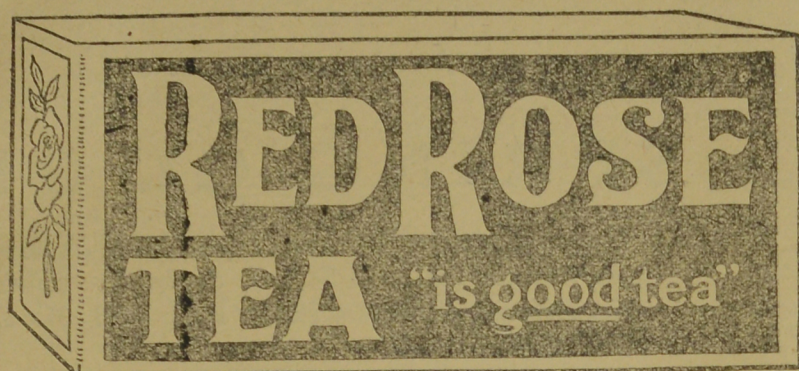


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Genealogical Tree of New Brunswick's Premier

(By Placide Gaudet, M. A. of the Public Archives Ottawa.)

I. The founder of the Vignau family in Canada was Paul Vignau, (pronounced Vee-nee-o) surnamed Laverdure, of French origin. He was the son of Jean Vigneaux and of Renee (name illegible on register) of Saint Sebel, bishopric of Poitiers (France). Paul married at Sainte-Famille, Ile d'Orleans, P. Q., the 3rd of November, 1670. Francoise Bourgeois daughter of Antoine Bourgeois and Marie Pedmont of St. Paul d'Orleans.

II. The founder of the same family in Acadia was Maurice Vignau (pronounced same as above) son of the boyce named Paul Vignau and Francoise Bourgeois, who was baptised the 3rd February, 1674 at Sainte-Famille, I. O. He was a carpenter who went to Port Royal in the spring of 1701 to work at the construction of the Fort. In the fall of 1701, he married there an Acadian, named Marguerite Comeau, who bore him a numerous family, consisting of eleven children, seven of whom were sons, and all of whom founded families except one who died at an early age.

In the course of the year 1720, Maurice Vignau left Port Royal and settled with his family at eBaubassin (Chignecto) where he died.

III. Jacques James Vignau, better known under the name of Jacques Maurice and also Morice, was born at Port Royal 23rd of November, 1702, of them marriage of Maurice Vignau and Marguerite Comeau. In 1725 he married at eBaubassin, Marguerite Arsenault, daughter of Abraham Arsenault and Jeanne Gaudet. A census, 1755 records him as being at balet Verte, with his wife and three married sons. In the fall of 1755, he was deported to Georgia where in the month of December, two boats landed at Savannah about 400 Acadians who were distributed in the Province in small groups and kept until spring at the expense of the population. The Governor then permitted them to construct boats and, in the month of March 1756, they mostly all left for South Carolina. Two hundred boarded these boats with the hope of reaching their beloved Acadia. Only a few of them arrived at their destination. Seventy eight of them stopped at Long Island (New York) to secure provisions but Governor Hardy kept them from going farther. Others reached Boston, where Lieutenant Governor Phipps kept them from continuing their voyage. Among these were several members of the Vignau family, among others Jacques surmanew Maurice and some of his children.

According to a census taken in Boston on the 14th of August, 1763, of 167 Acadian families comprising 1063 souls then under the Government of the Bay of Massachusetts who wished to return to France, there were seven heads of families by the name of Vignau; Jacques being of the number as well as his son, Jean dit l'Ecrivain (John, the writer).

A month or so later Vignaus and a few other Acadian families among which were some people called Boudret, Bourg, Georgeois, Cyr, Hebert, Leblanc and Theriault; all originally of the district of Chignecto with the exception of the Leblancs (who were formerly of Grand Pree chartered schooners and proceeded to Ile Miquelon. There, the children born and privately baptised in exile were solemnly baptised and their names inscribed on the birth register.

Becoming a widower, Jacques Vignau married about the time of the expulsion, Anne Marguerite Bourgeois, widow of Guillaume Cyr, by whom he had no children. She died at Miquelon "during the night of 11th or 12th November 1770." Jacques Vignau, himself, also died at Miquelon on 10th May 1772 and was buried the following day in the presence of "Pierre Vignau, Jacques Vignau, Joseph Vignau, Abraham Vignau and Jean Vignau all his own children," so says the register.

IV. Jean John Vignau, called the writer was born at Beaubassin on the 23rd October 1734 and was baptised on the same day. He was the son of Jacques Vignau and Marguerite Arsenault. In the beginning of the year 1775, he married Marie Joseph Georgeois. He was also deported to eGorge in the Fall of 1755. We find on the register at Miquelon the birth certificate of four of his children, namely: Etienne, who "was privately baptised by Jacques Hebert at Savannah, Carolina, on the 26th December, 1755, and solemnly baptised by Jacques Vignau at Boston on the 22nd day of June 1758 and solemnly baptised at Miquelon the 26th of December, 1763. Marie who was privately, 1761, and solemnly baptised at Miquelon on the 4th December, 1763. Jean born and baptised at Miquelon on the 20th September 1764.

In 1792 Jean Vignau, called the Writer, left Miquelon and went to Havre-aux-Maisons one of the Madeleine Islands. After this I lose trace of him. Apparently he died there.

V. Jean Vignau born and christened at Miquelon 20th September 1764, son of Jean called the Writer, settled at Arichat where he married Symphonie Richard, born 7th October, 1768, daughter of Jean Richard and Marie Theriault.

VI. Pierre Vignau, son of the above mentioned Jean Vignau and Symphonie Richard was married at Arichat to Thersile LeBlanc, daughter of Hyacinthe.

VII. Etienne Vignau, Captain, son of the above mentioned Pierre Vignau and Thersile LeBlanc was married at Richibucto, Kent County, N. B. 23rd April 1860 to Marie Morel. This couple settled in Picton in 1870.

VIII. Pierre Jean eVniot (Honorable was born at Richibucto on 4th October 1863 and baptised in the village of Richibucto on the following 8th of November. The birth certificate reads that "He is borne of the legitimate marriage of Etienne Vignau and Marie Marrell." He was baptised by the Rev. M. J. Donnelly, curate of the village of Richibucto. In 1870 the future Prime Minister accompanied by his parents who went to reside in Picton Nova Scotia, where a few years later he attended one of the schools of that town. Later, he was admitted to the Picton Academy where he took a course four years and it was then that his professor advised him to adopt the name of Veniot instead of Vignau. In 1878, when he left this institution he was one of the most scholarly of the graduating class which helped him to obtain a position on the Picton Standard as Associate Editor.

While he was working at editing this paper he conveyed the idea of learning the trade of typographer, and four years later in 1882 he left the Picton Standard to join the Moncton Transcript as typographer and news reporter. At this date, Mr. Veniot could not speak French but could read it methodically. Arrived at Moncton, he ardently took up the study of this language which he had not been able to learn at Picton as this town is entirely English.

On the 8th of February 1885, Mr. Veniot married at Soudou Miss Catherine Melanson who bore him a family of six sons, viz.—Clarence J., a doctor and married to Marie Leger; Alfred S., civil engineer, and husband of Jeanne Gaultreau; J. Leonard, dentist and married to Lea Vautour; Walter L., Lieutenant of the 32 battalion in the great war married to Mina Cote; Pierre Jean Jr., called Jack, Lieutenant of the famous 26th battalion, assistant engineer of public roads in New Brunswick and unmarried and Francis P., manager of the Veniot drug store, unmarried.

In 1887, he left Moncton to go to Bathurst N. B., and became chief chief typographer and foreman on the Courrier des Provinces Maritimes. He also became the company's financial secretary. Two years later he took over the editorship of this newspaper and in 1891 he became the owner of the Courier.

In the fall of 1894 at a by-election he was elected member for Gloucester at Fredericton and on May 7th 1900, he was appointed Collector of Customs for the port of Bathurst which position he held until 1911.

In the month of February 1917, he was re-elected member for Gloucester and after a few weeks, he was appointed Minister of Public Works in the Foster administration and assumed office on the 4th April 1917.

The Hon. Mr. eVniot is a brilliant orator. He certainly deserves much credit for having reached the high important and honorable position that he now occupies. If he had wished he could then have become Prime Minister of his native province as the Acadian vote in the provincial elections of 1917 gave him that right. He preferred waiting six years and on the 1st February last, he was sworn in Prime Minister of New Brunswick replacing the Hon. W. E. Foster who had resigned. He keeps his old portfolio; that of Minister of Public Works. No doubt the Hon. Mr. Veniot has been the leader spirit of the Foster administration.

PLACIDE GAUDET.

LOWER PRINCE WILLIAM.

Lower Prince William, March 17—The recent rain has settled the snow considerably and we are reminded that our hard cold winter is nearing a close.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hay of Richmond, Carleton Co., are visiting friends here.

John Clyden who recently purchased the Lounsbury property is confined to his bed through illness. Rev. T. D. Bell who is now serving in the interest of the Home Mission Board will preach in this field next Sunday.

Hayward Kelly has bought a farm in Kingsclear and moved his family from this neighborhood.

Friends have received word from H. L. Lounsbury and family telling of their safe arrival in Madison, Me. Donald Saunders who has been seriously ill with pneumonia is slowly improving.

Miss L. H. Fowler spent Wednesday evening with Miss Edna Miller. The funeral of the late Thomas Kelly took place from his home at Lake George, Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Mr. Cameron Presbyterian clergyman had charge of the service. Mrs. Allan Rosborough is visiting her sister Mrs. Clayden.

The new mail driver Murray Kelly is giving great satisfaction. He goes through all kinds of weather and is very obliging.

The Ladies' Missionary Society propose having a sale and supper in the near future.

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North—What! You have a valet?
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Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made at the next Session of the Legislative Assembly for the passage of an Act to revive and continue the Act of Assembly, Chapter 74, 10 George V., 1920, entitled "An Act to incorporate Fraser Paper Company, Limited," and to revive and continue all the rights, privileges, powers and franchises granted therein to the said Fraser Paper Company, Limited.

Dated this 19th day of February, A. D. 1923.

HANSON & DOUGHERTY,
Solicitors.

Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that a Petition will be made to the Legislative Assembly, praying that a bill may pass and become law providing that Section two (2) of the Consolidated Statutes of New Brunswick, 1903, Chapter 87, shall not apply to the City of Fredericton.

(Sgd.) G. R. PERKINS,
City Clerk.

Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick at the next session thereof for the passing of an Act to incorporate the Southampton Cemetery Company, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a burial ground at the Parish of Southampton, in the County of York.

Dated the nineteenth day of February, A. D. 1923.

C. D. RICHARDS,
Solicitor for Applicants

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