, Bretagne (Brittany), France. the son of Jean Jerome Beaume Leblanc (b. 1650) and Jeanne Bougaut (b. abt 1655). The parents of Jean Francois were also born at that ancient Brittany village.

The exact date of Jean Francois' arrival in New France is not known at this time. Unlike our Cote, Lefebvre and Gagnon ancestors however, it is known that he arrived as a soldier in the Le Verrier French Regiment probably about 1695. Jean Francois first appears in Quebec parish church records as a witness at the wedding of fellow soldier, Noel Legault Deslauriers, on November 18, 1698 at Montreal. His occupation on the document is listed as: Soldat de la Compagnie, De m. Le Verrier. On March 14, 1701, Jean Francois is again a witness to the wedding of a fellow soldier, Jacques Theoret Lariviere, at Lachine Quebec. The Governor General of New France also attended and was a witness to this marriage as was the Commanding Officer of Francois' regiment, Francois Leverrier. Between 1703 and 1705, Jean Francois is godfather and/or witness at three baptisms at Montreal. His Commanding Officer, Francois Leverrier, had been, in France, a Musketeer in service to the King of France prior to his being dispatched to New France as Commander of a Compagnie of Soldiers and still in the service of the King of France.

At the age of thirty, Jean Francois himself was married at Notre Dame, Montreal, on the 3rd day of November, 1705. His bride, Marie Angelique Dardenne was born the 19th of May, 1682 at Repentigny, Quebec, the daughter of Rene De'Ardeyne (Abt 1630-1710) and Marie Françoise Barbery (Abt 1650 – 1725). Present at the ceremony were several "Marchand, Bourgeois" (fur traders/merchants) as well as several of Jean Francois' fellow soldiers of the "Compagnie de Sieur Du Verrier". The bride's father, Rene Dardenne and her brother Toussaint were also present.

Marie Angelique's birthplace of Repentigny, at that time, was a tiny off-island agricultural community north of Montreal. La Rochelle, France, the birthplace of Marie Angelique's father, was a seaport of Western France, on the Bay of Biscay. Marie's mother was born at St. Germain, Paris.

By 1704, Jean Francois was *Sergent dans les Troupes de la compagnie de Francois LeVerrier*. The parents of Francois' wife, Marie Angelique Dardenne, considering the tiny farming community where their daughter was born, may have arrived in New France as peasants. However, both Jean Francois as well as his wife Angelique were literate as they were "declared being able to sign" on their marriage certificate which casts considerable doubt on Angelique's parents arriving in New France as peasants.

Following their marriage, Francois and Marie Angelique made their home in Montreal and the first eight of their twelve children were born at that city. Commencing about 1721, the remaining four children were born at St. Laurent. At some point following his marriage, Jean Francois was promoted to Capitaine in his regiment.

Jean Francois died at the age of eighty on April 19, 1744 at St. Laurent. Marie Angelique died on May 19, 1745 also at St. Laurent, just thirteen months following the death of her husband.

Children of Jean Francois Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour and Marie Angelique Dardenne

Francois Jerome born August 26, 1706 at Montreal. Francois married Marie Deniau Ditaillly, daughter of Denau Ditaillly and Marie Jean Adhemar St. Martin on October 12, 1733 at Montreal PQ. They had eight children at least three of whom died in infancy or in early childhood. During the French Regime, Francois was the earliest voyageur and trader from Quebec in the North West. He also traded under the British Regime. I believe it was Francois' direct descendent Andrei Jerome who was arrested and tried following the infamous Finian Raid at the Hudson Bay Company Post at Red River in 1871 (see "Manitoba Raid" below).

Marie Angelique (twin sister to Charles) was born April 16, 1708 at Montreal; she died May 8, 1708.

Charles (twin brother to Marie Angelique) was born April 16, 1708 at Montreal; he died on June 21 1709.

Marie Anne Angelique was born November 29, 1710 at Montreal. On November 7, 1729 at St. Laurent, Marie Anne married Paul Rapideau Lamer, the son of Jean Baptiste Rapideau dit Lamer and Francoise Fluery. they had fourteen children many of whom died in infancy or childhood; Marie Anne died December 28, 1786.

Nicolas Charles was born August 30, 1712 at Montreal. On January 11, 1740 at St. Laurent, Nicholas married Marie Jeanne Aubry Teclé Corneille, the daughter of Francois Aubry Teclé Corneille and Marie Jeannie Bouteilier Tetu. There is a record of them having one son, Francois Amable, who survived childhood and married; they also had a daughter, Marie Jeanne Josephe, whose fate is unknown. Nicolas died at forty-three years of age, on April 25, 1755 at St. Laurent.

Marie Susanne was born May 23, 1714 at Montreal. On January 3, 1738 at St. Laurent, Marie married Jean Blenier Jarry. They had ten children, many of whom died in infancy or childhood.

Marie Anne was born April 5, 1716 at Montreal. Marie died on June 9, 1719 at Montreal.

Pierre was born June 26, 1718 at Montreal. The identity of Pierre's wife is unknown; it is believed he had a son Charles.

Jean Mathias was born February 24, 1721 (twin brother to Jean Marie Baptiste) at Jumeau de Jean Marie, St. Laurent, PQ.; Jean married **Marie Louise Leduc** on April 18, 1846 at Montreal, PQ. Marie Louise was born in 1724, the daughter of Joseph Leduc and Marie Andree Urtesbise.

Jean Mathias and Marie Louise had ten children, most of whom appear to have survived childhood. Their son Francois born January 20, 1749 having been widowed married for a second time to Marie Louise Caille Jasmin, the granddaughter of Aubin Calliare dit Jasmin who, as did the paternal grandfather of Jean Mathias, Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour, arrived in New France as a soldier in the service of the King of France.

Marie Louise died on March 12th, 1781, Jean Mathias was re-married on November 11th of 1782 to Marie Louise Perrier but died August 17th 1783 just nine months following his second marriage, at Ste. Genevieve PQ.

Jean Marie Baptiste was born February 24, 1721 (twin brother to Jean Mathias) at Jumeau de Jean Marie, St. Laurent PQ. On January 29, 1748 at Ste. Genevieve

(Pierrefonds) PQ, he married Marie Elizabeth Gauthier dit Saguinorra. Jean and Marie had four daughters, three of whom survived infancy and married. Jean died on October 1, 1759 at the Hopital Generale de Quebec at the age of thirty-eight. Jean's widow subsequently remarried; she died January 30, 1815 at Ste. Genevieve.

Elizabeth Barbe Marie born June 17, 1723 at St. Laurent. She married Francois Luberneau Meloche on February 11, 1747 at Ste. Genevieve (Pierrefonds) PQ. Elizabeth died January 29, 1748 at Lachine PQ, probably in childbirth.

Jean Baptiste was born April 6, 1725 at St. Laurent. On November 19, 1747 at St. Laurent, he married Marie Marguerite LaRiviere LeTarte, the daughter of Jean Baptiste LaRiviere LeTarte and Frete Lamothe. They had five children, four of whom appear to have survived childhood. Widowed in 1771 at St. Laurent, Jean Baptiste was re-married in 1773 at Montreal to Marie Elizabeth Robrau Duplessis. Jean Baptiste died September 22, 1806 at Montreal.

The Latour Surname

Spelling Variations – Latour, Delatour and Latours

Dit names: Balard; **Beaume**; Demassougne; Desery; Dufour; Forget; Huguet; Jerome; Laforge; **Leblanc**; St-Etienne; Loyer; Massia; Villiot.

Dit names mean “known as” or “called”; dit names were often the “noms de guerre” of a particular military company. However, dit names were also associated with physical characteristics or place of origin. In some cases, it's the mother's maiden name combined with the surname of the father. The peasants who relocated to New France were for the most part illiterate. However, even for the educated, spelling was not standardized. Baptismal, burial and marriage records were kept by the parish priest who wrote the names as he heard them.

By the early nineteenth century, the cumbersome surname of Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour had morphed in various ways to LATOUR.

BRETANE (BRITTANY)

Brittany, the birthplace of our Latour ancestor, is located in the northwest of France a peninsula jutting toward the English Channel. Unlike most native

French peoples whose ancestors are of Latin origin, Bretons have a Celtic heritage. Brittany is considered one of the six Celtic nations. It was at one time called "Lesser Britain". Though the French language is spoken in the region, the Bretons have fought to retain their own language and culture; despite the resistance of the French administration, bilingual road signage may still be seen in some areas. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the walled city of **St.-Malo** was the largest French harbour for merchant ships and was a stronghold for Corsaires. The Corsaires were private ships authorized by the King of France to intercept Foreign vessels and seize whatever items of value which might be aboard. Today, St.-Malo remains an important seaport, linking Brittany to England and the Channel Islands. It is the birthplace of several notables including the explorer Jacques Cartier, the acclaimed author Chateaubriand, and the historian Louis Duchesne.

LA ROCHELLE

LA ROCHELLE, a city of southwest France, was the birth place of the parents of Marie Angelique Dardenne. The city was founded in the tenth century and until the fifteenth century became the largest French harbour on the Atlantic coast. During the Renaissance many inhabitants of La Rochelle adopted Protestant ideas and the city became a centre for many Huguenots in the mid-1500's. Following a fourteen-month siege of the city in 1627 by Cardinal Richelieu, there was growing persecution of the Huguenots many of whom emigrated to the area around what is now New England, founding such cities as New Rochelle (near present day New York City). During the siege, the population diminished from 27,000 to 5,000 due to casualties, famine, and disease. The siege of La Rochelle forms the historical background for Alexandre Dumas' novel, *The Three Musketeers*.

The Manitoba Raid (O'Donoghue's Fenian Raid)

On October 5, 1871, anywhere between forty and eighty Irish-Americans (Fenians) and Metis crossed into Canadian territory and briefly occupied the Hudson's Bay post on the border north of Pembina. Andre Jerome born December 14, 1829 at St. Boniface, Manitoba, was the son of Martin Jerome and Angelique Letendre and was the great, great grandson of our Brittany France ancestor, Jean Francois

Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour, a French Militia Officer and Marie Angelique Dardenne. Andre, a Metis buffalo hunter and cart driver transporting goods between Fort Garry and St. Paul was arrested as a participant in the raid on the Hudson Bay Company post. His two eldest sons, Jean Baptiste (15) and Alexandre (12), were said to have driven the Red River cart in which the attackers had hidden their rifles and ammunition. Andre Jerome surrendered to the authorities three weeks later when the three Metis arrests were made. He was charged with "feloniously and unlawfully levying war against Her Majesty". No Fenians were ever arrested in the matter. Andre's younger brother Joseph owned the river lot directly across the Red River on the Minnesota side, south of the border, so the arms used in the raid were said to be hidden on Joseph's property. It is understood that Andre Jerome had been involved in the Resistance of 1669-70 and may have been a guard in Upper Fort Garry during the Provisional Government; this activity alone would have made him a target for reprisals from the English. In addition, Andre was the uncle of Helene Jerome whose husband, Elzear Goulet was killed in 1870, the first victim of the "Reign of Terror"; aside from overall discontent, this matter alone could be an explanation as to why Andre and his family may have been involved in the raid. It is also possible that as Andre had a large number of half brothers who looked similar, he may have been mistaken for one of them. He was remanded in custody following his first trial due to lack of evidence against him and was incarcerated at the Stone Fort (Lower Fort Garry). Andre Jerome was married to Marguerite Gosselin; at the time of Andre's arrest, they had eight children and Marguerite, pregnant with their ninth child, gave birth on New Year's Eve 1872, to daughter Angelique, while her husband remained in custody awaiting his second trial. While in prison it is widely reported Andre was tortured in an effort to "cause him to disclose the secret operation of his leaders, but his word was his bond, never to be broken and he took his hardships and cruelties until finally liberated".

Transcript of the Deposition of Martin Jerome, Andre's father, dated January 29, 1872:

"My son, Andrew Jerome now in confinement at Fort Garry, Province of Manitoba, was born near St. Boniface in said Province then known as the Red River Settlement of Rupert's Land and settled at Pembina, now in Pembina County, Dakota Territory, U.S. Then he resided in the United States about twenty-five years, and for about three years last past he has resided on the east side of the "Red River of the North" about one mile below (north) the old "Oak Post" known as Lieutenant Long's Post."

As was the case with his first trial in December of 1871, there was a lack of evidence; he was again acquitted the following spring and eventually released. In 1872, Martin Jerome, Andre's father then sold river lot #54 north of Emerson. Following his acquittal, Andre and his family emigrated south of the border to become "the first settlers of Kittson County, Minnesota" at the mouth of the Red and Two Rivers. He died January 12, 1916 at Hallock Township, Kittson County Minnesota at the age of 87.

DESCENDENCY

Unlike our Meloche, Gagnon and Cote ancestors, Jean Francois Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour was not the original Latour settler in New France as there is reference in the parish church records for Trois Rivières to the birth of one Pierre Tourneaux Latour as early as 1640. The scope of the descendents of Jean Francois and his wife Marie Angelique Dardenne including the extent of their numbers and locations in North America may only be imagined.

*Our family is descended from **Jean Jerome Beaume Leblanc** and his wife **Jeanne Bougeau** of Bretagne (Brittany) in France, the parents of **Jean Francois Jerome Beaume Leblanc Latour** who emigrated to New France about 1698 and subsequently married **Marie Angelique Dardenne** on November 3, 1705 at Notre Dame, Montreal PQ (1st generation). Their son **Jean Mathias** (from one of two sets of twins) married his first wife **Marie Louise Leduc** on April 18, 1746 at Montreal PQ (2nd generation). Their son **Francois Jerome** married **Marie Louise Caille-Jasmin** January 31, 1785 at Ste. Laurent PQ (3rd generation). Their son **Jerome** married **Marie Louise Sureau Blondin** on January 31, 1815 at Ste. Genevieve PQ (5th generation). Their son **Jerome** married **Marie Secours** about 1830 at Ste. Genevieve PQ (6th generation). Their son **Olivier** married **Rosalie Meloche** January 28, 1851 at Ste. Clement, Beauharnois PQ (7th generation). Their son **Olivier** married **Honorine Lefebvre** on July 16, 1878 at Ste. Etienne de Beauharnois (8th generation). Their daughter **Marie Cesarine (Sarah) Latour** married **John Chatterton** on July 21, 1903 at Simcoe County, Ontario (9th generation). The second youngest of John and Sarah's eleven children, daughter **Jessie Mildred Chatterton**, born March 1, 1921 at Fort Coloungue Quebec, was my mother (10th generation).*

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