

Lavergne

(From Acadiens in Grey)

Still living in territory controlled by France, descendants of Pierre **Lavergne** and Anne **Bernon** of Île St.-Jean escaped the British roundup in Nova Scotia during the fall of 1755. Their respite from British oppression was short-lived, however. After the fall of the French fortress at Louisbourg in July 1758, the victorious British rounded up most of the Acadians on Île St.-Jean and deported them to France.

Jacques **Lavergne** survived the crossing to France that took the lives of hundreds of his fellow Acadians. He and his family ended up at Le Havre in Normandy, where he died in December 1759, age 53, perhaps from the rigors of the crossing. Son Pierre's wife Anne **Lord** also died soon after they reached France, and Pierre remarried to Marguerite, daughter of fellow Acadians Abraham **Daigre** and Anne-Marie **Boudrot** and widow of Eustache **Bourg**, at Le Havre in November 1763; Marguerite's first husband Eustache had died at Plymouth, England. Pierre earned his living at Le Havre as a carpenter. In the early 1770s, he, Marguerite, and five of their children--Jean-Baptiste-Alexandre; Pierre-Benjamin (the second with the name; the first had been born at Le Havre in August 1764 but died 18 months later; this Pierre-Benjamin had been born at Le Havre in March 1768); Marguerite and Victoire-Bellarmino from his first wife; and Marie-Madeleine, called Madeleine, born at Le Havre in March 1767--joined hundreds of Acadians from the port cities in a settlement scheme in Poitou. After two years of effort, Pierre and his family, with most of the other Poitou Acadians, retreated to the port city of Nantes.

Pierre chose to settle at Paimboeuf, the port for Nantes. Marguerite died at Paimboeuf in September 1782, age 50. Pierre remarried again--his third marriage--to Frenchwoman Gillette, daughter Marc **Caudan** and Perrine **LeBiede** of Lanvaudan, diocese of Vannes, and widow of Claude **Bigot**, at Paimboeuf in January 1785. She gave him no more children.

Meanwhile, Pierre's sister Marie married Étienne, 21-year-old son of fellow Acadians Jean **Hébert** and Marguerite **Mouton**, at Notre-Dame, Le Havre, in January 1767; Marie was six years older than her husband. They, too, were part of the venture in Poitou, where a son was born to them.

Marie died by August 1779, when Étienne remarried at St.-Nicolas, Nantes. Meanwhile, Pierre and Marie's sister Rose, age 24, married sailor Guillaume, 27-year-old son of fellow Acadians Jean-Baptiste **Laborde** and Marie **Prieur** of Île St.-Jean and widower of Marie-Rose **Daigre**, at Le Havre in November 1767. In October 1778, Pierre's oldest daughter Marguerite, from his first wife, married Joseph, son of fellow Acadians Claude **Trahan** and Anne **LeBlanc** of l'Assomption, Pigiguit, at St.-Nicolas, Nantes.

When, in the early 1780s, the Spanish government offered the Acadians in France the chance for a new life in faraway Louisiana, Pierre **Lavergne** grabbed it, but he did not take his third wife with him. Only a few weeks after they were married, Gillette died at Paimboeuf in late March 1785, leaving Pierre a widower once again. His two sisters and their husbands chose to remain in France

(Pierre Lavergne disembarked from the ship "Le Beaumont" on August 19 1785 with his son Pierre age 12, and two daughters, Marie Magnelaine age 12 and Victorie age 22.

A connection to Marie Lavergne has not been found yet, but this story is an example of a Acadian Family's journey to finally reach Louisiana.)