



# THE FRIGONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FRIGON, FRIGONE, FREGO,  
FREGOE, FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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## THE MIGRATION OF THE FRIGONS

### IV- The Line of Joseph: 1782<sup>1</sup>

Jean-René Frigon (11)

Let us recall that with the Association's actual database, we have been able to identify, after four generations, the existence of seven principal agnatic lines stemming from François Frigon and Marie-Claude Chamois. We believe that all the descendants bearing the names Frigon, Frigone, Frego, Fregoe Fregon, Fregone or Florentine all come from one or other of these lines.

In previous newsletters we have presented the migration of two of the three sons of Antoine-Pierre Frigon of Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, that is, the lines of Pierre-Antoine (Fall 2005) and Louis-Augustin (Winter 2007). In general, the first article explained the establishment of the seven principal lines. This fourth article of the series presents the migration of the line of the third son, Joseph. This line of Joseph completes the trio of principal lines that put down roots in Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan.

Twenty-six (26) members of our Association come from the line of Joseph and more than half of these (54%) are to be found outside of Quebec. We find them elsewhere in Canada, in the United States and in Australia. This distribution of members reflects well the distinctive feature of this line with its descendants scattered far and wide. Indeed, it is interesting to note that, at the end of the seventh generation, 62% of the descendants of Joseph's line have left Quebec. I would like to try to lift a corner of the veil that covers this line of Joseph and to help you discover very briefly, a fascinating story. I will call this line, the **uprooted line**.

#### FOURTH GENERATION JOSEPH AND MAGDELEINE LEFEBVRE

The year 1800 sealed the destiny of Joseph and

Magdeleine Lefebvre, and forged forever the future of their sons, daughters and descendants. The events that I am about to recount very briefly explain perhaps why the latter seem to have no solid ties to this region of Quebec and left it in such large numbers for other places.

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1. All the dates, unless otherwise specified, refer to the dates when the families settled in the places mentioned and, in most cases, correspond with the marriage year.
2. An agnatic line is one established by tracing descent exclusively through males from a founding male ancestor.

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## 86 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES ARE TO

- retrace the families bearing the surnames Frigon, Frigone, Frego, 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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### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual: \$20/year \$50/3 years \$80/5 years

Benefactor: \$30/year

Lifetime: \$250 (55 years and over)

Corporate: \$250/year (includes an optional free half-page advertisement in *THE FRIGONS* for two years/8 newsletters)

Canada: Canadian dollar      USA and other countries: US dollar

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*The texts published in the newsletter are the sole responsibility of the authors.*

It is gardening time! Today, we look upon this activity as a pastime, but it was not always so. In the days of our ancestor, in Batiscan, there were no "little gardens" as there are today. A few cereals and vegetables were cultivated to fill the needs for the whole year.

From 1692 to 1739, according to the censuses taken in the Batiscan region, wheat was the principal crop and accounted for 30% of the production; oats and peas, vetch and beans constituted the balance; corn (the only plant, along with squash, that was indigenous) made up little more than 1% of the production. At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, flax and hemp for making clothing and bedding were added to the list, as was tobacco. It was only at the end of this same century that we find

white cabbage, turnips, potatoes, carrots, pumpkin, cucumbers, leeks, onions, parsley, and rarely, asparagus and melons.

The censuses showed that each household had between three and seven horned animals, and as many sheep. However, meat and poultry were kept for the winter. The fruit of fishing and hunting activities were an important part of our ancestors' diet.

The diversity of products found on our tables today, solids as well as beverages, and the great variety of spices and condiments that we enjoy, make us appreciate the evolution that was brought about by new technologies and knowledge.

## FAMILY NEWS

Georges E. Frigon (93)

## DEATHS

*Sincere condolences to our members, cousins, and families who have lost a loved one.*

### April 2007

Adrienne Emma Frigon, wife of John Pratt, and daughter of Adrian Frigon and Eugénie Autet, died in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on April 12, 2007, at the age of 85.

*Adrienne Emma Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Hilaire*

Jeannette Gobeil, wife of Jean-Pierre Frigon, died in Laval, on April 17, 2007 at the age of 84.

*Jean-Pierre Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Antoine.*

### May 2007

Marielle Frigon, wife of the late Jacques Ricard, died in Trois-Rivières, on May 21, 2007, at the age of 68 years and 2 months.

*Marielle Frigon comes from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Elzéar.*

### June 2007

Marc Leduc, son of the late Lionel Leduc and the late Simone Frigon, died in Quebec City, on June 8, 2007, at the age of 57.

*Simone Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Olivier, branch of Olivier.*

### July 2007

Alice Frigon, wife of Roger Houde, died in Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, on July 9, 2007, at the age of 92.

*Alice Frigon comes from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Abraham-Silvestre.*

Maurice Laliberté, son of the late Rodolphe Laliberté and

Cécile Frigon, died in Saint-Méthode, on July 13, 2007, at the age of 54 years and 4 months.

*Cécile Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Souleine.*

Lorraine Gravel, daughter of the late Charles Henri Gravel and the late Marguerite Frigon, died in Montreal, on July 18, 2007, at the age of 73.

*Marguerite Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of François-Xavier.*

Jeannine Gaudreault, wife of Lucien Frigon, died in Saint-Eustache, on July 21, 2007, at the age of 82.

*Lucien Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Souleine.*

Charles Frigon, spouse of Kathleen Kohee, son of Paul Edward Frigon and Kathleen Steward, died in New Port Richey, Florida, on July 29, 2007, at the age of 61.

*The line of Charles and of Paul-Edward is unfamiliar to us.*

### August 2007

Armand Frigon, husband of Antoinette Saccucci, died in Montreal, on August 7, 2007, at the age of 83.

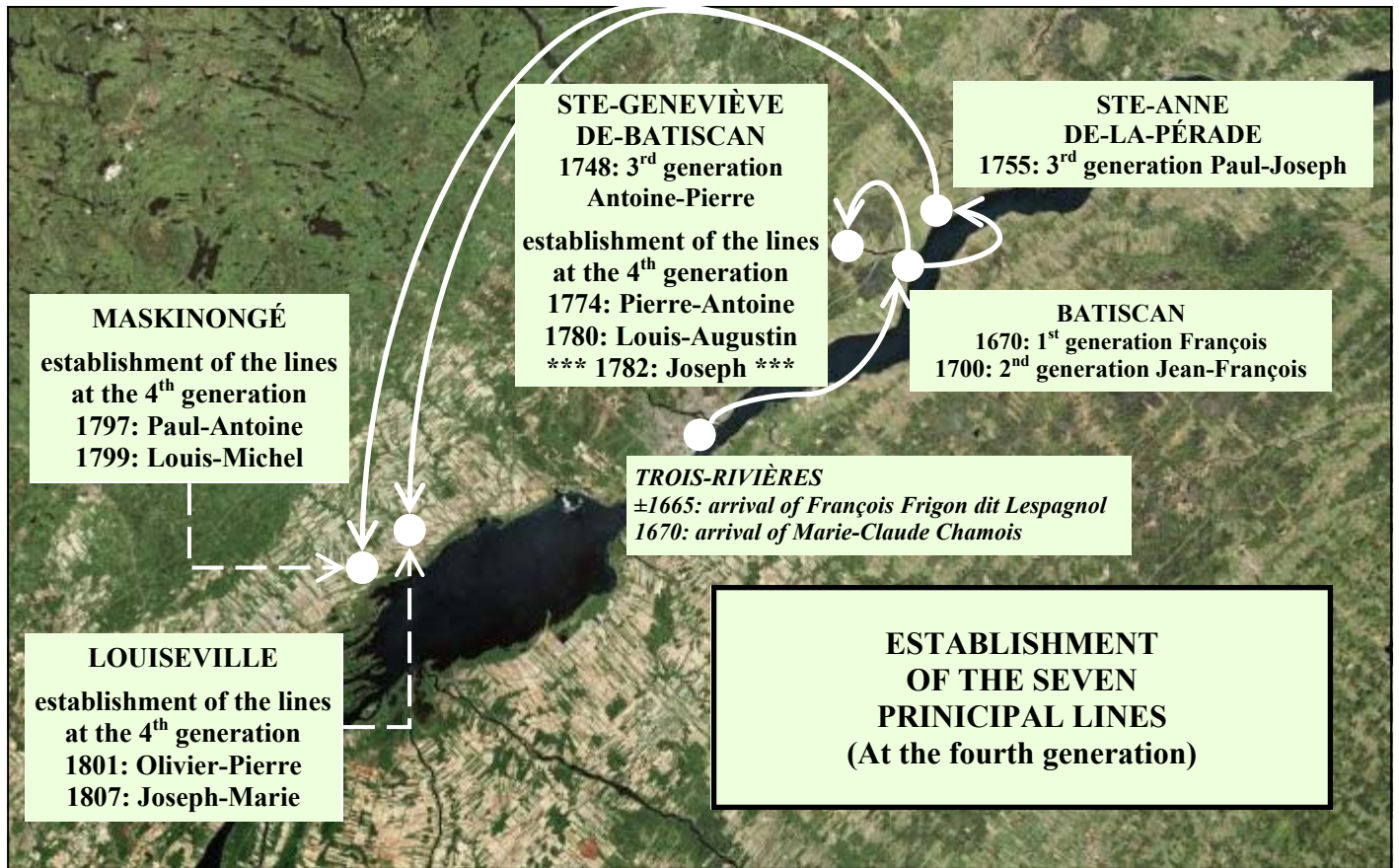
*Armand Frigon comes from the line of Paul-Antoine, branch of Arthur.*

Lise Frigon, wife of Georges Voyles, and sister of Maurice (158), Marcel (28), Georges E (93), died in Friendship, Wisconsin USA, on August 8, 2007, at the age of 70.

*Lise comes from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Hubert.*

THE MIGRATION OF THE FRIGONS

IV- The Line of Joseph: 1782



(Continued from page 85)

At the end of the summer of 1800, Magdeleine gave birth to her 13<sup>th</sup> child. The infant, a girl, did not survive: Josette died the day of her birth, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Magdeleine herself died three months later, on November 28<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 37. But that is not the end of the ordeal, for Joseph, the father, also died a month later, on December 25<sup>th</sup>; he was 42 years old. They left eight orphans, 5 boys and three girls, aged between two and sixteen years.

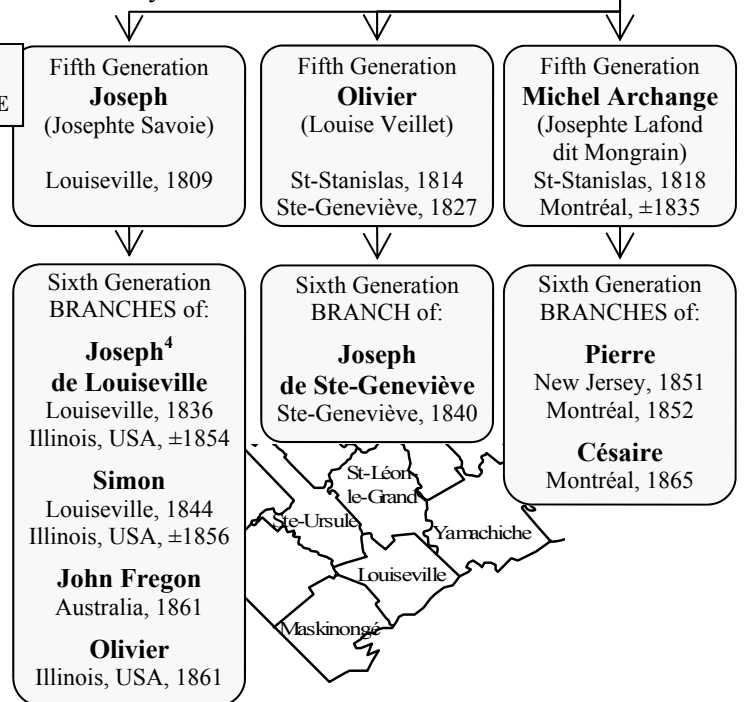
Fourth Generation  
**The line of JOSEPH**  
(Magdeleine Lefebvre)  
Ste-Geneviève, 1782

**FIFTH GENERATION  
THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH AND MAGDELEINE LEFEBVRE**

It is possible that it is this adversity that shaped the future of Joseph Frigon and Magdeleine Lefebvre's descendants. Probably taken in by their uncles and aunts, the children of this fifth generation, boys and girls, all settled in the immediate vicinity of Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, Louiseville, and Trois-Rivières.

The oldest son, **Joseph**, spent his youth with a family in Ste-Ursule after the death of his parents. He settled in Louiseville and farmed there all his life. All his children left the region to settle in the United States and in Australia via the state of Illinois. Joseph spent the last years of his life with one of his sons in the United States.

(Continued on page 89)

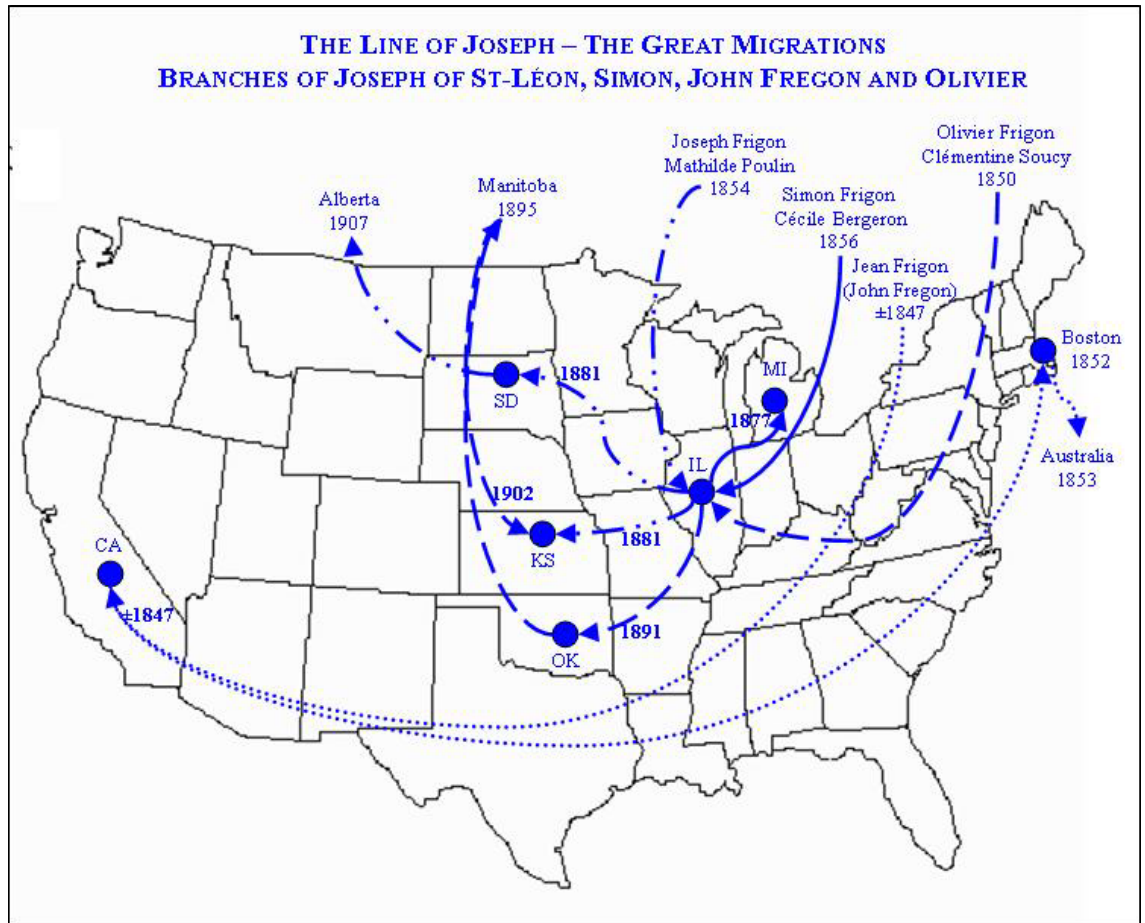


IV- The Line of Joseph: 1782

(Continued from page 88)

A second son, **Olivier**, a farmer who settled first in St-Stanislas and then in Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, was the only descendant of Joseph's line to maintain the surname Frigon in the Mauricie region.

The last son, **Michel-Archange**, left his farm in Saint-Stanislas and established the first Frigon family in Montreal around 1835. Several of his children took root in the metropolitan area.



It was the children of **Joseph**, **Olivier** and **Michel-Archange**, the descendants of the sixth generation, who left in large numbers to settle elsewhere. The possibility of having a better life in the United States, in Western Canada, or in Australia, in addition to the uprooting the family had experienced after the deaths of Magdeleine and Joseph in 1800, contributed to their determination to leave all behind.

what happened to three of his children. Four of his sons and one daughter, who founded a Durand family, also settled in Illinois. Another daughter founded a Hébert family in Illinois then moved to Kansas. Two sons established themselves in South Dakota, but only one of these had descendants, and these adopted the surname Frigon. Another son, Hilaire, after having successively lived in Illinois and South Dakota, settled definitively in Alberta, near Edmonton.

**SIXTH GENERATION**

**BRANCH OF JOSEPH OF LOUISEVILLE<sup>4</sup>, FARMER IN LOUISEVILLE, AND MARTINTON, ILLINOIS**

Joseph and Mathilde Poulin, 1836  
(nine sons, three daughters)

Joseph was the oldest of the family and settled with his entire family in Illinois around 1854. We do not know

*Four of our members are descendants of the line of Joseph, branch of Joseph of Louiseville: Anthony Jérôme Frigon of Saint-Lazare, Qc, Donald Curtis Frigon of Wyoming, Paul Joseph Frigon of Alberta, and Steven Christopher Frigon of Ohio.*

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3. The Montreal Directory for 1843/1844 lists Michel Frigon as residing at the "Corner of St-Charles-Boromée, near Mignonne Street". In 1931, he owned a 150 "arpents" (± acres) farm in St-Stanislas. He also worked as a carpenter in Louiseville (Rivière du Loup).  
 4. The children of Joseph of Louiseville were born in Louiseville, Saint-Ursule, St-Léon-le-Grand and in Illinois. At the death of Joseph, in Martinton, IL, his land (160 acres) was valued at \$1400 and he had \$180 in personal money. His land became the property of Léo Hébert, husband of his daughter Louise Frigon. However, the map of 1904 shows that the property no longer belonged to the Frigons nor to the Héberts.

(Continued from page 89)

#### SIXTH GENERATION

##### BRANCH OF SIMON, FARMER IN STE-URSULE AND IN MARTINTON, ILLINOIS

Simon (second marriage) and Cécile Bergeron, 1848  
(five sons, one daughter)

Simon was the second child of the family and he in turn settled in Illinois with his family around 1856. He thus joined his older brother Joseph, who was already established there two years previous. The two brothers had lots of 160 to 220 acres near Martinton.

Two of Simon's sons settled in Illinois and spread the names Frigon and Frigone.

The eldest of his sons, Frank<sup>5</sup> established himself in Michigan and all his descendants bore the name Florentine. We do not know why Frank abandoned the surname Frigon for that of Florentine.

*One member of our Association is a descendant of the line of Joseph, branch of Simon: Elaine Anderson Frigone of Washington State.*

#### SIXTH GENERATION

**BRANCH OF JEAN FRIGON (JOHN FREGON<sup>6</sup>), GOLD PROSPECTOR, FARMER AND HOTELIER IN OMEO, AUSTRALIA** John and Elizabeth McCoy, 1861  
(five sons, seven daughters)

Jean Frigon was born in Louiseville, Quebec. Around the age of 18, he took part in the California Gold Rush. At 23, he set out for Australia on the ship named Ocean Eagle and participated in another gold rush. He founded his family at the age of 32 and sought to settle on a piece of land. John and Elizabeth, his wife, finally oriented themselves toward the hotel business. John was about 40 years old at that time.

*Two members of our Association come from the line of Joseph Frigon, branch of John Fregon: Joanne Fregon and John Riddell.*

#### SIXTH GENERATION

##### BRANCH OF OLIVIER, ILLINOIS

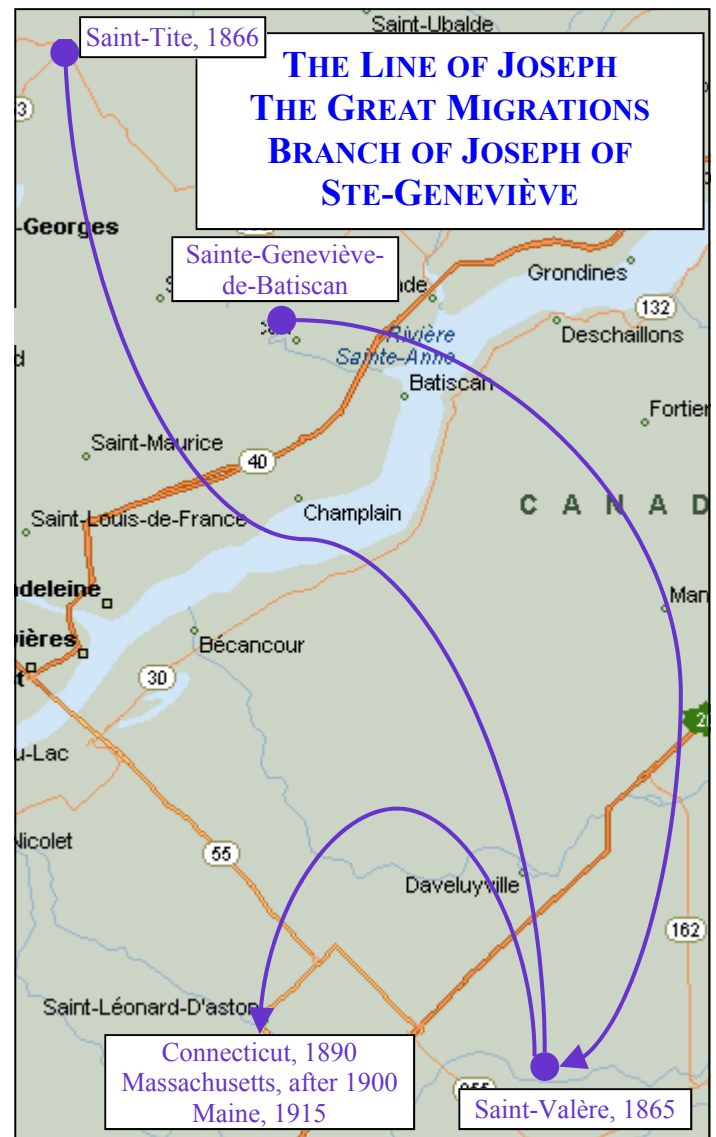
Olivier and Clémentine Soucy, 1861  
(two sons, three daughters)

It was around the age of fifteen that Olivier emigrated to

Illinois in the region of Beaverville, near Martinton. A son and two daughters assured descendants. The son, Jean Évangéliste, lived four years in the state of Oklahoma, seven years in Manitoba and finally settled in Kansas. His descendants bear the patronymic Frigon but there are a few Fregons among them as well. The daughters founded Charest<sup>7</sup> and Barry families in Kansas.

*Three members of our Association stem from the line of Joseph Frigon, branch of Olivier: Lee Easton Fregon of New-York, Mildred Gertrude Frigon Burns of Kansas and Phillip Frigon also of Kansas.*

(Continued on page 91)



5. At the age of 15 he served as a volunteer in the American Civil War. He became Dr. Frank B. Florentine, a well-known doctor in Saginaw, Michigan. He was also known as Frank Florness.

6. See "John Fregon and the Gold Rush" by John Riddell, FALL 2002 Newsletter.

7. Remie Charest emigrated to the United States at the age of five; he worked on the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in California among other jobs.

## IV- The Line of Joseph: 1782

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**SIXTH GENERATION****BRANCH OF JOSEPH OF SAINTE-GENEVIÈVE**

Joseph and Henriette Lesieur Désaulniers, 1840  
(five sons, five daughters)

We know nothing about three of Joseph and Henriette's daughters. One of the two others founded a Fournier family about which we have no information and the other, a Houle family that settled in Maine.

The eldest of his sons, Joseph, settled in St-Valère but we think he emigrated with his family to the United States, possibly to Massachusetts.

The second son, Nérée, established himself in St-Valère in the early days of his marriage. The following year, he settled definitively in Saint-Tite. His entire descendance is established in Quebec. Seven of the nine members of this branch are descendants of Nérée.

The third son, Timothée, also lived in Saint-Valère, but he does not seem to have had any descendants.

It is in St-Valère, with Uldoric, the fourth of his sons, that Joseph senior spent his last days. We know that Uldoric fathered at least four sons but we know nothing of their destiny or that of Uldoric.

The last of his sons was called Hubert and he also initially settled in St-Valère. Around 1890 he emigrated with his family to Connecticut and it is from him that stem the two other members of this branch.

*Nine of our members are descendants of the line of Joseph, branch of Joseph from Ste-Geneviève: Aline Frigon of Proulxville Qc, André Frigon of Proulxville Qc, Diane Frigon of Saint-Tite Qc, Jean-René Frigon of Trois-Rivières Qc, Monique Frigon of Shawinigan Qc, Norma Frigon of Connecticut, Raymond Francis Maynard of Connecticut, Sylvain Lafrance of Saguenay Qc and Thérèse Frigon of Montreal Qc.*

**SIXTH GENERATION****BRANCH OF PIERRE OF MONTREAL**

Pierre and Alice Hogan, 1851  
(six sons, four daughters)

At a young age, Pierre left Montreal and the family home for the United States. He married in the state of

New York and lived in New Jersey for a year. In 1852, he returned to settle definitively in Montreal. Three members of the Association are descendants of Pierre.

*Three of our members are descendants of the line of Joseph, branch of Pierre: Lise Mahoux Léonard of Saint-Sauveur-des-Monts Qc, Luc Oscar Frigon of Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Qc and Maurice Frigon of Saint-Eustache.*

**SIXTH GENERATION****BRANCH OF CÉSAIRE OF MONTREAL**

Césaire and Philomène Cassan, 1865  
(four sons, one daughter)

Césaire was a mason in Montreal and among his descendants is Raymond Frigon, Founding-President of the Association of Frigon Families.

*Four of our members descend from the line of Joseph, branch of Césaire: M. Frigon of Vancouver BC, Marguerite Frigon of Montreal Qc, Paul Frigon of Almonte ON and Raymond A. Frigon of Ottawa ON.*

**RÉSUMÉ OF THE LINE OF JOSEPH****AT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION****SINCE FRANÇOIS FRIGON DIT LESPAGNOL**

The analysis of the places where the descendants of Joseph and Magdeleine Lefebvre settled shows that after seven generations since François, only 38% of them are still in Quebec.

We know that in 1800 Joseph and Magdeleine left eight orphans, five boys and three girls, aged two to sixteen years of age. Even though close relatives raised these children, they no longer had the same attachment to this country as their cousins who had grown up with their own parents. It was the offspring of these children, the sixth generation that were attracted by the opportunities available in the United States and in the new land being opened in the Canadian West. Lacking strong roots in Quebec, the Frigons of this line were more numerous in leaving for these destinations than were those of the other lines.

The immigration summary presented on the next page is impressive. We can see that 62% of Joseph Frigon and Magdeleine Lefebvre's descendants left Quebec.

(Continued on page 92)

8. See « A Line of the Frigon Family Has Lived in St-Tite Since 1866 » by Jean-René Frigon, Summer2004 Newsletter.

## FAMILY HISTORY SHARING

Georges Frigon (93)

A message to our members on behalf of the Association researchers.

At the request of Hermine Trudel (240), we are seeking information about Richard Guilman, spouse of Bertha Frigon whose ancestral line we do not have. Bertha's father could be Léger or Ludger Frigon.

The information can be sent to:

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Trois-Rivières, QC G9B 1Y4  
Telephone : (819) 377-7918  
E-mail : [frigon.georges@cgocable.ca](mailto:frigon.georges@cgocable.ca)



*This photo was taken in the United States between 1957 and 1960.*

## THE MIGRATION OF THE FRIGONS

### IV- The Line of Joseph: 1782

*(Continued from page 91)*

On this note I shall conclude this article that, I must admit, caused me many concerns. I was torn between the need to produce accurate facts and the desire to write an article that would be interesting and easy to read. It is difficult to make genealogical data come to life! Thank you for your understanding.

The next articles will feature the lines that took root in the towns of Maskinongé and Louiseville. The Association counts thirteen members issued from these other lines.

*A bientôt!*

## IMMIGRATION SUMMARY OF JOSEPH'LINE to the 7<sup>th</sup> generation of descent from François Frigon dit Lespagnol

