Two New Generations in the Ancestry of the First Three Ancestors of the Demers in America

Jacqueline Abgral (2) and André Demers (76)

[Editor's note: The following article, which is an excerpt from the document "Notes sur les familles immédiates et l'ascendance des premiers ancêtres des Demers d'Amérique: Etienne, André et Jean Dumay (Dumets, Dumetz) presented in Dieppe, Normandy (France), on September 20th, 1998, during the "retour aux sources" Journey of the Demers d'Amérique, is printed here with the permission of the Demers Association. Their web site is: <<http://www3.sympatico.ca/clegare/Demers.htm>>; their e-mail is: <<info@fam-demers.org>>. The following article is a combination of the French and English versions of the article as given to me by the Association. Because part of the French version was not included in the English version, I have translated that material for this article.]

The Association des familles Demers, Inc., a non-profit association, was founded in Québec, Canada in 1990. Its goal is to know and let others know the history of the Demers families and to permit Demers families of today to meet and get to know each other.

Since its founding, the Association has been able to identify the first ancestors of the Demers d'Amérique and their origins on the basis of the information gathered and compiled over a few decades by a number of its members. It was already possible to state that those ancestors were: Etienne, André and Jean Dumay (Dumets, Dumetz) and that they originated from the parish of Saint-Jacques in Dieppe, Normandy (France).

In order to validate and extend this information the Association initiated a comprehensive genealogical research. On one hand, some members who had precious information agreed to give it to the Association and to work within this institutional framework. On the other hand, the Association retained the services of Mrs. Anne Osselin, a genealogical researcher in Rouen (France) in order to advance the research in the land of our first ancestors and shed light on their ancestry and the descendants of their sister, Catherine, and their brother, Laurent.

First, the notes presented in this article serve to identify the parents of the first ancestors, give some information about the latter's emigration to New France, as well as their first descendants on American soil. Secondly, more details are given about the Demers' ancestry in the Pays de Caux (Dieppe and its environs) in Normandy.

The Association can in no way offer here all the information pertaining to the first ancestors of the Demers d'Amérique because all genealogical research is complex, especially in France. Will it be possible to reach that goal one day? The Association does not think so. It, nevertheless, accepts the responsibility of attesting that all the conveyed information is correct, on the basis of the exactness with which Mrs. Osselin and her fellow researchers gathered it.

Parents, Emigrants, and the First Descendants on American Soil

Jean Dumay (senior) married Miotte Lecombe (Lecompte, Lecomte) before 1626, probably in the parish of Saint-Jacques-de-Dieppe. One son was born from this union: Etienne. Jean Dumay (senior) took as his second wife Barbe Mauger (Maugé, Maugis), probably in the same parish. They were the parents of four children: André, Catherine, Jean and Laurent.

Thus, Jean Dumay (senior), Miotte Lecombe and Barbe Mauger are the parents of the first ancestors of the Demers d'Amérique. We will learn more about them farther in this text.

A few sources of information allow us to confirm the date of the arrival in New France of Jean Dumay (senior) with his three sons: Etienne, André and Jean. Among those sources, Jean de Chantal affirms in
the journal Le Droit that the three sons left Dieppe at the beginning of May 1643, accompanied by their father, aboard the sailing boat l'Espérance. According to his research, this ship arrived in Québec in mid-August of 1643. However, according to some of his other research, for which there is no reference, he cites that the historian Marcel Trudel mentions the arrival of l'Espérance in 1644. In addition, he does not state precisely if this ship left from Dieppe or La Rochelle or elsewhere in France.1

However, what we can affirm is that Jean Dumay (senior) was in Québec in April 1645 since he signed a notarial contract there. It was near the Rivière-aux-Chiens on the Beaupré Coast that Jean Dumay (senior) attempted to settle in New France. Indeed we know that on 10 April 1645 he contracted, before the Royal Notary G. Tronquet, the purchase of a piece of land belonging to Claude Estienne. This property extended over six arpents in frontage along the Saint Lawrence River. For unknown reasons, he terminated this contract on 8 October 1646.

Later, Jean Dumay (senior) worked for a company in New France, whose function was to establish colonists, until the end of his contract, which was either in August or October 1650. It seems that it was in the course of one of those months that he returned to France. The historian Marcel Trudel relates, in a document, that several departures for France took place between 23 August and the beginning of October 1650. We find the same information in documents such as the “Relations” and “Mère Marie de l'Incarnation”.

Jean Dumay (senior) returned to New France since he was present on 28 October 1655 for the baptism of one of his granddaughters, Marie, a child of André, in the church Notre-Dame de Montréal. In the baptismal act, the Jesuit priest, Claude Pijart, wrote in Latin: “...patrinus Ioannes du Met patrae Andreae du Met”, which means: “the godfather was Jean du Met, father of André du Met”. According to our research, it seems that this was his last trip to New France.

As for the three sons, who emigrated at the same time he [the father] did, they waited a few years before marrying and founding their families.

Thus, Étienne married Françoise Morin, the widow of Antoine Pelletier, on 28 January 1648 in Québec. Eight children were born from their union: Marie in 1649; Nicole in 1650; Étienne in 1653; an unnamed child in 1654 and deceased the same year2; Jean in 1655; another Étienne in 1656; Joseph in 1658 and Eustache in 1661. It seems that Étienne contracted a second marriage with Françoise Duperron about 1663; she gave birth to a son, François the same year.3

André married on 7 January 1654 in Montréal Marie Chefdeville, daughter of Jean Chefdeville and of Marguerite Jussiaume from Villiers-sur-Saint-Leu, diocese of Beauvais in Picardy. Twelve children were born from their union: Catherine in 1654; Marie in 1655; Nicolas in 1657; André in 1659; Jean-Baptiste in 1661; Michel in 1663; Barbe in 1665; Charles in 1667; another Marie in 1669 [about 1669]; Robert in 1671; Paul in 1673 and Martin in 1675.

1 Editor's note: In Catalogue des immigrants 1632-1662, Marcel Trudel (p. 127) indicates that l'Espérance arrived in 1643 but says the Dumets (Demers, Dumais) family (p. 141) arrived in 1644 but does not name the specific ship. Trudel does not mention l'Espérance as one of the ships that arrived in 1644. However, he does name (p. 138) at least four ships of the fleet that arrived in June of 1644: le Dauphin, le Saint-Clement, la Vierge, le Notre-Dame from the Société de Notre-Dame and an unnamed ship that stopped in Moscow on the way to Québec.

2 Editor's note: Neither PRDH Online nor Dictionnaire Jetté [DJ], p. 325, mention the birth of an unnamed child in 1654. Also, both sources indicate that it is not known where or when Joseph and Eustache were born.

3 Editor's note: DJ, p. 325, shows the birth of a son, François, on 10 February 1663, but it is indicated that the mother was Françoise Morin, who appeared to die between 25 February 1663 and the 1666 census. The same information is given on PRDH Online. At the time of François' baptism at Sillery, it was indicated that the name of the mother was Françoise, with no family name given. [PRDH #7460?] I have not seen the original record. In François' marriage contract on 25 January 1700, before the notary Antoine Adhémar, it is clearly stated that his mother was Françoise Morin. (Photocopy)
• Adéline, a daughter with a lovely name, whose year of birth is unknown but who is a godmother in 1595.

These four children were born in the period of fertility of the couple, from 1555 to 1575, more or less. Being older, the couple, Jehan Dumay and Marguerite Berservoyse, returned to the village of Autretot.

The register of Etoutteville was studied because of the presence of Adrien mentioned in 1603 in the register of Autretot.

The collection of registers also start there in 1546. The complete absence of Dumoys in Etoutteville until 1594 allows us to state our strong belief that Autretot would be the origin of the established ancestry of our first ancestors.

With the results of the research done in the registers of Autretot and Etoutteville, we can identify the sequence of generations. Adrien, son of Jehan and Marguerite, born between 1556 and 1569, married Catherine Pougnye, in 1594, in Etoutteville, his fiancée’s parish. We know almost all of their children, except those who were born between 1594 and 1600; especially since the parents, who were elsewhere at that time, gave birth to the one we are most interested in: Jehan (Jean) who appeared as a godfather in 1621 and is clearly said to be the son of Adrien. Born between 1595 and 1599, he is the father of our first three ancestors: Etienne, André and Jean Dumay.

References:
Demers, Marcel. Bibliographical notes on Jean Dumay, senior, Miotte Lecombe and Barbe Mauger/Maugis, July 1997.

Known Ancestry of the First Three Ancestors of the Demers of America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Birth Place</th>
<th>Marriage Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Jehan Dumoys (Dumays)</td>
<td>Marguerite Berservoyse</td>
<td>Autretot</td>
<td>Marguerite Berservoyse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adrien Dumoys (Jehan/Marguerite Berservoyse)</td>
<td>Catherine Pougnye</td>
<td>Etoutteville</td>
<td>Catherine Pougnye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Jehan Dumoys (Dumays) (Adrien/ Catherine Pougnye)</td>
<td>Miotte Lecombe (1)</td>
<td>Dieppe (Saint-Jacques) before 1626</td>
<td>Miotte Lecombe (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Étienne Dumay (Jehan/Miotte Lecombe)</td>
<td>Françoise Morin (Jean/ Jeanne Desnouets)</td>
<td>Québec</td>
<td>Françoise Morin (Jean/ Jeanne Desnouets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>André Dumay (Jehan/Barbe Mauger)</td>
<td>Marie Chefdeville (Jean/Marguerite Jesiovum)</td>
<td>Montréal</td>
<td>Marie Chefdeville (Jean/Marguerite Jesiovum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Jean Dumay (Jehan/Barbe Mauger)</td>
<td>Jeanne Védié (Voidy) (Michel/Catherine Dorbelle)</td>
<td>Montréal</td>
<td>Jeanne Védié (Voidy) (Michel/Catherine Dorbelle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Catharine Dumay (Jehan/Barbe Mauger)</td>
<td>Hubert Métails</td>
<td>Dieppe</td>
<td>Hubert Métails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Laurent Dumay</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
being baptized. The father's name was Jean. The only part that was not completely "accurate" was the family name. In both the margin and the act the family name was written as demou. I think, because of the time period, and the names involved, this is the missing baptismal act of Jean Dumay / Demers.

A few entries later, on 10 February 1633, Jean Labé was the father of Magdelaine. His wife Magdelaine Mauger's relationship to Barbe Mauger is not yet known.

After establishing the validity of the baptismal records for each of the above children of Jean Dumay (senior) and Barbe Maugé [and maybe even finding the baptismal act for Jean Dumay, junior], I then began to look for verification of the other facts pertaining to the family in the parish registers in Dieppe. I was not able to find any mention whatsoever for Miotte Lecombe or for that matter any Lecombe family. I will check further into the records at St-Rémy since the existing ones for that parish go back farther than the ones for St-Jacques. I also do not have any access at this time to the notarial records that might still exist which might show this family name in Dieppe.

In looking at the 28 January 1648 marriage act of Estienne du May and Françoise Morin at Notre-Dame de Québec, his mother's name is said to be Miotte Le Comte. In his marriage contract on 1 January 1648 before the notary Lecoustre, his mother's name [and she is said to be defunct - deceased] is given as Miotte Lecompte. In the margin someone [appears to be a later date] wrote LeComte. The following is an excerpt from his marriage act on 28 January 1648:
The underlined words are those to be examined: the word oubliés which shows how the priest formed the letter b in the middle of a word, interrogé and Comte which shows how he wrote a t in the middle of a word.

There are two marriage repertoires from Saint-Rémy and from Saint-Jacques in Dieppe. There is no LECOMBE family shown at all in either one of them. However, the names LECOMTE / LECOMPTE and LECONTE are present. In particular, from Saint-Rémy, between 1615 and 1619, there is one Lecomte marriage and four Leconte marriages: Robert Lecomte who married Jeanne Roussere on 14 October 1619; André Lecomte who married Thoinette Cellier on 3 June 1619; Anne Lecomte who married Noel Yendres in February 1615; Florence Leconte who married François Sellier on 25 January 1615; Jeanne Leconte who married Charles Bury on 19 May 1615. [FHL #1573241, items 10-11] From the marriage repertoire from Saint-Jacques, between 1610 and 1616, the following LE COMPTES / LE CONTES are mentioned: Daufin Le Compte who married Perretté Papillon on 19 June 1610; Marie Le Compte who married Thomas Certain on 18 July 1616; Masset Le Conte who married Marguerite Germain on 22 April 1614. [FHL #1573075, items 3-5] Possibly one of them is related to Miotte Lecomte. In the research I have done so far, I have not yet found a Lecombe family, but there are many more records to be examined in both churches.

More details can be verified about Barbe Mauger / Maugé, the wife of Jean Durnay and mother of André, Catherine, Jean and Laurent. One of the first facts mentioned about her in the Demers Association article was that she was a godmother in 1618 to Barbe the daughter of Thomas Mauger at St-Rémy. This is indeed the case.

However, the next statement that was made about Barbe Mauger, so far, has not been proven. In the Demers article it was stated that Barbe married Pierre Mainlay in 1620. In looking at both the parish registers of St-Jacques and St-Rémy, I have not yet been able to find this marriage. It is also not listed in either of the two marriage repertoires. However, I did find the baptism of their son, Jacques, on 20 October 1620 at St-Rémy.19

Maufray - A este baptize Jacques fils de pierre mainfray et barbe mauge sa fe & fut nome [par] Jacq debuoy...et Marguerite gallandre. Was baptized Jacques, son of Pierre Mainfray and Barbe Mauge, his wife, and was named by Jacques De Buoy... and Marguerite Gallandre. The name Maufray was written in the margin in another penmanship.

There is also the possibility of the baptism of another child, Nicolas, in 1626 at St-Rémy.20

Mifray/Meffray - a este baptize Nicolas fils de pierre meffray Et barbe Maugeis Sa femme Et fut nomme par Nicolas Callig...Et Marguerite du bosc. Was baptized Nicolas, son of Pierre Meffray and Barbe Maugeis, his wife, and was named by Nicolas Callig...and Marguerite Du Bosc.

19 FHL #1165417 and FHL #1038297 - October 1620
20 Ibid. 1616.