

MELOCHE LEGACY



*A Meloche Family History dating
back to the year 1575*

*Extracts from a book prepared by
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from Detroit, Michigan*

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Ancestors & Relatives of François Meloche the Canadian

The Meloche ancestors in this section are arranged by generation, counting forward from the earliest Meloche we have discovered.

First Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1575-1650?

This is the Generation of the “earliest identified, but unnamed Meloche”

Father of Michel, grandfather of François, great-grandfather of François the Canadian. This Meloche probably settled in le Bourdet and was about the same age as Cardinal Richelieu. Interesting fact: Richelieu was a minor nobility from a small town in nearby Poitou. Did this Meloche come from Scotland in 1567 after Mary, Queen of Scots, was deposed...or in 1590 after she was executed? Was there a “McLoch”, “Moloch” or “Molloch” clan which disappeared about 1587-1590? This is purely speculation.

Until February of 1995, we knew nothing of the Meloches in this generation. As a result of diligent research by Jean Deveau, we learned about Michel Meloche and Marie Chauvigneau. Thus was created this new First Generation - that of the father of Michel, the earliest recorded Meloche. Jean Deveau has a theory that this Meloche is Andre, a mill operator of le Bourdet identified by Mr. Deveau. We have no verification at this time.

By the time this unnamed Meloche was born, the religious wars that had ravaged France, especially in the west, were moderating. Henry of Navarre ascended to the throne of France as Henry IV (1589-1610). He had forsaken protestantism and adopted Catholicism for political reasons, yet he remained sympathetic toward the Huguenots. Under his leadership, France became united and a period of peace followed.

It's unlikely that the Meloches were Huguenots, as there are no records to this effect. On the contrary, there are numerous Catholic Church records for this generation and the many which came later.

Generation One

I. (?) Meloche

At present, we do not know the name of the father of Michel Meloche of le Bourdet. Jean Deveau has a theory that this Meloche is Andre, a merchant who contracted with Marc Picard, a master carpenter from Niort, to construct a water mill at le Bourdet in July of 1597.

Andre would have been about the right age, although there were more than one Meloche families in the area at this time.

Meloches also lived at Epannes, Mauze-sur-le-Mignon, St-Georges-Rex, St-Hilaire-la-Palud and Usseau during this period. Only Epannes had more Meloche families than at le Bourdet. So, it is possible that Michel's father could have come from Epannes or elsewhere, but it is unlikely. Church records give the impression that there was very little migration from town-to-town from one generation to the next. And this Meloche's son and grandchildren were from le Bourdet.

Andre is referred to in the construction contract as a “master miller of Bourdet”, so he must have already been established at le Bourdet when he built his mill; born circa 1575 at France.



This is how the mill of André Meloche looks today. The structure is in remarkable condition considering its age — over four hundred years old !

Second Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1600-1675?

This is the Generation of the “earliest recorded Meloche”, Michel Meloche probably of le Bourdet. He was grand father of François the Canadian.

There is no evidence that Michel was a Huguenot, and we can assume that he was a merchant, like his son after him.

During this generation, while Michel lived at nearby Frontenay, Richelieu mounted the siege of La Rochelle. Over a prolonged period, the populace of La Rochelle was decimated and eventually forced to submit to the Cardinal's forces.

We have evidence that Michel had only one son, named François. There is some significance to the fact that two of his daughters married at La Rochelle, not at the parish church. One of these, Madeleine, was married to a “*M. Sargettier*” (a military person) at La Rochelle about 1700. We are looking into this.

In 1660, the population of France was about 19 million, of which about 860,000 were Huguenots. Saintonge and Poitou were largely Protestant provinces. In 1659, a major Protestant synod was held at Loudon, not far from the villages of our ancestors.

In 1685, when peace was concluded with Spain, soldiers returning to the countryside were deliberately billeted with Protestants in Poitou, Saintonge & Aunis. This resulted in sacking and pillaging, burned property and books, torture and violence.

After the death of Mazarin in 1661, Louis XIV, the Sun King, began his reign. He went to great lengths to convert the Huguenots, proclaiming the Edict of Fontainebleau on October 17th, 1685. This revoked the Edict of Nantes and resulted in the Huguenot persecutions being resumed. Once again the Huguenots fled in large numbers (200,000 and more) to other countries in Europe as well as England and America.

Family for the Second Generation.

2. Michel Meloche

Michel probably lived in le Bourdet, Deux Sevres (Godbout). LDS says born c.1605.

All we know about this earliest Meloche is that he was married, and had at least five children. He also lived in a very interesting and important time for France.

People were tied to the soil or to the cities at that time, so we can infer that he lived in the area of Aunis, Saintonge or southern Poitou like his offspring, for whom we have better records. Archange Godbout's text indicates that he probably lived around Bourdet, in the region of Deux Sevres.

The major city of the region. La Rochelle, was conceded by treaty to the Huguenots in 1573 and had developed into quite a center of resistance to the Crown. So in 1627, about the time this Meloche was having his second child, the king sent Cardinal Richelieu to recover the city for the Royalists. Richelieu's army found the city to be impenetrable, and accepted its reluctant surrender only after a two-year blockade that broke the Huguenot army's spirit and destroyed most of La Rochelle's populace. It is doubtful that Michel Meloche was a Huguenot, since there is no indication that he was even minor nobility. His son was a merchant, so he probably had a similar profession; born circa 1600 at France; married Marie Chauvigneau circa 1620 at France.

Marriage Note: Two correspondents say he was married to “Michelle Clavier.”

Children of François Meloche and Marie Chauvignau were as follow:

François Meloche

Hilaire Meloche

Madeleine Meloche

Margerite Meloche

Anne Meloche

Third Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1625-1700?

This is the Generation of François Meloche, the fish merchant of Frontenay Abattu. He was the father of François the Canadian.

He also earned a living as a *voitureur* (delivery man) in this same village, known today as Frontenay Rohan-Rohan.

This area of western France is known today as “the Venice of the North” or “the green Venice” because of the intricate network of rivers and canals which honeycombs the region. In the time of François, travel from village to village was by boat, or “bateau.” The *Marais Poitevin* stretched from west of St-Hilaire-la-Palud, to well east of Frontenay l’Abattu, and thousands of kilometers of man-made canals were the avenues of commerce. Even cattle were transported from village to village in these small boats. By controlling water flow in the freshwater rivers of the area, like the Mignon, areas of rich soil for farming alternated with canals for transportation. The farmland was called *les marais desséchés* (drained marshes), and the vast network of canals was referred to as *les marais mouillés* (wet marshes). Remnants of these canals remain in the twenty-first century, and are used for recreation. Bicycle paths and hiking trails parallel many of the canals, offering easy access to the villages of our ancestors. The original church of St-Pierre in Frontenay l’Abattu was established in 1015. However, the church suffered greatly during the Hundred Years War, and again during the Wars of Religion. Portions of the present church date back to the twelfth century, but most of what we see today was built in the 1500s. The date on the tower bell is 1537.

François married twice, and a controversy as to the correct mother of his son François *the Canadian*, has developed over the years. This book will make a case for François second wife, Therese Hernu, being the mother of *the Canadian*. Things are complicated further by the fact that this elder François and his wife Therese had two sons named François!

Generation Three

3. **François Meloche**

(Michel, (?)); At the time of his second marriage in 1663, François lived in the area of the village of Bourdet, in the region of Saintonge. He was a merchant then and afterwards was a “voiturier” or delivery man in the village of Frontenay l’Abattu, site of present-day Frontenay Rohan-Rohan. His profession is listed as “poissonnier” (fish merchant) in the last will and testament of Therese Hernu. He was married twice, first to Marie Pelloquin, sometimes written “Bloquin” as it is pronounced. Many records list his son François, later of Montreal and Lachine, as a child of this first marriage. But, until original records at La Rochelle can be verified, we will abide by the most prevalent data and consider young François to be the offspring of this François and Therese Hernu.

When François married Therese Hernu, witnesses were Michel Morin (his sister Hilaire’s husband), Gabriel Laydet (his sister Madeleine’s husband) and his sister Anne; born circa 1625; married Marie Pelloquin, daughter of Adrian Pelloquin and Anne LeMaitre, 1657 at France; married Therese Hernu, daughter of Masse Hernu and Mathurine Mallet, 14 Apr 1663 at France; died 14 May 1696 at Frontenay-l’Abattu, France; buried 14 May at Frontenay

Occupation: Poissonnier.

Children of François Meloche and Thérèse Hernu were as follow:

Judith Meloche
Anne Meloche
Françoise Meloche
Marie Meloche
François Meloche
Renée Meloche
François Meloche
Louis Meloche

Fourth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1674-1750?

*This is the Generation of François Meloche
the Canadian.*

He earned a living as a *laboureur* (contract plowman, teamster) and probably owned his own team of oxen. Like his father, he plied his trade in Frontenay l'Abattu.

François emigrated to America between 1695 and 1699, probably in the company of his cousin, Yves Pinet.

Primary bases of operation for French exploration of North America were Quebec and Montreal. During the time of French rule here, only about 10,000 people emigrated from France, and most of them were indentured servants, soldiers or prisoners. About 500 came as free, uncommitted individuals. One of these was François, the Canadian.

Thirty years earlier, King Louis XIV had sent about 800 poor girls to the New World as wives for the settlers. One of these was Anne Dodin, future mother-in-law of François.

When François arrived in the New World, he found two cities, Quebec and Montreal, carved out of the wilderness. He also quickly found a new wife and established himself as an *habitant* (settler/ farmer) and a factor or *bourgeois* (fur trade businessman).

Voyageurs from Quebec and Montreal paddled large freight canoes to Fort Michilimackinac via the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay. They avoided the southern Great Lakes, which were controlled by the Iroquois, who were friendly with the British. Five of François' sons were voyageurs who traveled primarily to Michilimackinac and Detroit, with an occasional trip to la Baie (Green Bay, Wisconsin) or Riviere St. Joseph (Niles, Michigan).

We do not know much about François' emigration to North America. Was this a flight to the new world because of some problem with the old? What was his voyage like? Why did he emigrate? Did he ever return to France? There are many unanswered questions.

Generation Four

15 François Meloche

LDS resources say that his name was "Joseph François". Records indicate that François was one of only three sons of François Meloche of Saintonge. And younger brother Louis died at the age of seven. This could account for the scarcity of Meloches in France today.

He was also the first Meloche in North America, having endured the three month trip from La Rochelle sometime between 1695 and 1699.

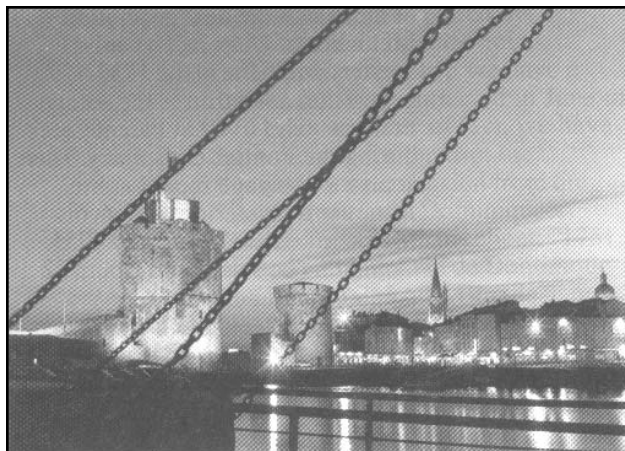
François was a "labourer" or contract plowman in France and most likely continued that trade in the Montreal area, probably indentured to a Seigneur, as was the custom of the time.

Although François married Marie in the city of Montreal and his first son, Pierre, was baptized there in 1701, the family must have moved to Lachine sometime before 1704. Church records there indicate next son Jean Baptiste was christened at Sainte-Ange 23 April 1704.

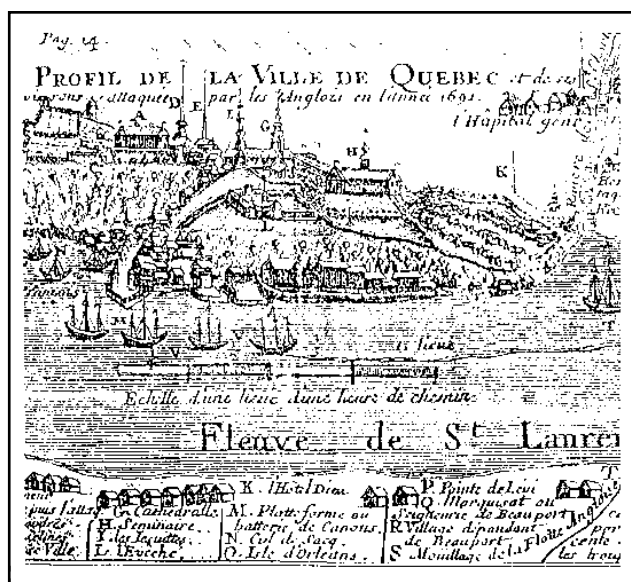
A record of the notary Adhemar indicates that François Meloche and his wife sold something in Montreal, possibly property, to the Freres Hospitaliers on 4 October 1702. Did they sell their holdings in Montreal in anticipation of moving to Lachine or beyond?

Lachine is located at the far western end of the island and was a popular point of departure for canoe expeditions to the western outposts.

Iroquois raids had inflicted much grief on the Lachine community in the past, but, by this time, it was generally a safe place to live. Early land records of the area indicate that François was the first to build a home there after the Iroquois raids. From this strategic position on Lac St-Louis, he managed a fur trading business that supplemented his income as a "habitant" farmer.



The harbor towers of La Rochelle are the last things François Meloche saw as he left France for the New World



Profile of Quebec city in 1691, a sight similar to the one that might have seen François Meloche on his arrival in New-France

François' greatest claim to fame is that he is responsible for most or all of the Meloche offspring in the United States and Canada today. His eldest son Pierre eventually settled at Detroit and is the progenitor of most Meloches of the Great Lakes area and beyond. His remaining sons, seven in all, are the ancestors of most of the Meloches of Quebec, Eastern Ontario, the Maritimes, northern New York state and New England.

Five of his eight sons were voyageurs, piloting giant canoes from Montreal to destinations as far away as Michillimackinac, Green Bay, Lake Winnipeg and the Illinois River; born 11 Oct 1676 at Notre-Dame-de-Cognes, La Rochelle; married Marie Mouflet dit Champagne /Rousset, daughter of Jean Mouflet dit Champagne and Anne Bodin, 25 Oct 1700 at Notre-Dame, Montreal, QC; died 12 Sep 1741 at Lachine, QC, at age 64; buried 14 Sep 1741 at St-Ange, Lachine, QC.

Occupation: Laboureur.

He immigrated circa 1696 to Quebec.

Children of François Meloche and Marie Mouffet were as follow:

Pierre Meloche
Jean Baptiste Meloche
Marie Anne Meloche
Marie Josephte Meloche
Joseph Marie Meloche
François Meloche
Dominique Meloche
Antoine Meloche
Pierre Simon Meloche
Jacques Meloche

Fifth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1701-1775?

*This is the Generation of the children of
François Meloche the Canadian.*

Because I am the direct descendant of his first-born, I will call this the generation of Pierre, important first citizen of Detroit. As soon as he was old enough to strike out on his own, he went to Fort Pontchartrain at Detroit. His future wife, Marie Caron, followed soon after, and they were wed at Ste-Anne Church in 1729. Second-oldest brother Jean-Baptiste disappeared before he could establish himself anywhere. And the remaining children of François settled in the areas - surrounding Montreal. This is also the generation of the *voyageurs*. Many of the sons and grandsons of François *The Canadian* were voyageurs.

Meloche Settlements: Where Were the Meloches in 1701-1775?



In this generation, one son of François settles in Detroit, and his brothers and sisters spread out to the villages surrounding Montreal, mainly to Lacine, Pointe-Claire and Ste-Geneviève



*The mission House at l'Assomption
was built of lumber supplied by the Meloche Family*

Generation Five

22 Joseph Marie Meloche

(François, François, Michel, (?)); Joseph, like four of his brothers, was a voyageur.

However, we find only one contract bearing his name, dated 31 May 1744. He is “engagé” to Messrs Marin, de Laperrière & Dequindre for a trip to Michillimackinac. This is the same trip also agreed to by brother François Meloche and brother-in-law François Cardinal. If the expedition left promptly, Joseph would leave his wife to care for their newborn daughter alone. It’s interesting to speculate what Joseph Marie did for a living. Most men of that time and region tended farms for sustenance, and many signed on as voyageurs to earn extra money. He must have been very good at whatever he did, because, on 27 May 1763, it was recorded that he held 5,204 livres in Canadian currency. That’s almost seven-and-a-half times as much as the amount held by next older brother Dominique, who had struck out on his own at about the same time as Joseph Marie; born 1714 at Lachine, QC; married Marie-Marguerite Picard, daughter of Jean Gabriel Picard and Marie Madeleine Rapin, 25 Feb 1743 at Lachine, QC; died 26 Apr 1774 at Ste-Genevieve-de-Pierrefonds, QC; buried 27 Apr 1774 at Ste-Genevieve.

Marriage Note: Some records say married “25 Jan.”

Children of Joseph Marie Meloche and Marie Marguerite Picard were as follow:

Marie Josephte Meloche
Marie Madeleine Meloche
Marguerite François Meloche
Joseph Meloche
François Meloche

Sixth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1730-1800?

*This is the Generation of the grandsons of
François Meloche the Canadian.*

Meloche Settlements:

Where Were the Meloches in 1730-1800?



By 1790, all of the Meloche families of Detroit had emigrated to the Canadian side (the South Shore) of the Detroit River, except one, the family of Jean-Baptiste. Yet, before he died in 1820, Jean-Baptiste would move to Fort Wayne, Indiana, then return to Detroit.

The Montreal grandsons of François continued to settle at Ste-Genevieve, Lachine or Dorval (*La Presentation*). A granddaughter, Marie-Josepthe, daughter of Antoine Meloche dit Livernois, however, had bigger plans. Shortly after her marriage, she and her husband endured the very long trip to Ft. Vincennes (Indiana) and settled there.

Another Meloche pioneer in Indiana was Jean-Baptiste Meloche. A life-long resident of Detroit, he was the only Meloche to stay on the North Shore in the latter years of British rule and after the American occupation. It seems strange that he and his spouse would go to Ft. Wayne in their later years. However, they returned to Detroit before 1820 and died there.

Generation Six

46 **François Meloche**

(Joseph, François, Michel, (?)); Some records say buried “10 Aug 1832” at “St-Benoit;” born 19 Jun 1752 at Ste-Genevieve; married Françoise Dufour dit Latour, daughter of Charles Dufour dit Latour and Françoise Drouin, 16 Feb 1778 at Notre-Dame, Montreal; died 2 Jul 1831 at age 79; buried 4Jul 1831 at Ste-Genevieve-de-Pierrefonds, QC.

Occupation: Labourer.

Children of François Meloche and Françoise Dufour were as follow:

Françoise Meloche
François Meloche
Charles Meloche
Marguerite Meloche
Joseph Meloche
Véronique Meloche
Jean Baptiste Meloche
Hyacinthe Meloche
Antoine Meloche
Rosalie Meloche



Vince Meloche of LaSalle, Ontario is dressed in the manner of the voyageur. Like the voyageur he is small in stature and powerfully built. The voyageur got that way after many miles of paddling and portages.

Seventh Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1755-1825?

*This is the Generation of **upheaval and war**.
The Revolution was to change the face of
France forever.*

Detroit burned to the ground in 1805 and had to be completely rebuilt. And the War of 1812 pitted Britain against the United States with Canada as a rather unwilling participant. In 1791, French Canada became Lower Canada, roughly the lower portion of today's Quebec. English Canada became Upper Canada, essentially modern Ontario. Unfortunately, this isolated the French-speaking Meloches of western and southern Upper Canada.

The few Meloche families that continued to develop in France were definitely affected by the turmoil of Napoleon's war.

The effect on the Meloche family during the War of 1812, however, was truly amazing. There were Meloches serving on both sides, and a few who varied their allegiance as the tide of victory moved back and forth. Francis O. Meloche of Monroe served in the Michigan Militia, plus many Meloches from the South Shore were in the Essex militia. When Hull surrendered Detroit to the British forces supported by Tecumseh, Meloche cousins stood face-to-face.

This generation witnessed the first uses of the name "Jolicoeur" as an alternative to "Meloche". François Meloche dit Jolicoeur was the first to use this variant.

Out of 58 families in the seventh generation, 15 families had 10 children or more.

Simon Meloche had 16 children.

Pierre Meloche had 18 children (2 wives).

The first recorded deaths due to cholera appear in this generation. See *Appendix M* to learn about plagues, epidemics and other natural catastrophes which affected our ancestors.

Notable Meloches in this Generation:

Antoine Meloche "dit Camarade" was tried for treason (taking service with the enemy) at Sandwich during the War of 1812 and held in jail until the War was practically over.

Pierre Meloche, Antoine's cousin, was a resident of Cleveland at the time of its founding in 1802. He later served as a guide for the U.S. military, and was instrumental in evacuating a French settlement from the Maumee River to the area of Sandusky immediately following the Frenchtown Massacre?

Meloche Settlements:

Where Were the Meloches in 1755-1825?



Pierre Meloche was at Cleveland in its early years. Later, he led a party - a French Train - across the Lake Erie ice from Monroe, Michigan to Sandusky, Ohio, and eventually died there.

Migrations outward from the Detroit area occurred southward toward Monroe and points south, and along the western Lake St. Claire coast as far north as L'Anse Creuse, near present-day Mt. Clemens.

From the South Shore, families moved to settlements along the Thames River near present-day Tilbury, Ontario, southward to La Salle (Petite Cote), River Canard, Maiden Township and Amherstburg.

Montreal-area Meloches continued to flourish in the areas of Ste-Genevieve, Lachine, Dorval and Pointe-Claire. New Meloche settlements were at St-Eustache, Chateauguay and in the City of Montreal. One or two families also emigrated to nearby New York State, in the area of Plattsburgh.

Generation Seven



Home built by Jean-Baptiste Meloche in Dorval, QC in the late 1700s and early 1899s. It is built facing the St. Lawrence River on the original Meloche property with streched far inland, under the present day Dorval International Airport.

191 **Antoine Meloche**

(François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); orn 14 Feb 1799 at Pointe-Claire, QC; married Josephte Brisebois, daughter of Joseph Brisebois and Marguerite Charbonneau, 28 Jan 1822 at Ste-Genevieve-de-Pierrefonds, L'Ile Bizard; died 13 Oct 1883 at St-Hermas, QC, at age 84; buried 16 Oct 1883 at St-Hermas.

Children of Antoine Meloche and Josephte Brisebois were as follows:

- 501 Marie Josephte Meloche; born 1822; married Benjamin Beauchamp, son of Etienne Beauchamp and Isabelle Leclerc, 6 Feb 1842 at St-Hermas; died 18 Jun 1881 at St-Hermas, QC; buried at St-Hermas.
- 502 Elmire Meloche; born 1825 at St-Hermas, QC; married Luc Sauve, son of Luc Sauve and Genevieve Vinet, 23 Feb 1846 at St-Hermas; died 13 May 1873; buried 15 May 1873 at St-Hermas.
- 503 Marie Elvite Meloche; born 1825
- 504 Antoine Meloche, born 1827 at St-Hermas, QC; married Scholastique St. Jacques.
- 505 Olivier Meloche, born 23 Aug 1829; married Julienne Gauthier dit Larouche
- 506 **Joseph Octave Meloche**, born 9 Nov 1831; married Esther Richer; married Henriette Lalande.

Eighth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1788-1860?

This is the Generation of Rebellion in Canada and Meloche migration in the United States.

The Meloche family of St-Eustache was directly involved in the Rebellion of Lower Canada (1837-38), as were a few Meloches from the Mohawk settlement at Caughnawaga.

Economic conditions on both sides of the border prompted Meloches to leave their family farms and strike out for new regions. Most migrations were short...Sandwich (Ontario) to St. Clair Shores (Michigan)...Amherstburg (Ontario) to Wyandotte (Michigan).. Montreal to Eastern Ontario, Amherstburg to Trafalgar Township (Ontario).

Some Meloche migrations were complex. Read about Jean-Baptiste Meloche who was born in Sandwich (near Windsor, Ontario), married Mary Desilets at St. Pierre on the Thames River (near Tilbury, Ontario), then settled at Monroe (Michigan).

Large families seemed to be the order of the day: Olivier had 21 children (2 wives), Antoine had 19 children, Joseph had 18 children, Daniel & Isabella had 14 children. Daniel Meloche and Isabella Boismier count among their fourteen children, two priests, three doctors, a ship captain, three nuns, two druggists and a teacher.

Notable Meloches in this Generation:

- Louis Meloche, after the death of his wife and child, traveled east from Amherstburg and settled near present-day Milton (Ontario). The predominantly English-speaking community changed his name to Lewis Melosh, spawning an entire branch of the Meloche family which carries that variant.
- Two of his brothers went the other way. Jean-Baptiste and François went to west central Ohio and settled near present-day Miami County. Here, too, the English-speaking neighbors caused name changes. Jean-Baptiste

Meloche became “John Malosh” and his brother François became “Frank Malosh”. These two brothers generate thousands of descendants in Wisconsin and Illinois.

- Joseph Meloche and his wife Zoe Leduc had an inn near the new Beauharnois Canal. The present-day village of Melocheville is named after them.
- Pierre Osias Meloche married into the Mohawk community at Caughnawaga (Kahnawake).

Meloche Settlements:Where Were the Meloches in 1788-1860?



Eastern Meloches in this generation were still largely concentrated in the area of Montreal and nearby eastern Ontario. However, church records point to Meloches at Beauharnois, Vaudreuil, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and Deux-Montagnes. The majority of Detroit and Essex County Meloches were settled within a 25-mile radius of Detroit.

A few Meloches could also be found in Ohio and New York State.

Yet another Jean-Baptiste Meloche family moved from Sandwich (Ontario) to Ecorse (Michigan), then Monroe, then Erie (Michigan).

Gabriel Meloche of Sandwich married Marie Esther Rivard and settled in the wilderness now known as L'Anse Creuse, then moved to St. Clair Shores (Michigan).

Antoine Meloche and his wife Rose Brisebois moved their family to Clarence Creek (Ontario) from St-Benoit and Ste-Scholastique (Quebec). His cousin Toussaint Meloche, and his wife Arthemise Farmer, did the same, moving from Ste-Genevieve and Vaudreuil to Ste-Anne de Prescott (Ontario).

506 **Octave Meloche**
 (Antoine, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); Some records say Joseph Octave was born in 1831, and that he was deceased by the year 1889; born 9 Nov 1883 married Esther Richer, daughter of Charles Richer and Angelique Libersan, 28 Jan 1856 at Ste-Scholastique, QC; married Henriette Lalande, daughter of Hilaire Lalande and Judith Deguire, 10 Sep 1860 at St-Hermas, Deux-Montagnes, QC; died 31 Aug 1899 at Wendover, ON, at age 67; buried at Wendover.

Children of Joseph Octave Meloche and Esther Richer were as follows:

- 1154 Noe Meloche, born circa 1857 at Ste-Scholastique; married Melina Marie Lamarche dit Bricault.
- 1155 Esther Meloche; born circa 1858; married François Xavier Therrien 24 Jun 1883 at St. Paul, Plantagenet, ON. Children of Joseph Octave Meloche and Henriette Lalande were as follows:
- 1156 Odile Meloche; born at Wendover, ON; died circa 1950 at Escanaba, MI; buried at Escanaba.
- 1157 **Cleophas Meloche**, born 17 Aug 1862 at Wendover, ON; married Rosina Meloche.
- 1158 Benjamin Meloche, born 12 Jul 1865 at Wendover, ON; married Marie Alexina Goulet.
- 1159 Isaie Meloche; Some family records say "Isadore."
- 1160 Antoine Meloche; born Mar 1864 at Wendover, ON; died 5 Apr 1929 at Escanaba, MI, at age 65.
- 1161 Dosithee Meloche; born 11 Dec 1866 at Wendover, ON; died 11 Jan 1889 at age 22.
- 1162 Rosina Meloche; born Dec 1867 at Wendover, ON; married Cyrille Charron, son of Cyrille Charron and Philomene Filion, 29 Apr 1889 at Wendover; died 2 Nov 1920 at Hull, QC, at age 52; buried at Hull, QC.

- 1163 Desneiges Meloche; born circa 1875; married Cheri Hebert, son of Jean Hebert and Philomene Lajeunesse, 20 Jul 1895 at Notre-Dame, Hull, QC; died at Hull, QC; buried at Hull.
- 1164 Malvina Meloche; born Jan 1877 at Wendover, ON; married Gedeon Mallette, son of Jean Baptiste Mallette and Sophie Leblanc, 31 Jul 1899 at Wendover; died 25 Jul 1954 at Hull, QC, at age 77; buried at Hull.
- 1165 Joseph Meloche; born circa 1890; married Françoise Marie Renaud

Ninth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1833-1910?

This is the Generation of the U.S. Civil War, the establishment of the Canadian Confederation and long-range migrations.

The Ninth Generation is also characterized by amazing growth of the number of Meloches on earth. This is due, in great part, to a preponderance of large families. Families with twelve, thirteen, even fifteen children are common during this period.

Migrations, too, were exceptional. Many young Frenchmen went from Quebec to Michigan to work in the lumber industry. One young Meloche, at the age of eight, made his way from Montreal to St. Louis to “seek his fortune”. And he found it in New Mexico!

Young Meloche men served in the Union Army during the War Between the States, and one died while being held prisoner in the legendary Confederate prison at Andersonville.

Since the days of Pierre, salt for human consumption had been a rare commodity at Detroit. In the early years of the colony, salt was brought from elsewhere, even from Europe, and was sometimes used as a form of currency. During the current generation, something remarkable happened. J.B. Ford drilled successfully for salt at Wyandotte. He discovered that one of the largest deposits of salt in the world was right under Detroit!

During his generation, some of the Meloche families who came to be known as “Livernois” changed again and became “Miller” families. Rapid growth occurred among the “Meloche dit Jolicoeur” and “Jolicoeur dit Meloche” branches of the family. There are at least five large families in this generation alone.

One of the first “Meloche Road” names appears in this generation as a portion of Thirteen Mile Road in St. Clair Shores, Michigan is renamed to honor the adjacent farm of Noe Meloche, son of Gabriel. Since then, many streets have been named “Meloche”, mostly in Montreal and the surrounding communities where Meloches settled.

Notable Meloches in this Generation:

- Albert Frederick Meloche becomes proprietor of the first drug store chain in Michigan.
- Isaiah Melosh built churches in Grey County (Ontario).
- François Xavier Meloche was Major of the military for Essex County (Ontario).
- Antime Meloche left his home in Quebec at age eight and made his way to New Mexico, where he eventually owned a ranch large enough to have its own railroad station.
- William Simon Meloche was a land-scaper, blacksmith and coroner for the Mohawk community near Montreal. He saved a child from drowning using his incredible strength.

Meloche Settlements:

Where Were the Meloches in 1833-1910?



Jean-Baptiste Meloche moved his family from Amherstburg (Ontario), to Forest (Ontario), to Port Huron (Michigan), then ultimately to the compound of the Christian Catholic Church (Protestant) at Zion, Illinois.

Francis O. Meloche of Monroe (Michigan) emigrated to South Dakota, then North Dakota. In the process, the family name changes to “Molash”. One of his children becomes “Turkey Track Bill”, legendary cowboy of the Dakotas.

Pierre Meloche and his wife Alexina Lauzon moved the family from Beloeil (Quebec) to Ponteix, Saskatchewan.

Second cousins Azarie Meloche and Benjamin Meloche migrated from eastern Ontario to Escanaba, Michigan.

Antime settled in New Mexico.

Victor Meloche of Amherstburg, Ontario settled in Newport, Michigan in 1873, moved to Monroe in 1876, yet was buried in River Canard, Ontario when he died in 1936.

Generation Nine



*Cléophas Meloche back in Rockland
with grandson Raymond*



*Rosina Meloche was the wife
of Cléophas Meloche*



Anna and Hervé Meloche



*Elodia Meloche Deguire
was an invaluable help
in the assembling
of the Meloche genealogy*

1157 **Cleophas Meloche**

(Joseph, Antoine, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); Gravestone says "born 1863, died 20 July 1952;" born 17 Aug 1862 at Wendover, ON; married Rosina Meloche, daughter of Antoine Meloche and Rose Brisebois dit Lavictoire, 11 Jan 1886 at Clarence Creek; died 19 Jul 1952 at Rockland, ON, at age 89; buried 23 Jul 1952 at Rockland. Marriage Note: Lived in Rockland 1931.

Children of Cleophas Meloche and Rosina Meloche were as follows:

2166 Polydore Meloche, born 19 May 1888 at Wendover, ON; married Lucia Barbeau.

2167 **Osius Meloche**, born 9 Mar 1890 at Wendover, ON; married Adeline Lauzon; married Marie Gertrude Savard.

2168 David Meloche, born 28 Oct 1893 at Wendover, ON.

2169 Rosa Meloche, born 20 Apr 1896 at Escanaba, MI; married Donat Daoust.

2170 Herve Meloche, born 10 Oct 1898 at Wendover, ON; married Jeannette Belanger.

2171 Anna Meloche, born 27 Oct 1901 at Wendover, ON; married Yves Schryer.

2172 Marie Bernadette Elodia Meloche, born 31 Jul 1910 at Wendover, ON; married Ernest Deguire dit Larose.

Tenth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1860-1930?

This is the Generation of the turn of the century and World War I.

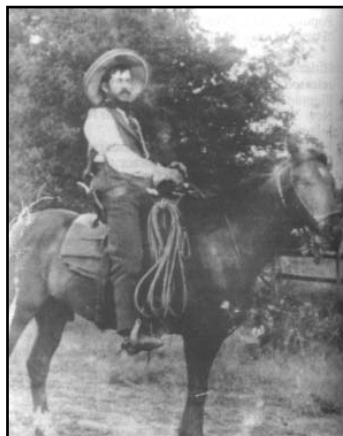
It is also a generation of distant migrations, with Meloches moving from Windsor, Ontario to Alpena, northern Michigan, from Quebec to Saskatchewan to Ohio, and from Windsor, Ontario to Montana.

There is an interesting story about an event that took place during this generation in **Appendix O**. It's called "The Meloche Affair", and it is the story of how the Meloches regained the Dorval Islands from the estate of Sir George Simpson, of Hudson's Bay Company fame.

Notable Meloches in this Generation:

- David Meloche, brother of Elodia Meloche Deguire, dies in battle serving for the Canadian army and is buried in France.
- Romeo Joseph Osias Meloche authors textbooks for children.
- Gilbert Molash becomes "Turkey Track Bill", local cowboy legend in North Dakota
- Clifford Cyrille and his brother Villiers Wilson Meloche become famous chemists, listed in "Who's Who."
- Edouard Meloche was a prolific painter and muralist. There is a long list of churches decorated "by Edouard, and he was awarded a medal at the Columbian Exposition.

*Turkey Track Bill Molash
lived an action filled life
in western USA.
He went to trial
for killing a man
during an argument,
and was acquitted*



Meloche Settlements:

Where Were the Meloches in 1860-1930?



Descendants of the Ohio Maloshes "Frank" (François Meloche) and "John" (Jean-Baptiste Meloche) migrate to western Wisconsin. Clifford Cyrille Meloche and Villiers Willson Meloche leave Zion, Illinois after the death of their father, and settle in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1910, John Meloche & Delima Tellier leave Windsor, Ontario for Alpena, Michigan. They return to Windsor in 1917 and spend the rest of their lives there.

During this generation, Meloches from Windsor, River Canard and Amherstburgh settle in the farmlands of McGregor.

Dakota Meloches, who earlier married into the Sioux community, settle at Ft. Yates, North Dakota. Other members of this branch settle at Cass Lake & Grey Eagle, Minnesota.

Meloches from communities in eastern Ontario move to Ottawa and Kingston, Ontario and Montebello, Quebec. They can also be found at Vanklcek Hill, Ste-Anne-de-Prescott and Glen Robertson, Ontario.

By this time, Quebec Meloches have also settled at Valleyfield, St-Hermas, Soulanges and St-Augustin.

Meloches can now also be found at Binghamton, New York.

Joseph Wildor Meloche, born in Quebec, was raised in Saskatchewan, then moved to Ohio.

Magloire (Pete) Meloche, born in Sandwich, goes to Montana. He is the father of Gilbert the fisherman.

Generation Ten



Osias Meloche

2095 **Osias Meloche**

(Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born 9 Mar 1890 at Wendover, ON; married Adeline Lauzon, daughter of Felix Lauzon and Archange Mercier, 5 Jul 1911 at St-Henri, Montreal; married Marie Gertrude Savard, daughter of Cyrenus Savard and Alice Bouliane, 26 May 1934 at La Cathedrale, Montreal, QC; died 13 Jan 1984 at age 93; buried 16 Jan 1984 at Montreal, QC.

Occupation: Manager.

Children of Osias Meloche and Adeline Lauzon were as follows:



Gertrude Meloche savard

- 3575 Marcelle Meloche, born 5 Apr 1913 at Montreal, QC; married Albert Poulin.
- 3576 Simone Meloche; born 24 Feb 1915 at Montreal, QC. She lived at Montreal, QC.
- 3577 **Jean-Louis Meloche**, born 22 Jun 1920 at Montreal, QC; married Jacqueline Guay.
- 3578 Liliane Meloche; born 3 Feb 1922 at Montreal, QC. She lived at Montreal, QC.
- 3579 Yvette Meloche, born 11 Jul 1923 at Trois-Rivieres, QC; married Claude Demers.

Children of Osias Meloche and Marie Gertrude Savard were:

- 3580 Raymond Meloche, born 19 Jun 1938 at Outremont, QC; married Pauline Laporte; divorced Pauline Laporte; married Beata Tarcsy.

Eleventh Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1900-1975?

This is the Generation of Prohibition and The Great Depression.

This is also our largest generation, with more Meloche families represented than in any other. This is a direct result of the tendency toward larger families we saw in earlier generations. The next generations will tend to be smaller, result of a trend toward smaller families, which will slow population growth everywhere.

This is also the first generation of this book containing **living Meloches**.

During this generation, fortunes were quickly made and quickly lost. Many Meloches on both sides of the U.S. -Canada border were involved with “demon rum” in one way or another. But many of them were farmers, and were able to survive the stock market crash and subsequent financial disaster that followed.

In the Great Depression, the Denis Albert family of Petite Cote was forced to sell a large portion of the family farm for very little money. Today, that land is Essex Golf & Country Club, recognized by Golf Magazine as one of the highest-rated courses in North America.

About the same time, Petite Cote radishes became world-famous, and were served at the Waldorf Astoria in New York and on the Queen Mary.

During this generation, James Henerey Molash married Sarah White Eagle, extending the Meloche connection to the Dakota Sioux community begun two generations earlier when his uncle Hubert (Turkey Track Bill) married Mandy Buckley Short.

Notable Meloches in this Generation:

- Gilbert the Fisherman made a name for himself while fly fishing in Montana
- Tyrus the Jockey, named after Ty Cobb, competed in races all over the United States
- Lawrence “Pet” Meloche was a gifted ballplayer who played on the Sandwich (Ontario) team that won the Intermediate “A” Ontario Baseball Amateur Association championship in 1935.
- The La Salle Pirates, an amateur football team in southwest Ontario, featured three Meloche boys.

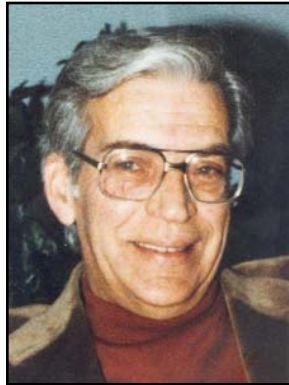
Meloche Settlements:

Where Were the Meloches in 1900-1975?



By this generation, Meloches can be found all over the United States and Canada.

Generation Eleven



Jean-Louis Meloche

3577 **Jean Louis Meloche**

(Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born 22 Jun 1920 at Montreal, QC; married Jacqueline Guay, daughter of Adelard Guay and Alma Leveille, 18 Dec 1943 at La Cathedrale de Montreal, QC; died 24 Nov 1983 at St-Laurent, QC, at age 63; buried 26 Nov 1983 at Montreal, QC.

Children of Jean Louis Meloche and Jacqueline Guay were as follows:



Jacqueline Meloche Guay

Francine Meloche, born 26 Jan 1945 died at 8 month.

5752 **Robert Meloche**, born 23 Jan 1947 at Verdun, QC; married H  l  ne Lamontagne.

5753 Jacques Meloche; born 9 Oct 1948 at Verdun, QC.

5754 Pierre Meloche; born 5 Sep 1950 at Verdun, QC.

5755 Marc Meloche, born 21 Feb 1956 at Montreal, QC; married Patricia Keenan.



Robert Meloche



Jacques Meloche



Pierre Meloche



Marc Meloche

Twelfth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches in 1925-1995

This is the Generation of World War II and The Korean War.

It is also the generation of the “baby boom”, which swelled the population of North America between these wars. Despite that fact, this is the second largest generation, after the eleventh. During this generation, families tended to be even smaller than in the last. Improvements in transportation and communications rendered this generation far more mobile than previous ones, and Meloches began spreading all over the world.

Notable Meloches in this Generation:

- Jerry Meloche, retired policeman, becomes a newspaper cartoonist in Ramona, California
- Alvin Lawrence Thomas Meloche is yoyo champion of Essex County, Ontario
- James Lawrence Joseph Meloche, Author of *The Meloche Legacy*

Meloche Settlements: Where Were the Meloches in 1925-1995?



By now, Meloches can be found all over the world.

Generation Twelve



Robert & Hélène Meloche

5752. Robert Meloche

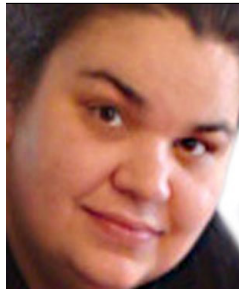
(Jean, Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born 23 Jan 1947 at Verdun, QC; married Hélène Lamontagne, daughter of Cyrille Lamontagne and Yvette Veilleux, 24 May 1971 at Notre-Dame-du-Bois-Franc Parish, St-Laurent, QC.

Children of Robert Meloche and Hélène Lamontagne all born at St-Laurent, QC, were as follows:

8059 Daphnée Meloche; born 27 Jan 1971.

8060 Dominique Meloche; born 19 Aug 1977.

8061 Mireille Meloche; born 30 Jan 1979.



Daphnée Meloche



Dominique Meloche



Mireille Meloche

Generation Twelve



Jacques Meloche

5754 **Jacques Meloche**
(Jean, Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph,
François, Joseph, François, François, Michel,
(?)) ; born 9 Oct 1948 at Verdun, QC.

Generation Twelve



Denise Lecavalier



Pierre Meloche

5754 **Pierre Meloche**

(Jean, Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born 5 Sept 1950 at Montreal, QC; married to Denise Lecavalier

Children of Pierre Meloche and Denise Lecavalier were as follows:

Chloé Lecavalier; born 21 April 1988 at Montreal, QC.



Chloé Lecavalier

Generation Twelve



Pat Meloche Keenan



Marc Meloche

5755. Marc Meloche

(Jean, Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born 21 Feb 1956 at Montreal, QC; married Patricia Keenan, daughter of Edmond Keenan and Clara Casier, 11 Aug 1989 at St. John of the Cross, Mississauga, ON.

Children of Marc Meloche and Patricia Keenan were as follows:

8062 Eric Jon Meloche; born 14 Jun 1993 at Markham, ON.

8063 Danielle Meloche; born 27 Oct 1995 at Pointe Claire, QC.



Eric Meloche



Danielle Meloche

Thirteenth Generation of the Meloche Family: Who Were the Meloches of 1945-2010?

This is the Generation of Carnaby Street, the Vietnam War, and the peace movement.

Because of the preponderance of smaller families in the last two generations, this generation is far smaller than it should be statistically.

Increased mobility brought about less settlement. Families in earlier generations had stayed put, usually in the villages of their parents. They focussed on working hard and having children. Recent generations moved about to pursue opportunities and created fewer offspring.

Notable Meloches in this Generation:

- Gilles Meloche, is “iron man” goalie for the California Golden Seals, Cleveland Barons, Minnesota North Stars and Pittsburgh Penguins hockey teams.
- Lise Meloche, Olympic Biathlete.

Meloche Settlements:

Where Were the Meloches in 1945-2010?

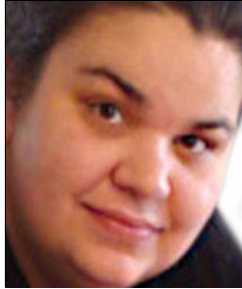


In this generation, Meloches continued to fan out all over the world.

Generation Thirteen



Roberto Rivas



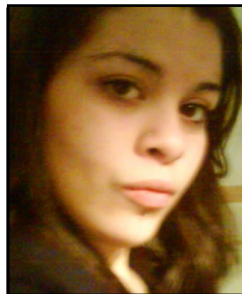
Daphnée Meloche

8059 **Daphnée Meloche**

(Robert, Jean, Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born 27 Jan 1971 at St-Laurent, QC.; married to Roberto Rivas, 21 April 2001 at San Salvador, El Salvador.

Children of Daphnee Meloche and Antonio Briosio were as follows:

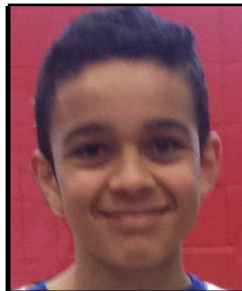
9038 Katherine Meloche; born 1 Dec 1990.



Katherine Meloche

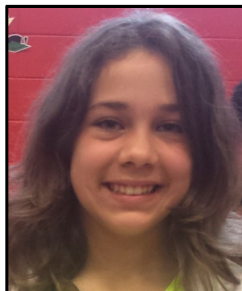
Children of Daphnée Meloche and Roberto Rivas all born at St-Laurent, QC, were as follows:

Rafael Rivas-Meloche;
born Oct 24 2001



Raphael Rivas Meloche

Talia Noemie Rivas-Meloche;
born July 3 2003



Talia Rivas Meloche

Generation Thirteen



Benoit Bouffard



Dominique Meloche

8060 **Dominique Meloche**

(Robert, Jean, Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born August 19 1977 in St-Laurent, QC.; living with Benoit Bouffard, Dec 25 1978

Children of Dominique Meloche and Benoit Bouffard are as follows:



Jasmine Bouffard

Jasmine Bouffard-Meloche;
born July 19 2008

Charles Bouffard-Meloche;
born March 31 2010



Charles Bouffard

Generation Thirteen



Nuno Caetano



Mireille Meloche

8061 **Mireille Meloche**

(Robert, Jean, Osias, Rosina, Antoine, Joseph, François, Joseph, François, François, Michel, (?)); born Jan 30 1979 at St-Laurent, QC.; married in Chamonix France on Oct 19 2013 to Nuno Caetano, from Madeira, Portugal.

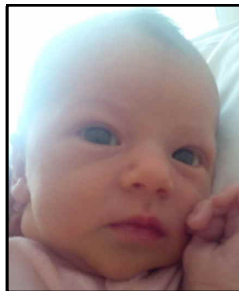
Children of Mireille Meloche and Nuno Caetano all born in Chamonix France, QC, were as follows



Tiago Caetano

Tiago Caetano-Meloche;
born Nov 7 2012

Mila-Rose Caetano-Meloche;
born June 10 2015

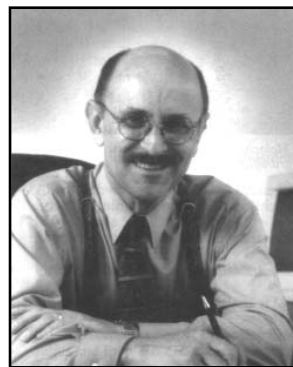


Mila Caetano

THE MELOCHE LEGACY



The Meloche Legacy book
850 pages - over 20,000 Meloches
is available from the author.



Jim Lawrence Joseph Meloche
Retired Police Chief in Michigan,
has invested over 20 years to this project

Almost everyone named Meloche, until the publication of this book, has been the victim of incomplete knowledge of our heritage.

However, what you are about to read is also incomplete. Actually, I don't expect it ever to be completed. New facts will surface every day, and my goal is to strive to find every fact and fragment we need to tell the story of the Meloches.

Most of my time in past years has been spent gathering data and making a few assumptions. Next step was to turn it all into a narrative that offered enjoyable and informative reading. Now that I've made it available to all the Meloches, I need comments and feedback from everyone to help make it better.

Consider Me Competent Rather than Inspired.

I don't consider myself to be a very good writer. I do, however, try to be thorough. Please accept this book for what it is - a collection of facts, figures and anecdotes about what it means to be a Meloche.

Why Am I Doing This?

I'm not entirely sure. It began in earnest about 1988 when I found a cardboard box I've been carrying around for years -- house-move to house-move. Since about 1960, I'd been tossing seemingly unrelated bits of family memorabilia...books, clippings and other such things...into it. And people kept sending me family albums, probably because I had expressed an interest in the past. It just made sense to put everything into some kind of order. It also helped that I had developed an interest in the computer as a family history tool. Sometimes, when I get overwhelmed, I remind myself that I've come too far to abandon the project.

I've encountered many people in the pursuit of this family story - one even referred to me as a "hardcore genealogist." I'll take that as a compliment. I'm not sure if it was intended to be positive, but I like it anyway. Richard Bensette called me one day, and said: "I understand that you are the *guru* of the Meloche clan in Canada and the USA." I like that, too.

One of my motivations. I suppose, was to provide a factual, accurate, and truly valuable book on our family. There are many useless books on the market, masquerading as family histories. Some of them claim to be about the Meloche family, and many of you have confused them with this project of *L'Association des Familles Meloche, Ltd.* My hope for this book is to put the mass-produced imposters to rest forever. This is the only authoritative book about the Meloches.

As long as I can, I'll continue to develop the story of the Meloches for all of you who have shown interest in my work. The response has been overwhelming, with offers of help pouring in from all over the USA, Canada and Europe.

I hope everyone enjoys reading about the Meloches as much as I have enjoyed digging them up.

Why Single Out François as the Focus of This Book?

Ever wonder why someone would leave his family and homeland to go live in an unknown wilderness thousands of miles away...never to see his family again? Why did François come here from France in the first place? His emigration to New France was the pivotal event in the history of the Meloches of North America. We'll take a look at what France was like in the time of François and his ancestors. What had François experienced in his first twenty years that prompted him to choose an unknown future over what he had? What set the stage for François' move?

La généalogie complète et à jour des familles

Meloche - Guay - Veilleux

est disponible sur le site :



adresse : www.ancestry.ca

nom : meloche@pitpitt.com

mot de passe : famille

A handwritten word "Bonjour" in blue ink, with a large, stylized smiley face drawn below it.

What did France offer?

What was the promise of New France?

Sometimes, I think I carry things a little too far. To get a better idea of where François and his ancestors came from, I visited the ancestral villages in France. My tour guides were Alice and Jean-Claude Meloche, two of the very few Meloches native to France today. With Jean Deveau and a friend, we visited the villages of my Meloche ancestors, and when it came time for lunch, we dined at an *auberge* near le Bourdet. I ordered the *poisson*, and ended up sampling the local eel. It's not a delicacy in Poitou, but a staple. François, grandfather of the first Meloche to come to North America, was a fish merchant, and his stock in trade was probably a freshwater eel that inhabited the rivers and canals of sixteenth century western France.

I was served a large bowl of our slimy friends-gutted, sliced crosswise into chunks, cooked (I think) and served skin-onions a tomato and vegetable sauce. They looked like sections cut from a rubber garden hose, but tasted like swordfish. It was actually very good!

A very popular French-Canadian reference text, *Emigration Rochelaise en Nouvelle-France*, by Père Archange Godbout, o.f.m, offers a brief biographical sketch of the Meloche family of Frontenay-l'Abattu and La Rochelle, and refers to our François as the canadien. That's where I got my name for him.

Was It Difficult to Find All Those Meloches?

Yes and no. People were, generally, very helpful. Many Meloches who chose to settle in remote places were very hard to track down. Many of them are still unlinked, but we'll accomplish that someday.

Many of you have received my *Meloche Quest* newsletters over the years, and most of you responded with the information I required. Many Meloches, however, remain skeptical of this project, possibly suspicious that I am trying to sell them something or invade their privacy.

Jan Thomas, daughter of Lawrence Remi Meloche and Mildred Elizabeth Stoddard wrote in 1999: "I had to write and share this with you. I am still sorting through my Mom's and Dad's things. Among them, dated 1991, was your first news letter in an opened envelope addressed to Mr. And Mrs. Lawrence Meloche with the information page uncompleted. So I guess they were on to you before I was."

I also created a web site. "MelocheNet", which many of you have seen. In the last few years, I've uncovered one hundred forty-seven new Meloches who have submitted the registration form on that site.

Think of this, when I started this book, the Internet was in its infancy. Plus, there was no World Wide Web, nobody had electronic mail, none of us had scanners, very few people even had personal computers.

The popularity (and availability) of the computer as a genealogy tool grew up right along with this book. I entered my first record on the fifth of January, 1989. Over twelve years later, we have a project containing data on 19,480 individuals and 26,479 events in their lives. That's almost 50,000 components of data, representing over one million keystrokes on the computer for the genealogy portion, plus double that number for the text files comprising the narratives.