

HISTORY DÉSILETS

ANCESTOR

Antoine Desrosiers, the ancestor of Desilets of this family, is a colon founding of New France. His descendants are numerous in Canada and the United States. The decision of the ancestor to emigrate and immigrate to populate this new country is in a particular context. There is an interesting study to understand the magnitude of the impact of this gesture almost reckless on his life, his family and his descendants.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Quebec City and New France were founded in the early XVII^e century by French. But what could motivate Europeans to come here and that was happening in France at that time?

The situation in France

In XVI^e century religious situation in France is tragic, causing wars and massacres. Successive kings fail to unify the country and bring peace. In such a climate, it is understandable as simple and peaceful people think to flee instability in order to find some personal freedom and prosperity. On the other hand, it is the fashion to create companies to explore territories new and make the trade. We also want to find a route short to go from France to India and China and there do trade in gold, silk and spices. ¹Each European power wants its share. Individuals want to get rich. Some want to expand their religion and evangelize the indigenous peoples. Finally,

others simply want a healthy place physically and socially
Lement to raise a family on a plot of land which they belong-
Drait.

¹The only road then known to Europeans was to circumnavigate Africa to the south.
LACOURSIERE, Jacques, *Quebec People's History*, Volume I, editions of the North,
1995, page 12.

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King Henry IV managed a few
better than its predecessors
restore order in France and
it was under his reign that the Aca-
die was founded in 1604. Such
first French activities
America who have goals sur-
any business depend
promoters; they are often
wind victims of military rivalries
English and French tions which
even affect this side
of the Atlantic. Monts
sees his privileges revoked and
Samuel de Champlain was
there with him since the beginning, re-
rotates in France in 1607. This
last, however, abandoned
and it is not in America
in 1608 to found Quebec.

Figure 1: The provinces of France retrieved from HARIBAUT-
BEAUREGARD. Martha and BEAUREGARD-MALAK, Eve, *The Genealogy*,
Find his ancestors, Editions de l'Homme, 1987, page 68).

Foundation of Québec, Trois-Rivières and New France

The beginnings of colonization is slow and painful. The first family
French came to live in New France is that of Louis Hébert,

Parisian apothecary in 1617 latter. had lived in Acadia
Champlain therefore he knew very well. This time he is accompanied
his wife, Marie Rollet, and their three children, William, Guille-
put and Anne. Champlain granted him land in uptown to Que-
beak, in 1623. He did not have long to enjoy since he died in early
in January 1627 following an accident. His son William married Helen
Desportes in 1634, but they had one son, Joseph, who married
Marie-Charlotte de Poitiers in 1660. Joseph was killed by the Iroquois
the following year, leaving a son who died in infancy. There is therefore
no male descendants of our first pioneer to perpetuate his

2Pierre de Gua, Sieur de Monts, founder of Acadia.

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name³. By cons, Guillemette, married in Quebec in 1621 William
Couillard, has left many descendants. In 1627, the colony
consisted of sixty men, five women and six small
daughters.

Meanwhile, Champlain is cartographer, explored the country as
he can. In 1629, on behalf of the English, the Kirk brothers seized
Quebec is no great protection; most people return-
NEET in France. Only stayed Guillaume Couillard, his family and
stepmother, Marie Rollet; in all, twenty people. The Treaty
Saint-Germain-en-Laye in 1632 put an end to the British occupation.
When Champlain returned in 1633, everything was to start and ins-
installations rebuild.

In 1634, Champlain Sieur de Laviolette request to go build a strong
at the mouth of the Saint-Maurice River to better protect themselves
against the Iroquois. It is the foundation of Three Rivers, July 4. An-
Antony Desrosiers get there around 1645 after spending about four years
Quebec. The population of Three Rivers at this time does not exceed
300 souls.

3 Hebert in Quebec that we know today are mainly descendants
Acadians arrived here after deportation from 1755.

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AND DÉSILETS

IMPORTANT:

- 1491 John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) explores Newfoundland.
- 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered America.
- 1498 Louis XII ascended the throne of France.
- 1515 Louis XII and Francis I dies st becomes King of France.
- 1534 First voyage of Jacques Cartier in Canada.
- 1547 François I st dies and becomes King Henry II of France.
- 1559 Henri II died and Francis II becomes King of France.
- 1560 Francis II died, and Charles IX becomes king of France.
- 1574 Charles IX and Henri III dies becomes King of France.
- 1582 The Gregorian calendar ⁴ replaced the Julian calendar in the Catholic world.
- 1589 Henri III and Henri IV dies becomes King of France.

- 1603 First voyage of Samuel de Champlain in America.
- 1604 Foundation of Canada by Pierre de Gua, Sieur de Monts.
- 1607 Founding of Jamestown (Virginia) in the United States by English.
- 1608 Founding of Quebec by Samuel de Champlain.
- 1610 Henri IV and Louis XIII dies becomes King of France.
- 1617 Arrival of the first settler of New France, Louis Hébert and his family.
- 1619 Born **Antoine Desrosiers'** s. (*First generation*)
- 1632 By **Anne LeNeuf birth** (*first generation*) **Hedgehog.**
- 1634 Foundation Laviolette Trois-Rivières.
- 1635 Death of Samuel de Champlain.
- 1641 Arrival of **Antoine Desrosiers** in Quebec.
- 1642 Montreal was founded by Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve.
- 1643 Louis XIII died and Louis XIV became King of France.
- 1645 Arrival of **Antoine Desrosiers** at Trois-Rivières.
- 1652 Birth of **Michel Desrosiers said Desilets.** (*Second generation*)
- 1666 Birth of **Marie-Thomasse Artault.** (*Second generation*)
- 1715 Louis XIV dies and Louis XV becomes King of France.

4Calendar still used, promulgated by Pope Gregory XIII.

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1755 Beginning of the deportation of the Acadians.

1760 New France became English.

ORIGIN OF THE SURNAME "DÉSILETS"

"Before the 17th century, the family name or surname does not exist in France. Only received in baptism the name was then used to designate each individual!" By

Of necessity, the use of nicknames for the French had spread

to enable people to meet, as and when the increase

tion of the population. In 1539, King Francis 1

st ordered the creation

Vital (Ordinance of Villers-Cotterets) 6 To record the gift-data vital to his people and made compulsory transmission of name father to all his children. Those who did not have family name had to find one. Thus, it took surnames from everywhere: province (Champagne), city (Paris), foreign (Lallemand), kinship (Legendre), title (Prince), craft (Boucher) of load (Le Clerc), place (Valley), animal (Lelièvre) plant (Poirier) quality (Ledoux), default (Malenfant), infirmity (Lesourd), stroke physical (Legrand) and moral trait (Sansregret), etc..

We did not find the origin of the surname Desrosiers. What we know however, is that time the idea of Antoine Desrosiers name is still very unclear and unstable. Children do week-pear not to be bound firmly on behalf of their father. Thus, they take often a nickname that sometimes becomes their name used. This was the case here New France, son of Antoine Desrosiers four who were married. Michel takes the nickname Desilets. Jean takes the nickname Dutremble. Pierre also takes the nickname Dutremble and some of his descendants take the name of Dargy or Dargis 7. Antoine takes the nickname of La-Fresnière 8. Some small-son show the name Desrosiers. Our days, only a minority of descendants of Antoine Desrosiers portent his name. However, all the descendants of his son, Michel Desro-

5 FARIBAULT-BEAUREGARD, Martha and BEAUREGARD-MALAK, Eve, *The genealogical ogy, Find his ancestors*, Editions de l'Homme, 1987, page 113.

6 JETTÉ, René *Treaty Genealogy*, Les Presses de l'Université de Montreal, 1991, page 77.

7 RICHARD, Bishop, *The Desilets*, the Trifluvien, November and December 1906 journal.

8 JETTÉ, René, *Genealogical Dictionary of families in Quebec*, Les Presses de l'Université de Montreal, 1983, pages 348-349.

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Desilets said folders, named after Desilets 9. Regarding the PROVENANCE of this surname, we quote Alfred Desilets: "*Jean-Baptiste, brother Michel was the browser, which does not prevent him from owning land in Cham-plant, on the river, in front or near the island Valdor, surrounded by islands* 10. It there was no way on the shore of the St. Lawrence, the only way of

communication between Quebec and Montreal. "The region called <the edge of Water> ... has her own life ... The two banks of the river are like two street a single large village, united by regular transactions, relationships, habits of happy meetings " 11 "Residence of John the Baptist was on the edge of the water, and said it was browsers islets " 12

9Observation made by the author in compiling data for *genealogical dictionary Desilets*.

10DÉSILETS, Alfred, *Memories of a Octogenarians*, Printing P.-R. Dupont, 1920, page 15, Pres-Rivières,

11Provencher, Jean, *The Four Seasons in the Valley of Saint-Laurent*, Éditions Montréal 1988, du Boreal,

12DÉSILETS, Alfred, *Memories of a Octogenarians*, Printing P.-R. Dupont, 1920, page 15, Pres-Rivières,