



THE FRIGONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES

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FRIGON PLACE NAMES

Charles Hilaire Frigon (50)* - Louis-Georges Frigon (10) - Raymond Frigon (1)

OVER A DOZEN PLACES - in Quebec, Saskatchewan and British-Colombia - bear the Frigon family name:

in Quebec¹:

Frigon, Canton: this township's name was chosen to commemorate François Frigon, ancestor of all Frigons in North America. It is located some 100 kilometers (60 miles) to the north of Manicouagan Reservoir².

Frigon, Île: located in the City of Shawinigan-Sud, this island was named after a former mayor of City of Shawinigan-Falls, Joseph-Auguste Frigon (1870-1944). At one time he was the island's owner.

Frigon, Île: this island is located in Témiscamingue. Origin of the name is not known.

Frigon, Lac: a lake in the Abitibi region, it is located in Bongard and Bourgmont townships. Name's origin is not known.

Frigon, Lac: a lake in the City of Baie-Comeau. Named after Georges Frigon, Chief Measurer for Quebec North Shore Paper. It is said that he built the first summer cottage there, probably in the 1950s³.

¹ Letter dated January 29, 1991 from the Commission de toponymie du Québec to Raymond Frigon and additional information obtained by Louis-Georges Frigon in March 1995

² *Noms et lieux du Québec; dictionnaire illustré*, Commission de toponymie du Québec, Publications du Québec, 1994 - 925 pages. Reviewed in The Book Corner in this issue

³ Letter dated March 28, 1995 from Ville de Baie-Comeau to Louis-Georges Frigon

Frigon, Ruisseau: This brook on the North Shore, in the Municipalité of Rivières-aux-Outardes is recorded on a map prepared by Quebec North Shore Power.

Another brook in the municipality bears the same name.

The origin of these two toponyms (place names) is not known.

Frigon, Ruisseau: This brook is to be found on a map prepared by the Direction générale de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec at its Amos office. Origin of the name is not known.

Frigon, "Gare": this toponym identifies a railway stop rather than a station. The origin of the name is not known.

❁ CONTENTS ❁

Frigon Place Names	1
Light on the Past	2
Did you know that?	3
Joseph <u>Simon</u> Frigon	3
Origin of the Frigon name	4
Board of Directors	4
Membership List	4
The Book Corner	4

* (-) is membership number

The French version of this newsletter is available upon request.

Frigon, Rue: This street is in the City of Shawinigan and owes its name to a former mayor, Joseph-Auguste Frigon (1878-1944)

Frigon, Route à Frigon: Road in the town of Saint-Narcisse in the Regional Municipality of Francheville in the Saint-Maurice valley.

Frigon Streets in the Montreal Region

Summarized here are the results of Louis-Georges Frigon's research on the toponymy of Montreal streets. In the Montreal metropolitan region there are in fact two Frigon streets:

In the City of Montreal, are to be found **Frigon Place** as well as **Frigon Street** which crosses the old Frigon farm. It seems that its owner was J. L. Frigon who gave the street its name. The present day Street and Place are the result of changes starting about 1933 involving the former Persillier Boulevard, which became part of the present day L'Acadie Boulevard. By coincidence, in his retirement in the late 1920s, Joseph Athanase Frigon, father of Augustin Frigon, lived in the vicinity at 11881 Persillier.

In Chomedey, City of Laval, **Frigon Street and Frigon Place** in 1962 were named after Dr. Augustin Frigon, Civil Engineer, born in Montreal March 6, 1888. He was Professor and later Dean at Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal. He was also Director General of Technical Education for the Province of Quebec. His name is equally involved with the founding in 1936 of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He was the father of *Raymond (1)* and *Marguerite (5)*.

In Saskatchewan:

Frigon Lake: this lake was named in 1962 after Oliver Frigon under the provincial policy of naming geographic features after servicemen who enlisted in Saskatchewan and lost their lives in the Second World War¹. Born September 12, 1920, Oliver Frigon enlisted June 13 1941, and died in combat December 4, 1943, that is at age 23. He was awarded posthumously the 1939-45 Star, the Italy Star, the War Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. A bachelor, he died without leaving descendants. Knowing that *Joseph Olivier Louis Frigon* was born in Hoey, Saskatchewan, son of Rolland Frigon and Geneviève Trudel, it is to be hoped that one day it will be possible to trace the family of this courageous Canadian who brought so much honour to the larger Frigon family².

¹ Letter April 29, 1994 from Saskatchewan Geographic Names Board to Charles Hilaire Frigon

² Information supplied by National Archives Canada to Charles Hilaire Frigon

In British Colombia

Frigon Islets: These islets are at the north end of Vancouver Island in the District Municipality of Port Alice. They were named in 1927 after Edward (Ned) Frigon, Crown Grantee, who arrived from Quebec about 1850. After establishing himself as a fur trader he became owner around 1912 of the Eureka mining claim on the Ingersol River, now Kloutchlimis Creek³.



LIGHT ON THE PAST

Robert Frigon (2)

This chronicle is scheduled to be a regular feature of this newsletter. It will treat of a particular aspect of the lives of our ancestors in our country. And since it is necessary to begin at the beginning, let us look at the moment in the annals of New France when the name of our ancestor, François Frigon dit L'Espagnol, was mentioned for the very first time.

In 1663, Louis XIV, King of France, somewhat disturbed over contradictory reports reaching him on the state of his colony, appointed a commissioner, **Sieur Gaudais-Dupont**, with the mandate to provide a complete report on the economic and social situation in New France. The commissioner left La Rochelle aboard a King's vessel, in the company of Mgr. De Laval and M. De Mézy, governor.

His broad mandate contained instructions related to the *trader of families which make up the three settlements: Québec, Montréal and Trois-Rivières, and the number of men and women, what are the inhabitants' activities, their businesses.* In other words, the King wanted a census.

The census took place in 1666, three years later. Not considered satisfactory by the Crown, it was repeated the next year. We are indebted to **Benjamin Sulte** for having published in their entirety the two censuses in his *"Histoire des Canadiens-Français"*, issued, to our knowledge, in eight volumes, at the beginning of the century.

The censuses are entitled: *État général du Canada* and give the name, surname, age, status and trade of each of the inhabitants at that particular moment in the colony. It must be admitted that a good number of individuals are missing, amongst which: soldiers posted in the

³ Letter April 19, 1994 from B.C. Geographical Names Office to Charles Hilaire Frigon

country, a good number of priests and missionaries, many *coureurs de bois* and *engagés*, (i.e. hired persons, brought into the country under term contract).

Here are two extracts from the censuses taken from volume 4, chapter 4:

Trois-Rivières (1666)

"Michel Peltier dit Laprade, 35, habitant; Jacqueline Chamboi, 38, sa femme; Henry Durby, 20, François Frigon, 18; domestiques"

Trois-Rivières (1667)

Michel Peltier, 36, Jacqueline Chanboi, 29; domestiques: La Rivière, 24; Lespagnol, 17; La Ronse, 20; 18 arpents en valeur".

The census-takers during the second census were undoubtedly convinced that the person listed as Lespagnol was indeed our ancestor François Frigon. At the time he was undoubtedly aged between 17 and 19, and at his death, in 1724, the parish *registre* at Batiscan lists his age as 75. He was therefore likely born in 1649.

One can say with fair accuracy that our ancestor was an employee of Michel Peltier, probably under the usual three-year contract. Sieur Peltier was from Paris. Perhaps he recruited our ancestor during one of his visits to Paris. Nothing is known of this. In any event, François Frigon must have arrived about 1665.

And, it is at Cap-de-la-Madeleine that Sieur Peltier was engaged in clearing his plot with the assistance of his *domestiques*. And to be able to report 18 *arpents en valeur* in 1667, ready to be seeded, his *domestiques* must have worked well and hard. It is likely in that year François Frigon decided he needed to build his own home. More about this and much more, later.

SOURCES: 1. *Fisages du vieux Trois-Rivières*, Vol. 1 & 2, Raymond Douville, Les Éditions La Liberté. 2. - *Les premiers seigneurs et colons de Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade*, Raymond Douville, Éditions du Bien Public. 3. - *Histoire des Canadiens-Français*, Benjamin Sulte, Éditions de l'Élysée.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Florance Frigon, born about 1876, became Dr. F.B. Florentine, well-known physician in Saginaw, Michigan. At age 15 he was a volunteer in the Civil War? o Beginning about 1850, near Beaverville, Illinois, there was a Frigon School? o Donald Frigon is owner of Durbin St. Inn, in Casper, Wyoming? o Bernie Frigon practices law in Dodge City, Kansas?

Joseph Simon Frigon: ancestor of the Frigones

Edmund and Elaine Frigone (46)

Editor's note: Edmund (Ed) and Elaine Frigone live in an island community in Puget Sound, in the vicinity of Seattle. Edmund Lawrence Frigone was born in Chicago in 1913, son of Edmund John Baptiste Frigone (Frigon), born in 1887 in Beaverville, Illinois, of the marriage in 1848 at Saint-Léon-le-Grand, Quebec, of Joseph Simon Frigon and Cécile Bergeron. Ed and his wife Elaine (née Anderson) have joined in presenting this genealogical sketch, a testimonial to their dedication to the genealogy and history of the Frigons.

Joseph Simon Frigon (Joseph and Josette Savoie) was born 28 October, 1810 in Louiseville. He was married to Lucie Lemaistre dit Lottinville, 7 January, 1845. It was said at the time that he was from St. Ursule. Lucie having died, Simon married on 29 August, 1848, Cécile Bergeron (Charles and Marie-Louise Deblois), widow of Charles Gagnon. About 1856 they came to Beaverville, Illinois, with their family. They probably came here because Simon's brother, Joseph and his wife, Mathilda Poulin were already living in the Beaverville area*. Simon and Joseph were farmers and owned property in Beaverville and Martinton. Simon and Cécile had five children.

Simon's brother, Joseph, died 15 October, 1857. Simon was named executor of Joseph's estate. On 27 November, 1867, the court changed executors to Victor Peltier because Simon could not read or write English. Cécile Bergeron Frigon died 1 January, 1895, and is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery at Beaverville, Illinois. Simon returned to Louiseville, where on 26 September, 1895, he married Euphrosine Bergeron, his third marriage. It is not known if Euphrosine was a sister of Cécile Bergeron).

Simon became ill and quit-claim deeded (15 September, 1899) his land to Euphrosine. This was illegal as you cannot quit-claim a homestead. It went to court and was settled with Cécile Bergeron Gagnon's son, Hercule Gagnon, as the administrator. Euphrosine gave up her claim to the property. The property was sold and Simon's debts were paid. Simon died 2 October 1899. Euphrosine died after 1900. They are both buried in the Frigon family plot at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Beaverville, Illinois.

* Editor's comment: Joseph had no doubt been attracted to the Illinois by the famous Father Chiniquy who convinced so many French-Canadians to emigrate. In forthcoming issues, we plan to tell the fascinating story of the many Canadian families who took part in this emigration in the 1800s some forty families: the Allards, Bélangers, St. Pierres, Frigons, etc., etc..

Association of Frigon Families Inc.

Board of Directors

Raymond Frigon
President
403-15 Murray Street
Ottawa, ON, K1N 9M5
☎: 613-241-5433

Robert Frigon
Vice President
6-9000 de l'Attisée
Charny, QC G6X 1H8
☎ 418-832-4924

Pierre Frigon
2700 rue Tremblay
St. Hubert, QC, J3Y 4B7
☎ 514-678-9786

Luc Frigon
50, rue Linden
Baie d'Urfé, QC H9X 3K3
☎ 514-457-2883

Jean-René Frigon
5400 rue Marseille
Trois-Rivières-Ouest
G8Y 3Z5

Louis-Georges Frigon
11799 Zotique-Racicot
Montreal, QC
H3L 3M5

The Frigons, Quarterly Newsletter of the Association

Co-ordinator: Raymond Frigon:

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Members (64) are listed according to membership number

The Book Corner

Pierre Frigon (4)

La thèse is a detective novel having for background the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal in the 1930s. It marries science and intrigue at a time when Augustin Frigon was the engineering school's dean. He is mentioned by name on several occasions. The author is Professor of Science History at Ecole Polytechnique. The novel was awarded Robert Cliche prize in 1994.

La thèse, Robert Gagnon, Éditions Quinze, 1994, 233 pages, \$17.95

Noms et lieux du Québec is an illustrated dictionary of more than 6000 place names in Quebec with accompanying descriptions. As mentioned in the front page article in this issue, the Frigon name is featured in *Canton Frigon* - a township near the Manicouagan Reservoir. One can read: "...cette division territoriale a reçu le nom de François Frigon (1648-1724), pionnier de Batiscan et ancêtre des familles Frigon." A map at the end of the book allows for easily locating the *canton* on the Séchelles River.

Noms et lieux du Québec: Dictionnaire illustré, Commission de toponymie du Québec, Les Publications du Québec, 960 pages, \$79.95



Origin of the Frigon Name

Pierre Frigon (4)

In the first issue of *THE FRIGONS*, it was proposed that the family name Frigon may have come from *ruscus*, a medicinal plant. Here is some additional information: *ruscus* was the latin name for this plant in Antiquity. As to Fragon, which appears as Fregon in the 12th century, it derives from *Ruscus*, later transformed into *Bruscus*, from which *Frisgones* in the vocabularies of the Middle Ages. On the other hand, it is known that giving names to places goes back to the 14th and 15th centuries. It is difficult to determine exactly when names were allocated. Several places in France have names derived from Fragon. It is therefore possible that the first bearer of the name may have given his name to the place, or conversely an individual may have derived his name from a place. The name is found in the West of France, from the Vendée to the mouth of the Somme.

Sources: *Jardins des Simples, Les vertus des herbes*, Jardin botanique de la ville et de l'Université de Caen, 1980, 86 pages and letter to Raymond Frigon from Monsieur Poule, Secrétaire de l'École nationale des Chartes, Paris, June 7, 1967.