

This is part one of a two part series on researching our Canadian ancestors.

You
live as
long as
you are remembered

Volume 31, Issue 3
September 2011



Ó Canada



Les Filles du Roi

If you have French-Canadian ancestry, you probably have encountered the term "Fillies du Roi" at some point in your genealogy research. Millions of today's Canadians and Americans can find one or more of the Filles du Roi in the family tree. I thought I would explain the term this week and also provide some historical background information.

The French term "Fillies du Roi" translates literally as "the daughters of the King." Between 700 and perhaps 1,000 young, single women traveled to Quebec City, Trois Rivières, and Montreal from 1663 to 1673 as a part of a program managed by the Jesuits and funded by King Louis XIV.

These hardy immigrant women married and raised families. In fact, many of them raised large families in the tradition of the day. Many of their sons and daughters went on to also have large families, and so on and so forth for generations. As a result, millions of living people are descended from this group of pioneer women.

In the mid-1600's, most of the people arriving in what was then called New France were young French men intent on farming or fur trapping. Relatively few women traveled to the new land, which created a problem for these young men: there were very few women of marrying age.

As if the farmers and fur trappers didn't have enough competition finding wives, King Louis XIV sent almost 1,200 soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment to Québec in 1665 to fight the Iroquois Indians, who were aggressive and killed many settlers. The soldiers were deployed at strategic points of the territory to defend the colony and its residents. The regiment was successful, and a peace treaty with the Iroquois was signed on July 10, 1667. The Regiment then returned to France but left behind 400 soldiers and officers, aged between 19 and 30, who all agreed to remain in the country as settlers. With an additional 400 young men added to the colony, the marriage problems worsened. Jean Talon, intendant of New France, carried out the colonies first census. He recorded that the population was a bit more than 3,000, with 719 unmarried males and only 45 unmarried females living in the colony. This did not bode well for the future of

the settlement.

In the custom of the day, the oldest daughter of a family in France received as large a dowry as possible from her parents to improve her chances of marriage. Dowries often included furniture, household articles, silver, land, or other inherited goods. Younger daughters of the same family typically received smaller dowries. Daughters of impoverished families often received no dowry at all, which reduced their chances of finding a suitable mate. These younger daughters were prime candidates for an opportunity in the New World.

Starting in 1663, the French government recruited eligible young French women who were willing to travel to New France to find husbands. The King of France offered to pay for transportation to New France of any eligible young women. He also offered a dowry for each, to be awarded upon her marriage to a young Frenchman. Each woman's dowry typically consisted of 1 chest, 1 taffeta kerchief, 1 ribbon for shoes, 100 needles, 1 comb, 1 spool of white thread, 1 pair of stockings, 1 pair of gloves, 1 pair of scissors, 2 knives, about 1,000 pins, 1 bonnet, 4 laces, a 2 silver Livres (French coins). Many also received chickens, pigs, and other livestock. Because the King of France paid the dowries instead of the parents, these women were referred to as the "Daughters of the King," or "Fillies du Roi."

Their travels must have been difficult. In 1664, the conseil Souverain reported to the French minister for the colonies, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, that sixty of the 300 people who embarked at La Rochelle the previous year had died at sea before reaching New France.

In France Madame Bourdon was made responsible for one hundred and fifty girls whom the king sent to New France in vessels from Normandy. She wrote that the young women in her charge gave her plenty of exercise during such a long voyage since they were of all kinds and conditions. Some were very badly brought up and very difficult to handle. Others were better bred and gave Madame Bourdon more satisfaction.

There are many contradictory stories about the origins of these women. Some stories claim that they were mostly prostitutes who were forced

Continued on page 10

MESA DWELLERS

In Memorandum



Philip Phineas Powers
December 18, 1912 – December 24, 2010

Philip Phineas Powers passed away on December 24, 2010 in Westminster, Colorado. He was 98 years old. Philip was born in Mead, Washington on December 18, 1912 to Phineas Wesley and Jennie (Atkinson) Powers. He spent his childhood on the family ranch in Otter, Montana. He graduated from Sheridan High School in 1933 and eventually attended Washington State University in Pullman, Washington obtaining his B.S. in Mining Engineering. Philip proudly served four years in the Army during WWII, as Captain of his fire-fighting unit, primarily in Northern France. He participated in the Normandy Beach landing on D-Day-plus two. He was awarded the French Crois de Guerre. Philip had been a Grand Junction resident for a total of 37 years and had previously lived in Austin, Texas; Costa Rica; Corpus Christi, Texas, and Cortez, Colorado. Philip was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, AARP, AIME, NARFE, Good Sam's Club and the VFW. He enjoyed bowling and fishing, playing games and the great outdoors, but he especially loved being with his family. Philip met his sweetheart, Carolina (whom survives), while mining in Chile and they married on January 25, 1954 in Peru, South America. Additional survivors are his sons, Bruce of Austin, Texas; Robert of Littleton, Colorado, and Richard of San Jose, Costa Rica; brother, Gil Powers of Otter, Montana; sister, Eleanor Avery of Seattle, Washington, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, John Powers. Philip will be laid to rest at Grand Junction Memorial Gardens on Monday, January 10th at 12:00 p.m.

Published in The Daily Sentinel on January 8, 2011

Philip was a longtime member of the Mesa County Genealogical Society in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Mesa County Genealogical Society, established in 1980, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

Objectives:

1. To promote an interest in genealogy, to encourage and instruct members in the art and practice of genealogical research.
2. To maintain and elevate genealogical standards, to stress the importance of accuracy in research through careful documentation.
3. To locate, preserve and index public and private genealogical records and make such records available to members and the general public.
4. To assist and support any genealogical library in Colorado, which is open to the public.

Society meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Cross Orchards – Orchards View Room, 3073 F Road, 7:00 pm. The monthly Sack Lunch meeting is held in the 2nd floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5th & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4th Wednesday of each month. A Board of Directors meeting will often follow the Sack Lunch meeting from 1pm - 2pm.

Society Officers

President	Dennis Jenkins
Vice President	Iris Krogh
Secretary	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Jill Berthod

Board Members

Jan Wilson	<u>3 year Term</u>
Karen Grew-Ellison	2011-2012-2013
Ron Knapp	2010-2011-2012
	2009-2010-2011

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Assistant Editor	Karen Grew-Ellison
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Membership	Donna Jackson

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29

Annual Dues: \$10 Single - \$12 Family (2 voting family members).

Those with unpaid dues after April 30th of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

Contributions to the *Mesa Dwellers* are encouraged and appreciated and should be neatly typed or written stories, queries, articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Contribution (deadlines): March issue (Feb 15), June issue (May 15), September issue (August 15), December issue (November 15).

Send to: Kathie Vlahos at: mottzart2b@montrose.net or telephone: 970-249-2036.

September 2011 – December 2011 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

8 September 2011	Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Program to be determined.
9 September 2011	Friday 1-4 p.m. at the Fruita Branch Library Help Session.
28 September 2011	Wednesday Noon at Museum: Conference room C. D Smith Building – Wikis (Wikipedia, FamilySearch Wiki, etc.)
7 October 2011	Friday 1-4 p.m. at the Fruita Branch Library Help Session.
13 October 2011	Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Program to be determined.
26 October 2011	Wednesday Noon at Museum: Conference room C. D Smith Building – FamilySearch.org class.
4 November 2011	Friday 1-4 p.m. at the Fruita Branch Library Help Session.
10 November 2011	Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Program to be determined.
2 December 2011	Friday 1-4 p.m. at the Fruita Branch Library Help Session.
8 December 2011	Thursday Noon Annual Christmas Pot Luck.

President's Message

I have been thinking about the many ways members can contribute to the Mesa County Genealogical Society.

Consider serving as an officer or Board member. I am getting ready to appoint the 2011 Nominating Committee. They will be expected to come up with a slate of officers for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a new Board member before our election in February 2012. As is usually the case these nominations are the hardest to fill each year. I am hoping that some of you will consider serving the Society in this manner by letting the nominating committee know that you are ready to serve.

We also have many committees in which you might be able to serve. As President I assign committee chairs and then that person can also ask other members to help serve on their committee. Please consider committees that you would like to offer your help. Current committees include Programs, Newsletter, Librarians, Archivist/Historian, Membership, Webmaster, Parliamentarian and Research. As chair of the Program committee, I would like to see more members get involved with researching a topic and presenting it as a program to the Society. You can also suggest topics or speakers.

Another way that you can help serve your society is volunteering to type in current obits into the Obituary Database at Mesa County Public Library. Our society members have worked on this ongoing project since the 1980's.

Recently a new project was started involving the committee that worked on the Beginner Classes. They will be offering monthly research help sessions at the Fruita Branch of the Mesa County Public Library. This may offer additional opportunities for members to volunteer to help.

I am looking for a couple members to help me put together a Mesa County Resource book. Let me know if you would like to work on this project that will show the genealogical research resources available in Mesa County.

Dennis Jenkins, MCGS President

Ò Canada: An Introduction to Canadian Research

When French and English settlers began to colonize Canada, it was already inhabited by various Native American peoples. The settlers frequently married these native people or sought them out for missionary work,

Colonization between the French and British continued, but France lost nearly all of its Canadian possessions to the British in 1763, including Quebec. Because it was a French colony until 1763, Quebec has a separate history with different laws and methods of record keeping than the British colonies.

Canada developed over many decades from British colonies into an independent nation that is part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The year 1867 is particularly important because New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Canada East (Quebec), and Canada West (Ontario) were united to form the Dominion of Canada.

Settlers also came from the United States during the American Revolutionary War and after the United States formally gained its independence from Britain in 1783. These settlers were known as Loyalists.

Canadian immigrants in the nineteenth century included Scots, Irish, Welsh, Germans, Ukrainians, and other ethnic groups. Its population remains as diverse today as the inhabitants that founded it over two hundred years ago, and for the Canadian genealogist, the various research venues are valuable and extensive.

Many of the important Canadian records are accessible at the National Archives of Canada (NAC) and the National Library of Canada (NLC), and the various provincial archives. Many archives have Web sites describing their holdings, and some allow interlibrary loan of materials. Also, a large body of Canadian records is available on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL) Salt Lake City or now digitized copies at their web site: www.familysearch.org. Microfilm from the FHL can be ordered at branch family history centers around the world, the addresses of which may be found on the LDS Family Search Web site, www.familysearch.org.

Four Canadian sources important to most research are censuses, church records, civil registration, and land records. In reference books and journals you will find a wide variety of other record types available for Canadian research.

Census Records

Canadian censuses were taken every ten years beginning in 1851, but the 1916 census is the last census available to the public. Some areas of Canada are not covered by the surviving 1841 and 1851 census returns, and others areas have census records from even earlier dates. These census records are available at the NAC, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>, and the FHL on microfilm or digitally at www.familysearch.org. The census from 1851 and later lists each member of the household and includes ethnic origin and religion. Canadian censuses are not indexed, except for the 1871 census of Ontario, which was indexed by county.

Church Records

Church records are important tools for much Canadian research, although the information varies by denomination, time period, and locality. You may be able to locate birth places, parent's names, occupations, residences, names of baptismal sponsors (godparents), and marriage witnesses. The major sources of information for most churches are parish registers of baptisms/births, marriages, and burials/deaths. If your ancestors lived only transiently in an area and were not there in a census year, church records can be used to isolate the specific place in which they resided. For example, many immigrants lived briefly in Ontario or Quebec before coming to the United States. Finding a baptismal record for a child born in Ontario or Quebec can identify where the family lived and allow other records to be searched.

If you are unsure of your family's religious affiliation, you may determine it if you know their ethnic background. For example, Presbyterianism is often Scottish, Roman Catholicism is often French, and Eastern Orthodoxy or Eastern Catholicism is often Ukrainian.

There were many religious denominations in what is now Canada. Several of the largest are the Anglican Church of Canada, the Roman Catholic Church, and the United Church of Canada. It is helpful to learn something of the history and evolution of the denominations being researched. For example, Scots-Irish (Ulster Presbyterian) immigrants may have belonged to several divisions of Presbyterianism, including the Church of Scotland and the Reformed Presbyterian church. The search for church records is then complicated by not knowing what kind of Presbyterian they were. Additionally, mergers up until the present time may affect where records are now found. The present-day United Church of Canada is a merger of several denominations.

Anglican Church of Canada

The Anglican Church of Canada is part of the Anglican communion-churches that have their roots in the Church of England. In Ireland, the equivalent church is the Church of Ireland. Members of the Church of England and the Church of Ireland brought their religion with them to the British North American colonies. In the British colonies that eventually formed Canada, the denomination was known as the Church of England in Canada and is now called the Anglican Church of Canada. The church is organized on a parish and diocesan basis. Each parish has a rector (or parish priest), and each diocese is administered by a bishop. Each Anglican diocese in Canada has archives with varying amounts of material about local parishes.

Roman Catholic Church

Many Catholic parish registers, particularly for Quebec and Ontario, are available on microfilm or digitally at the FHL. If you are tracing French-Canadian ancestors, the Quebec marriage registers will form the backbone of your research. These registers give great detail, including the names and residences of the parents of both bride and groom. There are several indexes to Quebec Catholic marriages; the most common is the Loiselle Index, which can be viewed on microfilm or digitally from the FHL. A more comprehensive index for the period 1760-1935 was compiled by the Drouin Institute (Repertoire alphabetique des mariages des Canadiens Francais 1760-1935. Longueuil, Quebec: Institut Genealogique Drouin) or also on Ancestry at www.ancestry.com. Copies of the Drouin Index 1760-1935 are in the Salle Gagnon, Montreal Public Library, and in some U.S. Genealogical libraries such as the American-French Genealogical Society in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, Massachusetts.

United Church of Canada

In 1925, the United Church of Canada was formed through a union of the Methodist Church (Canada), most of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the Congregational Churches of Canada. The Canada Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church joined the United Church of Canada in 1968. Local church records of the uniting denominations are being collected by the United Church of Canada archives network. Many local church records are still kept by the local churches; however, start the search for old records in the appropriate archives. The various regional archives are described in the Committee on Archives and History, The United Church of Canada's book, *Guide to Family History Research in the Archival Repositories of the United Church of Canada* (Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996); and on the United Church of Canada Archives Network web site, <http://www.canuckster.com/profile.asp?key=21861>.

Civil Registration

What are usually called "vital records" in the United States are generally known as "civil registration" of births, deaths, and marriages in other English-speaking countries, including Canada. The date at which civil registration begins varies by province. An excellent article describing civil registration and how to access the records for each province or territory is Fawne Starfor-Devai's "Records of Birth, Marriage and Death in Canada: Civil Registration" can be accessed in the *Global Gazette* at <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazfd/gazfd71e.htm>

Land Records

Many immigrants came to North America because they saw an opportunity to own land. Beginning in 1879, to encourage settlement in the western areas of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, the Canadian government offered potential settlers 160 acres of land for a \$10.00 fee. To receive the patent, the applicant had to meet certain criteria. Many settlers came from the United States into the Canadian homestead areas to take advantage of the available land. Questions on homestead records ask for the applicant's country of birth, subdivision of country of birth, last place of residence, and previous occupation.

Land records often predate censuses, and they can help date an immigrant's arrival and trace immigrant origins. Some types of land

records provide birth places or places of last residence, while others provide the basic clues to continue the search in other records. Land records can also pinpoint places of residence in Canada. With the advent of indexing projects, there are new research strategies available.

Canadian land records vary according to province, but there are five general types:

1. Records showing transfer of land from the government or Crown to the first patentees, usually in national or provincial offices or repositories.
2. Subsequent transactions, usually in local land registry land title offices.
3. Indexes-both original official indexes and historical and genealogical compilations.
4. Maps showing boundaries of land holdings and names of owners or occupiers.
5. Records of taxes on lands (assessment and collectors' rolls) that provide the legal description of the property.

Canadian land records are filed in a number of places, including county courthouses, provincial archives and libraries, and national archives, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>. Some Canadian land records are available through FHL, www.familysearch.org.

Basic Steps

- Do some background reading about Canadian history, which will be helpful when you begin to use Canadian Records.
- Get some good books about genealogy in Canada and the provinces you are interested in, and read through them to gain a sense of Canadian genealogy.
- Use the vast resources of the Internet to help you access and understand Canadian records.
- At your local LDS Family History Center utilize the large number of Canadian records you can get on loan from the Family History Library and at their website.
- Join a Canadian genealogical society, read its journal, and enlist its help with your research

Canadian Record Holdings at the Family History Library

Family History Library
35 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT, 84150
www.familysearch.org

1. Canadian censuses, 1851 – 1916 and some earlier, published indexes
 2. Catholic Church registers for Ontario and Quebec, and published abstracts and indexes
 3. Land Records, such as land grants and homestead records
 4. Inward passenger lists beginning in 1865
 5. Outward border crossings into the United States beginning in 1895
 6. Quebec genealogical dictionaries such as those by Tanguay and Jetté
 7. Quebec marriage indexes by Louiselle and Rivest
 8. Ontario Province-wide civil registration (vital records) from 1869 onward
- Your Canadian Research Library

Sourcing Canada: Genealogy Addresses, by Elizabeth Barclay-Lapointe, (Buckingham Press, 1997).

For each province, this book lists genealogical societies, public archives, church archives, libraries, historical societies, and museums. Addresses, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web site addresses, and hours of operation are given, in addition to a brief description of holdings. Details regarding the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada are given at the front of the book.

In Search of Your Canadian Roots, Tracing Family Tree in Canada, 3rd ed., by Angus Baxter, (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1999). This is the most widely available introduction to Canadian research and serves the beginner well in getting started with Canadian records and repositories.

Here be Dragons! Navigating the Hazards Found in Canadian Family Research: A Guide for Genealogist with Some Uncommon Useful Knowledge, by Althea Douglas, (Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996).

The Canadian Genealogical Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to Finding Your Ancestors in Canada, 2nd ed., by Eric Jonasson. (Winnipeg: Wheatfield Press, 1978). Though outdated, this book contains excellent discussion of Canadian source material.

Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada, 12 ed., by National Archives of Canada, (Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, 1997). When researching in a particular province, use one or more of the provincial research guides, such as Brenda Merriman's guide to research in Ontario. You would also do well to join a provincial society and subscribe to its journal to keep current on the latest resources.

You also have the benefit of two free reference sources on the Internet:

- *Global Gazette*, a biweekly newsletter available at www.globalgazette.net. The back issue list of Global Gazette can be searched by topic, author, or keyword. This list contains many freely accessible articles about Canada and individual provinces.
- Research outlines for each of the Canadian provinces detailing sources at the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City may be found on their web site: www.familysearch.org under "custom Search".

Written by Kyle J. Betit, professional genealogist, author, and lecturer of numerous articles and specializes in Irish and Canadian research for Ancestry.com, Published May 1, 2000 and posted by Ancestry.com Learning Pages. Copyright 2000 by ancestry.com and is re-published here with the permission of ancestry.com

Canadian Websites to Move You Forward in Your Research

For Many holdings in one spot a good place to start is the Library and Archives of Canada:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

Within their holdings online are:

Censuses - 1851 to 1916

Upper Canada Land Petitions. Petitions for grants or leases of land by individual who lived in Ontario 1763 – 1865

Upper Canada Land Board. Created to oversee land matters and facilitate settlement in the districts of Hesse, Luneburg, Mecklenburg and Nassau, 1765 – 1804.

Canadian Families Online Database. Researchers can access references to baptisms, marriages and burials inscribed in the Church records held at the Library and Archives of Canada.

Pre-Confederation Official Publication. Guide to vast collection of federal and provincial publications which were published prior to 1867.

Medals, Honors and Awards. 113, 000 references to medal registers, citation cards and records of various military awards.

American-French Genealogical Society: www.AFGS.org

Veterans Affairs Canada, WWI Veterans: www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem/details&casualty=59646

University of Montreal: www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/nomsprenoms.htm

Canadian Genealogical sites

Submitted by Karen Grew-Ellison

Archives of Manitoba: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/>

Automated Genealogy: <http://www.automatedgenealogy.com>

The Canadian County Digital Atlas Project: <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>

Images Canada: <http://imagescanada.ca/>

Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics: <http://www.novascotiagenealogy.com/>

Our Roots: <http://www.ourroots.ca/>

That's my family: <http://www.thatsmyfamily.info/>

CanGenealogy: Immigration: <http://www.cangenealogy.com/immigration.html>

Canada's Online Atlas

When researching ancestors in Canada, you may find records that state they lived in Upper Canada or in Lower Canada. Where are those places? The Atlas of Canada can tell you.

Natural Resources Canada has a Web site with many maps, including today's political divisions, ecology, rivers, population, agriculture, mining, climate change, relief maps and much more. However, genealogist will be attracted to the Map Archives and historical maps.

When you first see a map, it typically shows all of present-day Canada. However, using the mouse, you can click on points in the map to zoom in and out. You can also pan to the east, west, north or south. I was able to zoom in until small areas of just a few miles across were displayed on the screen. The 1823 map also shows the locations of all Hudson's Bay Company Posts and King's Post Company locations, as well as other trader's locations and all significant European settlements. Best of all it is easy to print any of the maps on your printer.

Natural Resources Canada has provided a valuable service to genealogist and others. If you have Canadian ancestry, you will be interested in this site. You may enjoy exploring Canada's history by using these maps. The dates range from 1867 to 1999 and you can click on individual map dates to get the territorial changes and history of that particular year or span of years. This is a valuable tool when researching your ancestors to get a better idea of what the Canadian territory was like in their time period.

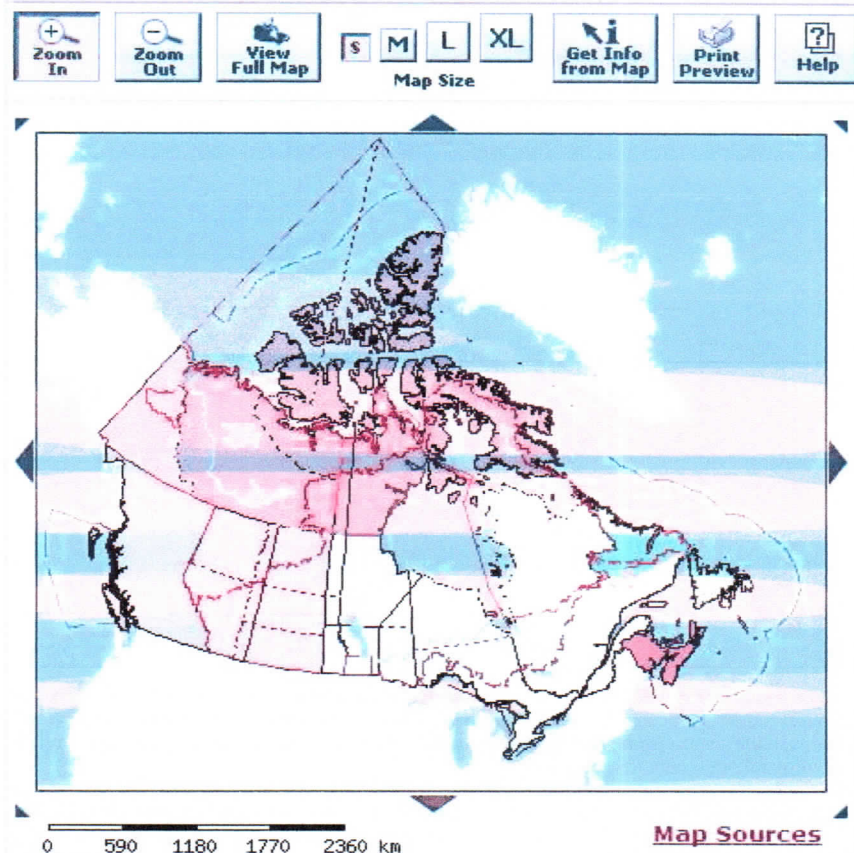
Atlas of Canada can be accessed at <http://atlas.gc.ca>.

See example of map on page 9

Posted by Dick Eastman on 5 August 2010

This article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2010 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com>

Territorial Evolution, 1867 to 1999



Abstract

Canada had a relatively small area when created in 1867, but it then expanded greatly to become, by area, the second largest country in the world. This map is a composite of 18 Atlas maps which show territorial changes at specific times during the period 1867 to 1999. Not only did Canada as a whole expand over time, but also most of the provinces expanded their areas: only two provinces (New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) had their present boundaries as of Confederation (1867). The boundaries and names of the territories also changed over time; one of the three existing territories, Nunavut, was created as recently as 1999.

[Read more about this map](#)

Provincial and Territorial Boundaries by Year

	1867
	1870
	1874
	1876
	1881
	1882
	1886
	1889
	1895
	1897
	1898
	1901
	1912
	1920
	1925
	1927
	1973
	1999

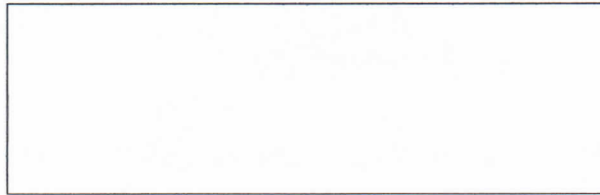
Respective Year for the Acquisition of Present-day Borders

	1867
	1871
	1873
	1898
	1905
	1912
	1949
	1999

Boundaries

	EEZ (200 mile)
	Canada / Kalaallit Nunaat Dividing Line
	International
	Provincial / Territorial (1999)

Mesa County Genealogical Society
www.gjmesa.com/mcgs
P.O. Box 1506
Grand Junction, CO
81502-1506



Continued from page 1

onto ships in French harbors and sent to New France against their will. Other stories claim that these women were mostly recruited by Jesuits who insisted upon accepting only women of the finest moral character. The truth is probably somewhere between these two extremes. About 40 Daughters, called Daughters of Quality (filles de qualité), were from wealthy upper class families and had dowries of over 2000 French pounds. Several of the Daughters of Quality have provable descents from royalty.

On October 27, 1667, in a letter to Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Quebec intendant Jean Talon confirmed the recent arrival of the first young ladies. Jean Talon wrote: *"Instead of the 50 that your dispatch had me hope for, 84 young girls were sent from Dieppe and 25 from La Rochelle. There are fifteen or twenty from quite good families; several are real young ladies and quite well brought up..."*

The vast majority of the group was of French Origin, although there were girls of other nationalities as well. According to the records of Marie de l'Incarnation, who knew many of these women, there were among them one Moor, one Portuguese, one German, and one Dutch woman.

Those who arrived safely usually found husbands within a few weeks. In fact, there are records of some of the young women marrying within days after their arrival in New France. Since many of them produced large families, hundreds of thousands – if not millions – of people in North America today can find one or more of these young women in their family tree.

You can find a lot more information about the Filles du Roi on the World Web. Some of the better sites include the following list:

A Scattering of Seeds: The Creation of Canada: <http://www.whitepinepictures.com/seeds/i/12/sidebar.html>

An essay by Peter Gagné on Quintin Publications' Web site: <http://www.quintinpublications.com/fdr/html>

La Société des Filles du Roi et soldats du Carignan at: <http://www.fillesduroi.org/>

A chart of origins of the young women may be found at The Musée de la civilisation and the Musée de l'Amérique française: http://www.mcq.org/histoire/filles_du_roi/plan.html

If you do not speak French, the above sites can be translated into English by using the machine-generated translation services available at Google. The results will be grammatically incorrect and even humorous at times, but still quite readable. There are many other Web sites devoted to the Filles du Roi. Use your favorite search engine to find them.

Posted by Dick Eastman on 27 December, 2009

This article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2009 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com>