

# THE FRIGONS

**OUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE** FRIGON, FRIGONE, FREGO, FREGOE, FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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# THE MIGRATION OF THE FRIGONS I- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL BRANCHES

Jean-René Frigon (11)

This first article about the migration of the Frigons was made possible by the passionate work of several people who have researched the life and history (of our ancestors) and continue to do so, thereby bequeathing to the extended Frigon family the story of its rich and edifying past. It is with respect and admiration that I consulted their articles in previous newsletters and used the Association database. They are: Raymond Frigon (01), Robert Frigon (02), Pierre Frigon (04), Lucie Frigon Caron (56) and Georges E. Frigon (93)

#### FRANCE 1615 - 1807

We find few inscriptions of the patronymic Frigon in the parish registers | 1615 : death of Marguerite Frigon in Provence. of this period. To date, the research undertaken by Lucie Frigon Caron (56) has resulted in the discovery of five documents that mention a Frigon in the period from 1615 to 1807.

Though we have no birth certificate as proof, we can add François Frigon | 1790: marriage of Magdelene Frigon in Provence. known as Lespagnol, to the four Frigons discovered in France; he was probably born around 1649. Even today, his birthplace is unknown to us. He left France around 1665, at the age of about 16, to try his luck in the

Ref.: Newsletter Spring 2006.

1696: marriage of Jullien Frigon in Brittany.

Ref.: Newsletter Winter 2006.

1710: marriage of Jeanne Rose Frigon in Provence.

Ref.: Newsletter Summer 2005.

Réf.: Newsletter Summer 2006.

1807: marriage of Élisabeth Frigon in Provence.

Ref.: Newsletter Spring 2005.

New World, in New France. But his birth is only half of a burgeoning story, a fantastic tale, one that evolves in three different countries – Canada, the United States and Australia: the history of the families bearing the surnames Frigon, Frigone, Frego, Fregoe, Fregone and Fregon.

In fact, it was six years after the birth of François, on January 8, 1656, that the principal pieces for the beginning of this fabulous story fell into place. That year, Marie-Claude Chamois was born in the parish of St.Gervais, Diocese of Paris. The last of four children, she had to leave the paternal home at the age of 13 to elude ill-treatment. She stayed a year in a residence for young girls under the protection of nuns. It was from there that she left for New France in 1670, with a group of recruits known as Filles du Roy (King's Wards); she was 14 years old.

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Membership May 18, 2006 .....

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PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

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- retrace the families bearing the surnames Frigon, Frigone, Fregoe, Fregone et Fregon
- recruit members and resource persons
- organise gatherings and annual reunions with a view to creating bonds of friendship
- collect genealogical and historical information from the members and other sources in order to favour the promotion, development and the spread of Frigon history, genealogy and other ties between generations
- publish a Frigon Family dictionary
- publish the newsletter The Frigons
- publish and make available monographs, biographies, family albums, the results of historical and genealogical research
- assure the preservation of the family archives

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**Revision:** authors of manuscripts are free to accept or reject the corrections, remarks or suggestions proposed to them by the revisers.

Gérald Frigon (116)

We recently had the pleasure of entertaining relatives whom we had not seen for a long time. It was a very special get-together, one of those unexpected gifts that life sometimes bestows upon us. With hindsight and maturity, our perception of certain memories had changed, thus altering somewhat their significance. The friendship of our youth was totally rekindled. But memory must pause when faced with such mixed feelings.

On the one hand, the experiences of daily living bring about an evolution in our way of thinking and acting. It is reassuring to observe that man can use his intelligence to surpass himself. And the progress of each individual leads to the advancement of humanity.

On the other hand, certain gestures remind us of whom we have been and always will be. There is a part of us that never changes and, at times, when we find ourselves reacting with a certain gesture or expression, we get a glimpse of the child in us or the parent whose example we followed.

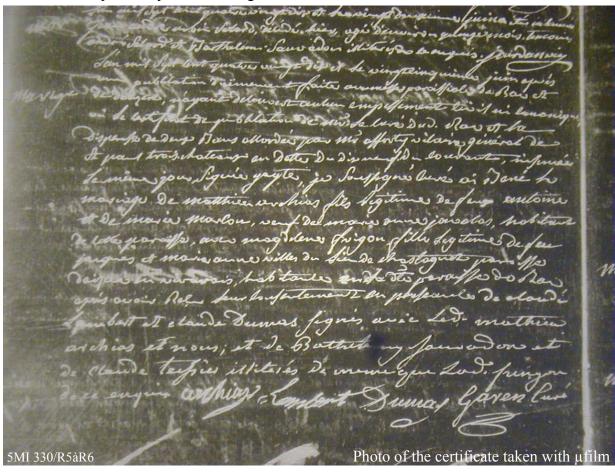
We have this same pleasant experience during our annual reunions when we enjoy seeing a distant cousin or meeting a member whose reputation has piqued our curiosity.

See you at Amos on September 2 and 3, 2006!

# Some Frigons in France

Donzère, 1790 Lucie Frigon Caron (#56)

The series of discoveries in France continues with the marriage of another Frigon woman. Magdelene, legitimate daughter of the late Jacques Frigon and Marie Anne Viller who, on June 25, 1790, married Matthieu Archias as proven by the following document:



Donzère, 1790

(Continued from page 51)

There are gaps in the transcription of the marriage certificate that you may be able to fill. The volunteer from *l'Entraide généalogique* in France and I have deciphered the following →

Donzère, gateway of Provence, is situated in *Drôme provençale*, between the Massif Central and the Alps, midway between Lyon and Marseille on the left bank of the Rhone. This information comes from the Web site <a href="http://www.donzere.fr">http://www.donzere.fr</a>

We are now at the 4th Frigon marriage in France. Of those known to us at this time, 3 were contracted by Frigon women, somewhere in Provence. But where are the fathers, brothers, cousins?

1	The year seventeen ninety and the twenty-fifth day of june after
2	a publication in due form at the parish masses at Rac and
3	at Donzère, having uncovered no impediment civil nor canonical
4	given the certificate of publication of the parish priest of the said Rac and the
5	dispensation from the two banns by Mr. (?) vicar-general of
6	St paul trois chateaux dated the nineteenth of the current month, inscribed
7	the same day, signed here, I the undersigned parish priest blessed the
8	marriage of matthieu archias, legitimate son of the late antoine
9	and of marie marlou, widower of marie anne javelas, living
10	in this parish, with magdelene frigon legitimate daughter of the late
11	jacques and marie anne viller of the place called chastagnet, parish
12	of Aizac in vivarais, resident of the said parish of Rac
13	After having received their consent in the presence of claude
14	lambert and claude Dumas signed with the said Mathieu
15	archias and ourself; and of Barthelemy and
16	of claude teissier, illiterate, the same for the said Fringon
17	as required
	Archias Lambert Dumas (?) Parish priest

# **FAMILY HISTORY SHARING**

Georges Frigon (93)

A request from the Association's researchers.

Help us to identify the Frigon shown in this photo.

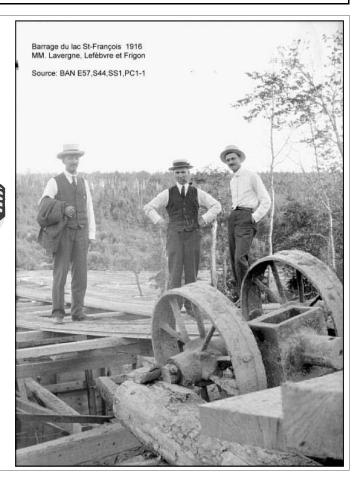
Do you know the location of this

Lac-St-François and the dam?

All information should be sent to:

Georges E. Frigon 165, rue Bélanger, Trois-Rivières, QC G9B 1Y4 Téléphone : (819) 377-7918

Courriel: frigon.georges@cgocable.ca



# THE "ENGAGÉS" (INDENTURED WORKERS) AT THE TIME OF THE 1666 CENSUS I- François Frigon, Indentured Worker?

Pierre Frigon (#4)

The first document at our disposal in order to identify François Frigon's social status soon after his arrival in "Nouvelle France" is the 1666 census<sup>1</sup>. In that document, three major classes of citizens draw our attention: "les *engagés*" (the indentured workers), "les *volontaires*" (the freemen) and "les *habitants*" (the settlers)<sup>2</sup>.

Did François Frigon come to "Nouvelle France" as an indentured worker? An indentured worker is defined as follows: "...in the 1666 census, one who is still bound by an immigration contract, who is not yet self-employed and has no trading privileges; when his contract (usually of three years duration) expires, he will be able to return to France or become a settler."<sup>3</sup>

In the 1666 census François Frigon was not listed as indentured but rather as a "domestic" at the service of Michel Pelletier known as Laprade. In fact, the census made a systematic distinction between "indentured servant" (involving a three year enlistment contract) and a "servant" by profession. This existed everywhere except in Trois-Rivières. "...In Trois-Rivières, it looks as if, after the first three pages, the enumerator ignored the "indentured" category and kept only "servant": the 57 workers listed afterwards are all mentioned only as "servants". This may be due to a bad allocation of the contract workers at the time of their arrival in the country, since the Quebec region had monopolized most of them: there had already been complaints about this situation."

We consulted the original census in order to find out if François Frigon is mentioned in the first three pages, which would indicate whether he was a servant by profession or an indentured servant. The census for the Trois-Rivières region starts at page 132 and François Frigon is mentioned on page 146. His name is listed in the section in which the enumerator left out the type of indenture and retained only the word servant. All that one can conclude about his social status in 1666 is that he was a servant at the service of Michel Peltier known as Laprade. One cannot state with any certainty that he was an indentured servant. On the other hand, to the best of our knowledge, no official document confirms that he was, upon his arrival in Nouvelle-France, an indentured worker at the service of Michel Peltier known as Laprade.

Could he then have been a "volontaire" (a freeman)? As a freeman, his status would have been as follows: "Here the word "volontaire" has no military

connotation: it means that an immigrant has come to the country without being bound by a contract, he can leave whenever he wishes to do so (unless he is bound by a service contract) or decide to stay permanently; nor does he have trading privileges." Following is the allocation of the freemen: "In the Quebec region: 33; in the Trois-Rivières region: 37; in Montreal: 1.5" We note that there were many freemen in the Trois-Rivières region. This seems quite odd because Trois-Rivières was a trading post and freemen did not have trading privileges!

Could he have been "un habitant" (a settler)? Not yet. Indeed, "People other than settlers are employed by an individual or an institution: these people are either bound to their employer by an immigrant contract or by a service contract. Or, they can also be available as laborers, leasing their brawn on a daily, weekly or monthly basis." <sup>6</sup>

A settler is "a man well established in the land, whether it be in a town or in the country; free of all immigrant contracts, he is self-employed and, as a settler, he is the only one who for the last twenty years, has enjoyed the privilege of fur trading."<sup>7</sup>

"Habitant (settler): a term without agricultural connotations designating one who is self- employed.8

So, in 1666, François Frigon was working for someone else. He was not yet a "habitant" (a settler). He was not described as a "volontaire" (freeman), but as a "domestique" (servant). As for the status of "engagé" (indentured worker), proof remains to be found. However, such a hypothesis appears to be most probable.

In the next article, we will discuss the trades that the "engagés" (indentured workers) were involved in.

Translated by Nicole Frigon (191)

- 1. 1-In addition to occupation, the census mentions the following information: Surname, first name, sex, marital status, age, ability to sign their name, indenture, profession, origin. François Frigon is described as a bachelor able to sign his name, a servant, aged 18 and male. His origin is not mentioned.
- Marcel Trudel, La population du Canada en 1666, recensement reconstitué (The Population of Canada in 1666, a Reconstructed Census, Septentrion, 1995, p.47.
- 3. Marcel Trudel, p.63, note 55.
- 4. Marcel Trudel, pp.47-48.
- 5. Marcel Trudel, p.63, note 53
- 6. Marcel Trudel, p.48
- 7. Marcel Trudel, p.47
- 8. Marcel Trudel, p.70

#### THE MIGRATION OF THE FRIGONS

#### I- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL BRANCHES

(Continued from page 49)

#### REGION OF TROIS-RIVIÈRES 1665 -1670

François Frigon arrived in New France, probably with the 1665 group of new settlers, and was hired as a servant for a period of three years by Michel Pelletier known as Laprade. He lived in Trois-Rivières or Cap-de-la-Madeleine.

The following years were a time of learning for François. Thanks to his employer, he explored the Batiscan area; he established contacts with the natives, travelled on the Ste-Anne and Batiscan Rivers, cleared new land, discovered trading and bartering, and became familiar with the wide-open spaces. A taste for adventure took root and oriented his future life.

At the beginning of 1670, François was still single and did not suspect that among the new-comers of that year, there was a *Fille du Roy* who, before the end of the year, would join her destiny to his, and that together they would leave a long line of proud descendants.

#### BATISCAN 1670 - THE FIRST FRIGON FAMILY IN NEW FRANCE

François Frigon and Marie-Claude Chamois were married in November 1670 at the "Coste de Batiscan" The following year, François was granted a piece of land in Batiscan. That is how the Frigon family took root in New France. They had six children, two boys and four girls; only one son, Jean-François, passed on the Frigon name.

#### BATISCAN 1700 – THE SECOND GENERATION

Jean-François inherited his father's land, thus assuring the presence of a second generation of Frigons in Batiscan. He married twice and had fifteen children, seven boys and eight girls. The family name was passed on by two of his sons, Antoine-Pierre and Paul-Joseph.

#### STE -GENEVIÈVE-DE-BATISCAN 1748

Antoine-Pierre went up the Batiscan River and settled a few kilometres farther north in the region of Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan. He had ten children, four sons and six daughters.

Three of his sons settled in the immediate region of Ste-Geneviève, thereby assuring the survival of the Frigon surname in that area. Theirs are the first three principal branches of the family tree of François and Marie-Claude.

STE -GENEVIÈVE-DE-BATISCAN 1774 Pierre-Antoine (1st branch)

STE -GENEVIÈVE-DE-BATISCAN 1780 Louis-Augustin (2<sup>nd</sup> branch)

STE -GENEVIÈVE-DE-BATISCAN 1782 Joseph (3<sup>rd</sup> branch)

#### STE -ANNE-DE-LA-PÉRADE 1755

Paul-Joseph also settled a few kilometres away from Batiscan, but towards the east, in the region of Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade. He had thirteen children, five boys and eight girls.

Four of his sons established themselves north of Lac St-Pierre and assured the continuity of the Frigon name. Today they constitute the four other principal branches of François and Marie-Claude's descendants.

MASKINONGÉ 1797 Paul-Antoine (4<sup>th</sup> branch)

MASKINONGÉ 1799 Louis-Michel (5<sup>th</sup> branch)

LOUISEVILLE 1801 Olivier-Pierre (6<sup>th</sup> branch)

**LOUISEVILLE 1807**Joseph-Marie (7<sup>th</sup> branch)

According to present information, we can consider all the actual descendants bearing the names Frigon, Frigone, Frego, Fregoe, Fregoe, Fregone et Fregon, as coming from one or other of the seven principal branches we have described above. To complete this article, we are including a list of all the members of the Association with the branch from which they descend.

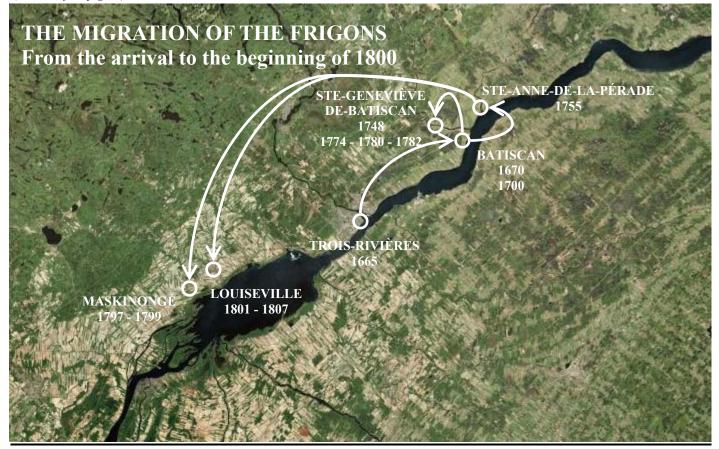
Which branch do you come from? Happy research!

i. « Coste de Batiscan» was the Old French and Provencal spelling of Côte de Batiscan. In contemporary French, the "os" has been changed to "ô".

# THE MIGRATION OF THE FRIGONS

I- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL BRANCHES

(Continued from page 54)



AN APPEAL TO ALL – ALLOTRANSPLANTATION

Louise Frigon (32)

Ed. note: Shortly before his death, Gilles Frigon (31) addressed a few words to us. His sister Louise (32) conveys his message to us on his behalf.

A few months ago, our Association made an urgent appeal to all of us to become stem cell donors for Gilles Frigon (31). He received and read the Association Newsletter while hospitalized. At the same time, he learned that his illness had progressed to a stage where a bone marrow transplant was no longer possible. Though he knew that his days were numbered, he said: "The steps taken by the Association are very meaningful to me and give me the opportunity to leave a medical legacy to other Frigons and to any other person who needs a stem cell transplant. Please thank everybody sincerely on my behalf!"

Gilles died on March 21, 2006 at the age of 65.

A number of people who attended Gilles' funeral said that they had already donated the blood sample required by Héma-Québec. The movement has begun! Heartfelt thanks to all those who participated in this wonderful undertaking!

# GENEALOGICAL SKETCH (Gilles Frigon) François and Marie-Claude Chamois Jean-François and Gertrude Peros Antoine Pierre and Marie-Anne Trottier Louis-Augustin and Marie Lefebvre Augustin and Marie Brousseau Elzéar and Éléonore Massicotte Philippe F. X. and Marie-Anne Pronovost Clément and Laurette Rivard Gilles Frigon

# **BRANCH OF PIERRE-ANTOINE (43)**

Agenor Frigon, Montréal Annic Frigon, Rouyn-Noranda Armande Frigon, Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade Benoit Frigon, Québec Carmen Chartier, Pontiac Céline Frigon, Pierrefonds Daniel Frigon, Champlain François Frigon, Saint-Hubert Gabrielle Frigon (Gagnon), Saint-Eustache Gilles Frigon, Amos Ginette Frigon, Saint-Hyacinthe Hélène Lusignan Morin, Montréal Hermine Trudel, Montréal Huguette Frigon, Sherbrooke Ivanhoë Frigon Jr, Amos Ivanhoë III Frigon, Rock-Forest Jacinthe Frigon, Chicoutimi Jacques Frigon, Amos Jacques Frigon, Montréal Jeannine Vallée Boivin, Anjou Jean-Yves Frigon , Brossard John J. Pepper, Montréal Judith White Tanner, Deep River Kathleen Pepper Klein, Westmount Lee A. Templeton, Thousand Oaks Léonce Frigon, Laval Liliane Frigon, Shawinigan Sud Louise Frigon, Anjou Louise Frigon, Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade Lucie Frigon (Ratté), Longueuil Madeleine Frigon, Angliers Marguerite Pepper Whyte. Marie-Claire Frigon, Montréal-Nord Marie-Paule Frigon, La Doré Paul Frigon, Sainte-Marthe-du-Lac Paul-Florian Frigon, Saint-Romuald Pierre Frigon, Saint-Hippolyte Prudence Frigon, Whitby Robert Frigon, Châteauguay Roland Frigon, La Tuque Romuald A. Frigon, Kanata Suzanne Trudel, Sainte-Thècle Sylvie Frigon (Naud), Cap-Rouge

#### **BRANCH OF PAUL-ANTOINE (3)**

André-Arthur Frigon, Montréal Marie-Claire Frigon-Doucet, Inverness Ronald Frego, Stacy

#### **BRANCH OF OLIVIER-PIERRE (8)**

Cyrille Frigon, Louiseville Dale Smith, Clifton Park Jean-Claude Frigon, Trois-Rivières Les Arseneau, Fontain Valley Line Frigon, Longueuil Mary Frego Coates, Kincardine Robert A. Harvey, Saint-Johnsville Teresa L. Frigon, Honolulu

# **BRANCH OF LOUIS-AUGUSTIN (59)**

Alain Frigon, Cap Rouge André Frigon, St-Étienne-des-Grès André Frigon, Laval Anita Frigon (Guillemette), Montréal Antonia Frigon (Nadeau), Brigitte Frigon (Martineau), Amos Céline Frigon o.s.u, Trois-Rivières Claire Baribeau-Graham, Waterbury Claudette Frigon (Giesinger), Longueuil Claudette Chevrette Naud, Montréal Claudette Dupont, Saint-Mathieu-du-Parc Denis Frigon, Trois-Rivières Doris Chevrette, Southington Fernand Frigon, Duvernay Laval Francine Guilbeault Archambault, Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan François Frigon, Laval Gaétan Frigon, Montréal Georges E. Frigon, Trois-Rivières Georgette Frigon (Cormier), Baie-Comeau Gérald Frigon, Saint-Prosper Gérald Frigon, Laval Gisèle Frigon (Forget), Rockland Guy Frigon, Saint-Lambert Hélène Lusignan Morin, Montréal Jacques Frigon, Ottawa Jacques Frigon, Sept-Iles Jean-Pierre Frigon, Trois-Rivières Louis-Georges Frigon, Montréal Louise Frigon cnd. Montréal Lucie Frigon (Caron), Gatineau Lucille Frigon, Cowansville Madeleine Frigon, Trois-Rivières Marc Frigon, Wolcott Marcel Frigon, Shawinigan Marcel Guillemette, Montréal-Nord Marie-Berthe Frigon Fredette, St-Hyacinthe Marie-J. Frigon (Ross), Forestville Maurice Frigon, Saint-Boniface Monique Frigon-Blanchette, Dracut Nicole Frigon, Outremont Odette Frigon, Montréal Pauline Frigon (Couture), Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville Pierrette Frigon (Bélanger). Batiscan Rachel Massicotte-Lusignan, Plessisville Raymonde Frigon, Saint-Jérôme Réjeanne Frigon, Sainte-Martine René Frigon, Trois-Rivières Rita Frigon Lacasse, Vimont Robert Frigon, Charny Roger Frigon, Gatineau Roger Frigon, Rimouski Rolande Dupont, Shawinigan Ruth Baribeau-Hamilton, Stratford Serge Martin, Saint-Jérôme Solange Dupont Fasan, Welland Suzanne Frigon, Saint-François-du-Lac Sylvie Tranchemontagne, Montréal Thérèse Frigon, Montréal

#### **BRANCH OF JOSEPH (26)**

Aline Frigon, Proulxville

André Frigon, Proulxville Anthony Jérôme Frigon, Saint-Lazarre Diane Frigon, Saint-Tite Donald C. Frigon, Glenrock Elaine A Frigone, Allyn Jean-René Frigon, Trois-Rivières Joanne Fregon, Huguesdale John Riddell, Nicholson Lee E. Fregon, Hopewell Jonction Lise Mahoux Léonard, Saint-Sauveur-des-Monts Luc O. Frigon, Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens M. Frigon, Vancouver Marguerite Frigon, Mont-Royal Maurice Frigon, Saint-Eustache Mildred G. Frigon Burns, Topeka Monique Frigon, Shawinigan-Sud Norma Frigon, Enfield Paul Frigon, Almonte Paul Joseph Frigon, Edmonton Phillip Frigon, Clay Center Raymond A. Frigon, Ottawa Raymond F. Maynard, New London Steven C. Frigon, Batavia Sylvain Lafrance, Saguenay (Chicoutimi) Thérèse Frigon s.p., Montréal

#### **BRANCH OF LOUIS-MICHEL (1)**

Élaine-Claire Bessette (Smith), Bloomfield

# **BRANCH OF THOMAS LEWIS (1)**

(His mother, Marie-Louise Frigon)

Françoise Lewis, Lachine

# **UNKNOWN BRANCH (5)**

Cynthia L. Fregoe, Massena Denise Frigon, Trois-Rivières Nathalie Frigon, Chateauguay Ursule Frigon, Saint-Prosper Yolande Frigon, Rockland

If your name appears on this list, please send us the name of your parents, of your grand-parents and of other family members so that we can develop your branch of the family.

All information should be sent to:

Georges E. Frigon 165, rue Bélanger, Trois-Rivières, QC G9B 1Y4 Téléphone : (819) 377-7918 Courriel :

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