

ROBITAILLES IN AMERICA #3

The History of the Wyandotte Robitailles



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Introduction

Shortly after my retirement in 2010, I decided to begin researching interesting histories about Robitaille family members who came to America in the early years of our nation. It seemed a fitting task for the U.S. Representative of the Québec-based Robitaille Family Association. To date these “mini-histories” were based on the history of pioneers who left Québec and came to the United States in search of opportunity in a new environment. This is my third such paper and is consistent with the original theme of my research.

I know from reading histories about the early years of North America that the Robitaille family had ancestors who were involved in the fur trade and had always wondered if the Robitailles had any Native American connections. After spending a few days searching the internet, I stumbled on an interesting find which is shown in Figure 1 below. The sign is in a very small village named Zanesfield, in central Ohio. It was just the kind of clue I had been looking for: 1793, our Family name, and a Trading Post!



Figure 1. The Sign that Caught My Interest
Photo Credit – Author’s collection

Having grown up in Western New York and having worked as an interpreter at Old Fort Niagara, I was reasonably familiar with what had happened during this period of history Western New York, Pennsylvania and in the Ohio Country.

Several thoughts went through my mind, most questions, which eventually formed the basis for my research. I had no idea the project would become as complex and far ranging as it did. The principal questions follow below:

1. Who was Robert Robitaille and where did he fit into the Robitaille Family?
2. What brought him to northern Ohio in the late 1700s?

3. Did Robert have a family and if so, what was their story?

This is how this story began. After more than three years, I believe at least a large part of it can now be told.

Out of respect for family privacy, I have not included the living members of each family unit in my family group sheets in Appendix II, nor are they in the family trees in Appendix III. I have found it to be relatively easy to bridge the gap between ancestors who died in the 1940s and 1950s and living descendants of today. The Endnotes provide a large number of leads for anyone who would like to bring their family's history up to the current day.

What has been done in this research is to collect as much of the family's history as possible. It connects the history of the American descendants with their Canadian cousins and in so doing, also connects the Wyandotte Robitailles with the origins of the Robitaille Family in Northern France.

It was my pleasure on two occasions (2014 and 2017) to attend the Wyandotte annual Gathering in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, where I met Chief Billy Friend, Dana Butterfield, Sheri Clemons, Deb Haynes, and Lloyd Devine all of whom were encouraging and helpful with my research.

This project began six years ago. Several earlier versions of this document have been distributed. Since the 2018 version, significant additional information has been discovered about the Canadian side of the family. This revision of the document incorporates the new information and represents all we know about the Wyandotte Robitailles.

It is my hope you will find this research interesting and, should you be a descendant of the Robitaille Family in the Wyandotte Nation, that this document will provide you with a solid foundation on which you can build your own family's history for your children and future generations.

Respectfully,

Paul Robitaille

U.S. Representative of the Robitaille Family Association / Association des Familles Robitaille inc



Author and Chief Billy Friend – Wyandotte Pow-Wow 2017
Photo Credit – Author’s Collection

1 Historical Background

Following the Colonial Period, the North American Continent was defined by the Treaty of Paris in April of 1763 that ended the French & Indian War. France ceded to Great Britain all claims to Acadia, Canada, Cape Breton, and all of Louisiana east of the Mississippi River. Spain was granted Havana by England and in return Spain ceded Florida to England. All lands west of the Mississippi had already been granted to Spain by France in November of 1762.¹

In the ten years that followed the American Colonies and British Government grew further and further apart as the British Parliament imposed a series of taxes and restraining acts that resulted in rebellion and ultimately led to the War for Independence which started 19 April 1775 with the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. Hostilities ended at Yorktown, Virginia with the surrender of Cornwallis and the formal Peace treaty was signed 3 September 1783 in Paris, France. The treaty recognized the independence of the United States and permitted fishing rights in Newfoundland waters. Issues would arise later with Spain over southern and western boundaries and with England over northeastern and northwestern boundaries.²

On 19 November 1794, the Jay Treaty was concluded. It provided for the British evacuation of the border posts in 1796 and permitted American trade with the British East Indies. On 27 October of 1795, the Treaty of San Lorenzo (also known as the Pickney Treaty) settled border issues with Spain which had continued since 1783. The United States was granted rights to navigate the Mississippi to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico and was permitted the right of deposit at New Orleans for a period of three years.³

In 1802, Ohio was admitted as the 17th State and settlement had begun in southwestern and northeastern Ohio resulting in Indian opposition. General Anthony Wayne had defeated the rebellious Indians in the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1795. The Treaty of Greenville ceded all but the northwest corner of Ohio to the United States. It is against this backdrop that this story begins.⁴

2 Zanesfield, Ohio

Zanesfield is located in Logan County, Ohio, which is in central – western Ohio. The village began as Zane's Town, and was named after Isaac ZANE, who had been a captive of the WYANDOT Indians as a boy. As the story goes, Isaac and his brother Jonathan were captured in Mooresfield, Virginia by the Wyandot Indians in 1763. Jonathan was ransomed two years after his capture, but Isaac remained with the Wyandot for 9-10 years and was adopted into Chief TARHEE's family.⁵

Chief TARHEE had married a beautiful French-Canadian woman named Ronyouquaines La DURANTE. She had been taken captive years before Isaac and his brother. Ronyouquaines was the daughter of a Frenchman, Chevalier La Durante. Chief Tarhee and his wife had only one child, who they named MYEERAH, meaning "White Crane". Myeerah and Isaac grew up together.

Eventually Isaac was released. He spent several years pursuing various careers but eventually returned to Logan County. He married Myeerah at Colonel Ebenezer Zane's (Isaac Zane's brother's) house in 1776.⁶ Isaac and Myeerah had several children, one of whom, Elizabeth, was born in 1780. The other children are beyond the scope of this paper but resulted in large extended family important in the future of the Wyandot Nation, including the Zanes, LONGs and ARMSTRONGs.

The precise date "Robert" Robitaille arrived in Zanesfield is unclear. John HOVER, in "Memoirs of the Miami Valley", Mary MORTIMER, in her "Reflections of Zanesfield", and Robert P. KENNEDY in "Historical Review of Logan County, Ohio" all agree that he arrived in Zanesfield between 1793 and 1794. Some stories state that Robert Robitaille was accompanied by a young man named Grant. It has not been possible to confirm this; however, there were a number of Grants active in the Indian trade at this time.

Herman C. MARMON in his Scrapbook, states that James Robitaille arrived in 1791, and uses the same date of 1793 as the date of establishment for the Robitaille trading post.⁷ It seems likely that "Robert" and James Robitaille are, in fact, the same person.

There were three articles published in "The Scioto Gazette" of Chillicothe, Ohio that suggest this. Note specifically the mention of Isaac Zane in conjunction with James Robitaille in two of these articles.⁸

The first was on Saturday, 4 June 1803. The title of the article reads as follows: "LEXINGTON, May 31. INDIAN HOSTILITIES" wherein there is a description of an incident where Joseph WHITE and Mr. STAPLETON were riding through the wilderness and were fired upon by two Indians. White was killed, and Stapleton got hit in his hat. The Wyandot Indians claimed they would find the perpetrators and deal with them as they had committed to a peaceful relationship with the Governor and his citizens. The message was signed by representatives of the Wyandot, translated by Isaac Zane, and witnessed by Samuel Mc CULLOCH and James Robitaille.

The second, dated 22 June 1803, Isaac Zane, at the head of the Mad River, writes a letter to Elias Duncan Mc ARTHUR in Chillicothe, Ohio and includes the letter from the Wyandot chiefs which was witnessed by Samuel McCulloch and James Robitaille.

Author's note: The Mad River originates about 2 miles north-east of Bellefontaine, Ohio and flows 66 miles south to where it drains into the Great Miami River.

The third article is dated 14 May, and states James Robitaille, at the head of the Mad River, reported a stray mare. It was brought from Kentucky by Colonel LANGHAM who sold it to Mr. STUDYBAKER, who sold it to James KENT who sold it to Robitaille.

One additional record was found which may be related to James Robitaille. A receipt dated 20 July 1797, signed by Peter AUDRAIN, and posted to MELDRUM & PARK, Merchants in Detroit.⁹ The document appears to be a statement of account that accompanied payment made by Meldrum & Park to Peter Audrain, listing among several other items, three licenses (likely trader's licenses) having been issued to the following individuals at \$5.00 each: James Robitaille, Gabriel HUNAU (misspelled on bill – HUNAULT – who was a Metis fur trader), and Jacques CHARETTE, between the period October 29 and November 5 (which given the date on the receipt, must have been issued in 1796). While this cannot be confirmed as relevant to our James Robitaille, this paper is, none the less, additional circumstantial evidence.

Authors note –It is highly unlikely that, at this point in history, any Robitaille would have been given the first name “Robert”. James Robitaille probably adopted “Rob” or “Robert” as a nickname to avoid the difficult pronunciation of Robitaille to the English-speaking people of Ohio. This practice still exists, I can assure you, having gone by “Roby” or “Robbie” many times to avoid the same aggravation. From this point forward in this paper, I will refer to him as “James” Robitaille.

There seems to be general agreement that James Robitaille's trading post was provisioned with items for sale to the Wyandot Indians and the local settlers around Zanesfield and was initially located just south of the hotel formerly kept by the BROWNS on the site of the hotel stable.¹⁰

Robitaille later married Elizabeth Zane, daughter of Isaac Zane and Myeerah. The date for the marriage is given as 1798-99 in Robert P. Kennedy's work which was previously mentioned. In the Ohio Historical Society's publication "Isaac Zane, the White Eagle of the Wyandots" no date is listed for the marriage but birth dates for their children are given as 1796 for Robert Grant and 1798 for James. These dates are incorrect as Robert Grant Robitaille's headstone in the WYANDOTTE Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, states he was born 19 July 1804.¹¹ His brother, James was born 19 March 1806. Both of James and Elizabeth's sons are the main characters of this history.

The same source states that James Robitaille, husband of Elizabeth Zane died in 1802, which differs from all of the other histories which state he died shortly after the

relocation of his trading post in 1805. A newspaper article in “The Bellefontaine Republican” on Friday 10 November 1875, following the visit of Dr. James (aka Dr. Jean Jacques Narcisse) Robitaille from Canada, who was visiting Bellefontaine, Ohio, stated that his father, James, died in 1807. I tend to believe this date over the others.

Several sources¹² state that in 1805, James Robitaille moved his trading post to GUNN’s Tavern which was located at the north-west corner of the present-day intersection of Logan County Roads 1 & 25. John Gunn was a land agent from Canada who arrived sometime around 1797. His two-story home was licensed as a tavern in 1805.¹³ The sign shown below in Figure 2 is located near the former site of the tavern and states that Robitaille moved his trading post to this new location in 1800 which does not agree with the historians’ records. However, it is likely if there was a move, it happened sometime between 1800 and 1805.



Figure 2. Historical Marker for Gunn’s Tavern
Photo Credit – Author’s Collection

Local historians state that James Robitaille died shortly after moving his trading post. The date of his death is unknown but nearby, approximately a quarter of a mile to the west of the sign in Figure 2 above, on the south side of the road, is the location of the former Belleville Cemetery where “Robert” Robitaille is reported to have been buried. The old cemetery has long since been plowed under and today the field is used for agricultural purposes.¹⁴

After James Robitaille’s death, his wife Elizabeth and their two sons returned to Zanesfield and lived with her parents Isaac Zane and Myeerah until her marriage to James Manning REED, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, the eldest son of Seth Reed. James M. Reed and Elizabeth were married 14 October 1807.¹⁵ The couple had six children. ¹⁶ Elizabeth Zane Robitaille Reed died in 1823.¹⁷

Several of the above cited histories state that James Robitaille and Elizabeth Zane’s younger son, James, who remained in Québec Province, served as Treasurer General of Canada. The author of this paper has found no evidence to support this claim.

*Author note: Due to the number of families and individuals who will appear in this story, I decided to employ a simple identification scheme which hopefully will help the reader keep track of the order of births and what family a given individual belongs to. For example, Robert Grant Robitaille is represented **(RGR)** and his first child is introduced as **(RGR-1)**. Successive births are serially numbered. Most of you may not need this "Aide mémoire" but I sure found it helpful!*

3 Robert Grant & James Robitaille – The Early Years

The local histories state that following her marriage to Reed, “Robitaille relatives from Montréal, Québec”, came to take Robert Grant and James Robitaille to Canada where they were educated and set out on their respective careers.” This is only partially correct, as the boys did not return to Canada together.

An important discovery was made in 2014 at the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, while researching this family’s history. Among the many records they hold in the Research Center of this facility, the Lena Robitaille Collection was by far the richest set of data of use in this paper. The collection contains number of letters, most written by Lena in longhand. Lena Robitaille was the great-granddaughter of James Robitaille and Elizabeth Zane. She corresponded with Mr. William E. CONNELLEY, then the Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society, who had a keen interest in the Native Americans of Kansas and Oklahoma, over a period of years in the early 20th century. Her writings covered a range of subjects but most importantly for this paper, they included the history of Lena’s family with many personal details about their home, relatives, schooling etc. The collection also contains several family photographs and two Work Progress Administration, (WPA), Oral Histories involving Lena.¹⁸

Lena stated in her oral history that after his father’s death, Robert Grant Robitaille, went to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, where he was taught by a tutor named Robert GRANT. It is unclear whether it was the same Grant who was said to accompany James Robitaille to Zanesfield, Ohio or perhaps a relative of that person. The date when Robert Grant Robitaille went to Canada is unknown but is likely to have been between 1807 and 1811. After this, the War of 1812 would have made cross-border travel dangerous.

Authors note: The War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States was declared on 18 June 1812 and concluded with on 24 December 1814 with the Treaty of Ghent. During the war, there was open warfare on Lakes Ontario and Erie and land warfare across both sides of the border from Detroit to Québec.¹⁹

She further said that she had in her possession a letter of reference from his tutor, written in Chippewa (but it is unclear if the letter meant it was written in the Chippewa language or the town of Chippewa, Ontario) and dated 5 June 1818, which described Robert Grant Robitaille as being “free from vice and of an amiable disposition”. Lena further states that the letter was addressed to Reverend Pierre Robitaille of St-Charles, Montréal, Québec. It was signed by Robert Grant. This was an important clue as to how James Robitaille might fit into the larger Robitaille family.²⁰

Author’s note: While the story may be true, no hard evidence has been found to corroborate it. There were Grants in Winnipeg and in Detroit who were involved in the fur trade business. There was also a Robert Grant who was a business partner with Robert INNIS in Detroit. Other than his mention in the John ASKINS Papers, the author has not been successful in connecting this Robert Grant with Robert Grant Robitaille.

It is possible that Robert Grant Robitaille's tutor lived in Chippewa, or Winnipeg and was just taking Robert Grant to convenient drop off point where he could meet the Robitaille relative for the remainder of the trip to St-Charles or so Robert Grant could obtain passage by boat across Lake Ontario. See Figure 3.

Chippewa was located on the Niagara Frontier on the Canadian side of the border, just south of Niagara Falls. By 1818 there was regular transportation by boat from Detroit across Lake Erie to either Fort Erie, Ontario, or to Buffalo, New York. One would have to travel by land to Newark, Ontario where they could obtain passage by boat from Newark, Ontario to either Kingston or Prescott, Ontario.

What would a boat ride cost? In 1818, a trip from Detroit to Buffalo taken aboard the steamship "Walk in the Water" would cost \$18.00 per person; however, by 1836, passages across Lake Ontario from Lewiston on the Niagara River to Sackets Harbor (where the Saint Lawrence joins Lake Ontario) were as low as \$5.00 per person.²¹

Until the building of the Welland Canal which first opened in 1829, (it was subsequently enlarged in later years and became part of the St. Lawrence Seaway), there were no means for larger boats to go from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie. A portage had been used for many years to transport small watercraft across the Niagara peninsula between these two lakes due to the difference in height between them. Lake Erie is 571 feet above sea level and Lake Ontario is 246 feet above sea level.

Once one crossed Lake Ontario, there was another obstacle to face. Parts of the Saint Lawrence River between Prescott, Ontario, and Montréal had rapids, the Lachine in particular, but also other rapids and narrow passage zones, which were not navigable by regular boats in 1818. Safe passage through this portion of the St. Lawrence River was even a challenge for canoes and flat-bottomed boats.

Once at Montréal, the rest of the trip south to St-Charles would have been much easier. The St-Charles mentioned in the tutor's letter was likely St-Charles-sur-Richelieu, Québec as Father Pierre Robitaille was assigned to the Parish of St-Charles in 1810 and once again following the war of 1812.

While we have not been able to identify his tutor, it is clear that Robert Grant had received the equivalent of a primary and secondary education prior to this point as he attended the College of Montréal, located in Montréal, Québec, from 1818 to 1820. The graduation list states he was from Belleville, Ohio (a city that had not even been built when he departed Ohio) and was a Notary. He was 16 years old when he graduated.²²

It is unknown what Robert Grant Robitaille did between 1820 and 1836. He does not appear on the rosters of the Official Government Notaries during this period, so he must have been in private practice.

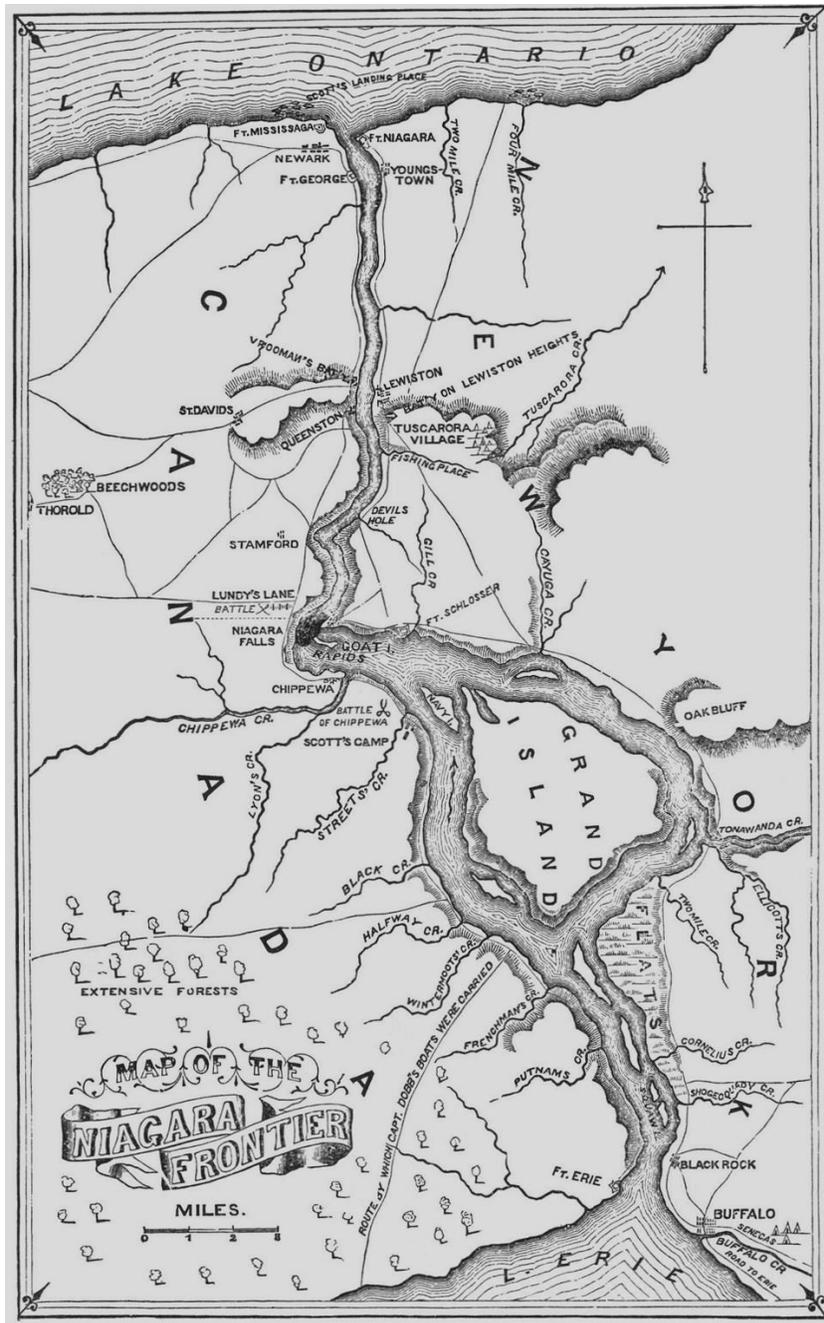


Figure 3. The Niagara Frontier in 1814

Photo Credit - "Pictorial Field Book of the 1812 War" by Benson J. Lossing

The next recorded event in his life was his marriage to Marie Julie BERNARD, of Montréal, at the Basilica of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, in Montréal, Québec, Canada, on 26 October 1836.²³ His bride was born 4 March 1812 at St-Jean, (near present day St-Jean-sur-Richelieu) Québec, daughter of Joseph Jacques Bernard, a joiner / carpenter, and Rose Rosalie GUERTIN, both of St-Athanase, Québec (also very close to St-Jean-sur-Richelieu). Robert Grant was listed as a resident of St-Édouard, a nearby village, on

the Church marriage record. An item worthy of mention is the fact that the church wedding record is signed by Louis Joseph PAPINEAU, Speaker of the Assembly in the Canadian Government and a member of the Patriots Party (Parti Patriote) who were set on reforming the Canadian Government. See Figure 4 below.

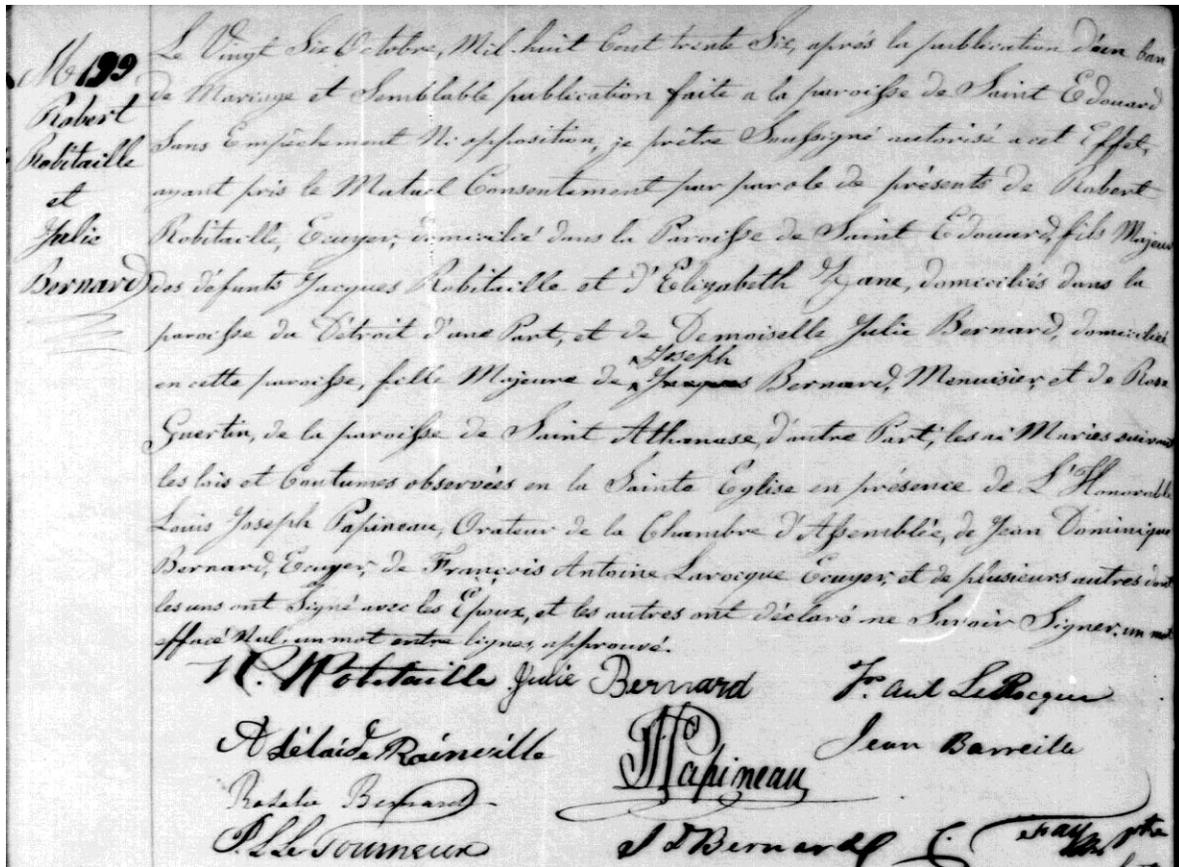


Figure 4. Marriage of Robert Grant & Julie Bernard 20 October 1836
 Institute Drouin Record d1p_11790361.jpg

The period 1837-1838 was a violent one in Upper and Lower Canada. Open insurrections occurred against the Crown and local governments in both regions. The revolt in Lower Canada (an area roughly the size of present-day Québec) was the most violent. The rebellion was quickly put down by military force. Three hundred twenty-five people, all rebels, were killed and one hundred were captured.²⁴ The leaders of the Rebellion, including Louis Joseph Papineau, fled to the United States.²⁵ Robert Grant Robitaille, an American by birth, and his wife Julie, pregnant with their first child, also left Québec for the security of the United States.

(RGR-1) Robert Wilfred Robitaille, Robert Grant and Julie's first son, was born 12 March 1838 in Beekmantown, Clinton County, New York. He was later baptized 14 June 1838 at the Basilica of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Québec, Canada. His middle name on the church record was clearly Wilfred, not Wilford, which appears later, and follows him for the rest of his life. His mother, Julie Bernard, and two god parents,

Amable PRÉVOST and his wife, Rosalie Bernard (Julie's sister) were present at the Christening.²⁶

It is noteworthy that Robert Grant Robitaille was absent at his son's baptism. Recall that the Rebellion was still in progress. There is evidence that Robert Grant had some sort of involvement in the rebellion and perhaps he felt it best to remain in the U.S. until things settled down. We do know that he did return to Canada on 20 November 1838 to give testimony in the Canadian Government's Rebellion-related case against Pierre Rémy NARBONNE.²⁷

The details of the Rebellion of 1837–1838 are complicated, as are the family connections to several of the principals in the Rebellion. It is beyond the scope of this research and will be addressed in a future paper about the Robitaille Family and its role in the 1837–1838 Rebellion.

The author believes that given the political significance of the Rebellion, Robert Grant Robitaille decided that moving back to the United States was the best path forward for himself and his family.

Robert Grant's younger brother, James, also moved to Canada. Lena's records state that James crossed Lake Erie on the first steamboat on that lake which, if correct, means James went across on the Steamship "Walk-In-The-Water" which was launched in 1818. The boat used a wood-fired boiler and paddlewheels on each side of the hull. In case of a boiler failure, it was equipped with two masts which were rigged for sails. This would allow the steamship to sail as a schooner. The steamboat's first trip across Lake Erie to Detroit began on 25 August 1818. It had a short life and sank 31 October 1821. No specific details remain as to exactly when James Robitaille crossed Lake Erie, but assuming he took the crossing shortly after the steamboat went into service, he would have been between 12-13 years old. It is likely that he was accompanied by an adult family member, but this detail is lost to history. Figure 5 is a copy of an etching of "Walk-in-the-Water".²⁸

No paper trail has been found of James's education, but we do know that he became a medical doctor, and that he received his medical license on 31 July 1834.²⁹



Figure 5. The Steamboat "Walk-in-the-Water"

Photo Credit - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Great_Lakes_Steamship_Walk-in-the-Water.jpg

Before 1850, apprenticeship was the typical route to becoming a physician. The first college with a medical program in Montréal was The Montréal Medical Institution, founded in 1823, as an adjunct of Montréal General Hospital. In 1829 it became the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University and granted its first medical diploma in 1833.³⁰

Prospective physicians had to present their qualifications and pass an examination by the provincial Board of Medicine. If they passed the test and had the appropriate qualifications, the medical board would issue a letter certifying the individuals' ability to be a medical doctor. The Canadian Archives had some of these on file from long ago. We recently found the letter for James Robitaille. A photograph of the document is shown in Figure 6.³¹



Figure 6. James Robitaille Medical License
Photo Credit – Library and Archives Canada, microfilm H-1734

After the death of his mother, Elizabeth Zane, James decided to remain in Canada, and changed his name to Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille. Unknown to the author, his first two given names, Jean Jacques, were subtle clues to his father's real name.

Dr. Robitaille settled in the town of St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, a small village along the Achigan River, in what was l'Assomption County, Québec, Canada. Today it remains a small town but is now part of the Lanaudière district of Québec Province.

Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille, age 33, married Félonise Clotilde ARCHAMBAULT, age 24, the daughter of François Archambault and Marie Victoire CORMIER, the 1st of October 1838 at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec.³² The church can be seen in Figure 7. Félonise's father, François Archambault was a successful merchant.



Figure 7. Parish Church of St-Roch-de-L'Achigan as it looked (1803-1958)

Photo Credit: Société d'histoire de St-Roch-de-L'Achigan

Dr. Robitaille, his wife Félonise, and their family appear in the 1851, 1861, and the 1871 Canadian Censuses, living in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan. Dr. Robitaille also appears in The Canada Directory of 1851, and in John Lovell's Province of Quebec Directory of 1871.³³

As can be seen on their family group sheet in Appendix II, between the years 1838 and 1873, Jean Jacques Narcisse and his wife Félonise Clotilde had eight children, seven of whom survived to adulthood. Dr. Robitaille and his wife were together until her death on 13 May 1873 at age 57.³⁴ Their family tree is included in Appendix III, Chart 2.

Following his wife's death, Dr. Robitaille moved to Montréal to be closer to his children and he sold the family home in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan on 10 September 1873 to Dr. Ludger TELLIER dit LAFORTUNE.³⁵ Their former home is shown in Figure 8. It was destroyed at the end of the 19th century and replaced by a new home built by the Bélanger family.³⁶

In November of 1876, Dr. Robitaille made a trip to Ohio to visit his half-sister, Mrs. General Isaac S. GARDNER, see his birthplace and pray on his father's grave.³⁷

Dr. Robitaille later married Julie BRAULT, dit POMINVILLE of Montréal, on 3 April 1877 at Sainte-Brigide-de-Montréal.³⁸



*Figure 8. Number 1288 rue Principale
Former home of Dr. Robitaille & family circa 1900
Photo Credit: Société d'histoire de St-Roch-de-L'Achigan*

Julie Brault dit Pominville Robitaille died 26 April 1878³⁹ and was buried in the cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. Dr. Robitaille died 27 June 1878⁴⁰ and was also buried at the parish cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.

Author's note: There remains an unanswered question concerning the identification of an old picture of an elderly Robitaille which has been passed down in the family for many years. This will be further discussed in Section 5 of this document.

The paragraphs that follow provide a brief description of Dr. Robitaille and his wife Félonise's children.

(JJNR-1) Marie Félonise Azilda - Born 3 October 1839 at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and baptized the next day.⁴¹ Azilda married Urgel Eugène Archambault 1 October 1860 at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan.⁴² Urgel was the son of Louis Archambault, a farmer, and Marie Angélique PRUDHOMME of the parish l'Assomption, just a short distance north of St-Roch-de-L'Achigan. Urgel's father and Azilda's mother were half first-cousins.



Figure 9. Urgel Eugène Archambault

Photo Credit – See endnote 43

While Urgel was young, his family moved to St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and later, to St-Jacques-de-l'Achigan. Urgel became a teacher. He attended École Normale Jacques-Cartier, a Catholic School for teachers which was founded in 1857, and for forty years was only open to men. He obtained a diploma for model-school teaching, which gained him a position with the Roman Catholic Board of School Commissioners in 1859 as principal of the first Catholic school to be run by lay teachers. This school became the Commercial Academy of Montréal in 1860. Wanting to improve his career options Urgel continued his studies at École Normale and obtained a diploma in academic teaching.

Urgel Archambault, see Figure 9, went on to become the first principal of the Académie du Plateau shown in Figure 10. Urgel's brother Louis Archambault, a building contractor, oversaw the construction of the building which included an apartment where Urgel and his family lived. The Académie opened 19 June 1872. In October of 1873 Urgel received approval by the minister of public education to implement a scientific and industrial course at the Académie du Plateau. From this beginning arose the École Polytechnique de Montréal, with Urgel Archambault as its first principal.⁴³



*Figure 10. Académie du Plateau, home of the Scientific and Industrial School
(Archambault School) (1873-1876)
that later became École Polytechnique de Montréal*

*Photo Credit – Secteur de la gestion des documents administratifs et des archives. Commission scolaire de Montréal,
Projet 489*

Azilda and Urgel had 10 children. Sadly, many of them died young. No family group photos have been found and fewer yet are photos of those who married. Figure 11 shows their daughter Bernadette with her husband Louis Joseph Béliveau.



*Figure 11. Urgel Eugène's daughter Bernadette
with her husband Louis Joseph Siméon Béliveau (circa 1897)
Photo Credit – Louis-Joseph Béliveau et la vie littéraire de son temps (Paul Wyczynski)*

During his career as an educator, Urgel sent textbooks to Lena Robitaille which gave her the background information she used later in her life to write short stories on historic topics and document the history of her family. She frequently mentions him in her writings.⁴⁴

Azilda pre-deceased her husband passing on 28 November 1897. Her husband Urgel Eugène, died 20 March 1904. Azilda and her husband were buried in Notre-Dame-des-Neiges along with members of their family. See Appendix IV, page 4 for burial details.

The names of the children of Urgel and who they married can be found in Appendix III, on Chart 2.

(JJNR-2) Jacques Tancrède Ernest - Born 29 January 1841 at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and baptized the 30th.⁴⁵ Ernest attended the Collège de l'Assomption in l'Assomption, Québec, where he studied the classics and philosophy as a member of Course 22, which ran from 1854 to 1861. L'Assomption was, and remains, a prestigious school. It was attended by many students who became prominent members of Canadian Society. Ernest studied from 1853 to 1857. It does not appear that he finished the course.⁴⁶

Ernest was listed as living with his parents in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan in the 1861 Census of Canada with his profession being "clerc-notaire" (clerk-notary), age 20. He also appears in the 1871 Census of Canada, still residing at the same house, but giving no occupation and listing his age as 29.⁴⁷ Figure 12 is a photograph of Ernest. It was taken in Montréal, Québec, at the George LEMIRE studio located at 68 Place Jacques Cartier. Lemire was at this address between 1869 and 1878, thereby dating the photo to that period.⁴⁸

Following his father's death, Ernest went to the United States, arriving in California in 1879.⁴⁹ It appears that he hit hard times there as he appears in the records of the California State Hospital in San Joaquin as having been admitted under a court order dated 6 December 1880 from Kern County Court to the State Hospital. The hospital record dated 7 December 1880, states he was 41 years old, single, a miner by occupation, and was displaying insane behavior. He had a fear of being killed. It was his first attack. At admission he appeared physically reduced and had a head injury. The same patient record states that he died 23 January 1903 of tuberculosis.⁵⁰

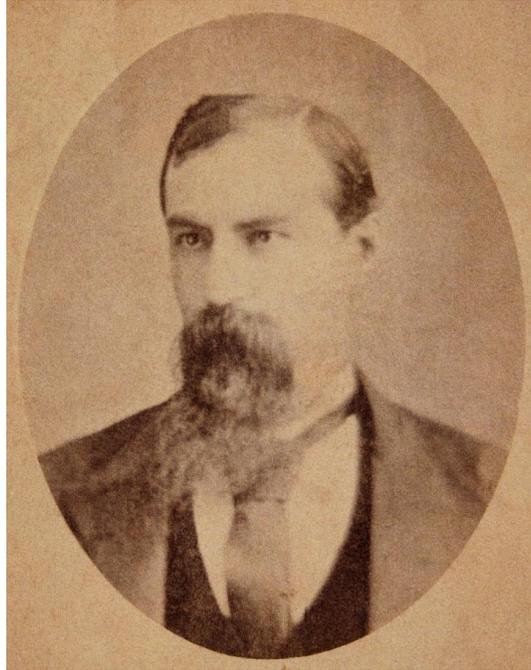


Figure 12. Jacques Tancrède Ernest Robitaille
Photo Credit – Mrs. Louise Johnson

(JJNR-3) Louis Napoléon Eugène – Born 15 July 1842 at St-Roch-de-L’Achigan and baptized the same day, Louis Napoléon Eugène, at St-Roch-de-L’Achigan.⁵¹ Louis Napoléon attended the Collège de l’Assomption with his brother Jacques Tancrède Ernest, in Course 22, but only stayed for one year which was 1854.⁵²

According to Lena’s writings, Louis Napoléon had intended to travel to the United States to visit his older brother, Ernest. No evidence has been found to confirm that Ernest arrived in the United States any earlier than 1879. Louis Napoléon Eugène did arrive in Indian Territory, which later became Kansas between 1855 and 1860. We will meet him again later in our story.

(JJNR-4) Joseph Zéphirin Arthur – Born 12 November 1843 in St-Roch-de-L’Achigan and baptized the 13th.⁵³ Joseph Zéphirin also attended the Collège de l’Assomption, but was a member of Course 24, and studied from 1856 to 1858.⁵⁴ Arthur married Adèle Archambault, daughter of Amable Elzéar Archambault and Amélie Delphine GARIÉPY in l’Assomption on 7 September 1868.⁵⁵ Arthur’s mother, Félonise Clotilde Archambault, and Adèle’s father were first cousins.

Arthur and Adèle had three children, all born in Montréal; James Robert Arthur Robitaille, born 27 February 1869; Henri Urgel Arthur Robitaille, born 9 September 1870 and Henri Rodolphe Théodore Robitaille, born 12 March 1872.⁵⁶

Sadly, Adèle died 17 March 1872, likely due to complications of childbirth with Henri Rodolphe Théodore.⁵⁷ Arthur re-married 14 June 1875 at St-Michel-de-Bellechasse,

Québec, to Marie Honorine LANGUEDOC, widow of François Xavier FRENETTE.⁵⁸ Marie Honorine and François Xavier did appear on the 1871 Census, living in Québec City, and the record showed no children.

The 1881 Census of Canada showed Arthur, his wife Honorine and his three children, James, Arthur, and Henri living in District 90 of Montréal, (Cite), Sub-district Montréal, East, Subdivision No. 4, St. Louis Quarter.⁵⁹ Arthur listed his occupation as Merchant. Six years later, Arthur lost his partner again; Marie Honorine, died 28 April 1887. She was 36 years and three months old.⁶⁰

Arthur remarried again, this time to Marie Marguerite LAMBERT on 11 June 1889 in Mascouche, Québec. Marguerite was the widow of Almidas DÉSAULNIERS, a former notary in Joliette, Québec. He died 3 July 1885.⁶¹ Marguerite had a daughter, Marie, from her first marriage.

The 1891 Census of Canada shows that Arthur and Marguerite were living at the center of the City of Montréal, in St. Jacques Ward. There were five children listed as Robitailles: James 22, Arthur 20, Henri 19, Ernestine 18, and Marie 9. The three boys, the oldest, were from Arthur's marriage to Adèle.⁶²



Figure 13. Joseph Zéphirin Arthur Robitaille

Photo Credit – Maisonneuve Souvenir at <http://collections.banq.qc.ca/ark:/52327/1956481>

Arthur's son, James, married Eva DORION in l'Assomption 15 May 1894. They had one daughter, Jeanne, born in October 1897. The couple appeared in the 1911 Census in the St. Jacques sub-district of Montréal, with three boarders.⁶³

In the 1901 Census, only Arthur and the following were present: Henri Rodolphe 29, Marie 18 and one servant, Philomène l'Ortier. For the first time, Marie lists her surname as Marie Désaulniers, not Marie Robitaille. This confirms that her parents were Marie Marguerite Lambert & Almidas Désaulniers. We have not been able to find any records to substantiate Ernestine's birth date or parents, but given her age, it seems likely that she was the child of Honorine and François Xavier Frenette.⁶⁴

Marie Marguerite Lambert passed on 16 February 1897. Her burial service was held at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal and was attended by numerous family members. Arthur was one of many signatories on parish record book.⁶⁵

Arthur married yet again on 22 April 1902 at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, his fourth wife, Elmire LACOUTURE, was the widow of Rodrigue CHAPEDELAINE.⁶⁶ The couple had no children. Elmire died 21 July 1907 in Montréal and was buried at St-Ours-de-Richelieu.⁶⁷

Apart from outliving four wives, Arthur was probably the most successful and prosperous of his siblings. In 1878 he had a small grocery store in front of Bonsecours, and in 1888 he moved and opened an *épicerie* on the corner of rue Saint-Paul and Jacques-Cartier square in Maisonneuve. According to the article about him in the Souvenir Maisonneuve, page 217, it stocked imported goods, food, teas, wines and liqueurs.

Joseph Zéphirin Arthur died in Montréal 29 December 1908, age 65. Present at his burial was his brother, Charles Roch Robitaille, and Arthur's three sons; James Robert, Clerk; Arthur, Bookkeeper; and Henri Urgel Arthur.⁶⁸

Arthur's son, James Robert, died 6 June 1937. He was 68. His burial service was attended by his brother, Arthur.⁶⁹

James Robert and Eva had a daughter, Marie Marguerite Jeanne, who married Paul Georges Lajoie in Montréal at Sainte-Catherine-d'Alexandrie on 24 September 1919. The couple had two children; Camille and Pierre.

Arthur and several family members are buried at Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery. See Appendix IV, page 5 for details.

(JJNR-5) Marie Julienne Ernestine – Born 1 July 1845 at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and baptized on the 5th.⁷⁰ She died 17 February 1846, age 7 months, and was buried in the parish cemetery.⁷¹

(JJNR-6) Marie Osine Ernestine – Born 21 December 1846 at St-Roch-de-L’Achigan and baptized on the 22nd.⁷² The 1871 Census of Canada shows that Ernestine was still in St-Roch-de-L’Achigan with her parents and her brothers Ernest and Charles Roch.⁷³

As noted by Lena Robitaille, in her writings about her grandfather’s family, Ernestine became a “nun”. Civil records show she first appeared in the 1881 Census of Canada where she was listed as Sœur Ernestine, age 34, among other sisters living in a residence in Hochelaga village in Hochelaga, Québec. Later she appears in the 1901 and 1911 Canadian Censuses, where we find Sister Ernestine in Maisonneuve (a district within the city of Montréal) again residing in a residence with other sisters.

In a record obtained from the archives of the order of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Ernestine's entry into this order was on 8 December 1870 at Saint-Roch-de-l’Achigan. She professed her faith (devoted herself to God and bound to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience) on 6 August 1873. Her mission was to be a choir teacher and she adopted the religious name Sister Marie Ladislas. In the early years of her religious life she worked as a teacher, and later, having been the daughter of a country physician, chose to help in the infirmary. She was known to be a devoted sister who was selfless and kind to her charges and fellow sisters.⁷⁴

Late in her life she was stricken with general paralysis. One of her last prayers was to remain but a short time in the infirmary and to give but little trouble to those who were caring for her. She passed on 24 December 1922, at the age of 76 years and three days, at the Order’s infirmary in Hochelaga. She is recorded as having served for forty-nine years, four months and eighteen days of her life as a professed nun. Sister Marie Ladislas was buried 26 December 1922 in the cemetery of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary which lies within the Cemetery of St. Antoine-de-Padoue in Longueuil, Québec.⁷⁵

(JJNR-7) Joseph Robert Théodore – Born 28 February 1849, baptized the next day at St-Roch-de-L’Achigan.⁷⁶ He attended the Collège de l’Assomption, and was in Course 32.⁷⁷ He studied the classics and philosophy from 1864 to 1867. Théodore married Marie Adélaïde Hermeline DUPUIS, the daughter of Joseph Dupuis and Marie Louise THIBODEAU, born in St-Jacques-de-l’Achigan 21 December 1835.⁷⁸ The couple were married 3 November 1870 at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.⁷⁹

The 1871 Census of Canada shows Théodore and Hermeline as living in District 105, Montréal East, in the St. Louis Ward.⁸⁰ There were three children from this marriage: Joseph Arthur, born about 28 June 1873; Marie Louise Jeanne Sarah, born 27 August 1877;⁸¹ and Gustave, born 22 September 1879.

Joseph Arthur Robitaille was a clerk and sadly died at age 26 years, 6 months and 6 days, passing on 2 January 1900. His uncle, Joseph Zéphirin Arthur (JJNR-4), who was a merchant; Gustave Robitaille, his younger brother who was an accountant; James R. Robitaille, son of Joseph Zéphirin Arthur (his father’s brother); Charles Roch Robitaille (JJNR-8); and Urgel Eugène Archambault, both his uncles, attended his

funeral service. It must have been a devastating blow to Joseph Robert Théodore to lose his eldest son at such an early age.⁸²

Joseph Robert Théodore died 17 August 1914 in Montréal. His funeral service was held at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. He was 66 years old and the record shows he was a member of St-Louis Parish in Montréal.⁸³

The 1921 Census of Canada lists Hermeline Dupuis, Theodore's widow, and their children Gustave, age 38 and Louise, age 37, both single, as living in Georges-Étienne Cartier District, St. Louis Ward of Montréal.⁸⁴

Arthur and his family members are buried at Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery. See Appendix IV, page 6 for details.

(JJNR-8) Charles Roch Narcisse – Born 7 December 1854 at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and baptized the same day.⁸⁵ He lived in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and appears on both the 1861 and 1871⁸⁶ Census of Canada as living with his parents.

On 21 April 1879, Charles Roch married Céline LÉVESQUE, daughter of Joseph Lévesque and Elizabeth Delima ITALIANE, of Isle Verte. The wedding was at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. Charles occupation is listed as "épicier" (grocer) in the church record.⁸⁷ By this time, both of Charles Roch's parents were deceased.

Two children were born to this marriage: Charles Roch Ernest, born 1 October 1883⁸⁸ and Marie Ernestine Exilda Robitaille, born 5 April 1887.⁸⁹

The Canadian Census Reports for Charles Roch and Céline are confusing. The 1891 Census shows Charles Robitaille, age 32, his wife is "Selina", age 34, and two children, a son, Ernest, age 8, and a daughter, Alestine, age 4. The family lived in Montréal in District 172–Montréal–Est (East), Sub District 48 (g), St. Louis. Again, Charles is listed as a grocer.⁹⁰

The 1901 Census shows Charles, his wife and children living in Montréal in the St-Jacques Ward, Sub-District B-5. His occupation is listed as "Agent Assurance", Insurance Agent. His wife's name is Marie (nearly all young women in Québec in the 1800s were given the first name "Marie" when baptized). There are two children, Ernest, age 17 and Ernestine, age 13.⁹¹

Their son, Ernest, died 5 April 1909. He was single, a "pompier" - fireman, and 25 years of age. His burial service was held 7 April at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.⁹²

Charles Roch Robitaille died 29 April 1921 in Montréal. He was 67 years old. His burial service was held 2 May 1921 also at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.⁹³

Their daughter, Marie Ernestine Robitaille, also appears to have remained single. She died 23 July 1931 in Montréal and was buried 23 July 1931 she was 44 years old.⁹⁴ No death records could be found for Roch's wife Céline.

Authors Note: Having described how Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille's family fared in Canada, we shall now return to Ohio and follow Robert Grant and his family. Recall that Robert Grant and his wife left Canada in the midst of the Rebellion with one young son.

We know that Robert Grant returned to the Wyandot sometime between December of 1838 and March of 1842.⁹⁵ While in Ohio, Robert and Julie had two additional children. It is likely that both of these children were baptized at the Wyandot Mission in Upper Sandusky, but no records remain from this period.

(RGR-2) Rosalie - Born in 1840, Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio. Rosalie was named after Julie Bernard's mother.

(RGR-3) Elizabeth - Born 22 August 1842, Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio.

The family settled with the tribe and by the time of the Wyandotte cession to the U.S Government, Robert Grant had a 65-acre parcel of land in Mifflin Township in Wyandot County Ohio. The parcel included a good hewed log house and an old cabin.⁹⁶ See Figure 14.

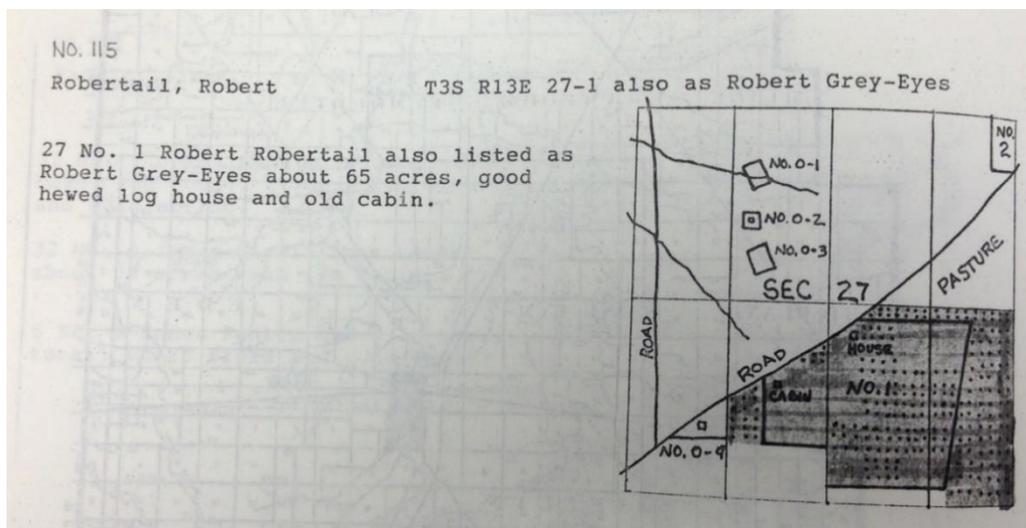


Figure 14. Robert Grant's Land in Ohio
Photo Credit – See endnote 41

According to Lena's records, Robert Grant helped the Wyandot with the writing of the 1842 Treaty dated 17 March 1842, by which the Wyandot exchanged their land in Ohio for land in Kansas.⁹⁷

The treaty comprised 18 articles and addressed all of the Wyandot lands in Michigan and Ohio. Article 7 stated that the Wyandot Nation could inhabit and use their existing lands until 1 April 1844. In return the U.S. Government committed to grant to the Wyandot Nation, 148,000 acres of government-owned land west of the Mississippi River. The Government agreed in Article XIII that they would provide \$10,000 to the Chiefs of Wyandot Nation to cover the cost of the relocation, half of which was to be paid when the first detachment of Wyandot Nation members departed and the other half once the whole nation was at their land in the west. Article 14 stated “that a list of persons, all of whom who were Wyandot by blood, or adoption, were each granted one section of land of 640 acres of land, west of the Missouri River set apart for Indian use, not already claimed or occupied by any person or tribe”. The list comprised the descendants of captives (such as Robert Grant’s grandfather, Isaac Zane) and tribal leaders. Robert Robertaille (Robitaille) was on this list. The treaty was signed on 17 March 1842.⁹⁸

Prior to their departure, a gathering of the Wyandot was held at the Wyandot Mission Church and Cemetery, see Figure 15 below, in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, on 12 July 1843. It was a sad meeting, as the Wyandot were about to leave their land, homes, church and the graves of their ancestors. Squire GREYEVES, an ordained minister, gave a moving farewell address to the 664 members of the Wyandot Nation. Following the farewell, they began their journey to Cincinnati, where they embarked westward on riverboats. The Logan Gazette spoke of the occasion as a “melancholy sight” to witness the last Indians leaving Ohio’s soil.⁹⁹

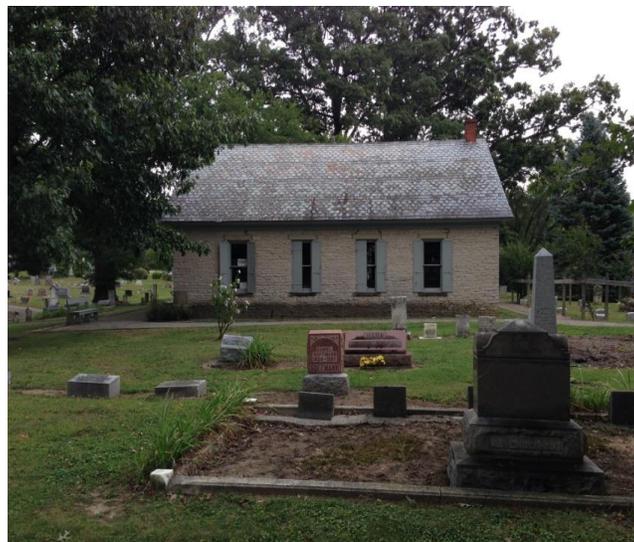


Figure 15. Wyandot Mission Church and Cemetery, Upper Sandusky, Ohio
Photo Credit – Author’s Collection

The exodus from Upper Sandusky, Ohio to Indian Territory took nineteen days. The convoy south to Cincinnati, Ohio, consisted of 120 wagons, excluding the buggies, which were divided into companies of thirty to forty, each with a leader. Nearly 300 rode horses or walked.¹⁰⁰

In Cincinnati the contingent boarded two steamboats, the Nodaway,¹⁰¹ and the Republic, (for which no information could be found), which took them to Indian Territory via the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

The Natchez Weekly Courier, one of the newspapers in Natchez, Mississippi, posted an article titled "Farewell Ohio and her Brave", Wednesday, 11 October 1843 that read as follows:

"It is related that when the last of the Wyandot Indians passed down the Ohio, on their way to the lands given them by the government, in exchange for their ancient hunting grounds, the chief and several of his warriors expressed great emotion as they drew near North Bend, the residence and tomb of the late lamented General Harrison. As the boat passed that Mecca of many a future pilgrim the old white-haired chief requested the captain to fire the "big gun".

The steam was let off, and the boat drifted in the current. The Wyandot stood uncovered, and as the last faint reverberations of the salute boomed along the rocky shores of the Ohio, the old chief raised his arm with solemn and impressive dignity and cried "Farewell Ohio, and her brave!"

On their arrival in Indian Territory, the Wyandot found themselves in a totally different environment than the one they knew in Ohio. It was barren, swampy, terrain. It would take significant work to construct temporary, and later, more permanent, structures for living.

4 The Wyandot Robitailles in Indian Territory

Authors note: Naming conventions are confusing after the relocation from Ohio to Indian Territory. At this point the Native Americans who moved were known as Wyandot. The name Wyandotte was not adopted until after the 1867 Treaty.

*Similarly, the location where the Wyandot were relocated was called **Indian Territory**. As Indian Territory moved towards statehood, it was called **Kansas Territory** from 30 May 1854. The village of Quindaro was established in 1856 and construction began in January 1857. Wyandotte County was founded in 1859. Kansas became a **state** 23 August 1863.*

4.1 From Indian Territory, to Kansas Territory, to Kansas

The new home of the Wyandot was on land that was acquired by the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. It was briefly part of the Missouri Territory, and by 1821 was in an unorganized status. It was renamed Indian Territory. The U.S. Government as early as 1806 had eyed this area as land that could be reserved for the Native Americans. Beginning in the early 1820s, with the area formally set aside as Indian Territory it was closed to settlement by whites. The Shawnee were the first to be relocated to Indian Territory. Following the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, eight more tribes were relocated to Indian Territory.

Regardless of the Government's plans to settle Native Americans in Indian Territory, white Americans were already illegally squatting on the very lands the Government had given to the Native Americans and complaining that the whole area should open for settlement.

In October of 1843, the Wyandot purchased from the Delaware Tribe thirty-six sections of land (each 1 mile square), lying between the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.¹⁰² The Delaware gave an additional 3 sections making it a total of 39. It was on this land that the tribe started to build a new life, settling first near the landing on the Kansas River, to create the town of Wyandot.

Initially, Robert Grant Robitaille built a house in mid-December of 1843 and resided near the corner of what became Nebraska Avenue and Third Street.¹⁰³

In 1844 the Wyandot built their first church and started a debating society. The Wyandot Council decided to build a school and Mr. Armstrong employed a carpenter for the construction. It was a framed style structure with double doors and became known as the First or National School. It was located on the east of Fourth Street, between Kansas and Nebraska Avenues. Classes started in July of 1844 with Mr. Armstrong as the teacher. He was followed in 1845 by the Reverend Mr. KRAMER.¹⁰⁴

The community expanded, and the 2nd settlement, which would become Quindaro, is where Robert Grant Robitaille and Julie Bernard chose to raise their family. See Figure

16 for a photograph of Robert Grant Robitaille. The picture was taken in Montréal at Joseph Rivet's Studio.

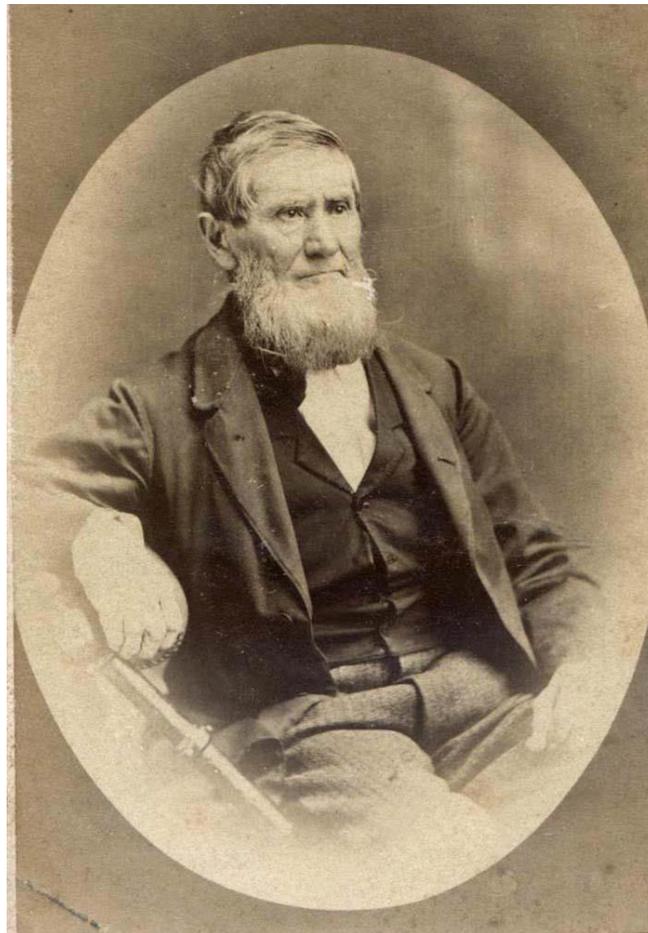


Figure 16. Robert Grant Robitaille
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society

(RGR-4) James, Robert and Julie's fourth child was born 10 December 1845 in Quindaro, Indian Territory.

On the 3rd of March 1846, the Wyandot Council Directors employed Robert Grant Robitaille, who lived near Quindaro, Indian Territory, to take charge of Mr. Kramer's School.¹⁰⁵

(RGR-5) Mary Ann - Robert Grant's family grew by one the 17th of November 1847 when their third daughter, Mary Ann, was born in Quindaro, Indian Territory.

There are several entries in William WALKER's Journal that described the foul weather in March of 1849;

Thursday, the first March, "we have sleet again";
Saturday, 3 March, "thermometer 22 degrees, sleet, sleet, no end to it",
Wednesday, 7 March, "frosty morning"
Thursday, 8 March, "Mrs. Robataille" (Robitaille), died this morning.
Friday, 9 March, "today Mrs. Robataille (Robitaille) was buried".¹⁰⁶

Authors note: There are many misspellings of the family name Robitaille throughout this story, and it continues to current time. Examples are found in Walker's Journal, Census reports (both Federal and Tribal), and in school records.

Julie Bernard, wife of Robert Grant Robitaille, was buried in what became the Huron Cemetery located in present day Kansas City.¹⁰⁷ She was remembered by family and friends as an "Anglo-Saxon" lady even though the Bernard family was of French origin. The description was probably based on her poise and manners. She was also remembered by Melinda Brown for the carding, spinning and weaving she did in order to make clothes for her family.

It is not clear how Robert Grant managed with five children, the youngest just 16 months old. Suzanna Zane, an unmarried neighbor with a young son, may have helped. She would play a part later in this story. Either way, he managed to stay engaged in the business of the tribe and community.

The U.S. Government, desiring a home for the Assistant Blacksmith, purchased a house from Robert Robitaille for \$200. The house lies on six acres bounded by Lot 18 on Front Street and the Missouri River.

Several of Robert Grant's children were students at the Shawnee Indian Manual-Labor School in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Robert W. Robitaille, age 11, entered the male department in November 1849. He studied grammar, arithmetic, geography, reading, writing, spelling, declamation (an old term meaning oratory or public speaking in today's society), etc. In the female department, Rosalie, age 10, entered January 1851 and studied grammar, arithmetic, geography, reading, writing, and needlework. Elizabeth, age 7, enrolled in September 1850, studying arithmetic, geography, reading, writing, and needlework.¹⁰⁸

On 18 March 1851, Robert Grant appeared in Uniontown, Indian Territory, approximately sixty miles west of Quindaro, where he was granted a Postmaster's License which remained valid until 16 December of 1852.¹⁰⁹

Lena Robitaille recounted in one of her letters, hearing about an incident involving Robert Grant that happened in Kansas Territory in 1855. Mrs. BEARSKIN had two sons, George and Joe. She was a widow who lived by a spring. He heard that Mrs. Bearskin was missing so he went to find out what had happened. When he arrived at her home, her two sons were alone. He asked where their mother was, and they said she went to the spring one evening and never came home. Robert Grant got several men together to go look for her. All they found were some bones and pieces of clothing. They

concluded she had been attacked by a wild animal. Robert Grant went back and took the boys to his home and subsequently made arrangements to adopt them. Lena continues the description of the event saying that Joe died at age 14 but George lived to be 45. After Robert Grant died 1879, Lena's father Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille told Joe he could live with his family, especially during the winter. Joe apparently had habit of going out for long walks when he got restless. One winter day he was found dead in the snow having died from exposure.¹¹⁰

Another of Lena's recollections gives us an opportunity to learn something about the man Robert Grant. According to Lena, Robert Grant was opposed to slavery, but she did not know that he had bought several negro women and girls to protect them from mistreatment. The issue of slavery was a very heated topic in the Kansas Territory. The Kansas-Nebraska act of 1854 brought the matter of "slave" or "free" state to a head. Robert Grant told his slaves they needed to leave as the issue had not been settled yet and it was uncertain what would happen to them if they stayed. All but one decided to leave. Robert Grant built a one room cabin on his land (which must have been near present day Lawrence for reasons that follow) for the woman who stayed.

Years later, Lena was attending Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, and wanted to gather some lilacs to decorate the room for an event the next day. She went out with several other girls across to an old cabin that had a large lilac hedge around it. She asked the woman who lived there if they could pick some flowers. The old woman said "Every one of you must tell "Aunty" your name. Lena tried to be funny with her and said my name is "Rabbit Tail". The old lady laughed and said, "that's a funny name". Lena corrected the pronunciation of the name. Lena recounts the warmth and respect the old lady showed for her grandfather. This was the first time she knew he had ever owned any Negroes because he never told them about Margaret and that he had built the house she was still living in.¹¹¹

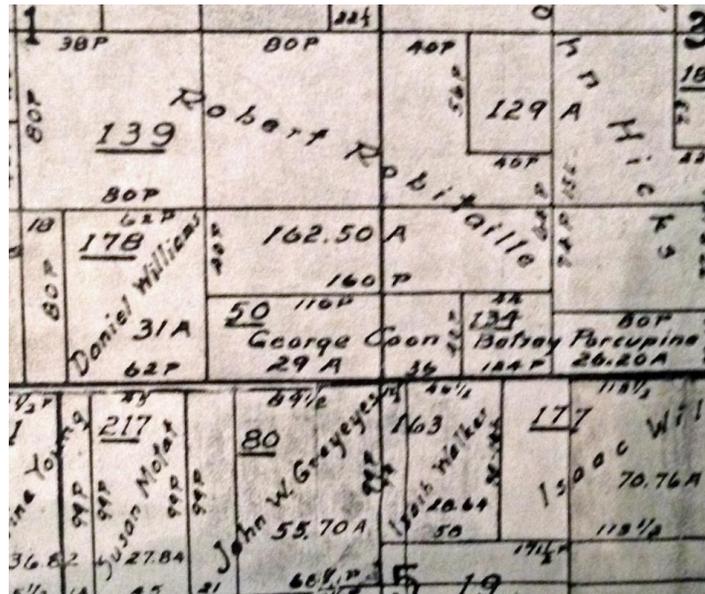
Author's note - The event described above must have occurred between 1889, when Lena was transferred to the Haskell Institute, and 1891 when she left. This parcel of land had been acquired by Robert Grant Robitaille and became part of the same land disputed in the "Robitaille Float" Story.

The term "float" was used to describe a floating grant of land by the U.S. Government, not tied to a particular piece of land, but to be identified by the grantee from unclaimed land west of the Missouri River. The floats were 640 acres (1 square mile) each. There were 35 of these floats which were granted to named persons on the Wyandot tribal rolls.

The year 1855 was a difficult time for the Wyandot Indians. Although 35 members had been granted "floats" by the treaty of 1842, most of them had paid little attention to the urgency of identifying the land, focusing instead on the development of their community. Under the terms of the treaty, transfer or sale of the Float land required government approval. Meanwhile white settlers (squatters) had moved in and were making claims

for the same land. In the future paths of the railroads, the squatters could buy and sell their land freely.

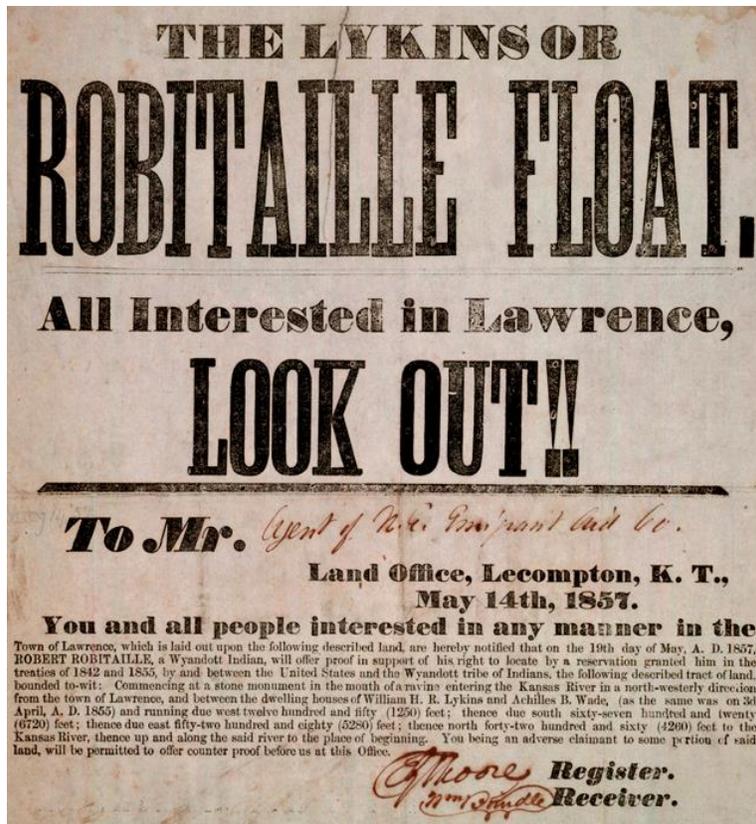
In 1855 the tribe agreed to relinquish their tribal status and become U.S. Citizens. 39 sections of land which were purchased from the Delaware Tribe were divided up between tribal members. See Figure 17.



*Figure 17. Robert Grant's land in Indian Territory
Map Showing Allotments to Wyandotte Indians in part of the Wyandotte Reservation
south of the Second Parallel, Wyandotte County, Kansas, Treaty of 1855
Photo Credit: Miami Public Library, Miami, Oklahoma*

The agreement also allowed the recipients of the Floats to sell their Floats. Having identified land further west in what is now Lawrence, Kansas, Robert Grant sold his Float to LYKINS, but the ownership of the land was disputed. First, the Float recipients had been required to survey the land before the Federal survey was conducted. Inevitably there were differences in the survey outcomes. Second, a number of white claimants claimed parts of his land. After a lengthy and bitter legal battle, which resulted in the fatal shooting of one claimant by another, the case was settled largely in Robert Grant's, and ultimately Lykins's, favor.

The warning notice shown in Figure 18, was published in newspapers as far east as Connecticut. This copy was addressed to an agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Company, NEEAC. NEEAC was an anti-slavery organization that provided aid for like-minded settlers from the east who wanted to acquire land in Kansas and Nebraska. The thinking at the time was if sufficient abolitionist settlers were brought to Kansas, it would enter the Union as a free state rather than a slave state.¹¹²



*Figure 18. Lykins Robitaille Float Warning
Photo Credit – Oklahoma Historical Society*

Twice in 1856, Robert Grant's name appeared on letters from The Wyandot Council (1 September and 15 September) which identify him as the Clerk of the Wyandot Council.¹¹³

The Robitaille Family appeared again, this time in an 1859 report listing all the members of the Wyandot Tribe. The list, written by the Wyandot Commissioners on 31 January 1855, shows: Robitaille Robert, age 50; Robert Wolford, 17; Rosalie, 15; Elizabeth, 13; James, 10; and Mary Ann, 7.¹¹⁴

Later in 1859, it appears that Robert Grant got the urge to run for office on the Democratic ticket. The results were reported in the "Kansas Herald of Freedom" newspaper. He beat his opponent 109 to 79 in Quindaro and 287 to 240 in Wyandot.¹¹⁵

In 1860 there was a Railroad Convention held in Topeka, Kansas on 17 October. It was widely attended by inhabitants of Wyandot County and Quindaro, including Robert Grant Robitaille. Later maps of the area show why people were interested: the tracks went straight through their land in Wyandotte County and Quindaro!¹¹⁶

Prior to 1867, Robert Grant moved to Indian Territory (which would later become Oklahoma). The 1867 tribal roll lists him as destitute along with most of his children.

Things had not gone well in Kansas as a U.S. Citizen. He and many former members of the Wyandot tribe who had done likewise, renounced their citizenship and also moved to Indian Territory.

(RGR-1) Robert Wilford Robitaille - The eldest of the five children born to Robert Grant and his wife Julie. As mentioned earlier, he was 5 when they arrived in Indian Territory. He and his sisters Elizabeth and Rosalie attended the Shawnee Indian Manual-Labor School in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

During the Civil War Robert Wilford enlisted in the 6th Regiment Kansas Cavalry (Union Army) and served 4 years in Company A. He was mustered out 15 November 1864 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, his rank was Private, and he was 26 years old.¹¹⁷

We know that Robert Wilford's first wife was Susannah Zane because there was a publication of notice in the Wyandot Gazette, 4 January 1872, that he was being divorced by his wife in the 10th District Court of Wyandot, Kansas. The notice further described that a judgment would be served against him for a specified amount of land and \$1,000 in alimony if he failed to appear in said court to answer the plaintiff's petition prior to 24th of January 1872. An article in the Wyandot Herald of Kansas City, Kansas dated 21 May 1872, page 2, stated that a decree of divorce was granted with forfeiture of rights to certain real estate. No records have been found that show that there were any children from their marriage.

His second wife was Catherine WIND, daughter of James Wind, "SHAW-PON-DA," Chief of the Ottawa Tribe and Sally Wabee PHELPS, daughter of KENEWABEE, the principal Chief of the Ottawa at that time. The couple had four children, all raised in the Ottawa Tribe.¹¹⁸

(RWR-1) Christina - (also known as Christine or Tena) – Born 27 February 1872, married Holton (Holt) HUBBARD, the son of Jeremiah Hubbard (who was the author of the book "40 Years Among the Indians"), 5 January 1891 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Christina and Holt had three children. Christina died 24 August 1943 in Orange County, California.

(RWR-2) Julia – Born about 1873 and died about 1879. No additional records have been found.¹¹⁹

(RWR-3) Oscar – Born 16 January 1876, in Indian Territory. Oscar completed his education through the 8th grade at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, KS. He appears to have remained a bachelor. He is listed in the 1900 Census of the Indian Population in Indian Territory, Ottawa Nation, as being a stepson of Walter JENNISON, age 24 years.

Oscar's World War 1 draft registration card tells us a bit more about him. The card is dated 12 September 1918, and states he lived in Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, was 43 years old, and that he was employed by Sam RICHARDSON as a farm worker.

He had black hair, black eyes and his left side was paralyzed. He listed his next of kin as his sister, Lula.

In the 1920 Federal Census Oscar was listed as being 43 years old and was living in the home of George and Lula Robitaille WYRICK (his sister) and their children in Ottawa, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

Oscar died 9 May 1927 in the afternoon. According to his obituary, "Oscar Robitaille of Miami, OK, aged 51, dropped dead as he stepped from an automobile at the berry field of John ADAMS on Route 6 near Neosho. He had come to the berry field with his sister and her husband and had given no indications of being ill."¹²⁰ Oscar was buried in the Ottawa Cemetery. There is no headstone on his grave.

(RWR-4) Lula Pearl – Born 4 January 1878 in Indian Territory. Lula was married twice. Her first husband was Harvey T.K. PROPECK. The couple had one child, Roy Allen, born 20 March 1899.

Her second marriage was with George Washington Wyrick on 20 December 1899. They were married by Jeremiah HUBBARD at Ottawa, Oklahoma. George was a white man.¹²¹ They raised Roy Allen as a Wyrick. The couple had ten children, three of which died as infants, the others lived long lives.

In her oral history, Lula recalls that her father had prepared logs for a new home before his death. Her step-father, Walter Clifton Jennison, a "big-talking cowboy", knew nothing of building and built a cabin with the logs standing vertically. He always said "I wanted a house that was different than the rest of you" rather than admit that he knew nothing about how to build a house.¹²²

Lula Pearl died 27 March 1952 in Miami, Ottawa County, Oklahoma and was buried in the Ottawa Cemetery.

Robert Wilford Robitaille died February 1878 in Wyandotte, Kansas. He is buried in the Ottawa Cemetery in Miami, Ottawa County, Kansas. There is no headstone on his grave.

On 25 February 1879 his widow Catherine married Walter C. Jennison. The couple had ten children by this marriage.

(RGR-2) Rosalie – Recall that Rosalie was born in Upper Sandusky, Ohio in 1840. She married Herman SWARTZ, (his family name is frequently misspelled in various records). Her husband was an immigrant from Switzerland and a veteran of the Austrian War.

The date of their marriage is unknown, but likely took place in Quindaro, Wyandot County, Kansas Territory in 1859. The couple appeared on the 1860 Federal Census as living with Robert Grant in Quindaro, Wyandot County, Kansas. Herman enlisted in the

17th Kansas Infantry, Company A, in 1864, and served for five months. The Regiment was mustered out in November of 1864.¹²³

By 1867, the family moved across the river to Jackson County, Missouri as noted on the Wyandotte member roll of 1867. They also appeared in the 1870 Missouri Census as living in the third ward of Jackson County. The couple had four children; Frederick, Franklin, Alexander and Alfred. Both Alexander and Alfred died young. Franklin died in 1878 of septicemia having been bitten by an insect. Frederick lived to adulthood.

Rosalie died in 1877 in Wyandotte County, Kansas. It is believed that Rosalie and her sons, Franklin, Alexander, and Alfred are buried in the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City.

After Rosalie's death, Herman remarried and had two children from this marriage. He died 3 November 1903 in Frankfort, Kansas, having lived there for about 15 years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, (GAR), having served in the Civil War and his chapter of the Veterans of the GAR provided military honors at his burial.

Author's note: Rosalie Robitaille Swartz, daughter of Robert Grant Robitaille, and Rosa Lee Robitaille BUZZARD, daughter of Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille are frequently confused.

(RGR-3) Elizabeth - Born 22 August 1842, in Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio. At age 7, Elizabeth was listed as a student in Mrs. M.J. PEERY and Mrs. A.E. CHICK's class in the Female Department of the Shawnee Indian Manual-Labor School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory, for the year ending 30 September 1851. She entered the program in September 1850 and studied arithmetic, geography, reading, writing and needlework. See Figure 19 for a picture of Elizabeth.

We don't know exactly when Louis Eugène Napoléon Robitaille, the son of Robert Grant's brother, Dr. Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille, arrived in Kansas. He appeared for the first time in Kansas in the 1860 Federal Census where he was listed as living with Robert Grant and his family in Kansas. On 26 September 1860, Louis Eugène, and his 1st cousin, Elizabeth, were married by Esquire Hudson, Justice of the Peace, in Westport, Jackson County, Missouri.¹²⁴



Figure 19. Elizabeth Robitaille
Photo Credit – Amalia Arnau

Louis and his wife Elizabeth had 10 children, of whom seven were born in Kansas: Alice born 1858; James born 1862; Julia Emma born 1863; Rosalee born 1865; Louis Eugene Napoleon Jr. born 1867; Francis born 1869; Ernest born 1872; Azilda born 1874; Lena born 1877 and Charles born 1880. With one exception, they all had long lives. The couple started out their married life living in Robert Grant's home in Quindaro, at first with Robert Grant and later, after Robert Grant left Indian Territory, by themselves.

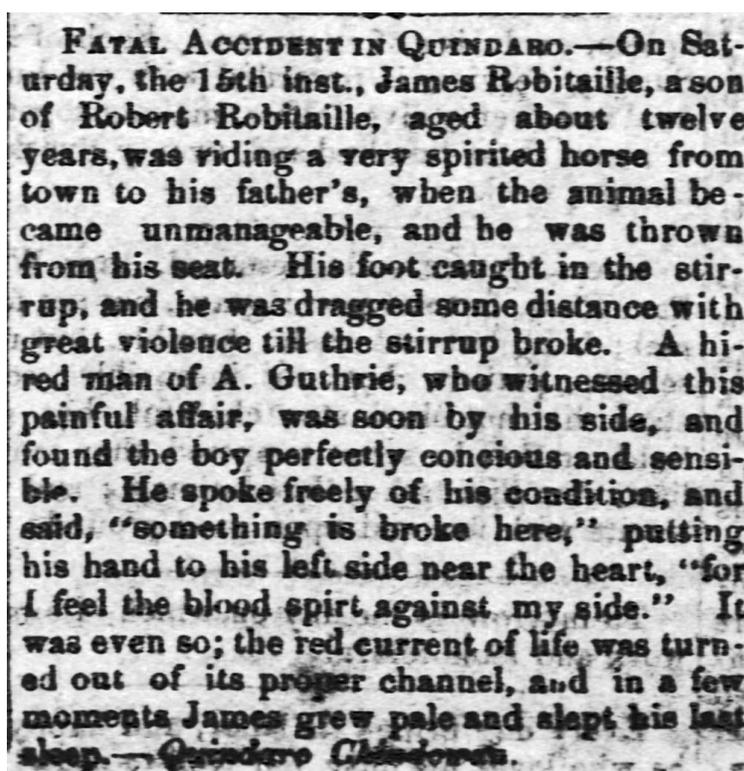
In her writings, Lena shared a story her sister Julia told her about the family home in Kansas. Julia said it was a pretty farmhouse with nine rooms and two porches. A painter came through the area and stopped at the house. He asked father if he would let him paint the plastered walls in the house. Father agreed. The living room had pretty landscapes and flowers with lakes for a background. In the dining room he painted hunting scenes. Father paid the painter \$100 for his work. The neighbors would frequently come by and ask to see it.

As the time for removal came closer, Louis Eugène Napoleon sold the family farm in Kansas and prepared for the exodus to Indian Territory. Based on data from Leander Zane and Lena Robitaille¹²⁵ we know that Mr. JOHNSON's Family, Henry Hicks and his

family, John Greyeyes, and Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille's family all travelled together to Indian Territory. We will rejoin them there later.

(RGR-4) James – Born 10 December 1845 in Indian Territory. We know very little about James. It is very likely that he attended elementary and middle school given the emphasis his father made on education, but at least to date, no records from this period have been found.

On 15 January 1859 James Robitaille, son of Robert Grant, was killed in an accident with a horse. The story about his accident was recounted by an eyewitness and his story was printed in the local newspaper. See Figure 20 below.



FATAL ACCIDENT IN QUINDARO.—On Saturday, the 15th inst., James Robitaille, a son of Robert Robitaille, aged about twelve years, was riding a very spirited horse from town to his father's, when the animal became unmanageable, and he was thrown from his seat. His foot caught in the stirrup, and he was dragged some distance with great violence till the stirrup broke. A hired man of A. Guthrie, who witnessed this painful affair, was soon by his side, and found the boy perfectly conscious and sensible. He spoke freely of his condition, and said, "something is broke here," putting his hand to his left side near the heart, "for I feel the blood spirt against my side." It was even so; the red current of life was turned out of its proper channel, and in a few moments James grew pale and slept his last sleep.—*Quindaro Chindowan.*

*Figure 20. Notice of James Robitaille's death
The Emporia Weekly News, Emporia, Kansas, Saturday 5 February 1859.
A repeat of an article previously printed in the Quindaro Chindowan Newspaper.*

James was buried in the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City. There is no headstone for his grave.

(RGR-5) Mary Ann – Born 17 November 1847, Indian Territory.

She married Henry W. Hicks, son of John and Mary Hicks, around 1865. The couple had five children; Henry Jr., born 2 April 1866; Rebecca, born 1867; William O., born 1868; Cordelia Teresa, born 25 July 1870; and Blanche, born 15 July 1873.

The Hicks family relocated to Indian Territory (recall that it later becomes Oklahoma) with Mary Ann's sister, Elizabeth, and her family. It is not clear whether sickness or tragedy drove them to relocate or whether the journey was hazardous but the three boys Henry Hicks Jr, age 6, Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille Jr, age 5 and William O. Hicks, age 4 all died in 1872. The Hicks boys are buried in the Bland Cemetery, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. We have not been able to find where Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille Jr was buried, although Lena's writings state that he died somewhere in Kansas.

Mary Ann died 10 August 1873, and is buried in the Bland Cemetery, Ottawa County Oklahoma, with her children Henry Jr., William O., and Blanche. Blanche died 21 August 1873, at five weeks old, and only eleven days after her mother. The proximity of their deaths suggests there may have been were complications with delivery. Their deaths ended a tragic period for the Hicks family, which is largely forgotten in the family history, probably deliberately.

Author's Note: Mary Ann Robitaille Hicks, daughter of Robert Grant Robitaille, is frequently confused with Mary Ann MUDEATER Armstrong Robitaille, the second wife of Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille.

4.2 From Indian Territory, to Oklahoma Territory, to Oklahoma

Author's note: Prior to 1890, Oklahoma was referred to as Indian Territory. On 2 May 1890, it was renamed Oklahoma Territory until 15 November 1907. On 16 November 1907, Oklahoma became a State. The city of Wyandotte was founded 4 November 1896 and Ottawa County in 1907.

Robert Grant Robitaille left Kansas prior to 1867 and went to Indian Territory, which would later become Wyandotte, Oklahoma, on 4 November 1896.¹²⁶

Robert Grant Robitaille died in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma on 2 July 1879. Of his children, only Elizabeth outlived her father and she would die just four years later. His many grandchildren would ensure his legacy. Of those grandchildren, more than half of those who survived to adulthood came from the union of Elizabeth and her cousin, Louis Eugene Napoleon.

Robert Grant was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, a short distance from where he lived.

The move south from Kansas to Indian Territory was not as well executed as the removal from Ohio. Smaller groups of families travelled together as they could to make the journey. Some of the families had livestock and children in their respective groups, which probably meant the journey turned into a 10-15-day event from Quindaro to the future Wyandotte, Oklahoma.

Author's note: Much of what we know about the early life of the Robitailles in today's Oklahoma comes from the Lena Robitaille Collection in the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library. Most of Lena's writings are not dated. All direct quotations from her writings are in quotation marks.

Although Lena was yet to be born, she recounts the journey from Kansas to Indian Territory based on what she had been told by family and friends:

"My parents and relatives came to the Indian Territory in 1872 or 1873. They came in wagons and brought their horses, cows etc. with them. After looking around, father (Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille) selected the land where Wyandotte now stands as well as additional land east of the city (I assume she is referring to Wyandotte) as well as some running up on the hills south of the present town. Father bought the land from Henry CHARLOE, the 250 acres we called home, at \$1.00 per acre. The family stayed at the home of Mary Ann Zane, Robert Grant's first cousin, until father built an eight-room, two-story, frame house with plastered walls, located south of the present Seneca Indian School. It is still standing today" (this was true around 1937).

"Next he built a double barn, one part of native lumber and the other logs. Extending along in front of the barn was a roof, like one you have on a porch,

and under this shelter, father had his workshop where he made many things that he used. He mended his own harnesses. He also did his own blacksmithing, making his own wagon wheels etc. After the barn was done he built a native lumber smoke house, a log poultry house and a log barn for the cows.”

Shortly after the house was built, Eldridge Brown and his wife Melinda lived with them for about 2 years before they were able to build their own house on a lot they purchased from Louis Eugène.

The first store in Wyandotte was built by Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille. It served as a grocery store and post office for a number of years. See Figure 21.



Figure 21. First Store built in Wyandotte
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society

“The Oklahoma farmhouse had four rooms upstairs and four downstairs. The children’s bedrooms were upstairs. The boys and girls had separate rooms and there was one room for visitors. The girls used that room when they didn’t have company. Downstairs there was a kitchen, a sitting room, a dining room and ‘Papa’s bedroom’. The walls were all white plastered, and ‘Papa’ painted the floors almost every year to keep them clean. There were also front and back porches. The front porch had a deep pink climbing rose, and the back porch had a wisteria. The well was under the back porch, so it was close to the kitchen.”

Louis Eugène had a farm and orchard. He raised cattle, hogs, sheep, chickens, ducks and turkeys for livestock. In the orchard were apples; Jonathan, Winesap, Ben Davis, Maiden Blush, Old Homestead, Big Yellow, Early Harvest and Pound Apples. There was always plenty at harvest time and he let the neighbors come and help themselves. Then he would let the hogs into the orchard to clean up the fallen apples. At the same time, they would root out grubs and other pests, providing natural pest control for the trees.

He also grew blackberries, strawberries, corn, potatoes, turnips, pumpkins, watermelons, peach trees, walnuts, hazelnuts, hickory nuts, oats, and wheat, which he used to exchange at the grain elevator for flour. Lena described him as a prosperous farmer, but not a wealthy one.

The following paragraphs contain excerpts from her recollections which provide the only insight we have to the events in their home.

“We made father shots for his rifle. We always had a supply ready for father when he would go to get wood and perhaps, he would bring back a nice turkey. We also helped him when it was time to plant potatoes and corn.”¹²⁷

Lena recalls in her writings and the recollections of her sister Julia that her father, Louis Eugene Napoleon, liked music very much. He did not play any instruments himself, but the rest of the family did. His wife Elizabeth played the accordion beautifully. Charlie played bass violin; Ernest played flute and piccolo in the band, and everyone said he was very expressive on the flute. He and his brother Frank were bandmasters, but Ernest was the most strict; Frank played 1st violin, clarinet, and cornet; all the girls played organ and piano; James Robert played violin and his first wife, Ruth played organ; Robert Grant played the flute and violin; Robert Wilford played violin; Julia and Rosa took music lessons; Lena played guitar and belonged to Mandolin Club in school. Louis Eugène bought one of the first Kimball Organs for the family from an agent around 1877.

The boys made a sleigh and, in the winter, would put hay on it and go around the neighborhood picking up the neighbors and taking them to the Robitaille house for music and dancing. Their father always liked the sound of the sleigh bells, so he brought several strings of bells back from a visit to Canada to use them on the sleigh.¹²⁸ One of their neighbors said she always listened for the bells and looked forward to the party they announced.

Figure 22 is a photograph of Louis Eugene Napoleon with his youngest children.

Lena remembered her father with affection. She wrote about her father around 1881 coming home for dinner at noon as he always did and recalls that he would lay on the floor and read the Kansas City Star. The children would come in and climb on him. He would put down his paper and take time to talk to them. Figure 23 is a photograph of the Robitaille home.



*Figure 22. Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille & Family
Front row (L-R): Lena and Charles
Standing (L-R): Ernest and Azilda
Photo Credit: Mrs. Louise Johnson*

In her early childhood, Lena was taught about the importance of personal cleanliness by her father. She recalled a couple of specific examples in her writings:

“One day I found a gold-headed cane in the road which went past our house. I thought it was pretty, childlike I was showing it to everyone. When I showed it to papa, he said “take that at once to exactly where you found it. Never touch anything that is not ours.” When I came home, he stood over me to see that I scrubbed my hands clean in warm water and soap.” She continued: “before he would allow us to make ourselves at home after coming from school he would comb our hair, give us our bath and clean clothes to put on and after that he knew we were clean, and would let us go where we pleased”.¹²⁹

Author's note – In their father's youth in Québec, there had been a cholera epidemic (1832), and later, a Typhoid Fever (1847) epidemic, and tuberculosis was also common. Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille's father, Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille was a Medical Doctor, who lived in Québec and would certainly have taught his children the importance of personal cleanliness.



Figure 23. Robitaille Family Home

Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society

Religion also played an important part in family life. The children attended the Quaker Sunday School and rode by horse to their church. The three smallest children rode together on one horse: eldest at the front, youngest in the middle and Lena at the rear.

Lena shared another recollection of home life at the family home. “Papa would read the Bible to us every night before we went to sleep, and he taught us evening and morning prayers. Papa had his English Holy Bible and Grandpa, (Robert Grant), had his French Holy Bible. They taught us to put our trust in God and give thanks for His blessings.” She also recalled that when she and her brother Charles were young, her father would put them on his knees and rock them to sleep while telling them stories about how generously God had blessed them.

Louis Eugene Napoleon's wife, Elizabeth, died on 4 November 1883 in Wyandotte, Oklahoma Territory and is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, close to her father, Robert Grant Robitaille's grave. Although she was very young when her mother passed, Lena's recollection of Elizabeth was that she was a kind and patient mother.

Three years later, on 8 Feb 1886, at age of 44, Louis Eugene Napoleon married Mary Ann Mudeater Armstrong, the daughter of Matthew Mudeater and Nancy PIPE in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri. The marriage was conducted by the Reverend James WOOD. The couple had no children.

Lena recalled in her writings that Mary Ann Mudeater was clean housekeeper and a good cook. She taught the girls to keep their rooms clean and beds made.

Mary Mudeater Armstrong Robitaille died 27 December 1891. She is buried as "Mary Ann Robitaille" in the Bland Cemetery, Oklahoma, adjacent to her first husband, Winfield Scott Armstrong's grave and the graves of their children.

Around late May 1891 Louis Eugene Napoleon had an accident. Lena recounts "Papa was injured on a buggy runaway near the Frisco railroad. He was thrown off the buggy and hit his back on a stump, causing paralysis. He was almost helpless". Lena came home from Haskell Institute and looked after her father until he died.

Louis Eugene Napoleon died in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, 26 May 1895 at the age of 53 and was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery. Louis Eugène Napoleon had life insurance and left each of his children about \$300.

After their father's passing, Lena's brother and his wife (either James Napoleon and his wife Emma Crippen, or Frank and Mamie), took charge of the home and looked after the youngest children and the farm. Lena and Charles returned to school at Haskell Institute.

What follows is the story of Louis Eugene Napoleon's and Elizabeth's children.

(LENR-1) Alice Clotilde – Born 23 September 1858¹³⁰. Alice appears to have had three relationships which resulted in children. Her first was with Christopher Columbus Wind, the son of Chief James Wind and Sally Wabee Wind, and brother of Robert Wilford's second wife, Catherine. No record has been found that documents the marriage. They appear to have had three children together; Thomas Wind born ~ 1876; Edgar Wind, born 1877, and Mary Elizabeth Wind (Lizzie) born 1882. After the couple separated, Thomas and Edward went with their father and Lizzie stayed with her mother. Years later Robert Wilford's daughter, Lula, would recall with pleasure the visits of "Uncle Chris Wind who lived among the Indians at the Sac and Fox Agency", as he would sing and talk in the "Indian language" (probably Ottawa) and tell Indian stories to the children.¹³¹

Alice's second relationship was with Peter Joseph SCHIFFBAUER, an immigrant from Cologne, Germany, who was previously married to Jane WHITECROW. Alice and Peter were married on 30 March 1882 in Newton County, Missouri, P.H. EDWARDS presiding. Alice helped to raise three stepchildren: Robert, Minnie and Fred, and the couple had four children together: Bertram, born 24 December 1883; Amelia, born March 1886; Pearl, born 1889 and Joseph P., born August 1891.

After the death of Peter Joseph, her third relationship was with Michael BEGGS. They were married 24 November 1897 in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri. There were two children from this marriage: Julia Leon, born 8 November 1898 and Clothilda, whose birth date is unknown.¹³²

Alice died in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma 16 November 1909.

(LENR-2) James Robert Napoleon – Born 9 February 1862 in Wyandotte County, Kansas, likely in Quindaro. See Figure 24 for a photograph of James.

According to his sister, Lena Robitaille, James Robert was sent to a Catholic Seminary School in Montréal when he was young. She also said that he spoke Wyandotte and could speak, write, and read French.¹³³



Figure 24. James Robert Napoleon Robitaille
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society

On 13 April 1880, there is an entry in the Quapaw Police records concerning the ownership of a yearling colt pony. It was found about one mile from the Grand River Post Office, medium size, black color, few grey hairs, blaze face. No brand or marks. James Robert was given ownership of said horse on 7 June of 1882.¹³⁴

James Robert was married twice, his first wife was Ruth BANNING of Baxter Springs, Kansas. No further information has been found on this marriage and there are no known children.

In 1889 James Robert married Emma Quercia CRIPPEN¹³⁵. James and Emma had eight children: Grace, born 25 November 1890; Homer Theofield, born 1892; Wolfred (“Buck”), born 10 August 1894; Arthur Napoleon (“Rob”), born 1 November 1896; James Francis (“Frank”), born 18 July 1905; Theodore Ernest, born 11 August 1907; an unnamed infant born 27 November 1913; and Beulah, born 19 November 1914.

James Robert sent at least two of his boys to Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, Wolfred (Buck) and Arthur Napoleon.¹³⁶

Lena recalls that her brother James Robert built a store at his home. His store was a combination grocery and meat shop. The store is shown in Figure 25 below along with a copy of an advertisement for his market.

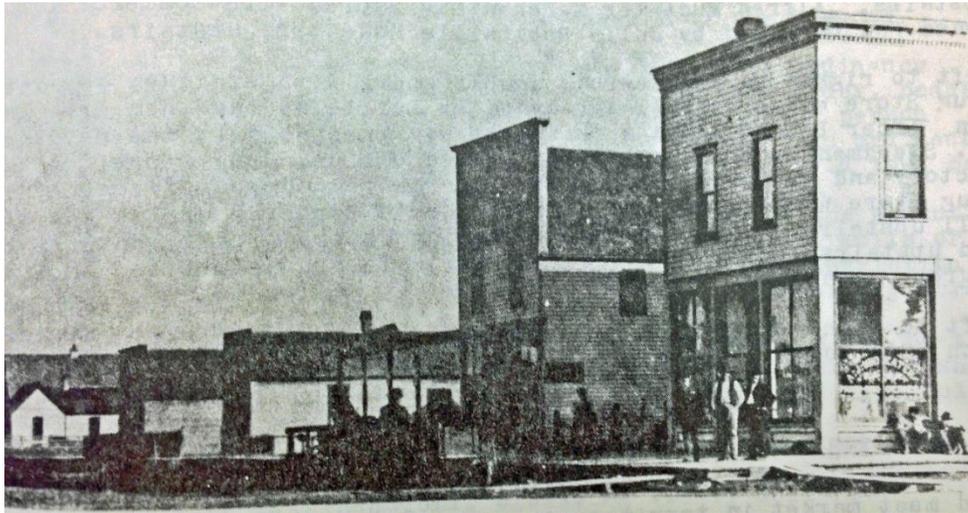


Figure 25. James Napoleon's Market, second building on right

Photo Credits - History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard, page 5

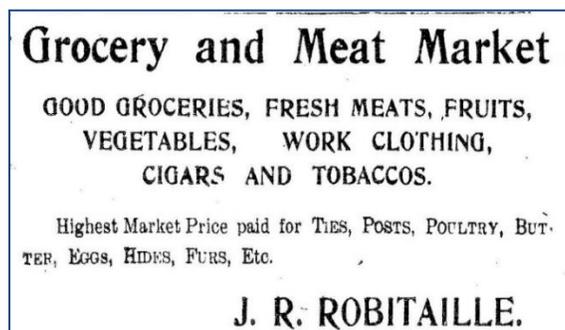


Figure 26. Copy of a newspaper advertisement for James' Store

Photo Credits - History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard, page 63

James also provided wood for the Seneca Indian School. The “Robitaille Mall” was in the space above his store and was where The Modern Woodmen of America Lodge held their meetings. The building was on Broadway, just east of Mudeater’s Grocery.¹³⁷ James also built a nice residence about ¼ of a mile from town where he lived and raised his family all but their last child. He sold his store as he was accommodating too many debtors and decided to go to the nearby mining towns thinking business would be better there. He followed that vocation until he passed away.

In 1902, James and his younger brother, Frank, were part a banking venture in Wyandotte. The Bank of Wyandotte was announced 17 October 1902 in the Miami-Herald (Miami Oklahoma), page 4. James and Frank were directors along with J.W. CROW, Dr. D.F. and J.E. RANDOLPH and C.W. BRADLEY. The bank was located in one corner of C.B. COE’s store at the time of opening. On Friday, 14 November 1902 on page 5 of the same newspaper there is an advertisement for the bank, and which also lists the names of the directors.¹³⁸

Monday, 9 February 1914, in The Neosho Daily News, newspaper of Neosho, Missouri, stated that James R. Robitaille and J. W. POWERS were in town on business. The article further states that “Mr. Robitaille is an old friend of J.G. ANDERSON and enjoyed a pleasant visit with Mr. Anderson while here”.

James Robert Robitaille died at 2:00 in the morning 3 February 1931 at his home on East A Street, in Picher, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. He was reported as being 70 years old and was a well-known figure throughout northeast Oklahoma. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Emma Robitaille (born CRIPPEN), five sons, Arthur and Homer of Joplin, and Wilfred, Francis, and Theodore of Picher; one daughter, Mrs. Beulah PURNELL of Picher; three brothers, Ernest Robitaille of Tulsa, Charles and Frank Robitaille of Wyandotte and two sisters; Mrs. Ilda (Azilda) Schiffbauer and Lena Robitaille of Wyandotte.¹³⁹ James was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

His wife, Emma, survived him by 23 years, passing on 14 January 1954 in Miami, Oklahoma, at the age of 83. Her obituary further states that she was survived by four sons, Wolford Robitaille of Quapaw, Arthur Robitaille of Los Angeles, Frank Robitaille of Wyandotte, and Theodore Robitaille of El Dorado, Kansas; a daughter, Mrs. Beulah Parnell of Phoenix, Arizona, 26 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren!¹⁴⁰

(LENR-3) Julia Emma – Born 30 August 1863, in Wyandotte County Kansas, near Quindaro.

Author’s note: A piece of undated correspondence between Lena and William E. Connelley, a former Secretary of the Kansas Historical Society, long deceased, stated that based on a Robitaille Family Bible entry, Julia was born on 30 August 1863; however, the inscription on her headstone in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, states she was born on the 31st.

Lena Robitaille recounts in her writings that there were two family Bibles: Robert Grant Robitaille had one printed in French and Louis Eugène Napoleon Robitaille had one printed in English. Significant family dates (births, deaths and marriages) were recorded in these Bibles. Both Bibles, and the character reference letter written for Robert Grant Robitaille by Robert Grant, were still in the Family's possession as late as 1937. After speaking with several Robitaille descendants while researching this paper, the whereabouts of these family treasures remains a mystery.

Julia attended the Wyandotte Mission School in Lost Creek Indian Mission School, Indian Territory and, during her school days, Julia Robitaille and Ida Johnson were the editors of the Halaquah Times newspaper. In the same correspondence referenced in the author's note above, Mr. Connelly said that he felt that Julia probably attended the school between 1871 and 1875. The newspaper was only in print between these years.

Figure 27 is a photograph of Julia Emma in her younger years.



*Figure 27. Julia Emma Robitaille, date unknown
Photo Credit – Mrs. Louise Johnson*

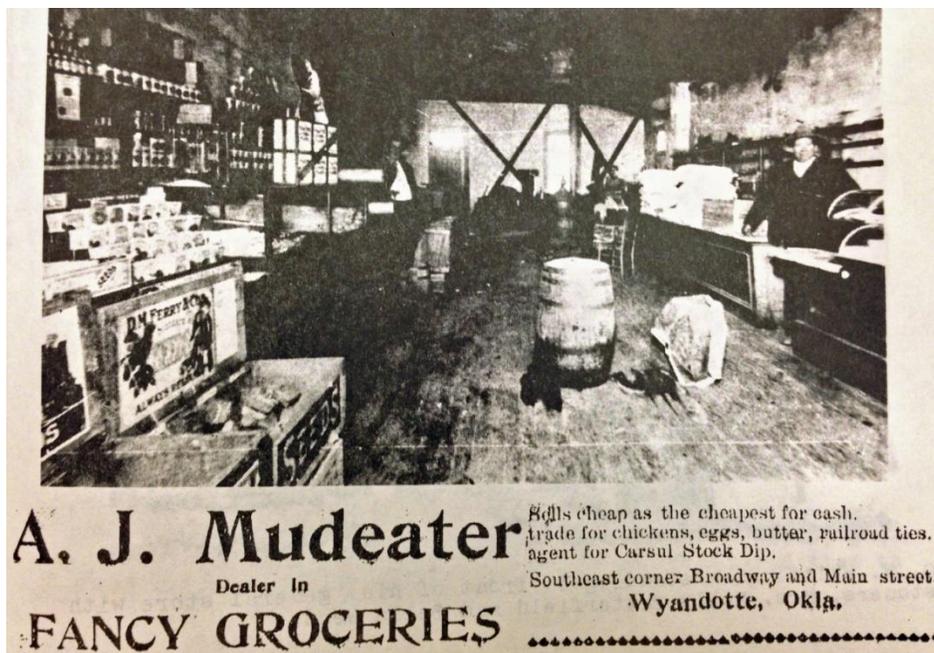
At age 19, Julia married Alfred J. Mudeater, on 17 May 1881. The Reverend Father HOSPENTHAL presided at the marriage.¹⁴¹ Alfred was the brother of Julia's stepmother, Mary Ann Mudeater Armstrong Robitaille.

For 10 or more years Julia was the postmistress in the store. She also ran a hotel in the same building, per writing on the reverse of the photograph of the store. See Figure 28.



*Figure 28. The 2nd Mudeater - Robitaille Family Store & Hotel
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society*

Figure 29 below shows an interior view of the Mudeater – Robitaille grocery which was located on the ground floor of the building illustrated above.



*Figure 29. Interior view of the Mudeater – Robitaille Store
Photo Credit – History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard, page 15*

Lena recalls in her writings that Julie was a splendid cook and enjoyed preparing large dinners for the holidays. William E. Connelley, Secretary of the Kansas Historical Society, stayed at Julia and Alfred's hotel while he was in Wyandotte conducting historical research on the Wyandot Indians. He remembered Julia and her home cooked meals fondly years later. See Figure 30 below which shows Julia and her husband entertaining guests at their hotel.



Figure 30. Mudeater Hotel operated by Julia Robitaille Mudeater seated on front right and Alfred Mudeater standing at end of table.

Photo Credit – Mrs. Louise Johnson

Julia's sister, Lena, frequently mentioned Julia in her writings. She said that Julia and Alfred had no children from their marriage. The Wyandotte Post Office was established 3 October 1894 and Julia Robitaille Mudeater was the postmistress. After her father Louis Eugène Napoleon Robitaille became paralyzed he turned the store over to Julia.

The same year the Wyandot Association was formed. James Walker, Indian Agent for the Wyandot tribe, appointed a committee consisting of James Hall, trustee; A. J. Mudeater, vice –president; W. H. Darrough, secretary; and A. M. Biddle, member.

The committee purchased 20 acres of land from Azilda Robitaille Schiffbauer, (Julia's sister) and her husband, Robert Schiffbauer, for the sum of \$500.00. The purchased land was earmarked for the new town that became Wyandotte, Indian Territory.

Figure 31 shows the land allocations in Wyandotte. The town center is the "L" shaped cross hatched block.

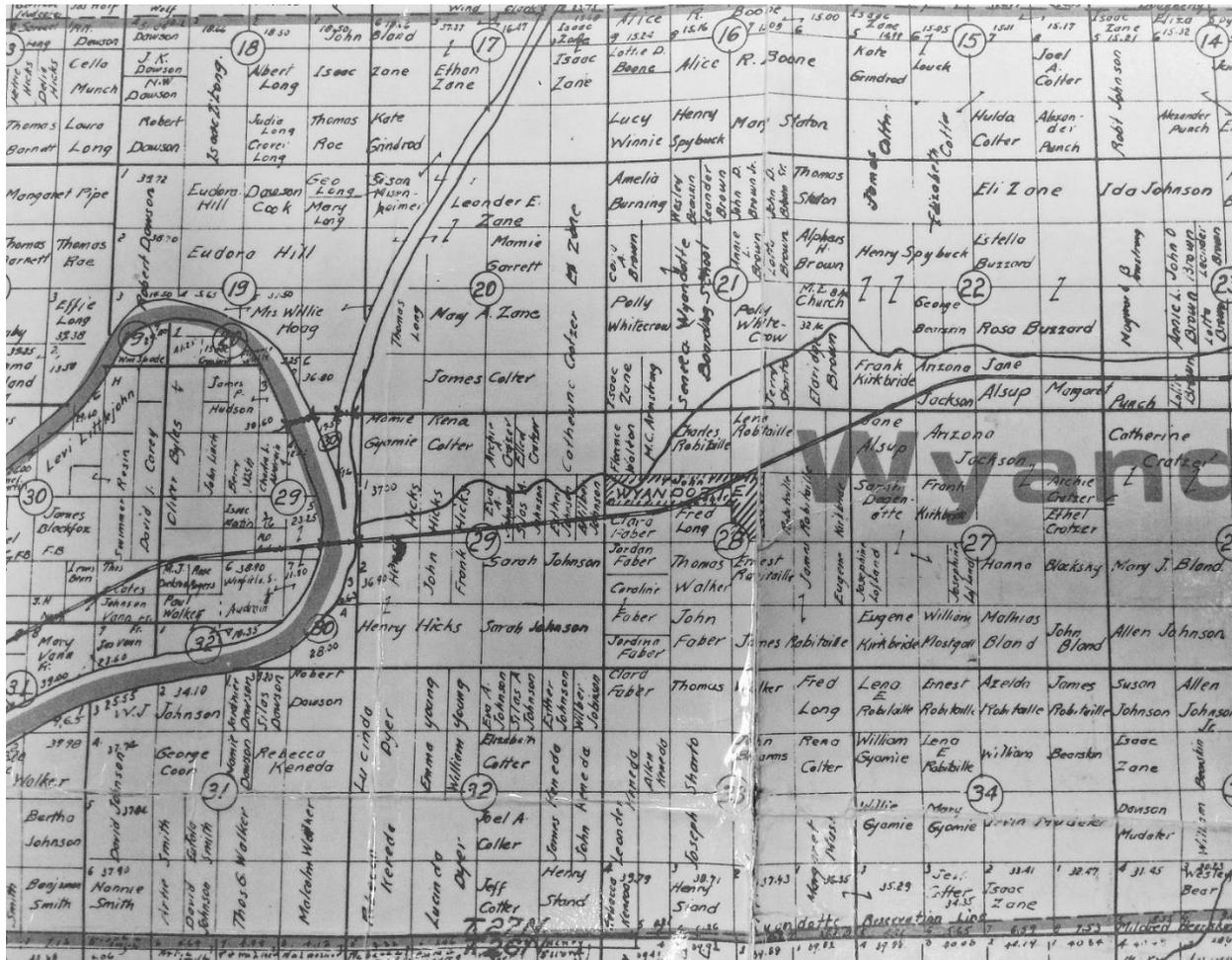


Figure 31. Partial Map of Wyandotte Indian Land Allocations in Ottawa County, Oklahoma (Date of depiction unknown)

Photo Credit – Courtesy of Miami Public Library, Miami, Oklahoma

Notes:

1. Cross hatched parcel at center, just above Section 28 is the Village of Wyandotte, Oklahoma.
2. North is up on the map.
3. Shaded loop to left is a river which was eventually dammed up and became part of Grand Lake.
4. The hatched line traversing the map is the St. Louis – San Francisco Railway.
5. The squiggly line above the railroad line is Lost Creek which remains to date.

Figure 32 and Figure 33 show professional portraits of Julia and Alfred.



Figure 32. Alfred Mudeater
Photo Credit – History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma
page 10



Figure 33. Julia Robitaille Mudeater
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection,
Oklahoma Historical Society

Julia died 5 November 1919 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, due to complications from a cat bite, possibly blood poisoning, according to a letter in the Lena Robitaille Collection. She was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Oklahoma.¹⁴²

Julia's husband, Alfred, died 19 July 1929 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. He was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. His obituary in the Miami Daily News Record stated he had no children, was well known all over Oklahoma, and had a brother in Canada.

(LENR-4) Rosalee (Rosa) – Born 2 December 1865 in Quindaro, Kansas. I was unable to find any school record for Rosa. Rosa and Lafayette Buzzard were married in Newton County, Missouri by a Minister of the Gospel on 4 December 1885.¹⁴³ Lafayette (Fay) was nearly fifteen years her senior.

Rosa and Lafayette had two children: Stella and Reed James. Stella was born 15 December 1887 in Indian Territory. Stella attended Chiloco and Seneca Indian Schools and married Victor ALLEN in 1909. Stella outlived her husband by five years, passing 27 August 1959 in North Miami, Oklahoma. Reed James was born 5 August 1891 in Indian Territory. Reed married Marie SPARLIN 29 March 1914. Reed died in 1952; his widow lived until 1985. They are both buried in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Cemetery in Ottawa County, Oklahoma.¹⁴⁴

Rosa died 11 November 1891 when Reed James was just three months old. She was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Oklahoma Territory.

On 4 December 1892 Lafayette married Gurtrude WELCH in Oklahoma Territory. The couple had two sons, Frances Earl Buzzard and Lafayette Buzzard Jr. Lafayette died 1933 in Los Angeles, California and is buried in Roosevelt Memorial Park, Gardena, Los Angeles County, California.¹⁴⁵

(LENR-5) Louis Eugène Napoleon - Born in Wyandotte Kansas, 1867 and died 1872. Little else is known about Louis Eugène Napoleon Jr. Lena's recollections say that Louis Eugène Napoleon died in Kansas. He may have actually died en-route to Oklahoma.

(LENR-6) Francis Reynolds (Frank) – Born 16 December 1869 in Quindaro, Kansas.

On 19 August 1889 Frank Robitaille, (age 19) along with Mamie GARRETT (age 15, who later became Frank's wife), and his siblings Azilda, (age 14); Lena, (age 12); and Charles (age 9) were all being transferred from the Quapaw Agency to Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, to extend their education.

Frank was another member of the Robitaille musical group. He played violin and can be seen along with his brother Ernest playing their instruments in an orchestra at the Concho Indian School in Figure 34.



*Figure 34. Frank Robitaille (left most), and Ernest (3rd from left)
Concho Indian School Orchestra, date unknown
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society*

Frank married Mamie Garrett, daughter of Wesley Garrett and Mary Ann Long in 1893 at Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Lena recalled she was a “beautiful girl”.

On 25 December 1898, Frank's beloved wife Mamie died at the age of just 25.¹⁴⁶ She was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery. The inscription on her headstone clearly demonstrates how close they must have been. They had no children and Frank remained single for the rest of his life.

Like many family members, Frank spent part of his life working for the Indian Agency. Here are some events from a bit later in Frank's life ¹⁴⁷

27 February 1909 – “Transfers: Frank R. Robitaille, Farmer, from Osage 720, to Farmer, Jicarilla 600.”

22 May 1909 – Jicarilla, New Mexico – “Under the direction of Industrial Teacher, W. V. HERBET and Farmer Frank Robitaille, our school grounds have been put in such shape as to draw several complements from those who have known the grounds for a year or more.”

30 October 1909 - Jicarilla, New Mexico – “Mr. Frank Robitaille, industrial teacher, just finished putting up street lights on the grounds of the school making a very decided improvement for night travel about the plant. Mr. Robitaille will go on his annual leave on the 1st of November. He expects to spend it at his home in Wyandotte, Oklahoma.”

In mid-December of 1937, Frank Robitaille vacated his farm and moved in with his sister, Lena on Springer Street, Wyandotte, OK.¹⁴⁸

Frank died at age 71 of a cerebral hemorrhage on 11 April 1941 at the Indian Hospital in Claremore, Kansas.¹⁴⁹ He was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

(LENR-7) Ernest – Born 21 August 1872 in Quindaro, Kansas.

While no records appear to exist for the elementary school in Indian Territory it seems highly likely that Ernest attended them as did his siblings and upon completing this part of his education he also attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, where he was a member of the Haskell School Band. Ernest's sister, Lena Robitaille said that Ernest played the flute. Before he graduated from Haskell, Ernest quit school, joined the circus and played flute and piccolo in the circus band.

Ernest later attended Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia. His record at Carlisle, File 2068, shows that he attended from 24 August 1899 through 12 June 1900.¹⁵⁰ His period at Carlisle enabled him to attend the nearby Dickinson School of Law which has since become part of Penn State University. He graduated in 1900.¹⁵¹ A photograph of Ernest as young man can be seen in Figure 35 below.

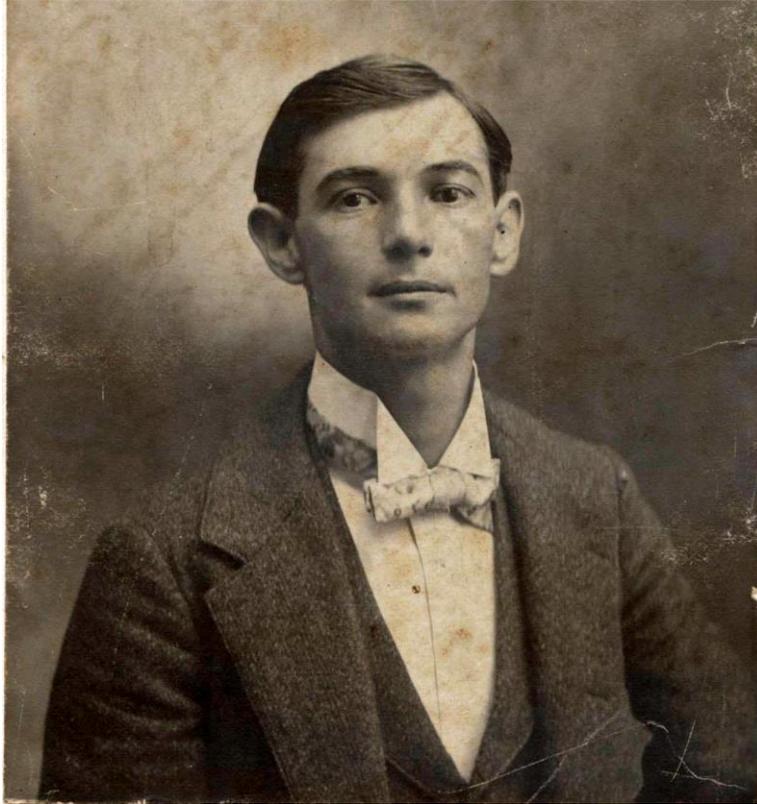


Figure 35. Ernest A. Robitaille

Photo Credit - Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society

While at Carlisle, he married Emily Elizabeth PEAKE, born 16 February 1876 in Garrison, Crow Wing, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Frederick William Peake and Elizabeth BEAUPRÉ. They applied for a marriage license in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania on 19 March 1900 and were married 16 April 1900 in Philadelphia. Ernest was 27, Emily 24.¹⁵²

Ernest and his family returned to Kansas where he directed the Haskell Band and studied at the University of Kansas (Lawrence) School of Law, where he graduated in the Class of 1901. If you look closely at Figure 36, Ernest is the third person to the right of the bass drum.

Emily and Ernest had two daughters; Ora Cecile, born 6 May 1901, who married Leo Francis McGUIRE; and Josephine Catherine, born 6 May 1903, who married George Albert SCHWAB.

In an article entitled "Trouble over Her Allotment", the Morning Tulsa Daily World, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 18 August 1906, stated that Mrs. E. Robitaille has been notified she may have to move to Minnesota to allow her to keep her land grant at the White Earth Reservation in Chippewa County. A Chippewa Indian herself, she was entitled to the land grant.



Figure 36. Haskell Institute Band
Photo Credit - Kansas Historical Society,
kansasmemory.org/item/100367

Her husband, Ernest had written to the Interior Department contesting the notice from the White Earth Agency and explaining that he and his wife Emily lived in Tulsa and had businesses there.¹⁵³ The outcome of his appeal is unknown, but by 1910 she was living in Minneapolis, Minnesota.¹⁵⁴ Ernest and Emily separated around 1909,¹⁵⁵ and later divorced, but to date, the records of the divorce have not been found.

In a letter sent to the U.S. Indian School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, dated 6 March 1911 after he left the School, Ernest said he was practicing law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that his practice was growing and that he was making money. In her letters Lena described him as diligent in business, and honest.

The musical influence of his father and family remained with Ernest. He was the President of the Local 94 Federation of Musicians in Tulsa when it was first chartered on 17 March 1906. His signature appears in the left column of Figure 37, it is the third name from the top. Membership in Local 94 was \$2.00 in 1906! The Charter still hangs on the wall of the Local 94 Office in Tulsa, see Figure 37. Ernest was also a member of the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra.

Ernest had an office on the third floor of the Robinson Hotel, Room 332, according to the 1925 Tulsa City Directory. The hotel was quite the place for wheeling and dealing. Many oilfield developers stayed there while in town. Over time, Ernest grew interested in making some additional money by investing in the oil fields.

Ernest had only one success in the oil gamble, his first oil well, which did well enough to make him give up his legal practice. Afterwards he found no fortune in the oil fields.

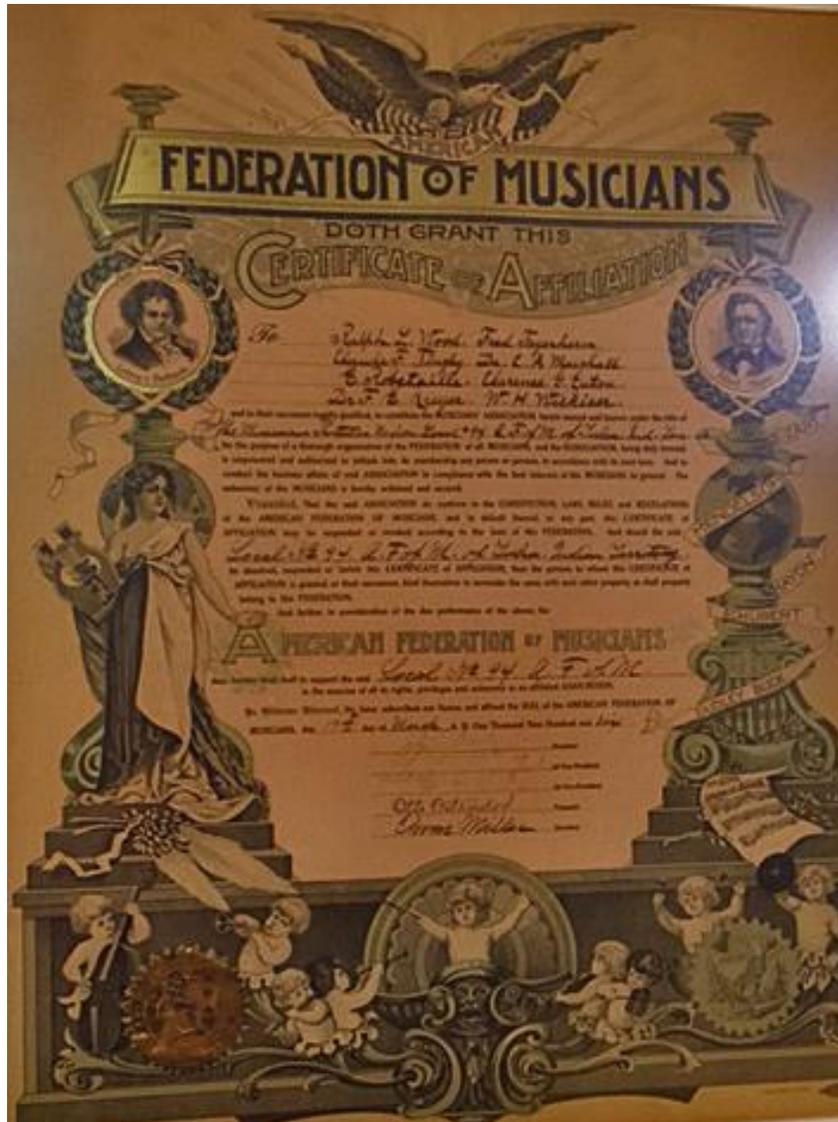


Figure 37. Local 94 Tulsa Chapter Charter – Federation of Musicians
 Photo Credit – Judy BRYANT

The last communication found from Ernest was a letter dated 10 October 1932 on his letterhead as an attorney. It is typewritten and addressed to his brother, Frank, and his sister, Lena, in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. It concerns the harvesting and shucking of the corn crop on the property Ernest owned in Wyandotte. It closed with the words, “love to all, I am your brother,” it was signed in longhand.¹⁵⁶

On Friday, 22 December 1933 Ernest dropped dead in his office, Room 332 of the Robinson Hotel, from a cerebral embolism. His funeral was held in Wyandotte at his brother Charles house – the same house in which he was raised. He was buried the next day in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Kansas. He was 62 years old.¹⁵⁷

Ernest was remembered in “The Rambler” column of the Tulsa Tribune newspaper, by the late Columnist Roger V. DEVLIN, who recounted a story he was told by Tom HERRICK of Tulsa. It goes as follows:

“When I first came to Tulsa – back in September of 1911, heck that was a long time ago, come to think of it – the first man I met here was Ernest Robitaille, who was an attorney and also the secretary of the musicians’ union”.

“Anyway, Robbie, that’s what everyone called him, had an office on the third floor of the Robinson Hotel. That’s the old building on the southwest corner of Third and Main”.

“Well, sir”, Herrick continued, “the other day I had to go over to the Froug store’s display department we wanted to borrow a clothing dummy. I went up on the third floor and down the hallway and just as I reached for the knob on the door I noticed something. There on the glass in the door, was the name, E. Robitaille, attorney at law.” “Yes”, Herrick nodded, “the name had a Froug sign over it, but I pulled it aside and there it was. The same door with the same name that I had faced when I first came to Tulsa 40 years ago!”

Author’s note: The author of “The Rambler”, Roger Devlin, was a columnist for the Tulsa Tribune for nearly half a century. He died Wednesday, March 4th, 1992.

Twelve years following Ernest’s death, on 7 May 1945, his grandson, the son of Josephine Robitaille and her husband George Albert Schwab, Albert Earnest Schwab, who was a Private First-Class United States Marine, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty. He was a flamethrower operator in action against enemy Japanese Forces on Okinawa Shima in the Rykuyu Islands. I am sure Ernest would have been very proud of his grandson.

(LENR-8) Azilda Ella – Born 7 October 1874 in Indian Territory. Azilda was the first family member born in what later became Wyandotte, Oklahoma. She was born while the Robitaille’s family home was being finished.

It is assumed that she attended her elementary schooling at the Seneca Indian School which was built in Wyandotte. Records show that she was transferred at age 14 to Haskell Institute with her siblings Frank, age 19; Azilda age 14; Lena, age 12; and Charles, age 9.

Azilda met her husband while breaking horses for her eldest sister’s second husband Joseph Peter Schiffbauer. Her marriage to Robert Schiffbauer, son of Joseph Peter and Jane Mary Whitecrow, was 5 December 1893. The couple had many children:

Cyril Robert, born 16 June 1894, married (1) Winifred E. CRIM, (2) Ethel CROTZER, (3) Viola Patsy LUMIS; Roy Russel, born 14 February 1896, married (1) Ann SHACKLEY, (2) Pernia Bell RHODES; Julia, born 22 January 1898, died 24 December 1898; Frank, born 25 March 1900; married Golda PHILLIPS; Alice Edith, born 8 August 1902, married Ivy Lawrence TIPPIT; Rudolph (Rody), born 5 September 1904, married (1) Murl MAGEE, (2) Agnes Irene WILLIAMS; Lucile Elizabeth, born 24 June 1907, married (1) Thomas TAYLOR, (2) James E. BUCKMASTER; Gladys Minnie, born 14 July 1911, married Guy THOMAS; John R., born 2 January 1914, married Inez COLE, and Charles Harvey, born 5 December 1918, married Beth RHODES.¹⁵⁸

As mentioned earlier, Azilda and her husband Robert sold 20 acres of land for \$500.00 to the Wyandotte Association on 11 August 1896. This parcel of land became the "downtown" of the village of Wyandotte, Oklahoma.¹⁵⁹

The family got together on special occasions. One such event is mentioned in a local newspaper, see Figure 38 below.

Mrs. Schiffbauer Honored
A group of relatives and friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schiffbauer, Sunday for a birthday dinner in honor of Mrs. Robert Schiffbauer. This affair was a complete surprise for the honoree. Covers were laid for the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Tippett and family, Mr. and Mrs. Rody Schiffbauer, Miss Naomi McGee, Roy Schiffbauer, John Schiffbauer, Misses Lucille and Gladys Schiffbauer, Miss Lena Robitaille, Frank and Charles Schiffbauer, Miss Geneva King and Mr. and Mrs. R. Schiffbauer.

*Figure 38. Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma)
Friday 12 October 1934, page 10.*

The first Quaker (Friends) Church in Wyandotte was built on lots 5 & 7 which were on Azilda Robitaille Schiffbauer's allotment. The Crotzer family donated the required lumber for its construction. The building was completed June 1900 and Ed PEARSON was the first Minister.¹⁶⁰

Azilda Ella died 21 May 1946 and was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.¹⁶¹ Her husband Robert died 16 January 1951 and is also buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery.¹⁶²

Figure 39 is a photograph of the Schiffbauer Family.



Figure 39. The Schiffbauer Family

Photo Credit - The History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma Compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard, page 2.

Front row (L-R) Robert Schiffbauer, wife, Azilda Ella Robitaille.
Children: Middle row: (L-R) Gladys, Alice, Frank
Back row: (L-R) Roy, Lucile, Cyril, Charles, Rody and John Jr.

(LENR-9) Lena Ernestine – Born 15 June 1877 in Indian Territory. Lena attended the Seneca Indian School for her elementary education. Lena also went to Haskell Institute in 1889 where she finished the preparatory course. After her father's accident she returned home and cared for him until he died.

Later she took courses on guitar playing and painting at the Friends School. She said she was very happy there. Lena was also fond of music and is shown below in Figure 40 with her brother Frank and some musical friends.

After her father's death, Lena used the money he left her to continue her education. She returned to Haskell Institute briefly and left again because she was losing her hearing.

In 1904 she briefly went into the millinery business. She does not say how long the business continued but she was forced to give it up due to the continued deterioration of her hearing. Figure 41 shows Lena and some of her friends at her millinery & dressmaking shop.



*Figure 40. Front Row: Lena Robitaille
Back Row: (L-R) Mr. Adams, Mr. Waterman, John Paul, Frank Robitaille
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society*



*Figure 41. Lena Robitaille's Millinery & Dressmaking Shop. Lena is seated to the right rear of the photo, under the large hanging picture
Photo Credit – History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard, page 16.*

Lena married William Arthur FERGUSON 12 September 1906 in Mount Vernon, Lawrence, Missouri. He was a railroad worker. In the 1910 Federal Census they were living together as husband and wife in a rented house on Broadway Street in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Arthur said he was 23 and Lena was 29.

After their marriage Arthur worked for the Indian Agency in Arizona. The Agency generated reports on an annual basis which were filed with their headquarters to apprise the management of who was working at each of their facilities and what they were doing.

One example of such an entry was found in a report; "Mr. W. H. Ferguson, Agency Blacksmith, in company with his wife Lena, will soon leave on a vacation trip during the term of Mr. Ferguson's annual leave."

Lena stated that she and Arthur stayed together for around nine years, and that she left him for non-support. Ferguson later remarried, although no record of divorce has been found. Lena remained single for the rest of her life. In the 1920 Census, she was living by herself on Springer Street in Wyandotte. In the 1930 Census her brother, Frank was living with her at the same street address. In the 1940 Census, they were still at the same address, but the census taker stated Lena was the head of the household.

We have Lena to thank for preserving the history of this family. For over a decade she maintained communication with William E. Connelley. Throughout her series of writings, most of which are undated, and two oral interviews with Nannie Lee Burns a WPA worker who was capturing the stories of Oklahoma pioneers, she frequently goes back in time and describes various things from her childhood and early adulthood. These memories would have otherwise been lost to history.¹⁶³

Sadly, Lena was found dead in her house in Wyandotte by relatives in mid-October 1955. She apparently died alone. The relatives who discovered her body theorized that she must have had a heart attack and may have actually died 24 hours or more before she was discovered. Funeral Services were held on 14 October at the Hutchins Miami, Oklahoma Funeral Home followed by burial in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery. Reverend Tom Hainey, the pastor of the Wyandotte Baptist Church of which Miss Robitaille was member, officiated at the service which was held at the Friends church. She was survived by a brother, Charles Robitaille of Wyandotte and several nieces and nephews.¹⁶⁴

(LENR-10) Charles Zephrin – Born 26 March 1880 in Indian Territory.¹⁶⁵ Charles was the last child of Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille and Elizabeth Robitaille. He was born in what later became Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

Charles attended the Seneca Indian School and went to Haskell Institute. While his records are not very clear, it appears he attended Haskell twice. The earliest record shows him entering on 19 August 1889 and dropping out on 30 June 1892 after his

father's accident. The second entry on his school record was on August 1900 and he dropped out again on 1 October 1901.¹⁶⁶



*Figure 42. Charles Robitaille at the Robitaille Home
Photo Credit – Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society*

The photo in Figure 43 below captured him on the porch of the family home.

In 1900 Census, Charles appears in the home of Robert Schiffbauer in Wyandotte. He lists himself as “Brother in Law” since his sister Azilda is Robert’s wife.

On 8 October 1905 Charles married Francis “Fannie” CARNES in Miami, Oklahoma Territory. She was born around 1874 in Paris, Missouri, the daughter of James and Laura SCOBY. Fannie had a son from a previous marriage.¹⁶⁷

As the United States enacted the Draft during World War 1, men were required to register with local draft boards. Charles Zephrin filed as well. His draft card gives his age as 38, his occupation as farmer, and states his build is slender, his height is short, his eyes brown and his hair black. The 1920, 1930 and 1940 Federal Census all list “General Farmer” as his occupation. In the 1930 Census he stated that his home as a

value of \$4000, but by 1940 that had dropped to \$1000. Figure 44 below illustrates life at Charles and Fannie's home.



Figure 43. Fannie and Charles Robitaille on their farm

*Photo Credit – History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma,
Compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard, page 75*

Charles and his wife appear to have had an active social life in Wyandotte and neighboring towns. There are numerous entries in the Miami Daily News-Record newspaper over their life span that describe socials, banquets and concerts that Charles and his wife Fannie either attended or hosted. See Figure 44 and Figure 45.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robitaille of Wyandotte served dinner Sunday to a number of Mrs. Robitaille's relatives and friends. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cheek, Mr. and Mrs. A. Pacheco, Miss Letha Green; Messrs. Frank Robitaille, Joe Schiffbauer and Clyde Knides, and Mrs. L. S. Benin of San Diego, Cal.

Figure 44. Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma)

Thursday, Jun 7, 1934, page 3



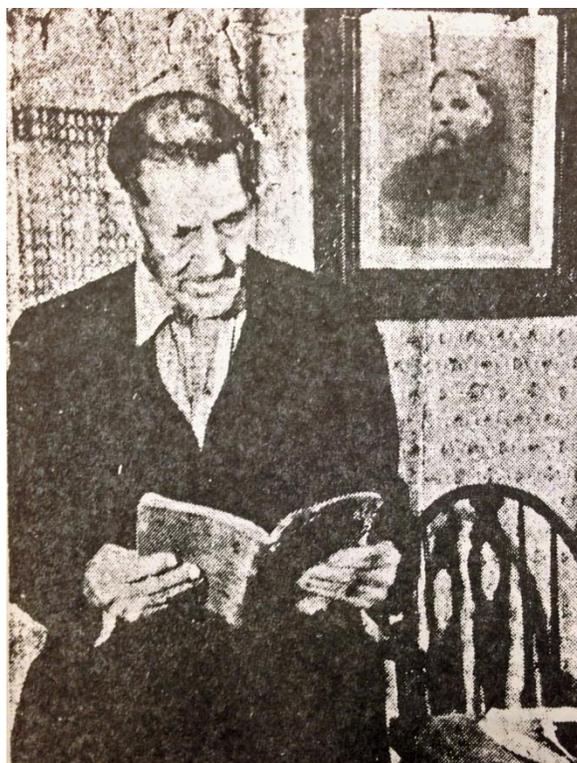
Figure 45. Fannie Carnes Robitaille Valentine's Day Party, date unknown. Fannie is rightmost in the picture.

Photo Credit – History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, compiled by Nadine Grant & Della Vineyard, page 75

On 3 March 1957, Charles got his photo in the Miami Daily News-Record newspaper in an article titled “50 Year Club: Postal Impressions”. The photograph shows Charles reviewing an “ancient” postal journal he owned that he ultimately donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The journal recorded the business of the Grand River Post Office beginning in 1884.

Early postmasters at Wyandotte were H. Hicks, Ben WATT, and Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille. On the first day of October 1886, the total number of stamps on hand in the post office was valued at \$17.48 and the number of packages sent during the fourth quarter ending 31 December 1886 totaled 28.

In the article Charles Robitaille stated that his father, Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille was the postmaster for several years after the Grand River Post Office, which had originally been in a small “shack” near the railroad water tank, was moved to the Robitaille home, east of the Seneca School. On 3 October 1894, the name Grand River was changed to Wyandotte and Julia Robitaille Mudeater was postmistress.¹⁶⁸ See related photo in Figure 46 below.



*Figure 46. Charles Robitaille in the Robitaille Household
(Note photo on the wall behind him)
Photo Credit – Miami Daily News Record (Miami, Oklahoma) 3 March 1957.*

Authors note: Lena mentioned in her writings that Papa (Louis Eugène Napoleon Robitaille) put his photo in a frame and put it on the wall of their home and told his children that it had to stay there as long as they lived in this house. Charlie was the last of his children to live there. One has to wonder if this photo on the wall was the same photo she spoke of and, if so, where and with whom did it finally rest?

“Wyandotte Loses “Aunt Fannie,” A Culinary Expert” is the headline in Mrs. Charles Robitaille’s obituary. She died unexpectedly from a heart failure at 11:30 P.M. on 20 March 1944. She was 70 years old. She was a member of the First Christian Church for many years and operated a boarding house which was widely renowned for its fine home-cooked meals. She lived in Wyandotte for 44 years.¹⁶⁹ Mrs. Robitaille was buried in Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

Charles Zephrin Robitaille survived his wife by 14 years. He died in the home of his nephew, Frank Schiffbauer, on 2 August 1958. Charles lived in the same home he grew up in for 78 years and actively operated a 20-acre farm in this Grand Lake community until he was moved to his nephew’s home after suffering a stroke on 9 July of the same year. He was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.¹⁷⁰ Of his siblings, Charles was the last one to pass.

5 Who was “Robert” / James Robitaille?

Recall in the Introduction, I listed several questions I wanted to answer when researching this family. These were as follows:

Who was Robert Robitaille and where did he fit into the Robitaille Family?

Having personally researched the early generations of descendants of the three Robitaille brothers (Jean, Pierre and Philippe) who travelled to New France and remained there, I knew there were no descendants named “Robert” Robitaille during the period 1790 – 1805. Just to be sure, I revisited the records of the two principal genealogical sources in Québec Province: Drouin Institute, and The Research Program in Historical Demography (PRDH). As expected, a check of both did not disclose any Robert Robitailles for the period of interest. However, there were single male Robitailles with given names of Jean and Jacques which fitted the right age groups. (Jean being the French equivalent of John, and Jacques, the equivalent of James), so I put together a list of candidates.

Reviewing these two subsets of candidates, there was only one person that closely matched both the age and the single male characteristics of James Robitaille. This person was Jean Robitaille, the ninth of ten children born to Pierre Robitaille and Marie Geneviève PARENT. Jean was born in 5 May 1771 and was baptized the same day in L’Ancienne-Lorette, Québec, which is about 10 miles north-west of Québec City.¹⁷¹ I knew this family well from a prior research project on another son of theirs, a silversmith named Louis Robitaille. See Table 1 for the family of Pierre and Marie Geneviève.

In reviewing the church records of Jean’s family, Jean was present at the weddings of three of his siblings; Marie Josephe Robitaille, who married René KIMBERT, 19 May 1785 at Notre-Dame-de-Québec, Marie-Anne Robitaille who married Pierre Bruneau, 30 August 1785 and Louis Robitaille, who was married at the same church to Louise MUNRO 21 April 1789. In all weddings Jean signed the parish register as “Jacques” with a very clear and mature signature. Recall that Jacques = James in English. Several of the original period documents in Ohio, which were discussed in Part 2, refer to James Robitaille, not Jean, or Robert Robitaille. It was fairly common that given baptismal names were abandoned by family members. This appears to be true with James Robitaille.

Still, it was a bit early to say with certainty “we found our man”. I wanted to be sure he was the right person, and since James Robitaille left few pieces of evidence except for his sons and a few paper records, it was necessary to take a broader look at what else we knew about the family.

Father: PIERRE
ROBITAILLE

Mother: MARIE GENEVIÈVE
PARENT

Marriage : 1757–11–07 Québec (Notre-Dame-de-Québec)

Sex	Birth (<i>Baptism</i>) Place	Marriage Place	Death (<i>Burial</i>) Place	First name of child <i>Name of the spouse</i>
m	1758-09-11 L'Ancienne-Lorette	N/A Was a priest	1834-08-27 Marieville, Québec	PIERRE
f	1760-09-10 L'Ancienne-Lorette	1777-08-25 Québec (Notre-Dame- de-Québec)	1842-10-17 Québec (Notre- Dame-de-Québec)	MARIE GENEVIÈVE JEAN NICHOLAS AMIOT
f	1762-07-21 L'Ancienne-Lorette	N/A	1778-12-23 (1778-12-24) Québec (Notre- Dame-de-Québec)	MARIE LOUISE
f	1763-10-16 L'Ancienne-Lorette	1785-08-30 Québec (Notre-Dame- de-Québec)	1851-07-26 Verchères	MARIE ANNE PIERRE BRUNEAU
f	1766-05-18 L'Ancienne-Lorette	1785-05-19 Québec (Notre-Dame- de-Québec)	1823-11-11 Trois-Rivières	MARIE JOSEPHE RENÉ KEMNER
m	1768-05-08 L'Ancienne-Lorette	1789-04-21 Québec (Notre-Dame- de-Québec)	unknown	LOUIS LOUISE MUNRO
f	1768-05-08 L'Ancienne-Lorette	N/A	1773-11-27 L'Ancienne-Lorette	FRANÇOISE
m	1769-12-17 L'Ancienne-Lorette	1795-02-16 Laval (St-François-de- Sales-de-l'Île-Jésus)	1855-07-11 Deux-Montagnes	IGNACE MARIE ANGÉLIQUE MARCHAND
m	1771-11-05 L'Ancienne-Lorette	1798-1799 Ohio	1807 Belleville, Ohio	JEAN JACQUES ELIZABETH ZANE
m	1775-03-14 Québec (Notre- Dame-de-Québec)	1800-05-27 Montmagny	1859-06-25 (1859-06-28) Trois-Rivières	JOSEPH ÉLISABETH VERREAULT

Table 1 - Family of Pierre ROBITAILLE and Marie Geneviève PARENT
Data from PRDH Family Record #34189, red font reflects data researched and added by author.

Pierre, the eldest son, was born 11 September 1758 in L'Ancienne-Lorette and was baptized the next day in L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec.¹⁷² Thirty years later Father Pierre Robitaille was ordained 12 October 1788 and was named by the bishop to be the chaplain of The General Hospital of Québec from 1789-1792. In 1793 he was assigned his first assignment to a parish at Rimouski, Québec, which is north east of Québec City on the southern shore of the St. Lawrence River. He was the pastor of Rimouski and two other smaller parishes, Le Bic, and Tadoussac during 1793 -1798.

From Rimouski, he had further parish assignments to Pointe-Olivier near Montréal and later served in several other parishes near Saint Charles-sur-Richelieu in 1810. During the 1812 War with the United States, he was named Chaplain of the Canadian Militia at Isle-aux-Noix and Fort St. Jean.¹⁷³

Recall that the character reference letter Robert Grant wrote for Robert Grant Robitaille in 1818 was addressed to Fr. Pierre Robitaille at St-Charles. As noted in the previous paragraph, Fr. Pierre was assigned to St-Charles-sur-Richelieu two times during his career.

After the war, he assumed parish duties at four parishes along the Richelieu River, St-Charles, St-Marc, St-Hilaire and Beloeil. In 1830 he became curé of Ste-Marie-de-Monnoir at Marieville, Québec. Father Pierre died 27 August 1834 at the age of 77, having caught cholera during the epidemic. He was buried in the choir of Ste-Marie-de-Monnoir, on 29 August 1834.¹⁷⁴

Following Father Pierre's death, there was a post-death final inventory of Fr. Pierre's holdings and debts. I was able to obtain a copy of the 43-page document in the Library and Archives of Québec (BAnQ) - Montréal. As shown in Figure 47, the image is faded, has some bleed through and the handwriting is not the best, but immediately I noticed that **Robert Robitaille**, and his brother **James**, (who would later use the name Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille), had both attended the review and signed page 2. While not totally clear, it appears that Robert Grant Robitaille was acting as Fr. Pierre's executor. Their signatures, shown in Figure 47, appeared several times in the document.¹⁷⁵

There are several other coincidences that provide evidence that James Robitaille, son of Pierre Robitaille and Geneviève Parent, is the same person who went to Ohio, married Elizabeth Zane and had two sons, Robert Grant and James. They are all related to familial ties. More specifically, they related to where he grew up, his father's profession, and the actions of his parents, siblings, sons and descendants.

L'Ancienne-Lorette, the village where James grew up, had an interesting history. It was the site of the Indian Mission of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, established by a Jesuit Priest, Father Pierre CHAUMONOT (1611-1693) in 1673. He had worked with the HURON

Succession du dit feu M^{re} Pierre Robitaille,
 les quels dits effets & biens tant meubles, qu'im-
 meubles nous ont été montrés & inventoriés tant
 par le dit Sr Robert Robitaille, que par
 & Marie Pina veuve Joseph Lebevet demandant
 avec le dit feu M^{re} Pierre Robitaille depuis
~~long~~ beaucoup d'années & après les avoir
 par eux même lus les dits évangiles de
 si en remettre en toutes autres sous les peines
 & sous interdits en pareils cas, ces biens
 d'après l'estimation, prise & estimée par les
 Sieurs Joseph Brodeur lieutenant colonel de
 milice & Jean Pierre Garnot professeurs tous
 deux résidents à Chambly, arbitres nommés par
 les parties, qui ont le tout pris & estimé suivant
 leur avis & conscience en regard au temps présent
 la vente devant d'en suivre
 Dont acte requis et octroyé à St. Marie par
 les notaires susdits le jour & an susdits ont
 les dits Sieurs inventoriés testamentaire, légataire ou
 universels & arbitres signés avec nous notaires en ap-
 prenture faite
 G. U. Mignault R. Robitaille
 James Robitaille
 Das Joseph P. Garnot
 J. Larocque J. P. Robitaille
 1777 avril 2. 1777

Figure 47. Page 2 of Fr. Pierre Robitaille's post death Inventory
 Photo Credit – BAnQ Montréal

previously in his mission work and wanted to establish a mission for them near Québec City. The French referred to the WENDATs, who were allies of the French in the French & Indian War, as “Huron”. The name comes from a French word *hure* which means big ugly head. If you look at pictures of ancient Wendat they have a traditional head piece, (also known as a “roach”), which makes them very distinctive. Hence the use of the word “Huron”, by the French.

The Ontario Huron had been under threat by the IROQUOIS and a group of them came to Québec seeking protection. Father Chaumonot, with help from local settlers, built a mission chapel and lodges for them. The Robitaille brothers, their families and generations of descendants settled on land that was very close to the Mission in 1670. It is quite possible that they may have been some of the “local settlers” who helped to build the mission chapel.

The chapel was consecrated 4 November 1674. In 1691 Fr. Chaumonot was joined by another Jesuit Missionary, Father Michel-Germain De COUVERT. Fr. Chaumonot resigned in 1691 and died a year later in Québec, at age 82 after 52 years of missionary work in New France.

The Jesuits gave up their residence and four acres of land around the mission Church in 1697 at the local Bishop’s request so the site could be converted into a parish for the residents of L’Ancienne-Lorette. This was the parish church which the Robitaille family would attend for many, many years.

The Huron mission was relocated to Jeune-Lorette (also known as Loretteville) near the falls of the St-Charles River. There is still a Huron (Wendat) settlement nearby today in Wendake, which is about 5 miles north of L’Ancienne-Lorette. Thus L’Ancienne-Lorette, and the surrounding villages of Loretteville and Wendake were diverse communities of settlers and native people.

Jean’s father, Pierre Robitaille, was a tanner and furrier by trade. His first tannery was built in L’Ancienne-Lorette during his lifetime, likely sometime between 1750 and 1760. It is quite likely that Pierre and his family members had contact at some level with the (Huron - Wendat) Indian Community that lived nearby.

Pierre sold his first tannery in September of 1773. With the proceeds from the sale, he bought land and built a new one in the lower part of Québec City, (Basse Ville), on Rue St-Vallier. He ran this new tannery until 1784, when at age fifty he sold it to François GAUVREAU and his wife Charlotte ROUTIER.¹⁷⁶ Having sold his tannery, Pierre and his wife Marie Geneviève moved to what is now known as Garthby, Québec and shortly thereafter, to Point Olivier-sur-Richelieu.

Another connection via familial relations is that with Louis Joseph Papineau. Recall that he attended Robert Grant Robitaille’s marriage to Julie Bernard, (see Figure 4). The Robitaille family’s connection with Papineau is via the fourth child of Pierre Robitaille and Marie Geneviève Parent, Marie Anne. Born 16 October 1763, in L’Ancienne-

Lorette, Québec¹⁷⁷, Marie Anne married Pierre BRUNEAU 30 March 1785 at Notre-Dame-de- Québec in Québec City.

1818

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NOTRE-DAME
P. Q.

REGISTRES
PHOTOGRAPHIES
AU
GREFFE
DE
QUEBEC

Le vingt neuf Avril mil huit cent dix huit
après la publication d'un Ban de mariage fait au pres
de la Messe paroissiale de Québec entre l'Honorable Louis
Joseph Papineau clerc d'icelle en la Ville de Montreal Orateur
de la Chambre des Communes de cette Province et Che-
f Joseph Bruneau de la Petite Nation fils majeur de Joseph Papineau
Ecuier Notaire Public et de Dame Marie Rosalie Chou-
Papineau de la Ville de Montreal d'une part; & Demoiselle Julie
Bruneau domiciliée en cette Ville fille majeure de Pierre
Bruneau Ecuier Membre de la Chambre des Communes
de cette Province et de Dame Marie Robitaille de cette
paroisse, d'autre part; nous Evêque de Québec sus-
sus- ayant dispensé de la publication de trois Bans à Montreal
et de deux à Québec, et n'ayant d'ailleurs reconnu aucun
empêchement, avons reçu leur mutuel consentement de
Mariage et leur avons donné la Bénédiction nuptiale
en présence de Charles Pinquette, Joseph Plante, Jean
Plamondon Ecuiers amis de l'époux; de Pierre Brun-
neau et Félix Tota Ecuier amis de l'épouse, et de
plusieurs autres parents et amis des époux, lesquels
ont signé avec nous, et ont signé avec nous
Julie Bruneau
M. An Robitaille Bruneau

Luc Bruneau Et. Charlier
Genevieve Bruneau
Rosalie Bruneau
Jean Aristot
Louis Hamond
J. P. Bopere
Théophile Bruneau Québec

Figure 48. Louis Joseph Papineau – Julie Bruneau Marriage
Institute Drouin Record d1p_16141215.jpg

Their ninth child, Julie, was born 19 January 1795 in Québec City. Julie married Louis Joseph Papineau on 29 April 1818 at Notre-Dame-de-Québec in Québec City. As shown in Figure 48, the marriage record contained the signatures of the bride and groom; Julie's mother; Jean AMIOT, the husband of Marie Anne's sister Marie Geneviève Robitaille; and numerous members of the Bruneau family and friends.¹⁷⁸

Thus, as stated in "Les Patriotes de 1837-38" by Aegidius FAUTEUX, Robert and James Robitaille, the two sons of Jacques Robitaille, are first cousins to both Césarie Robitaille, the wife of Ignace BERTRAND and daughter of Joseph Robitaille; and also to Julie Bruneau, the wife of Louis Joseph Papineau and the daughter of Marie Anne Robitaille.¹⁷⁹

It is clear from their educational records, that both Robert Grant Robitaille and his brother James Robitaille were assisted by Robitaille family members following their father's death. What is not clear is who came to Ohio and took them back to Québec? There are several possibilities.

One possibility is Louis Robitaille, born 8 May 1768, the sixth of ten children of Pierre Robitaille and his wife Marie Geneviève Parent. Louis was silversmith and about four and a half years older than Jean. I researched Louis's family's history and wrote a paper on him in 2014 which was printed in "Les Robitalleries", the quarterly bulletin of the Robitaille Family Association in L'Ancienne-Lorette¹⁸⁰ and Michigan's Habitant Heritage, the journal of the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan.¹⁸¹

Louis and his family were in Detroit from 1793-1796, and later in Sainte Geneviève, Missouri, from 1797-1804, followed by Natchez, Mississippi, from 1805 – 1807. This was the last known of Louis. He does not appear on any death notices, he just disappears. It is noteworthy to add that Marie Geneviève Parent, wife of Pierre Robitaille, and Louis's mother, died 25 July 1807 in Pointe Olivier, Québec.¹⁸² Could Louis have stopped by Zanesville on his way to see his father after her death?

Louis had traveled in America and knew the routes from Québec to the United States. He was also familiar with the territory of the upper Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and Detroit. There was at least one Grant family in Detroit at that time which dealt in the fur trade. Louis was a silversmith and certainly had the skill to make trade silver. Could he have been acquainted with the Grants and arranged for them to care for young Robert Grant Robitaille? It has been written that Robert Grant got his middle name from a young Grant that Jean Robitaille met some years before.

Two other possible candidates would be Jean Robitaille's brothers, Ignace, the eighth, and Joseph the tenth.

Ignace was born 17 December 1769 in L'Ancienne-Lorette. He left L'Ancienne-Lorette and married Marie Angélique MARCHAND 16 February 1795 at St-Francois-de-Sales (Île-Jésus) Montréal, Québec. The marriage records show that his parents were members of the Parish of Notre-Dame-de-Québec and were not present at his wedding.

He and his family lived in Deux-Montagnes, Québec, a northern off-island suburb of Montréal.

Joseph was born 14 March 1775. He married Elisabeth VERREAU 27 May 1800 in Montmagny, Québec. The wedding record shows that his father, Pierre, was present but his mother was not. Joseph's occupation was listed as "Marchand" (merchant). Joseph was also an Adjutant in the Canadian Militia in the War of 1812. Joseph and his family lived in Montmagny, which is located on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River, east of Québec City.

It is the author's opinion that of the above people, Jean's brother, Louis, had the most knowledge of travelling both in Canada and the United States, and could easily have taken Robert Grant to Detroit while on his way to Québec. Jean's other brothers, Father Pierre and Ignace, were probably the family members who were best positioned to help getting Jean's sons educated.

What brought him to northern Ohio in the late 1700s?

As noted in the previous section, Jean Jacques father, Pierre Robitaille was a tanner and furrier by trade who owned and operated two tanneries around Québec City. The fur trade had been a staple income in Montréal and Québec since the mid-1600s. By the 1840s the trade for beaver pelts was diminishing as silk hats were found to be lighter and cheaper than their beaver counterparts.¹⁸³ That said, for Jean having been born in 1771, trading in furs could have remained a profitable profession, especially with the advantage of being the son of a well-known and respected tanner / furrier. It is my opinion that Jean Jacques Robitaille knew that the fur trade was no longer big business in the east. The west was opening to settlement. His foothold in Zanesville, Ohio put him in close proximity to Detroit and the Ohio River Valley amid a Wyandot tribe with a culture which was familiar to him, and with which he may well have been able to communicate, due to where he was raised.

Did Robert have a family and if so, what was their story?

I believe this history speaks for itself. While Jean Jacques Robitaille only had two sons and he died early, his two sons both became educated men, one a notary and negotiator who would spend most of his life with the Wyandot tribe and the other, a medical doctor who raised a large, well-educated family that was well connected to influential figures in Québec. Apart from their very early years and the time spent with Father Pierre, they would spend most of their lives living apart, but would live to see the family reunited through the marriage of Louis Eugene Napoleon and Elizabeth, and the many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that the union would produce.

Unanswered Question:

Most recently, another question arose. My wife and I attended the annual Wyandotte Gathering and Pow-Wow in September of 2017. At that event, I had the opportunity to

meet six of the descendants of Jean Jacques Robitaille. All are descendants of Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille's family: Judy Bryant, a descendant of Ernest Robitaille; Amy ARNAU, who is a descendant of Azilda Robitaille Schiffbauer; Charlie Robitaille, and his sisters Anna Rollins and Diana Hankins, descendants of James Robert Napoleon Robitaille and Brycen Hale, who is a descendant of Rosa Lee Robitaille Buzzard.

At the Pow-Wow, Brycen Hale showed me a picture he obtained when his grandmother, Reba Grant GUILFORD died. It was a picture of an "old man Robitaille". Brycen was told that his grandmother kept it covered because she found the picture a bit scary. Brycen went on to explain he was told that there used to be a similar style photograph of a woman, but it had been lost in a house fire. This means there once was a set of pictures, one of a Robitaille man, and the other of a woman. Assuming the style was the same for both of these pictures it seems likely it was an elderly Robitaille couple.

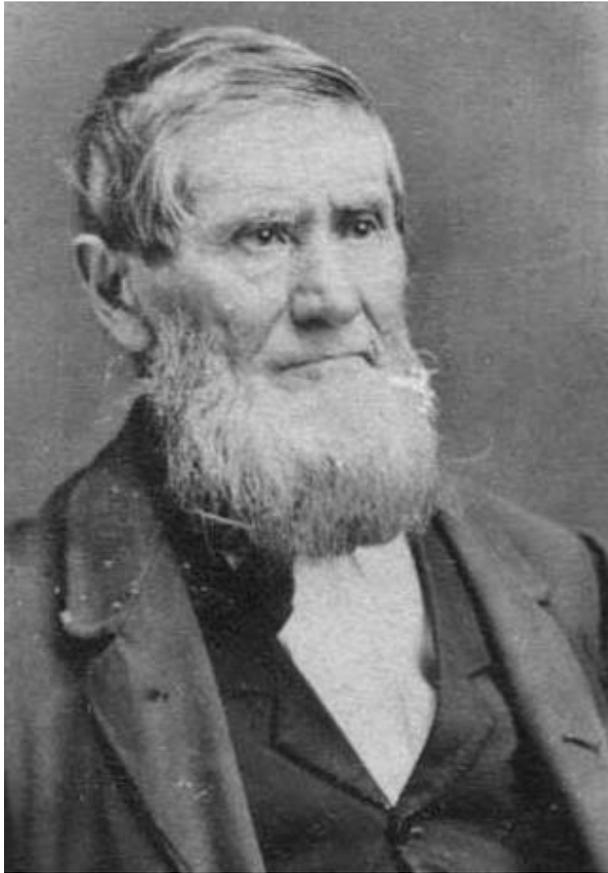
The question then is "who could they be?" We cannot be sure but given the trail of ownership of the surviving picture, we can speculate who it might be. Rosa Lee was the third daughter of Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille. Recall that he was the son of Dr. Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille and Félonise Clotilde Archambault. Louis Eugene Napoleon came to the United States around 1860 and married Elizabeth Robitaille, his first cousin and the daughter of Robert Grant Robitaille and Julie Bernard. Lena Robitaille states in her writings, that Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille sent two of his children to Canada, (likely Montréal, Québec) to be educated. The two children were James Robert Napoleon and Rosa Lee. We know that Louis Eugene Napoleon still had relatives in the Montréal area.

We have photographs of both Louis Eugene Napoleon and his son James Robert Napoléon. We also have a photograph of his uncle, Robert Grant in his later years. We know by looking at these pictures that the "old Robitaille" is not one of them.

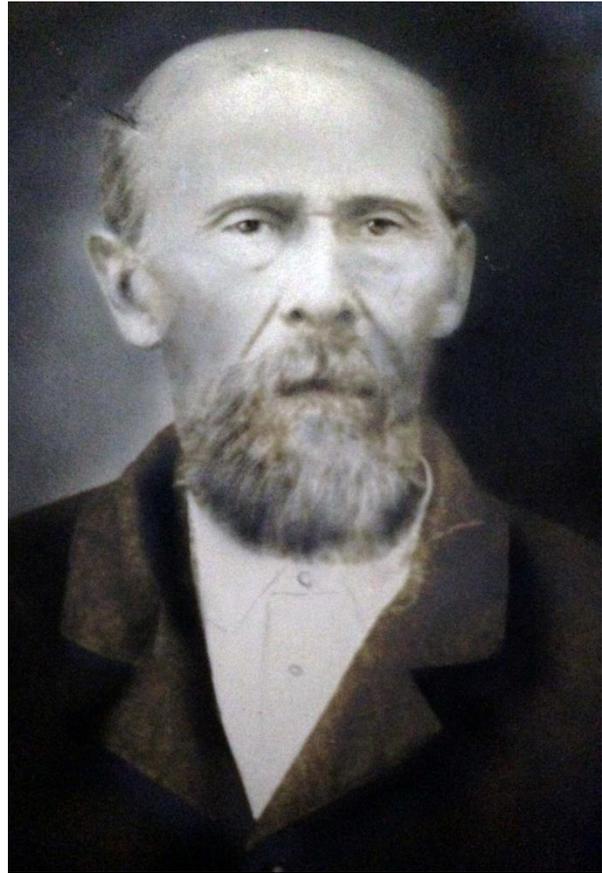
The picture has no date or photographers name. It is oval in shape and rather large. It is believed that the picture dates from the second half of the 19th Century, probably around 1865-1870, based on the style of the clothing the individual is wearing and the media itself which resembles the texture of gum dichromate picture. This photo process produces a grainy appearance and lack of sharp detail.

Shown below are two photographs: On the left is Robert Grant Robitaille, the eldest son of Jean Jacques Robitaille, the son of Pierre Robitaille and Marie Geneviève Parent. The photograph on the right is possibly Robert Grant Robitaille's younger brother, Dr. Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille. Should the reader be able to confirm the identity of the individual on the right, please contact the author at the address below: robitaille60@gmail.com.

Merci / Thank you.
Respectfully
Paul Robitaille



Robert Grant Robitaille



Possibly Dr. J. J. N Robitaille?

Appendix I. The Origins of the Robitaille Family

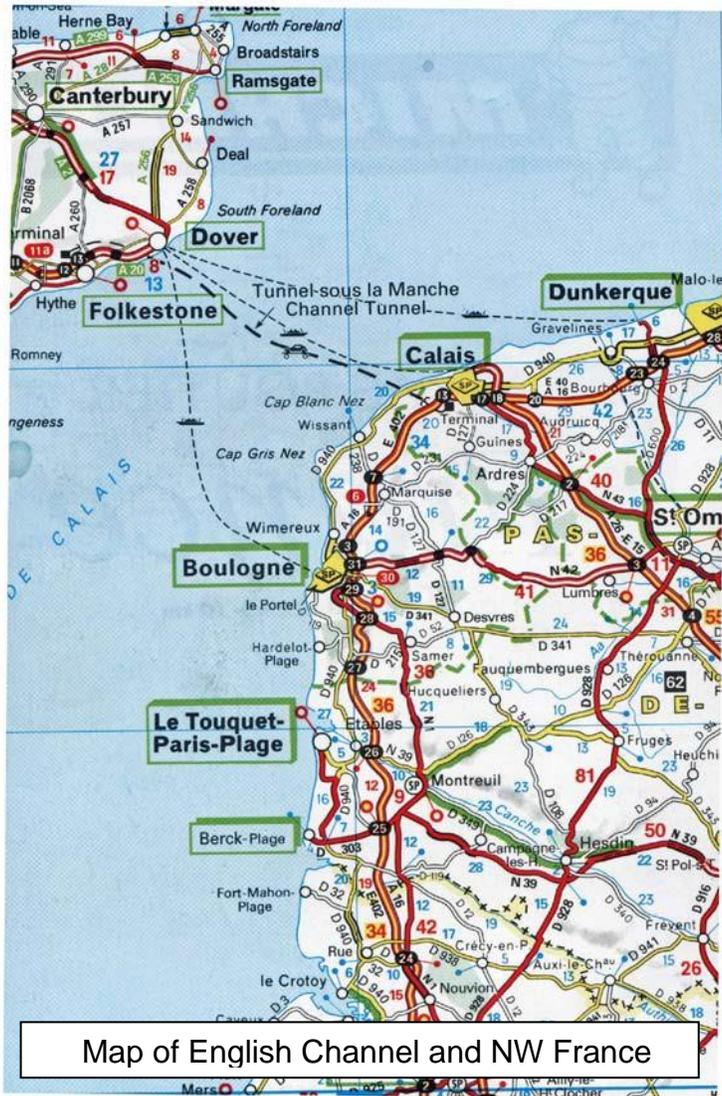
History of Hesdin, Vieil-Hesdin (Old Hesdin), and Auchy-lès-Hesdin, France

A Brief History – Hesdin is a small village located in the North-West part of the Pas-de-Calais Department of France. It can be seen in the map below due east of Berck-Plage along the Canche River. Not shown on the map are two small hamlets to the east of Hesdin: Auchy-lès-Hesdin, and Vieil-Hesdin. Records indicate that the Robitaille Family came from Auchy-lès-Hesdin. Hesdin and its smaller near-by hamlets were originally in Picardie and later Artois. They are now in what is known as the Department of Pas-de-Calais Nord.

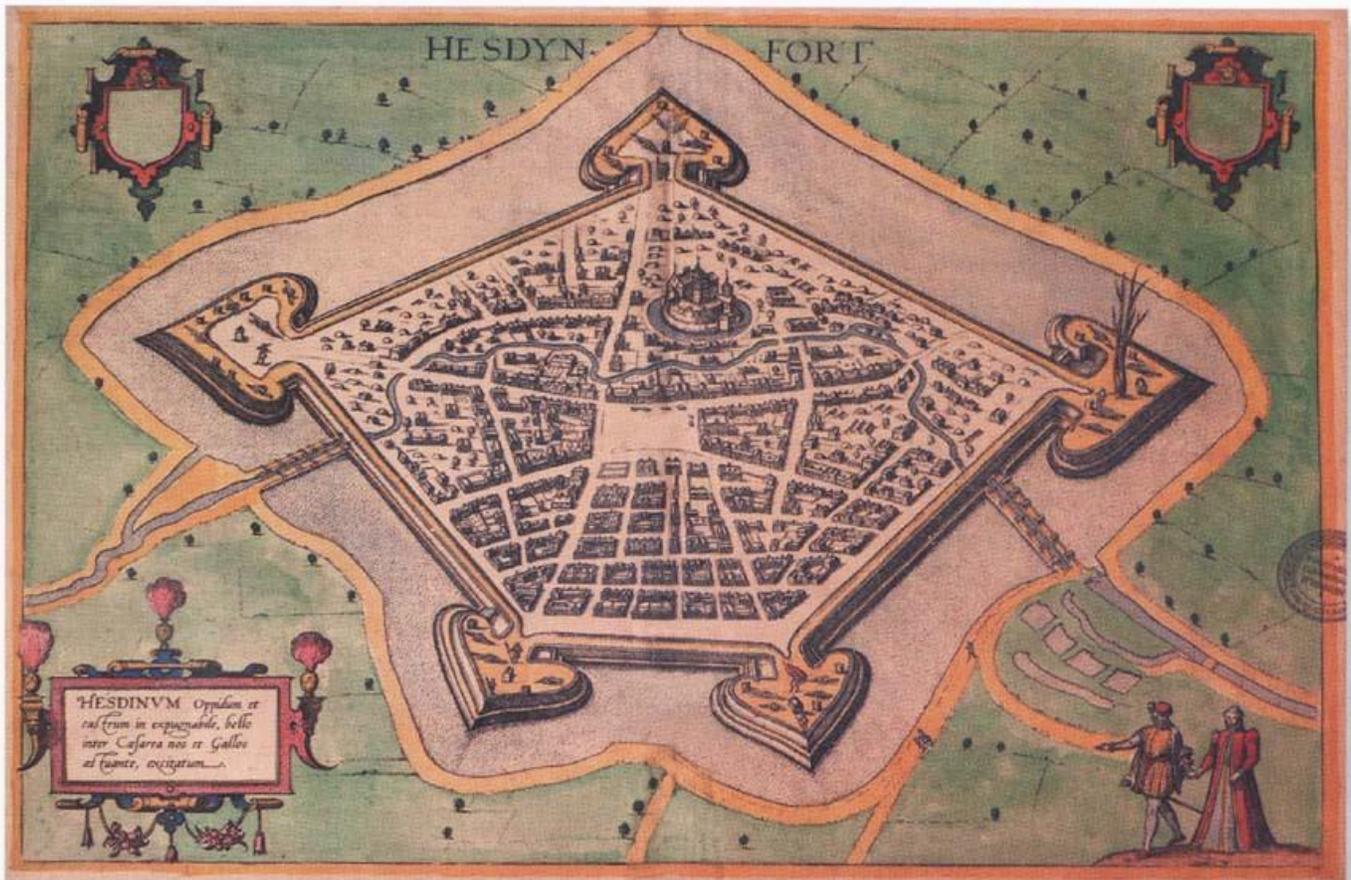
The lovely town of Hesdin lies in the heart of the Seven Valleys at the confluence of the Canche and Ternoise Rivers. It was, until the 16th Century, under the jurisdiction of the Counts of Artois and subsequently the Dukes of Burgundy (Bourgogne).

There are ancient tales that Hesdin once possessed a pleasure garden that was visited by the most influential Kings and Queens of Europe who marveled at its wonders. The gardens were created by Robert Le Pieux who had been at the Court of Palermo where he was introduced to some magnificent automatons. He chose to locate the garden between the rivers Canche and Ternoise, an area of outstanding beauty as it is now and his gardens were famous for more than 250 years and no wonder. Inside the vast walled area was a wooded garden with streams, an aviary, where birds and paintings which were automatons would spill water from their bills on unsuspecting admirers. Exotic animals in cages, stuffed beasts, a glass chapel, machines that sprayed guests or tipped flour or colored powder over them.

Wooden character automatons which clubbed those who drew near, a bridge which could give way and dunk careless visitors in the water – Robert Le Pieux and his team of creators certainly had a sense of humor.



Sadly, the gardens are lost – thanks to direct orders from Charles V of Spain who wanted to punish the people of Hesdin for their fidelity to the King of France. The Spanish regent ordered the complete destruction of the old town (now known as Vieil-Hesdin) in 1533 and then rebuilt a new town just 6 kilometers away. Just over a century later the French laid siege to the town of new Hesdin and under the reign of Louis XIII it was recaptured.



“New” Hesdin circa 1550-1600



*Pas-de-Calais Nord
flag*



*Hesdin
coat of arms*



*Vieil-Hesdin
coat of arms*



*Auchy-lès-Hesdin
coat of arms*

The town is known for its wonderful 16th Century Church of Notre-Dame with its fantastic stained-glass window. Construction on the church began in 1565. The church was consecrated twenty years later by 5 by Bishop Jean the sixth.

Built in the Flemish “Hallekerck” style, it is rectangular, 27 meters wide by 54 meters long and lacks a transept. During the French Revolution the Church was transformed into a “Temple of Reason” and also used as a forage storage building. It was restored to its original purpose 1808.

The entrance portal is done in the Renaissance style and is made of white stone. It is highly decorated with floral and fruit ornamental work in the arch and above the arch with a course of stones bearing the cartouches; from left to right: the coat of arms of Hesdin, the two headed eagle of Charles Vth, the Coat of Arms of Spain and King Phillip, and the Coat of Arms of Artois with many fleur-de-lis.

The following photographs were taken by the author.



Notre Dame Church Exterior
Hesdin



Detailed view of Church Portal
Hesdin

The signs of Spanish occupation are still in evidence amongst the cobbled streets of the town. The impressive Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall), built in the style of the Renaissance, dates back to 1572. Although the Flemish style architecture predominates, it bears the Spanish Coat of Arms.

The belfry was ravaged by cannon fire during the siege of 1639 and was provisionally reconstructed in wood. In 1774 a severe wind storm destroyed it a second time. In 1875

it was significantly rebuilt. A clock and carillon were added which still provide the time for the town.

Above the main entrance of the Town Hall is a highly decorated structure which includes statues, which represent the three theological virtues; Faith, represented by the cross; Hope, depicted by an anchor; and Charity, represented by an infant. These were put in place in 1630. Below the depictions of the virtues, there are three Coats of Arms which represent the Town of Hesdin, Spain, and Artois

On the left side of the Town Hall a small museum has been added that serves as tourist information center as well as a well-depicted history of the town including archaeological finds from recent diggings in Hesdin as well as in the surrounding towns of Vieil-Hesdin and Auchy-lès-Hesdin.



*Detailed view of the Town Hall Main Entrance
Hesdin*



Overall view of Hesdin Town Hall



*The Canche River
which passes through Hesdin, and runs along the
left side of Notre-Dame church in Hesdin*



*Portal to
Ancient Hospital (1562), Jesuit College (1614-1762)
and Neo-Gothic Chapel 1892 in Hesdin*



Front View of Ancient Hospital mentioned in photo above right



Church of Ste-Marie-Madeleine, Vieil-Hesdin (1585)



*Ternoise River cascades in Auchy-lès-Hesdin
Abandoned Mill in the background.*



*Abbey of St. Georges and St. Silvin, in Auchy-lès-Hesdin.
Earliest parts of structure date to 700AD*



*Interior view of the Abbey of St. Georges and St. Silvin,
in Auchy-lès-Hesdin*

The History of L’Ancienne-Lorette & Notre-Dame-de-l’Annonciation Church

L’Ancienne-Lorette, Québec, was founded in 1673 by a Jesuit Missionary, Father Pierre Joseph-Marie Chaumonot (1611-1693) as a mission for the remnants of the displaced Huron/Wendat nation who had been forced by their adversary the Iroquois to leave their homeland in northern Ontario. Fr. Chaumonot built the original church of L’Ancienne-Lorette, Notre-Dame-de-l’Annonciation, in 1698. The Huron/Wendat relocated north of L’Ancienne-Lorette around 1697, to what became Jeune Lorette (*New Lorette*). The original church and village adopted the name of L’Ancienne-Lorette (*The Old Lorette*) by 1722

The old village centre of L’Ancienne-Lorette along rue Notre-Dame is rich in architectural heritage and parks. Notre-Dame-de-l’Annonciation church, however, with its 2 impressive steeples, monopolizes the attention of visitors.

In New France, as Canada was originally named by the French, the ancient process of awarding friends of the Governor of the Colony large tracts of land which the recipient would essentially be the landlord of. Settlers were required to sign a concession contract with the Seigneur which defined the location and size of the parcel the settler was granted. Most of these parcels were longer than they were wide and at least initially the seigneuries had parcels that had one end along the shoreline of a major waterway, like the St. Lawrence River.

On the next page is a reproduction of a 1709 map that shows the settlements around the capital of New France, which was named Québec. Today, there is both the city of Québec, and the Province of Québec in Canada.

Three Robitaille brothers came from Auchy-lès-Hesdin (*Auchy near Hesdin*), France, to Québec in 1670, Jean, Pierre and Nicolas. Given that Pierre is the ancestor of the Wyandotte Robitaille, we will follow his story.

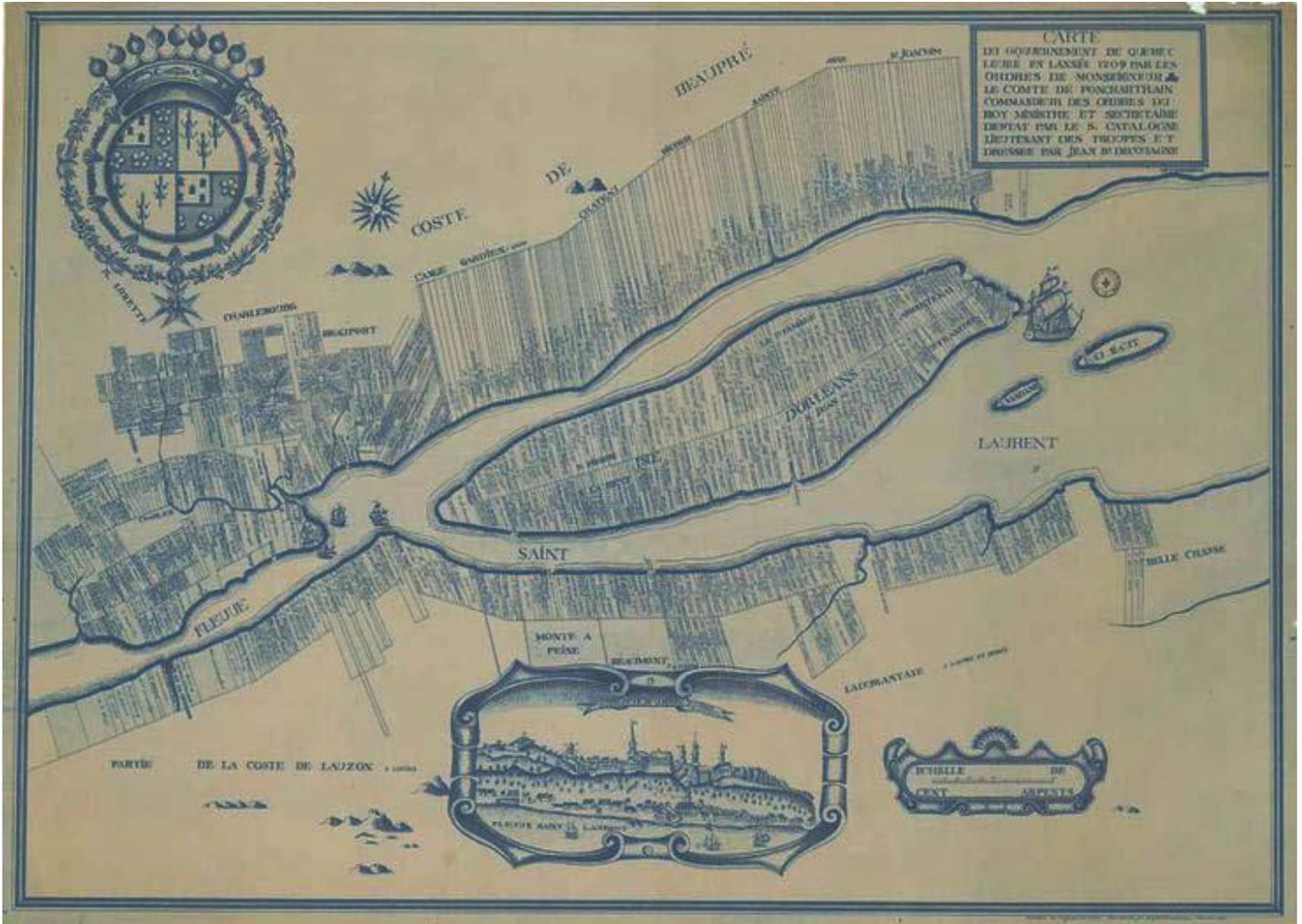
Shortly after arriving, Pierre Robitaille, age 18, signed a contract for a land concession on 24 November 1670 before notary Gilles Rageot. The contract was for a parcel of land in the Seigneurie de Gaudarville which was situated in L’Ancienne-Lorette.

The seigneurial system used to manage land in New France was much like a rental agreement. It contained a description of the property, specified the terms of land use, and what payments would be made by the “*censitaire*” (renter) to the Seigneur (the proper owner).

Various additional provisions were typically imposed on the *censitaire* by the Seigneur. This usually included “*cens* and *rentes*”. The *cens* was a moderate annual tax in honor of the Seigneur. The *rentes* were based on the amount of land in the concession and its relative value which differed depending on the location and condition of the property. Pierre’s concession stated he had to pay 12 deniers in *cens*, per arpent (a French term for land which is just short of an acre) with two fat capons in *rentes* for the entire concession. These fees were due annually on St. Martin’s Day, 11 November, the first payment was due in 1672.

Author’s note: The description of Pierre’s land was 3 arpents in width but the description in length is hard to quantify as it is based on landscape features rather than a specific measurement.

Five years after arriving in New France, on 5 May 1675 Pierre signed a marriage contract with Marie Maufait. She was 14 years old. At this time there was no parish church for the village, so the couple must have found another church in which they were married. A check of parishes in neighboring villages did not disclose any related records. The nearest parish was in Ste-Foy, but fire destroyed the old records of this church. To date, no church records for the marriage have been found. The marriage contract specifies the dowry of the bride which included the following items: a milk cow, a fat capon, to provide clothes for the bride for her wedding, and the following: six blouses, six handkerchiefs, six headdresses, a quilt, a pot, a pair of sheets, and six napkins, all new.



*Copy of Sieur de Catalogne Lieutenant of the Troops, map of New France, 1709
L'Editeur officiel du Québec, Charles-Henri Dubé*



Copy of the Map of Sieur de CATALOGNE showing the names of the inhabitants of seigneuries around Québec City in 1709.

Authors note: The map on the previous page and the one above with the names of land holders living in the seigneuries in 1709 comes from a map done in 1709 by Sieur de Catalogne, lieutenant of the troops. One of the Robitaille properties appears on this map just above the right-hand branch of the Cap Rouge River. The main river appearing below the north shore in this map, labeled “Fleuve” (meaning river in French), is the St. Lawrence River. The ancestors of the Wyandotte Robitailles lived in L’Ancienne-Lorette, Québec for four generations (1670 to about 1773).

Pierre Robitaille was courageous and enterprising. In the 1681 census, he was 30 years old and Marie was 18. They had two children, André, four years old and Marie, one year old. They owned a musket, six head of cattle, and six arpents of land. In April 1683, Pierre undertook to clear one arpent of land belonging to his brother-in-law, Pierre Maufait. He agreed "to remove all of the wood and burn it; leaving no more than 12 stumps". He was paid 60 pounds ("livres") for this work.

In 1693, after 20 years of work, at a time when the family already had seven children, Pierre acquired the lands owned by his two brothers, Jean and Nicolas. Jean's farm included, in addition to the land, a house "made of pieces of wood laid on top of one another" and a shed "surrounded with posts and covered with straw" Nicolas had yielded his concession verbally to his brothers, before returning to France.

Pierre died 8 May 1715 and was buried in L'Ancienne-Lorette. His wife, Marie outlived her husband by fifteen years, passing on 21 September 1730. She too was buried in L'Ancienne-Lorette.

The couple had 13 children, 10 sons and 3 daughters. Three children died young, Romain at 2 months, Louis at 5 years, Claude at 3 years, and a fourth, Charles, who died at age 26. Their first son, André, is the most relevant to this paper.

André was born 16 July 1678 and was baptized the next day by Father Chaumonot at L'Ancienne-Lorette. At the age of 28 he married Marguerite Hamel on 19 January 1706. The Hamel's were neighbors of the Robitaille's. The couple had three sons, André, Pierre, and Jean Baptiste. His wife Marguerite died 31 March 1711. The burial record states that she was 30 years old.

Two years later, on 19 January 1713, André remarried. His second wife, Françoise Catherine Chevalier, was the widow of Denis Massé and the mother of two children. Together André and Françoise had a total of seven children, all of whom survived childhood and married. André died 16 January 1736 at age 58. Françoise Catherine outlived her husband and died in L'Ancienne-Lorette in December 1748.

Author's note: The Wyandotte Robitailles are descendants of André and Marguerite's first child, Pierre Robitaille, who was named after his grandfather. The author of this paper is a descendant of François Robitaille, the fourth child of André and his second wife, Françoise Catherine Chevalier.

The next page contains a simplified family tree for the Wyandotte Robitaille descendants that traces their ancestry back seven generations; from the two sons born to Jean Jacques Robitaille and Elizabeth Zane all the way back to Auchy-lès-Hesdin in France where the Robitaille family came from.

Simplified Robitaille Family Tree
30 December 2017

French Born Robitailles

1

Jean Robitaille & Martine Cormont
Auchy-lès-Hesdin, Artois,*France

2

Pierre Robitaille & Marie Maufait
Born between 1652 and 1655 in Auchy-lès-Hesdin
Married 5 May 1675 – Québec, Canada**
Died 8 May 1715 at L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec, Canada

French-Canadian Born Robitailles

3

André Robitaille & Marguerite Hamel
André born 16 July 1678 at L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec
Married Marguerite Hamel 19 January 1706 at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation, L'Ancienne-Lorette
Widowed 31 March 1711
Married Catherine Chevalier 1 September 1713 at Ste-Foy, Québec
André died 15 January 1736 at L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec

4

Pierre Robitaille & Marie Geneviève Jourdain
Pierre born 12 May 1708 at L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec
Married Marie Geneviève Jourdain 15 January 1732 at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation, L'Ancienne-Lorette
Pierre's death date and location is unknown

5

Pierre Robitaille & Marie Geneviève Parent
Pierre born 3 June 1734 at L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec
Married Marie Geneviève Parent 7 November 1757 at Notre-Dame-de Québec
Pierre died 29 June 1819 at Pointe Olivier, Québec

6

Jean Jacques Robitaille & Elizabeth Zane***
Jean Jacques born 5 November 1771 at L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec
Married Elizabeth Zane around 1802****
Jean Jacques died in 1807 at Zanesfield, Ohio

U.S. Born Robitailles – The two sons of Jean Jacques Robitaille & Elizabeth Zane

7

Robert Grant Robitaille & Julie Bernard
Robert Grant born 19 July 1804 in Zanesfield, Ohio
Married Julie Bernard 26 October 1836 at Notre-Dame-de- Montréal
Robert Grant died 2 July 1879 at Wyandotte, Oklahoma

James (Dr. Jean Jacques Narcisse) Robitaille & Félonise Clotilde Archambault
James born 18 March 1806 in Zanesfield, Ohio
Married Félonise Archambault 1 October 1838 St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, l'Assomption, Québec
James died 27 June 1878 at Montréal, Québec

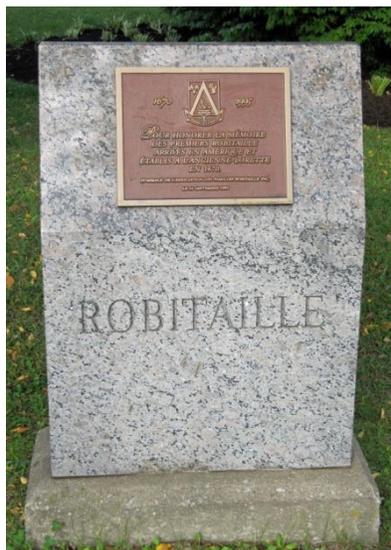
*Auchy-les-Hesdin is in the Pas-de-Calais Nord Department of France today

** Date of marriage contract witnessed by notary – to date, no church record found for the marriage

*** Elizabeth Zane was born around 1780

**** No church record found for the marriage

The Robitaille Family Association has commemorated the arrival of our Robitaille Ancestors in L’Ancienne-Lorette by installing two monuments. The first monument is located across the street from the parish church, Notre-Dame-de-l’Annonciation, in a small neighborhood park named Parc Chaumonot. It is named after Fr. Chaumonot. The second monument is located in Parc Robitaille, which is located on Robitaille ancestral land, in what is now the town of Ste-Foy, adjacent to L’Ancienne-Lorette.



Robitaille Memorial in Parc Chaumonot
Photo credit – René Robitaille



Parc Robitaille dedicated 21 August 1993
Photo credit – Robitaille Family Association

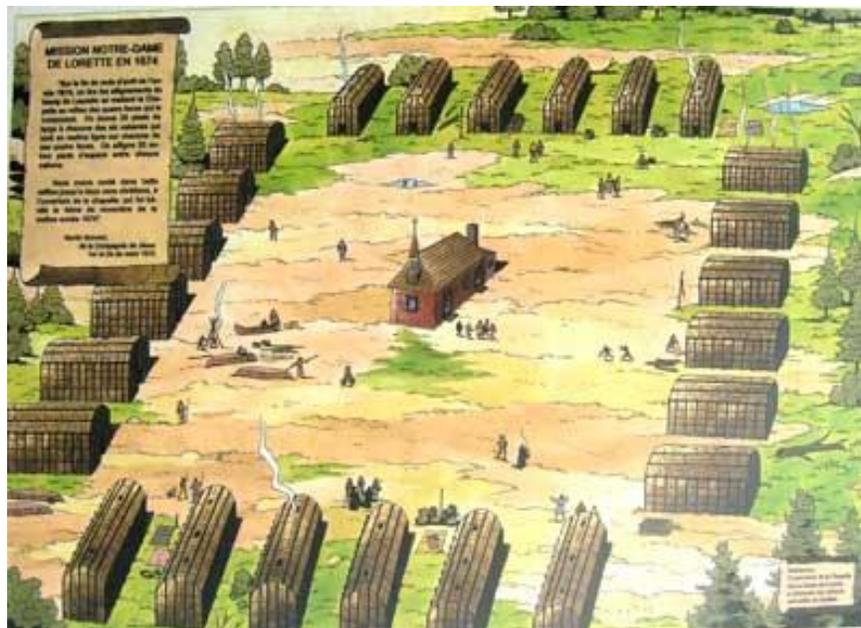
The history of Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation church goes back to the time of the Huron Indian mission previously described. Our Ancestors, Pierre and his brother, Jean were close friends of Father Chaumonot. They lived not far from the church and were most certainly buried in the parish cemetery, which to this day is just adjacent to the Church and the parish rectory.

The present-day church was erected between 1907 and 1910, following the plans of architect David Ouellet and his adopted son Pierre Lévesque, the latter being the architect of several churches throughout the province of Québec (St-Étienne-de-Lauzon, St-Louis de l'Île-aux-Coudres, and others). Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation church follows the Beaux-Arts style that mixes both classical and gothic styles in order to produce an extraordinary result.

Dedicated to Our Lady of the Annonciation, this church houses a large collection of church objects and paintings, of which the most remarkable are available for the public to view.

Paintings by Joseph Légaré and two paintings by Louis Jobin, one of Christ's crucifixion and the other of the Madonna, are among the most impressive works of art. An interpretation centre situated near the altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary presents the works and undertakings of Father Chaumonot, the founder of the parish. The center houses, among other things, a model of the original chapel. The Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation parish is the second oldest parish in the Québec Diocese.

I have collected a few photographs from various sources which depict the original Huron Mission, the Chapel at the Mission, and several others showing the contemporary church of Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation. The first photograph, shown below, depicts the Huron Mission. The others are found on the following pages.



*Depiction of the Huron Mission at L'ancienne-Lorette in 1674
Authors's photo of image on a plaque near the Rectory of Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation*



*Replica of the original Huron Chapel made of brick
Photo of model at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation*



1. - L'Église Catholique, Ancienne Lorette (Canada)

Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation, circa 1910
Photo Credit – McCord Museum, Montréal, Québec



Contemporary exterior view of Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation
Photo Credit – Author's collection



Contemporary interior view of Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation church
Photo credit - <http://retiredbicycle.blogspot.com/2009/07/quebec-notre-dame-de-lannonciation.html>



Contemporary close-up view of the altar
Photo credit - <http://retiredbicycle.blogspot.com/2009/07/quebec-notre-dame-de-lannonciation.html>

Appendix II. **Family Group Sheets**

Jean (aka Robert) Robitaille

Family Group Sheet for Jean (aka Robert) ROBITAILLE

Husband:	Jean (aka Robert) ROBITAILLE ¹
Birth:	05 May 1771 in L'Ancienne-Lorette, Quebec (Urban Agglomeration), Quebec, Canada ¹
Death:	1807 in Zanesfield, Logan, Ohio, USA ⁴
Marriage:	1802 in Zanesfield, Logan, Ohio, USA; Date is unsubstantiated by marriage records which did not exist in the community at that time. ^{3, 5-6}
Father:	Pierre ROBITAILLE ²⁻³
Mother:	Marie Geneviève PARENT
Wife:	Elizabeth ZANE
Birth:	1780 in Zanesville, Muskingum, Ohio, USA ⁷
Death:	10 Sep 1823 in Lake, Logan, Ohio, USA ⁷⁻⁸
Father:	Isaac ZANE
Mother:	Myerrea
Children:	
1	Name: Robert Grant ROBITAILLE
M	Birth: 19 Jul 1804 in Zanesfield, Logan, Ohio, USA ⁹
	Death: 02 Jul 1879 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ¹⁰
	Marriage: 26 Oct 1836 in Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Montréal, Québec, CANADA ¹¹
	Spouse: Marie Julie BERNARD
2	Name: (James) Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE
M	Birth: 18 Mar 1806 in Zanesfield, Logan, Ohio, USA
	Death: 24 Jun 1878 in Montréal (Urban Agglomeration), Quebec, Canada ¹²
	Marriage: 01 Oct 1838 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ¹³
	Spouse: Félonise Clotilde ARCHAMBAULT ¹⁴

Notes:

Jean (aka Robert) ROBITAILLE

Jean Robitaille was born to Pierre Robitaille and Marie Geneviève Parent in L'Ancienne-Lorette, Québec, CANADA on 5 November 1771. He was baptized the same day at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation. His god parents were Jacques Drolet and Marie Joseph Plamondon.

His father Pierre was a tanner and furrier. He owned and operated a tannery in L'Ancienne-Lorette. In 1773 he sold the tannery in L'Ancienne-Lorette to his uncle, François Robitaille, and his wife Angélique Chartrain. With the proceeds from the sale, he bought land in Québec City on rue Saint-Vallier and built a new tannery and house. He operated this tannery until 1784 when he sold it to François GAUVREAU.

We know little about Jean's youth, but being a young man, it is likely he helped his father with his business. We know that he attended the weddings of three of his siblings: Marie Josephe Robitaille, who married René KEMNER 19 May 1785; Marie Anne Robitaille who married Pierre BRUNEAU 30 August 1785; and Louis Robitaille, who married Louise MUNRO 21 April 1789. All three weddings were held at Notre-Dame-de-Québec. At each of these weddings Jean signed the parish register as "Jacques" with a very clear and mature signature.

Jean appeared in a small town called Zanesfield, in Ohio in the late 1790s. The town still exists. Jean built a trading post in Zanesfield where he could trade with the local Wyandot Indians and other settlers in the area. While in Zanesfield, he was called "Robert". It was probably a nickname, because his family name, Robitaille, was hard to pronounce. Several contemporary roadside signs (see Figures 1 and 2 of "The History of the Wyandotte Robitailles") refer to him as Robert Robitaille.

Notes: (con't)

Jean soon met Isaac Zane and his daughter Elizabeth. Ultimately he married Elizabeth and the couple had two sons; Robert Grant, born 19 July 1804 and James, born 18 March 1806.

Local historians recorded that Jean died in 1807. Unfortunately there were no death records kept in this area at that time and the small cemetery he was buried in was abandoned long ago. No gravestones exist today and the land where the cemetery was is currently used for agricultural purposes.

Elizabeth ZANE

Elizabeth Zane was the daughter of Isaac Zane and Myeerah. Myeerah was the daughter of the Wyandot Chief Tarhe and his wife Ronyouquaines La Durante. Elizabeth was born in 1780, the sixth child of Isaac and Myreerah. She married Jean (aka Robert) Robitaille and the couple had two children, Robert Grant Robitaille, born 19 July 1804 in Zanesfield, and James Robitaille, born 18 March 1806.

Her husband, Jean died in 1807 and was buried in a small cemetery, which no longer exists, slightly north east of present day Bellefontaine in Logan County, Ohio on Ludlow Road.

Elizabeth re-married in 1807 to James Manning Reed, the son of Seth Reed and Hanna Harwood of Uxbridge, Massachusetts. The couple had six children. She died 9 October 1823 in Lake, Logan County, Ohio.

Her sons, Robert Grant and James Robitaille, left Ohio and went to Montréal, Québec Province, Canada, where they were cared for by relatives of their father,

Robert Grant ROBITAILLE

Robert Grant Robitaille was the eldest of two children born to Jean Robitaille and his wife Elizabeth Zane.

Their father, Jean Robitaille, died shortly after their birth. His exact date of death was not recorded and is lost to history. His sons stayed with their mother for some time. She remarried 14 October 1807 to James Manning REED of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Local historians in Ohio state that following her marriage to Reed, relatives from Canada came to take the boys back to Canada where they were raised and educated with help from Jean Robitaille's family.

There is evidence that this is true. Robert Grant attended the College of Montréal located in city of Montréal, entering in 1818 and graduating as a notary in 1820 at age 16. Source: Le Collège de Montréal 1767-1967, 12ème édition, Montréal, p221.

Robert Grant married Julie Bernard at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal on 26 October 1836. Shortly after they were married the family moved back to Ohio where they aquired a parcel of land and a cabin with the Wyandot Indians.

Given his college education as a notary, Robert helped the tribal leaders in their dealings with the U.S. Government. The Wyandots were forced into relocation by the U.S. Government two times. The first time was in 1842 when they were relocated to Indian Territory in what would later become the State of Kansas, and lived on land near present day Kansas City. The first few years were hard. Robert Grant lost his wife during a bad winter. She died on 8 March 1849.

While the U.S. Government promised that the Wyandots would have land in Indian Territory, there were white settlers who were squatting on the very lands that the Government gave to Native Americans. In 1860 a Railroad Convention disclosed what their plans were for bringing rail service to Kansas. The tracks would run right through the area that many Wyandots considered their homeland.

While in Kansas, Robert Grant raised his family and filled various positions teaching in the Indian School, being a Postmaster, being clerk of the Wyandot Council, as well as being a parent of five children.

Sometime prior to 1860, Robert Grant's nephew, Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille arrived in Kansas. By 26 September of 1860 Robert Grant's daughter Elizabeth and Louis Eugene Napoleon were married. This was beginning of yet another generation of Robitailles.

Realizing that their lands in Kansas would soon be bought out by the railroad and settlers from back east,

Notes: (con't)

the Wyandots relocated a second time. As before, they were relocated to Indian Territory, but this time to what would later become the state of Oklahoma. Robert Grant got an early start, leaving Kansas for Indian Territory in 1867. Louis Eugene Napoleon and his family followed later, arriving in 1872 or 1873.

Fact Notes for Robert Grant ROBITAILLE

Name: Brother of Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE.

(James) Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE

James Robitaille was the only brother of Robert Grant Robitaille. After their father Jean (aka Robert Robitaille) died, their mother Elizabeth Zane, remarried to James Manning REED. Some time later Robert Grant and his brother James Robitaille went back to Canada under the sponsorship of Father Pierre Robitaille, a Catholic Priest, who was the eldest brother of their father, and their uncle.

James remained in Canada. He became a Medical Doctor and received his medical license from the Bureau of Medical Licenses in Québec on 31 July 1834. Sometime after he received his medical license he modified his name to Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille and set up his medical practice in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec.

McGill University in Montréal was the only college in Québec at that time which had a medical college, but the University's records from that period were not well kept and some were lost in a fire during the Canadian Rebellion of 1839. Prospective doctors either attended a medical school or learned as apprentices during this era in Canada. Which path Jean Jacques Narcisse pursued to obtain his license is not known.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille married Félonise Clotilde Archambault on 1 October 1838. She was the daughter of François Archambault and Marie Victoire Cormier. François was a Major in the Canadian Militia and a merchant. The family lived in Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec, Canada.

Jean and Félonise had eight children, five sons and three daughters, between 1839 and 1854. Seven of the children lived to adulthood. Marie Julienne Ernestine died 15 February 1846 at Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan at the age of 7 months 15 days.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille appears in the Canada Directory of 1851, listed as a Medical Doctor and School Commissioner in Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec, a small village in Montcalm County, which is situated along the Achigan River, north east of Montréal.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille's wife, Félonise, died 13 May 1873 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan. She was buried in the cemetery of the parish church in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan on 16 May 1873.

According to an article in the 10 November 1876 issue of "The Bellefontaine Republican" newspaper, Dr. Robitaille returned briefly to Logan County, Ohio in November of 1876 to visit his half sister, Mrs. Isaac S. Gardner. The article, titled "A Visit from One of the Old Citizens of Logan County" reported the results of a conversation with Dr. Robitaille on his visit to the area. He recounted the family's history and the days of his youth in Logan County before he went to Canada where he and his brother Robert Grant were raised and educated under the guardianship of his father's family members.

Following the death of his first wife, Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille sold his house and moved to Montréal. He married a second time on 3 April 1877 at Sainte-Brigide parish in Montréal to Julie Bro (Brault) dit POMINVILLE. There were no children from the marriage. Julie died 26 April 1878 and was buried at the parish cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille died 24 June 1878. He was buried at the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery in Montréal on the 27th of June 1878. He is believed to have been buried in section B of the cemetery but no monuments remain in this area. His name is listed on the monument of his son, Joseph Zephirin Arthur's burial plot in section N, concession 00584.

Sources:

Sources: (con't)

- 1 Institute Drouin Record d1p_33481292.jpg, Baptism on 5 November 1771 at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation in L'Ancienne-Lorette, Quebec. Parrain: Jacques Plamondon, Marraine: Marie Joseph Plamondon. <http://genealogyquebec.com/>.
- 2 PRDH Certificate 3344356, Baptismal Record: Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.
- 3 Institute Drouin Record d1p_02450863.jpg, Couple Certificate - Pierre ROBITAILLE & Marie Geneviève PARENT.
- 4 Bellefontaine Republican Newspaper Article, 10 November 1876: "A Visit From One of the Old Citizens of Logan County" (Ohio). An newspaperman's interview with Dr James Robitaille, known in Quebec as Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille, the son of Jacques (Robert) Robitaille and Elizabeth Zane on Dr. Jame's Robitaille's visit to Bellefontaine, in Logan County, Ohio. Dr. Robitaille stated that his father died in 1807.
- 5 PRDH Family Certificate 34189, <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.
- 6 Dayton Books on Line, Memoirs of the Miami Valley - Volume One, The Story of Logan County, The Day of the Settler, County Seat. <http://www.daytonhistorybooks.com/page/page/3509113.htm>.
- 7 Family Search, The two sources quoted differ on whether she died 10 Sept or 10 Aug 1823. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:9HLZ-SZW>.
- 8 Zane Family History.
- 9 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, OK.
- 10 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, OK, Wyandotte Indian Cemetery headstone for Robert Grant Robitaille. Robert Grant Robitaille's headstone bears his date of birth and death. The author of this family history has visited the site and recorded the data.
- 11 Institute Drouin Record d1p_11790361.jpg.
- 12 Québec Vital Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1621-1967, Sepulture Record - Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Québec, CANADA. The twenty-seventh of June 1878, the priest undersigned, buried in the cemetery of this parish, the body of Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille, écuyer, médecin, widow of Julie Breaux, who died the 24th of June, at the age of seventy-five years, a member of this parish. <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=drouinvitals&h=4999814>.
- 13 Institute Drouin Record d1p_1130060.jpg, St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec. Marriage of Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE to Félonise Clothilde ARCHAMBAULT, 1 October 1838. <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.
- 14 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01120590.jpg, Baptism Record. Marie Félonise Archambault born and baptized 20 July 1815, the daughter of François ARCHAMBAULT and Victoire CORMIER. <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.
- 15 Institute Drouin Record d1p_11640671.jpg. The third of April, 1877, after the announcement of two bans of marriage, Jean Jacques Narcisse, squire, doctor, widow of the deceased Félonise Archambault of Notre-Dame Parish and Julie Bro dit Pomerville, widow of Jean Joseph Dufresne, not finding any empeachments, I the undersigned Priest, have the mutual consentment of marriage in the presence of the husband's three sons.

Note: The document is difficult to read, but bears the signature of the groom, the bride, and three of Jean Jacques Narcisse's sons. Ceremony was held at Sainte-Brigide's Parish in Montréal, Québec, CANADA.

Robert Grant Robitaille

Family Group Sheet for Robert Grant ROBITAILLE

Husband:	Robert Grant ROBITAILLE
	Birth: 19 Jul 1804 in Zanesfield, Logan, Ohio, USA ² Death: 02 Jul 1879 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ³ Marriage: 26 Oct 1836 in Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Montréal, Québec, CANADA ⁴ Father: Jean (aka Robert) ROBITAILLE ¹ Mother: Elizabeth ZANE
Wife:	Marie Julie BERNARD
	Birth: 04 Mar 1812 in St-Luc, Québec, CANADA ⁵ Death: 08 Mar 1849 in Wyandotte, Kansas, USA ⁶⁻⁷ Father: Joseph BERNARD ⁵ Mother: Rose GUERTIN ⁵
Children:	
1 M	Name: Robert Wilfred ROBITAILLE ⁸ Birth: 12 Mar 1838 in Beekmantown, Clinton County, New York, USA ⁸ Death: Feb 1878 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ⁹⁻¹⁰ Marriage: ~ 1872 ⁹ Spouse: Catherine WIND
2 F	Name: Rosalie ROBITAILLE ¹³ Birth: 1840 in Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio, USA ¹¹ Death: 1877 in Wyandotte County, Kansas, USA Marriage: 05 May 1859 in Wyandotte County, Kansas Territory, USA ¹² Spouse: Herman SWARTZ
3 F	Name: Elizabeth ROBITAILLE Birth: 22 Aug 1842 in Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio, USA ² Death: 04 Nov 1883 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ² Marriage: 26 Sep 1860 in Jackson County, Missouri, USA ¹⁴ Spouse: Louis Napoléon Eugène ROBITAILLE ¹⁵
4 M	Name: James ROBITAILLE ¹¹ Birth: 10 Dec 1845 in Indian Territory, USA ^{7, 11} Death: 15 Jan 1859 in Kansas Territory ^{7, 16-17}
5 F	Name: Mary Ann ROBITAILLE ¹⁸ Birth: 17 Nov 1847 in Indian Territory USA ¹⁸ Death: 10 Aug 1873 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ¹⁸ Spouse: Henry W. HICKS

Notes:

Robert Grant ROBITAILLE

Robert Grant Robitaille was the eldest of two children born to Jean Robitaille and his wife Elizabeth Zane.

Their father, Jean Robitaille, died shortly after their birth. His exact date of death was not recorded and is lost to history. His sons stayed with their mother for some time. She remarried 14 October 1807 to James Manning REED of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Local historians in Ohio state that following her marriage to Reed, relatives from Canada came to take the boys back to Canada where they were raised and educated with help from Jean Robitaille's family.

There is evidence that this is true. Robert Grant attended the College of Montréal located in city of Montréal, entering in 1818 and graduating as a notary in 1820 at age 16. Source: Le Collège de Montréal 1767-1967, 12ème édition, Montréal, p221.

Notes : (con't)

Robert Grant married Julie Bernard at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal on 26 October 1836. Shortly after they were married the family moved back to Ohio where they acquired a parcel of land and a cabin with the Wyandot Indians.

Given his college education as a notary, Robert helped the tribal leaders in their dealings with the U.S. Government. The Wyandots were forced into relocation by the U.S. Government two times. The first time was in 1842 when they were relocated to Indian Territory in what would later become the State of Kansas, and lived on land near present day Kansas City. The first few years were hard. Robert Grant lost his wife during a bad winter. She died on 8 March 1849.

While the U.S. Government promised that the Wyandots would have land in Indian Territory, there were white settlers who were squatting on the very lands that the Government gave to Native Americans. In 1860 a Railroad Convention disclosed what their plans were for bringing rail service to Kansas. The tracks would run right through the area that many Wyandots considered their homeland.

While in Kansas, Robert Grant raised his family and filled various positions teaching in the Indian School, being a Postmaster, being clerk of the Wyandot Council, as well as being a parent of five children.

Sometime prior to 1860, Robert Grant's nephew, Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille arrived in Kansas. By 26 September of 1860 Robert Grant's daughter Elizabeth and Louis Eugene Napoleon were married. This was beginning of yet another generation of Robitailles.

Realizing that their lands in Kansas would soon be bought out by the railroad and settlers from back east, the Wyandots relocated a second time. As before, they were relocated to Indian Territory, but this time to what would later become the state of Oklahoma. Robert Grant got an early start, leaving Kansas for Indian Territory in 1867. Louis Eugene Napoleon and his family followed later, arriving in 1872 or 1873.

Fact Notes for Robert Grant ROBITAILLE

Name: Brother of Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE.

Robert Wilfred ROBITAILLE

Born in Beekmantown, Clinton County, New York 12 March 1838.

Baptized at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, in Montréal, Québec, CANADA on 14 June 1838 as Wilfred (not Wilford or Wolfred as it later appears) Robitaille.

Robert Wilfred served in the 6th Regiment, Kansas Calvary, enlisted 21 July 1861, mustered out 15 November 1864 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Robert was married 1st to Susanna Robitaille for an undetermined period and was divorced 21 March 1872. There are no records of children from this marriage. He was married for the second time to Catherine Wind. They had four children:

- Christina, born 27 February 1872, married Holton Shirley Hubbard (Holt), died 27 August 1943. The couple had three children:

Wynona G. Hubbard, born 20 December 1893

Lenox Oscar Hubbard, born 15 August 1897

Juanita Fay Hubbard, born 1908

Notes : (con't)

- Julia, born 1873, died 1879.
- Oscar J., born 15 January 1876, died 9 May 1927
- Lula Pearl, born 4 January 1878, married Harvey Thomas Kibsonzoli Propeck. She had one child, Roy Allen Propeck, born 20 March 1899, died 12 December 1941. The couple later separated or divorced.
Lula remarried to George Washington Wyrick. From this marriage there were 10 children:

Fred Oscar, born 7 August 1901
Ada Bernice, born 1 September 1903
Sally Louise, born 31 December 1905
Virgil Gilbert, born 18 January 1907
Wolford Robert, (Buck), born 10 October 1908
Catherine Matilda, born 3 February 1910
Christina Ruth, born 9 May 1913
Infant daughter, born 1916
Infant son, born 1919
Homer James, born 2 October 1920

Robert Wilfred died in 1877 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. He was buried in the Ottawa Indian Cemetery, Miami, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Sadly there is no headstone on his grave.

Rosalie ROBITAILLE

Rosalie was born in 1840 in Upper Sandusky, in what became Wyandot County (in 1845), Ohio. She was named after her grandmother, Julie BERNARD's mother.

She appears twice on the 1867 Wyandotte Member Roll. First as Rosalie ROBERTALLE (ROBITAILLE) and secondly as Rosalie SWARTZ, wife of Herman Swartz. No information has been found on the marriage of Rosalie and Herman Swartz.

The couple had four children:

- Frederick C. born 1861 in Kansas, died 1937.
- Franklin H. born 1863 in Kansas, died 14 November 1878 in Kansas. His death was unusual. See Find A Grave memorial #18123167 and the Lawrence Daily Journal newspaper, Tuesday 19 November 1878.
- Alexander, born 1866, died 1868.
- Alfred, born 1869 in Jackson County, Missouri, died prior to 1877 in Kansas.

The family appears as SWARTZ in the 1870 Missouri Census, Third Ward, Jackson County. Herman, age 30; Rosa, age 27, and there are three children: Fred, age 9, born in Kansas; Frank, age 7; born in Kansas; and Albert, age 1 (we believe it was an error on the census takers part and Albert should read Alfred).

Of their four children, Fred was the only one to live to adulthood.

Rosalie died in 1877 and is believed to be buried in the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas.

Herman died in 3 November 1903 in Frankfort, Marshall County, Kansas. Refer to Find A Grave Memorial #100031983 for life details.

Notes : (con't)

Elizabeth ROBITAILLE

Elizabeth was born 22 August 1842 in Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio the daughter of Robert Grant Robitaille and Julie Bernard.

She married Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille in Westport, Missouri on 26 September 1860. Elizabeth and Louis had 10 children.

Elizabeth died 4 November 1883 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma and is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

James ROBITAILLE

James was born 10 December 1845, in Indian Territory, which became Kansas Territory on 30 May 1854 and Kansas on 29 January 1861.

He was killed at age 12 when he was riding a very spirited horse from town to his father's house and was thrown from his saddle but his foot got caught in a stirrup. He was dragged a distance with great violence. In the accident a chest bone punctured either his heart or an artery and he bled to death. See The Emporia Weekly News (Emporia, Kansas) 5 February 1859, first edition, for the full story.

James died 15 January 1859 at age 14. He was buried in the Huron Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas. His grave is unmarked.

Mary Ann ROBITAILLE

Mary Ann was the last child born to Robert Grant Robitaille and his wife Julie Bernard. She was born 17 November 1847 in Wyandotte County, Kansas Territory. She married Henry W. HICKS, son of John and Mary Hicks. The exact date of the marriage was not found but it happened around 1865.

The couple had five children:

- Henry Hicks junior, born 2 April 1866
- Rebecca Hicks, 1867
- William O. Hicks, born 1868
- Cordelia Teresa Hicks, born 25 July 1870
- Blanche, born about 31 July 1873.

The family relocated to Indian Territory (later became Oklahoma) with Mary Ann's sister Elizabeth Robitaille and her family. For reasons unknown Henry Hicks junior, age 6; William O. Hicks, age 4 and Louis Eugene Napoleon junior, age 5 died in 1872. The Hicks boys have graves in Ottawa County, Oklahoma, not Kansas.

Mary Ann died 10 August 1873 and is buried in the Bland Cemetery with her children Henry junior, William O. and Blanche. Blanche died 21 August 1873, 11 days after her mother. The death of Mary Ann and her newborn daughter suggests there may have been complications with her delivery.

Sources:

- 1 Institute Drouin Record d1p_33481292.jpg, Baptism on 5 November 1771 at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation in L'Ancienne-Lorette, Quebec. Parrain: Jacques Plamondon, Marraine: Marie Joseph Plamondon.
<http://genealogyquebec.com/>.
- 2 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, OK.

Sources : (con't)

- 3 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, OK, Wyandotte Indian Cemetery headstone for Robert Grant Robitaille. Robert Grant Robitaille's headstone bears his date of birth and death. The author of this family history has visited the site and recorded the data.
- 4 Institute Drouin Record d1p_11790361.jpg.
- 5 Julie Bernard's record is a PRDH Individual File #756639. Birth:1812-03-04 at St-Luc (St-Jean). Baptism: 1812-03-05
- 6 Alphabetical list of individuals believed to be buried in the Huron Cemetery in Kansas. <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/culture/history/cemetery-lists/huron-cemetery/>.
- 7 Index of known burials in Huron Indian Cemetery, KS, Kansas State Historical Society.
- 8 Institute Drouin Record d1p_11790612.jpg, Baptismal certificate which provides names of parents, location and date of birth and baptism. <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/fr/>.
- 9 Ottawa Indian Cemetery, Ottawa County, Oklahoma 1870-1995, Compiled by Gerald L. Housman, Bartelsville, Oklahoma, Published by Cock-A-Hoop Publishing, 1927 S. Boston, #207, Tulsa Oklahoma. Robitaille, Robert Woolford (Wilfred) Robitaille born 1838, died 1878. No stone, (Civil War - Co. A, 16th KS Cavalry, Spouse: Catherine Wind; Father, Robert Grant Robitaille, Mother, Julie Bernard.
- 10 Lula Wyrick Oral History, Interview with Nannie Lee Burns, July 20, 1937. Lula stated that her father, Robert Wilfred Robitaille, died when she was a month old. She was born 4th Jan 1878.
- 11 1850 United States Census, Kaw, Missouri, lists family members and current age.
- 12 Kansas Trails, Wyandot County, Kansas Territory 1854-1861, Marriage Notices from Kansas Territorial Newspapers 1854-1861. <http://genealogytrails.com/kan/wyandotte/marriages.html>.
- 13 Ancestry.com, 1850 United States Census (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2009), Ancestry.com, Year: 1850; Census Place: Kaw, Jackson, Missouri; Roll: M432_402; Page: 232A; Image:16.
- 14 Wyandotte Commercial Gazette newspaper, 6 October 1860. "Louis Eugene Napoleon and Elizabeth Robitaille were married by Esquire HUDSON on 26 September 1860."
- 15 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130218.jpg, Baptism Record: St-Roch-de-L'Achigan. Born: 15 July 1842 Baptized: 15 July 1842. <http://www.institutedrouin.com/>.
- 16 Alphabetical listing of individuals believed to be buried in the Huron Indian Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas. <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/culture/history/cemetery-lists/huron-cemetery/>.
- 17 Emporia Kansas Weekly News, Saturday, 5 February 1859. Provides a description of the accident that caused the death of James Robitaille.
- 18 Bland Cemetery Website - Ottawa County, Oklahoma, <http://www.okcemeteries.net/ottawa/bland/bland.htm>.

James (aka Jean Jacques Narcisse) Robitaille

Family Group Sheet for (James) Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE

Husband:	(James) Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE
Birth:	18 Mar 1806 in Zanesfield, Logan, Ohio, USA
Death:	24 Jun 1878 in Montréal (Urban Agglomeration), Quebec, Canada ²
Marriage:	01 Oct 1838 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ³
Father:	Jean (aka Robert) ROBITAILLE ¹
Mother:	Elizabeth ZANE
Wife:	Félonise Clotilde ARCHAMBAULT ⁴
Birth:	20 Jul 1815 in L'Assomption, L'Assomption, Québec, CANADA ⁴
Death:	13 May 1873 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ⁶
Father:	François ARCHAMBAULT ⁵
Mother:	Marie Victoire CORMIER
Children:	
1 F	Name: Marie Félonise Azilda ROBITAILLE ⁷ Birth: 03 Oct 1839 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ⁷ Death: 28 Nov 1897 in Montréal, Québec, CANADA ⁸ Marriage: 01 Oct 1860 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ⁹ Spouse: Urgel Eugène ARCHAMBAULT ¹⁰
2 M	Name: Jacques Tancrede Ernest ROBITAILLE ¹¹ Birth: 29 Jan 1841 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ¹¹ Death: 23 Jan 1903 in Stockton, San Joaquin County, California, USA ¹²
3 M	Name: Louis Napoléon Eugène ROBITAILLE ¹³ Birth: 15 Jul 1842 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA, ¹³ Death: 26 May 1895 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ¹⁴ Marriage: 26 Sep 1860 in Jackson County, Missouri, USA ¹⁵ Spouse: Elizabeth ROBITAILLE
4 M	Name: Joseph Zéphirin Arthur ROBITAILLE ¹⁷ Birth: 12 Nov 1843 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ¹⁷ Death: 29 Dec 1908 in Montréal Québec, CANADA ¹⁸ Marriage: 07 Sep 1868 in L'Assomption, L'Assomption, Québec, CANADA ¹⁹ Spouse: Adèle ARCHAMBAULT ²⁰
5 F	Name: Marie Julienne Ernestine ROBITAILLE ²³ Birth: 01 Jul 1845 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ²³ Death: 15 Feb 1846 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ²⁴
6 F	Name: Marie Osine Ernestine ROBITAILLE ²⁵ Birth: 21 Dec 1846 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ²⁵ Death: 24 Dec 1922 in Hochelaga, Québec, CANADA ²⁶

7	Name:	Joseph Robert Théodore ROBITAILLE ²⁷
M	Birth:	28 Feb 1849 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA ²⁷
	Death:	17 Aug 1914 in Montréal Québec, CANADA ²⁸
	Marriage:	03 Oct 1870 in Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Montréal, Québec, CANADA ²⁹
	Spouse:	Marie Adélaïde Hermeline DUPUIS ³⁰
8	Name:	Charles Roch Narcisse ROBITAILLE
M	Birth:	07 Dec 1854 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA
	Death:	29 Apr 1921 in Montréal, Québec, CANADA ³¹
	Marriage:	21 Apr 1879 in Montréal, Québec, CANADA ; Marriage was at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal ³²
	Spouse:	Céline LÉVESQUE ³²

Notes:

(James) Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE

James Robitaille was the only brother of Robert Grant Robitaille. After their father Jean (aka Robert Robitaille) died, their mother Elizabeth Zane, remarried to James Manning REED. Some time later Robert Grant and his brother James Robitaille went back to Canada under the sponsorship of Father Pierre Robitaille, a Catholic Priest, who was the eldest brother of their father, and their uncle.

James remained in Canada. He became a Medical Doctor and received his medical license from the Bureau of Medical Licenses in Québec on 31 July 1834. Sometime after he received his medical license he modified his name to Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille and set up his medical practice in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec.

McGill University in Montréal was the only college in Québec at that time which had a medical college, but the University's records from that period were not well kept and some were lost in a fire during the Canadian Rebellion of 1839. Prospective doctors either attended a medical school or learned as apprentices during this era in Canada. Which path Jean Jacques Narcisse pursued to obtain his license is not known.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille married Félonise Clotilde Archambault on 1 October 1838. She was the daughter of François Archambault and Marie Victoire Cormier. François was a Major in the Canadian Militia and a merchant. The family lived in Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec, Canada.

Jean and Félonise had eight children, five sons and three daughters, between 1839 and 1854. Seven of the children lived to adulthood. Marie Julienne Ernestine died 15 February 1846 at Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan at the age of 7 months 15 days.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille appears in the Canada Directory of 1851, listed as a Medical Doctor and School Commissioner in Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec, a small village in Montcalm County, which is situated along the Achigan River, north east of Montréal.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille's wife, Félonise, died 13 May 1873 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan. She was buried in the cemetery of the parish church in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan on 16 May 1873.

According to an article in the 10 November 1876 issue of "The Bellefontaine Republican" newspaper, Dr. Robitaille returned briefly to Logan County, Ohio in November of 1876 to visit his half sister, Mrs. Isaac S. Gardner. The article, titled "A Visit from One of the Old Citizens of Logan County" reported the results of a conversation with Dr. Robitaille on his visit to the area. He recounted the family's history and the days of his youth in Logan County before he went to Canada where he and his brother Robert Grant were raised and educated under the guardianship of his father's family members.

Following the death of his first wife, Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille sold his house and moved to Montréal. He married a second time on 3 April 1877 at Sainte-Brigide parish in Montréal to Julie Bro (Brault) dit POMINVILLE. There were no children from the marriage. Julie died 26 April 1878 and was buried at the parish cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.

Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille died 24 June 1878. He was buried at the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery in Montréal

Notes: (con't)

on the 27th of June 1878. He is believed to have been buried in section B of the cemetery but no monuments remain in this area. His name is listed on the monument of his son, Joseph Zéphirin Arthur's burial plot in section N, concession 00584.

Félonise Clotilde ARCHAMBAULT

Marie Félonise Clotilde Archambault was born 20 July 1815 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec. She was baptized the same day. Her parrain was Pierre Archambault and her marraine was Josephe Landreville dit Gauthier. Her parents were François Archambault and Marie Victoire Cormier.

On 7 October 1838 she married Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille at Saint-Roch-de L'Achigan, Montcalm County, Québec. The couple had 8 children: Marie Félonise Azilda, Jacques Tancrede Ernest; Louis Napoléon Eugène, Joseph Zéphirin Arthur, Marie Julienne Ernestine, Marie Osine Ernestine, Joseph Robert Théodore, and Charles Roch Narcisse.

Marie Félonise Clotilde Archambault gave birth to her last known child, Charles Roch, on 7 December 1854. She attended the marriage of her son Joseph Robert Théodore to Marie Adélaïde Armeline DUPUIS on 3 October 1870 in Montréal. She died 13 May 1873 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and was buried in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan's parish cemetery on 16 May. The cause of her death is unknown.

Marie Félonise Azilda ROBITAILLE

Marie Felonise Azilda was born 3 October 1839 and baptized 4 October 1839 at Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec according to church records. Her parrain was François Archambault, her marraine was his wife Victoire Cormier Archambault.

On 1 October 1860 she married Urgel Eugène ARCHAMBAULT, son of Louis ARCHAMBAULT and Angelique PRUDHOMME, of St-Jacques-de-L'Achigan. The marriage was at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec. The wedding was well attended and the record was signed by many family members including her father, and brothers Théodore, Ernest, and Arthur.

Her husband Urgel was an educator and at the time of their marriage was the principal at l'Ecole Normale de Montréal. He later became the principal at the Technical College of Montréal.

The couple had 10 children.

Marie Felonise Azilda died 28 November 1897 and was buried in Notre-Dame-de-Neiges cemetery in concession O00091 on 2 December 1897. This was the parish cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. She was 58 years and 2 months old when she died.

Jacques Tancrede Ernest ROBITAILLE

Jacques Tancrede Ernest was born 29 January 1841 at Saint-Roch-de-L'Achigan. He was baptized at the parish church 31 January 1841. His Godparents were Séraphin VIGER, and Elmire Élodie ARCHAMBAULT.

Ernest attended the Collège de L'Assomption, in L'Assomption, Québec, Canada Class 22 (1854 -1857), with his younger brother, Louis Napoléon Eugène. Source: "Les Anciens et Les Anciennes du Collège de L'Assomption" printed by l'Association des Anciens et des Anciennes du Collège de L'Assomption, March 2014, pages 6 & 16.

Ernest came to California in the United States in 1879 and filed for naturalization. Source: Bayless, Joyce. Acts of Naturalization #1, 5 June 1871 to 30 March 1830. Superior Court, County Court, and District Court of Bakersfield, California. In Kern County, Volume 4:1 (March 1967) pp 5-6, Volume 4:4 (December 1967) pp 50-52. Volume 5:1 (March 1968) pp 6-9. Page 8.

Ernerst died 23 January 1903, inestate, in Stockton, San Joaquin County, California at the California State Hospital. The record states that the cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis. Source: Ancestry.com California State Hospital Records, 1856-1923.
<http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=CAStateHospital&h=45032>.

Louis Napoléon Eugène ROBITAILLE

Louis Napoléon Eugène was born 15 July 1842 in St-Roch de-l'Achigan, Québec. He was baptized at the parish church the same day with his given names in the order printed here. His parrain was Eugène

Notes: (con't)

ARCHAMBAULT and marrainne Alicè ARCHAMBAULT.

Louis Napoléon Eugène attended the Collège de L'Assomption in L'Assomption, Québec as a member of Course 22 in 1854 with his elder brother Ernest. The college records show his name as Louis Eugène Napoléon Robitaille, not Louis Napoléon Eugène. Louis Eugène Napoléon only attended for one year.

With some college education and revised middle names, Louis Eugène Napoléon left Canada and emigrated to the United States, settling in Kansas Territory which become Kansas on 29 January 1861. We do not know the exact date he arrived, but he first appears on the 1860 Census where is listed as living in his uncle Robert Grant Robitaille's home. When Louis came to the United States he omitted the accent marks that were in his name when he was living in Québec.

Elizabeth Robitaille married Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille in Westport, Missouri on 26 September 1860. The marriage was recorded by the Justice of the Peace in Jackson County, Missouri. Louis and his wife had 10 children.

When the Wyandots were forced to move to Oklahoma, Louis built a family home and barn which survived as late as the death of Charles Zephirin in August of 1958.

Louis lost his first wife Elizabeth on 4 November 1883 in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. She was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, close to her father, Robert Grant Robitaille's grave.

Three years later, Louis married Mary Ann Mudeater Armstrong. The marriage was held in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri. The couple had no children together.

Mary Ann died on 27 December 1891 in Wyandotte. She is buried in the Bland Cemetery as Mary Robitaille. Her grave is located near her first husband, Winfield Scott Armstrong's grave and the graves of their children.

Louis had an accident with a run away buggy from which he was thrown. This occurred near the Frisco Railroad tracks in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. He was left paralyzed. His daughter Lena returned home from Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, and cared for her father until he died.

Louis died 26 May 1895 and the age of 53 and is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Oklahoma.

Joseph Zéphirin Arthur ROBITAILLE

Joseph Zéphirin Arthur was born 12 November 1843 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan and was baptized 13 November. He attended the Collège de L'Assomption as a member of Course 24 and studied for 1856 - 1858.

Arthur married his first wife, Adèle Archambault, and the couple had three children: James Robert Arthur, Henri Urgel Arthur, and Henri Rodolphe Théodore. Sadly his wife Adèle died on 17 March 1872, a week after Henri Rodolphe's birth. The close date of her death following Henri's birth suggests it may have been due to complications from his birth. She was buried in the parish cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal on 20 May 1872.

Arthur married a second time on 15 June 1875, to Marie Honorine Languedoc at St-Michel-de-Bellechasse, Québec. She was the widow of François Xavier FRENETTE. The 1881 Census of Canada shows Arthur and Honorine living in the St. Louis Ward of Montréal with three children; James, age 12; Arthur, age 10 and Henri, age 9.

Arthur's second wife, Marie Honorine, died 28 April 1887 at age 36 years and 3 months. She was buried 30 April 1887 in the parish cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.

Arthur married a third time on 11 June 1889 to Marguerite LAMBERT at St-Henri-de-Mascouche, Québec. Marguerite was the widow of Almisdas DESAULNIERS. Marguerite had one child by her previous marriage, Marie Marguerite. There were no additional children by her marriage to Arthur. The 1891 Census of Canada shows the family living in District 10 of Montréal. Arthur was 47, Marguerite 42, James 22, Henri Urgel Arthur 20, Henri Rodolphe 19, and Marie Robitaille, 7.

Notes: (con't)

Arthur's third wife, Marie Marguerite Lambert died 16 February 1897, age 47 years, 11 months, 16 days. She was buried in the cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal 18 February 1897.

Arthur married a fourth time on 22 April 1902 at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal to Elmire LACOUTURE, widow of Jean-Baptiste Rodrigue CHAPDELAINÉ. The marriage was a short one, Elmire died in Montréal 21 July 1907. She was buried in the St-Ours parish cemetery in Richelieu, Québec.

Joseph Arthur Robitaille died on 29 December 1908 in Montréal at age 65. He was buried in the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery, concession N00584, on 31 December 1908. His burial service was attended by his sons James Robert Arthur and Henri, and his brother, Charles Roch Robitaille.

Marie Julienne Ernestine ROBITAILLE

Marie Julienne Ernestine was baptized at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan 5 July 1845, Her parrain was Cyrille Archambault, her marraine was Zinaide Auger Archambault.

Marie Julienne Ernestine died 15 February 1846 at the age of 7 months. She was buried in the St-Roch-de-L'Achigan cemetery.

Marie Osine Ernestine ROBITAILLE

Marie Osine Ernestine was born in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan on 21 December 1846 and was baptized the next day at the Catholic Church in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan.

She was named after her sister Marie Julienne Ernestine, who was born on 1 July 1845 but who died 15 February of the following year. The name Osine, was in honor of her marraine. Her parrain was Camille Archambault, her marraine was Osine Archambault.

There was no official Canadian Census in 1851 but she appears in the 1861 and 1871 Canadian Census reports living with her parents in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan.

Ernestine was found on the 1881 and 1901 Canadian Census reports listed as Soeur (Sister) Ernestine.

Lena Robitaille said in her writings that Marie Osine Ernestine became a Catholic nun. Further research has shown that she entered the Catholic religious order of The Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary on 6 August 1870. In the 1871 Canadian Census, she was listed as living in Maisonneuve district of Montreal with 54 nuns. In the 1881 Census of Canada, she is listed as residing at Hochelaga Village, Québec, Canada along with large number of nuns.

Sister Ernestine gave her profession of faith on 6 August 1873 and took the religious name of Sister Marie Ladislás.

She initially was a Choir Sister. Over her time as a Sister she worked with the poor as a teacher and later, as a daughter of a country doctor, worked in the order's infirmary.

As age diminished the keenness of her mental faculties, she was more sensitive to marks of kindness. Ultimately she was stricken with a general paralysis. Sister Marie Ladislás died on 24 December 1922 in Hochelaga district of Montreal. She was 76 years, 3 days old and served 49 years, 4 months, eighteen days as a Sister. She was buried on 26 December 1922 in the Cemetery of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in Longueuil, Québec.

Joseph Robert Théodore ROBITAILLE

Joseph Robert Théodore Robitaille typically went by Théodose or Théodore. He was born in 28 February 1849 and baptized the next day at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan.

He attended Collège de l'Assomption and was in Course 32. He studied the classics and philosophy from 1864 to 1867.

Théodore married Marie Adélaïde Hermeline Dupuis at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Québec 3 October 1870.

Notes: (con't)

He lived most of his adult life in Montréal, Québec. Théodore and his wife had three children, Joseph Arthur, born about 28 June 1873; Marie Louise Jeanne Sarah, born 27 August 1877 in Montréal; and Gustave, born 27 September 1879 in Montréal.

Joseph Arthur, died 2 January 1900 at age 26 years and 6 months. He was buried 4 January 1900 in the cemetery of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. The burial service was attended by his father, his uncles Urgel Eugène Archambault, Charles Roch Robitaille, and his brothers, James Robert and Gustave. Neither of Théodore's remaining children seem to have married or raised any children.

Joseph Robert Théodore died 17 August 1914 at age 66. He was living in St. Louis Parish, Montréal. His burial service was held at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Québec, CANADA on 19 August 1914. He is buried with his wife and all three children in Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery, section B, concession 909.

Charles Roch Narcisse ROBITAILLE

Charles Roch Narcisse Robitaille was born in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm County, Québec 7 December 1854. He was baptized at the church in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan the same day. He appears living with his mother, father, and siblings in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan in the 1861 and 1871 Canadian Census reports.

He married Céline LÉVESQUE on 21 April 1879 at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.

The couple had two children: Charles Roch Ernest Robitaille and Ernestine Robitaille. Both of the children were born in Rivière-de-Loup County in Québec and were baptized at St-Paul-de-la-Croix parish.

Census Reports for 1891, 1901 and 1921 show the family living in Montréal, Québec. In 1891, in the St. Louis Quarter; in 1901 and 1921 in the St. Jacques Ward.

Charles Roch's son, Charles Roch Ernest, was a fireman and pre-deceased his father on 5 April 1909. Charles Roch's daughter, Marie Ernestine, appears to have remained single. She died in Montréal on 23 July 1931. The locations of where they both are buried are unknown.

Charles Roch died 29 April 1921 in Montréal. His burial service was held at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal on 2 March 1921. It is not known where he is buried.

Charles wife, Céline, was born around 1851, a calculated birth year, based on her age in the 1901 Census. Her actual date of birth, location of birth and her death date and location remain unknown. Her marriage record to Charles Roch states that her parents were Joseph Lévesque and Élisabeth Italienne who stated they lived in Isle Verte. I have not been able to find any records for either of them.

Sources:

- 1 Institute Drouin Record d1p_33481292.jpg, Baptism on 5 November 1771 at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation in L'Ancienne-Lorette, Quebec. Parrain: Jacques Plamondon, Marraine: Marie Joseph Plamondon. <http://genealogyquebec.com/>.
- 2 Québec Vital Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1621-1967, Sepulture Record - Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Québec, CANADA. The twenty-seventh of June 1878, the priest undersigned, buried in the cemetery of this parish, the body of Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille, écuyer, médecin, widow of Julie Breaux, who died the 24th of June, at the age of seventy-five years, a member of this parish. <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=drouinvitals&h=4999814>.
- 3 Institute Drouin Record d1p_1130060.jpg, St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec. Marriage of Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE to Félonise Clothilde ARCHAMBAULT, 1 October 1838. <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.
- 4 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01120590.jpg, Baptism Record. Marie Félonise Archambault born and baptized 20 July 1815, the daughter of François ARCHAMBAULT and Victoire CORMIER. <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.
- 5 PRDH Certificate 593624, Parish of Repentigny, Québec Record of Baptism. François Archambault, born 21 March 1786 to Amable Archambault and Marguerite Mercier was born 21 March 1786 and baptized the same day. <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.

Sources: (con't)

- 6 Institute Drouin Record d13p_01131370.jpg, Burial of Felonise Archambault 16 May 1873, date of death 13 May.
https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p_01131370?pid=8169997&treeid=&personid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=ejG1469&_phstart=successSource.
- 7 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130102.jpg, Baptism of Marie Félonise Azilda Robitaille, born 3 October 1839, baptized 4 October 1839.
Parrain François Archambault, marraine Victoire Cormier.
- 8 Institute Drouin Record d13p_1183031.jpg, Sepulture Record: Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.
Marie Félonise Azilda Robitaille
Died 28 November 1897
Buried 2 December 1897. <http://www.drouinstitute.com/>.
- 9 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130967.jpg, Marriage Record: St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec, CANADA.
Marie Félonise Azilda was married to Urgel Eugène Archambault 01 October 1860 at St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Québec, CANADA. <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/lafrance.aspx>.
- 10 Institute Drouin Record d13p_1184065.jpg, Baptism Record - Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. Born: 29 March 1867
Baptized: 30 March 1867. <http://ancestry.com/>.
- 11 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130156.jpg, Baptism Record: St-Roch-de-l'Achigan. Born: 29 January 1841
Baptized: 31 January 1841. <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.
- 12 California State Hospital Records, 1856-1923 for Ernest Robitaille, Stockton State Hospital Commitment Register.
- 13 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130218.jpg, Baptism Record: St-Roch-de-L'Achigan. Born: 15 July 1842
Baptized: 15 July 1842. <http://www.institutedrouin.com/>.
- 14 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, OK, Died 26 May 1895 - Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma
Buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery.
- 15 Wyandotte Commercial Gazette newspaper, 6 October 1860. "Louis Eugene Napoleon and Elizabeth Robitaille were married by Esquire HUDSON on 26 September 1860."
- 16 Newton County, City of Neosho Marriage License.
- 17 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130285.jpg. Baptism Record St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, Québec, CANADA. Born: 12 November 1843, baptized the same day. <http://institutdrouin.com/>.
- 18 Institute Drouin Record d13p_1117a0397.jpg, Burial of Joseph Arthur Robitaille, died 29 Dec, buried 31 Dec 1908.
- 19 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01080701.jpg, Marriage at L'Assomption Parish 7 September 1868. <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/lafrance.aspx>.
- 20 Institute Drouin Record d13p_1183031.jpg, Baptismal Record - Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.
Marie Félonise Fabiola Archambault was born to Urgel Eugène Archambault and Marie Félonise Azilda Robitaille on 19 January 1862 in Montréal. She was baptized the same day at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. <http://www.drouinstitute.com/>.
- 21 Institute Drouin Record d1p_10481304.jpg, Marriage of Arthur Robitaille and Marie Honorine Languedoc, St-Michel-de-Bellechasse (La Durantaye) 14 June 1875.
- 22 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01210518.jpg, Marriage Record. 11 June 1889 at St-Henri-de-Mascouche, L'Assomption County, Québec, CANADA.
Marriage of Joseph Zéphirin Arthur ROBITAILLE to Marie Marguerite LAMBERT, widow of Almisdas DESAULNIERS of Joliette, Québec.
- 23 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130365.jpg, Baptism of Marie Julienne Ernestine Robitaille, born 1 July 1845, baptized 5 July at St-Roch-de-l'Achigan.
- 24 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130397.jpg, Burial of Marie Julienne Ernestine, died 15 Feb 1846, buried 17 Feb at St-Roch-de-l'Achigan.
- 25 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130429.jpg, Marie Osine Ernestine was born 21 Dec 1846 and baptized 22 Dec at St-Roch-de-l'Achigan. Her parents were Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille and Marie Felonise Archambault. Her parrain was Camille Archambault and her marraine was Osine Archambault.
- 26 Institute Drouin Record d1p_1170c1151.jpg, Ernestine Robitaille - Soeur Marie Ladislas, died 24 December 1922 and was buried 26 December in the cemetery of St-Antoine-de-Padoue in Longueuil, Québec.

Sources: (con't)

- 27 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130533.jpg, Baptism Record. Joseph Robert Théodore was born to J.J.N. Robitaille & Félonise Clothilde Archambault on 2 March 1849 and baptized 3 March. <http://www.drouinstitute.com>
- 28 Institute Drouin Record d13p_1121a1248.jpg, Burial Record. Joseph Théodose Robitaille, spouse of Armeline Dupuis, died 17 August 1914, age 66 years. He was a parishoner of St-Louis. He was buried 19 August. Present at his burial service was Gustave Robitaille, his son; Charles Roch Robitaille, his brother and others whose signatures were illegible. <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/>.
- 29 Institute Drouin Record d1p_11920947.jpg, Marriage Record - Notre Dame de Montreal. Joseph Robert Theodore Robitaille was married to Marie Adelaïde Hermeline Dupuis, daughter of Jean Joseph Dupuis and Marie Louise Thibodeau. www.institutedrouin.com.
- 30 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01241195.jpg Baptism Record. Marie Adélaïde Hermeline Dupuis was born to Joseph Dupuis and Marie Louise Thibodeau on 20 December 1835 in St-Jacques-de-L'Achigan, Québec, CANADA. She was baptized 21 December 1835 at the Parish of St-Jacques-de-l'Achigan. Her godparents were, François Xavier Dupuis, and Adelaïde Chaput. <http://www.genealogyquebec./>.
- 31 Institute Drouin Record d13p_1127A0870, Burial Record. Charles Roch Robitaille, spouse of Céline Lévesque died 29 April 1921 at age 66. He was buried 2 March 1921. The burial service was held at Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. The record states he was a parishoner of Ste-Brigide parish. <http://www.genealogiequebec.ca/>.
- 32 Institute Drouin Record d1p_11930247.jpg, Marriage Record: Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Montréal, Québec, CANADA. <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/lafrance.aspx>.

Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille

Family Group Sheet for Louis Napoléon Eugène ROBITAILLE

Husband:		Louis Napoléon Eugène ROBITAILLE ¹
	Birth:	15 Jul 1842 in St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, Montcalm, Québec, CANADA, ¹
	Death:	26 May 1895 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ³
	Marriage:	26 Sep 1860 in Jackson County, Missouri, USA ⁴
	Father:	(James) Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILLE
	Mother:	Félonise Clotilde ARCHAMBAULT ²
Wife:		Elizabeth ROBITAILLE
	Birth:	22 Aug 1842 in Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio, USA ⁵
	Death:	04 Nov 1883 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ⁵
	Father:	Robert Grant ROBITAILLE
	Mother:	Marie Julie BERNARD
Children:		
1	Name:	Alice Clotilde ROBITAILLE
F	Birth:	23 Sep 1858 in Kansas Territory ⁵⁻⁶
	Death:	16 Nov 1909 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ⁵
	Marriage:	30 Mar 1882 in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri, USA ⁷
	Spouse:	Joseph Peter SCHIFFBAUER
2	Name:	James Robert Napoleon ROBITAILLE
M	Birth:	09 Feb 1862 in Wyandotte County Kansas ⁵
	Death:	02 Feb 1931 in Picher, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA ^{5, 8}
	Marriage:	1888
	Spouse:	Emma CRIPPEN ⁹
3	Name:	Julia Emma ROBITAILLE
F	Birth:	31 Aug 1863 in Wyandotte, Wyandotte, Kansas, USA ⁵
	Death:	05 Nov 1919 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ^{5, 10}
	Marriage:	17 May 1881 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA; Married by Rev. Father Hospenthal. ¹¹
	Spouse:	Alfred J. MUDEATER
4	Name:	Rosa Lee ROBITAILLE
F	Birth:	02 Dec 1865 in Wyandotte, Kansas, USA ⁵
	Death:	11 Nov 1891 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ⁵
	Marriage:	04 Dec 1885 in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri, USA ¹²
	Spouse:	Lafayette BUZZARD (Fay)
5	Name:	Louis Eugene Napoleon ROBITAILLE (Buddy) Jr.
M	Birth:	1867 in Wyandotte, Kansas, USA
	Death:	1872 in Kansas, USA
6	Name:	Francis (Frank) Reynolds ROBITAILLE ¹³
M	Birth:	16 Dec 1869 in Wyandotte, Wyandotte, Kansas, USA ^{5, 13}
	Death:	11 Apr 1941 in Claremore, Rogers, Oklahoma, USA ¹⁴
	Marriage:	1893 in Wyandotte, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA ¹⁵
	Spouse:	Mamie GARRETT

7	Name:	Ernest A. ROBITAILLE
M	Birth:	21 Aug 1872 in Quindaro, Wyandotte, Kansas, USA ¹⁶⁻¹⁷
	Death:	22 Dec 1933 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA ¹⁷⁻¹⁸
	Marriage:	16 Apr 1900 in Philadelphia, Montgomery, Pennsylvania, USA ¹⁹
	Spouse:	Emily Elizabeth PEAKE
8	Name:	Azilda Ella ROBITAILLE
F	Birth:	07 Oct 1874 in Indian Territory USA
	Death:	21 May 1946 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ^{5, 20}
	Marriage:	05 Dec 1893 ²¹
	Spouse:	Robert SCHIFFBAUER
9	Name:	Lena Ernestine ROBITAILLE
F	Birth:	15 Jun 1877 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ²²
	Death:	13 Oct 1955 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ²³
	Marriage:	12 Sep 1906 in Mount Vernon, Lawrence, Missouri, USA ²²
	Spouse:	William Arthur FERGUSON
10	Name:	Charles Zephirin (Charlie) ROBITAILLE
M	Birth:	26 Mar 1880 in Wyandotte, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA ²⁴⁻²⁵
	Death:	02 Aug 1958 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, USA ²⁴⁻²⁵
	Marriage:	07 Oct 1905 in United States of America Indian Territory Northern District ; Marriage license signed by Charles A. Davidson Clerk of the U.S. Court ²⁶
	Spouse:	Frances (Aunt Fannie the Culinary Expert) Bell SCOBEE

Notes:

Louis Napoléon Eugène ROBITAILLE

Louis Napoléon Eugène was born 15 July 1842 in St-Roch de-l'Achigan, Québec. He was baptized at the parish church the same day with his given names in the order printed here. His parrain was Eugène ARCHAMBAULT and marraine Alice ARCHAMBAULT.

Louis Napoléon Eugène attended the Collège de L'Assomption in L'Assomption, Québec as a member of Course 22 in 1854 with his elder brother Ernest. The college records show his name as Louis Eugène Napoléon Robitaille, not Louis Napoléon Eugène. Louis Eugène Napoléon only attended for one year.

With some college education and revised middle names, Louis Eugène Napoléon left Canada and emigrated to the United States, settling in Kansas Territory which become Kansas on 29 January 1861. We do not know the exact date he arrived, but he first appears on the 1860 Census where is listed as living in his uncle Robert Grant Robitaille's home. When Louis came to the United States he omitted the accent marks that were in his name when he was living in Québec.

Elizabeth Robitaille married Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille in Westport, Missouri on 26 September 1860. The marriage was recorded by the Justice of the Peace in Jackson County, Missouri. Louis and his wife had 10 children.

When the Wyandots were forced to move to Oklahoma, Louis built a family home and barn which survived as late as the death of Charles Zephirin in August of 1958.

Louis lost his first wife Elizabeth on 4 November 1883 in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. She was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, close to her father, Robert Grant Robitaille's grave.

Three years later, Louis married Mary Ann Mudeater Armstrong. The marriage was held in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri. The couple had no children together.

Mary Ann died on 27 December 1891 in Wyandotte. She is buried in the Bland Cemetery as Mary Robitaille. Her grave is located near her first husband, Winfield Scott Armstrong's grave and the graves of their children.

Notes: (con't)

Louis had an accident with a run away buggy from which he was thrown. This occurred near the Frisco Railroad tracks in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. He was left paralyzed. His daughter Lena returned home from Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, and cared for her father until he died.

Louis died 26 May 1895 and the age of 53 and is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Oklahoma.

Elizabeth ROBITAILLE

Elizabeth was born 22 August 1842 in Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, Ohio the daughter of Robert Grant Robitaille and Julie Bernard.

She married Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille in Westport, Missouri on 26 September 1860. Elizabeth and Louis had 10 children.

Elizabeth died 4 November 1883 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma and is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

Alice Clotilde ROBITAILLE

Alice Clotilde Robitaille was born 23 September 1858 to Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille and Elizabeth Robitaille. The first child's first name, Alice, may trace back to Alice Archambault, who was Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille's godmother. Alice's middle name, Clotilde, was Louis Eugene's mother's middle name.

Alice appears in the 1865 Kansas State Census living with her grandfather Robert Grant Robitaille, her father Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille, (a nephew of Robert Grant Robitaille), Elizabeth Robitaille her mother, her brother James Robitaille, her sister Julia Robitaille, Mary Hicks and Henry Hicks.

James Robert Napoleon ROBITAILLE

James Robert Napoleon was the second child born to Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille and Elizabeth Robitaille. He was born 9 February 1862 in Wyandotte County, Kansas most likely in the town of Quindaro.

According to Lena Robitaille, James Robert's first wife was Ruth Banning. He married his second wife, Emma Crippen, in 1888. Emma was born in Missouri, her parents were both born in Illinois.

Lena also said that he was sent to Canada (likely somewhere in Québec Province) for school. I have not been able to find any additional information on his education. In addition to English, James Robert was fluent in French and the Wyandotte languages.

James Robert opened a grocery and butcher shop in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. It was located next-door to the Mudeater Hotel and Grocery which was run by Alfred Mudeater and his wife Julia Emma Robitaille, who was James Robert's sister. Sometime later, James left Wyandotte and moved his business to Picher, Oklahoma where he felt he would be more successful.

James Robert and Emma had eight children.

James Robert died in Picher on 2 February 1931. He was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery. His wife Emma outlived him and remarried. She passed on 14 January 1954 in Miami, Oklahoma.

Julia Emma ROBITAILLE

Julia Emma was born 31 August 1863 in Wyandotte County, Kansas. No official birth record has been found.

She attended the Wyandotte Mission School in Lost Creek and the Indian Mission School in Indian Territory.

At 19 she married Alfred J. Mudeater, on 17 May 1881. The marriage was officiated by Reverend Hospenthal. Alfred was the brother of Julia's stepmother, Mary Ann Mudeater Armstrong Robitaille.

She was the postmistress of Wyandotte and she ran a hotel above her husband's store in Wyandotte. Her younger sister, Lena Robitaille recalled that she was a splendid cook and that people would travel to Wyandotte to enjoy her home cooked meals in the hotel.

Notes: (con't)

Sadly Julia died 19 July 1929 due to complications from a cat bite. She was buried in Wyandotte Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma

Rosa Lee ROBITAILLE

Rosa Lee Robitaille was the fourth child born to Louis Eugene Napoleon and his wife Elizabeth Robitaille. She was born 2 December 1865 in Wyandotte, Kansas. On 7 December 1885 she married Lafayette BUZZARD, in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri, USA.

The couple had two children:

1. Stella Buzzard - Born 15 December 1887 in Indian Territory. She attended the Chilocco and Seneca Indian Schools. Stella married Victor Allen in 1909. The couple had one daughter. Stella died 27 August 1959, at age 72, in North Miami, Oklahoma. Her husband Victor pre-deceased her by seven years.

2. Reed James Buzzard - Born 5 August 1891 in Indian Territory. He married Marie Miriam SPARLIN on 29 March 1914 in Seneca, Newton County, Missouri. He died in 1952. His widow survived him and lived until 1985.

Rosa Lee died 11 November 1891 in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, when Reed was just three months old. She is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Her husband Lafayette died in 1933 in Los Angeles, California, and is buried in the Roosevelt Memorial Park Cemetery in Gardena, Los Angeles County, California.

Louis Eugene Napoleon ROBITAILLE (Buddy) Jr.

Louis Eugene Napoleon Jr. was born in 1867 in Wyandotte, Kansas. We know very little about him. According to Lena Robitaille, Buddy died 1872 in Kansas (no specific location given). It is likely that he is buried in the Huron Indian Cemetery.

Francis (Frank) Reynolds ROBITAILLE

Frank was born 16 December 1869 in Indian Territory (Oklahoma prior to Statehood). He was a resident of Wyandotte, Oklahoma for 65 years and was employed by the U.S. Government Indian Service for 26 years. Afterward, he was a farmer.

While attending school at the Haskell Institute (a school for Native Americans in Lawrence, Kansas) he played violin.

He was married to Mamie GARRETT. The date of their marriage is unknown. Both Mamie and her husband are listed on the Wyandotte Indian Census, 30 June 1896. Frank is under entry 167 and is listed as husband, age 27. Mamie is under entry 168 is listed as wife and age 22.

Mamie pre-deceased Frank, passing on 25 December 1898. She was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery. The inscription on her headstone (refer to the Cemetery Annex in Appendix IV) clearly demonstrates how close the couple must have been. They had no children and Frank remained single for the rest of his life.

Francis died in the Indian Hospital in Claremore, OK of a cerebral hemorrhage. He is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. There is a discrepancy between the date of death on the headstone (11 April 1941) and the newspaper obituary and Lane Funeral Home, Miami, OK records which both state 12 April 1941.

Ernest A. ROBITAILLE

Ernest was born in Quindaro, KS on 21 August 1872. He attended the Haskell Institute in Kansas where he also was a member of the band where he played the flute.

Ernest briefly attended the U.S. Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he was student number 2329. He arrived at the school on 24 August 1899 at age 27 and was discharged 12 June 1900. Copies of his file are available from the National Archives.

Ernest attended the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and graduated in 1900. (Penn State Law Review, Volume Number 9).

Notes: (con't)

Ernest also graduated from the University of Kansas (Lawrence) School of Law, in the class of 1901. (Graduate Magazine, University of Kansas, Volume 6, page 226). "Ernest A. Robitaille, Class of '01, is practicing law in Tulsa, Oklahoma". His office was located in the Robinson Building in Tulsa, Room 332. (U.S. City Directory, Tulsa, see: <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=USDirectories&h=871156081>).

While in Tulsa, OK he was the President of the Local 94 Chapter of the Federation of Musicians and also played flute in the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra.

In a post-discharge form letter from the U.S. Indian School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, (Record of Graduates and Returned Students) dated 6 March 1911, Ernest reported that his law practice was growing and making him money. In response to a question concerning if he was ever in the Indian Service, he replied "I was a night watchman at the Haskell Institute from 1 July 1900 through 1 July 1901 and a Disciplinarian at White Earth, Minnesota 1901-1902."

Ernest and his wife, Emily Peake, divorced, but to date I have not been able to find any associated records. Emily carried the name Robitaille until 24 August 1929 when she married Charles Edwin Dagenet in Florence, Pinal County, Arizona.

Ernest died Thursday, 22 December 1933 at his office in the Robinson Hotel on the corner of 3rd and Main Streets in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A funeral was held at his brother Charles Robitaille's house in Wyandotte, OK on Friday which was followed by burial in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte on Saturday the 23rd.

Azilda Ella ROBITAILLE

Azilda was the first family member to be born in what later became Wyandotte, Oklahoma.

She attended her elementary schooling at the Seneca Indian School which was built in Wyandotte. Records show she later attended the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas with her siblings Frank, Lena and Charles.

She married Robert Schiffbauer who she met while she was breaking horses for her sister's second husband, Joseph Peter Schiffbauer. They married 5 December 1893. In the years that followed, they raised a large family.

Obituary of Mrs. Azilda Schiffbauer - taken from the Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma) Wednesday, 22 May 1946, page 1.

Mrs. Azilda Schiffbauer, a 71 year old Wyandotte pioneer, woman, died at 9:30 o'clock Tuesday (21 May) evening at her home. She was one of the county's eldest residents, having lived in Wyandotte all of her life since she was born there in 1874. Survivors are six sons: John, Charlie, Ray, and Frank Schiffbauer all of Wyandotte; Rudy Schiffbauer, Ozark, Missouri; and Cyril Schiffbauer, Portland, Oregon; three daughters: Mrs. Alice Tippit, Mrs. Lucille Monahan and Gladys Schiffbauer; a sister, Lena Robitaille, Wyandotte, a brother, Charlie Robitaille, Wyandotte; five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon at the Friends Church in Wyandotte. The Reverend Ermin Perisho will officiate.

Azilda was buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery. Her husband was buried in the same plot in 1951.

Lena Ernestine ROBITAILLE

Lena was the historian of the Robitaille Wyandottes. She maintained many details and wrote about them when corresponding with William Connelly, Secretary of the Kansas Historical Society. She was born 15 June 1877.

She attended the Seneca Indian School for her elementary education and later went to Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas where she finished her preparatory course. She returned to Wyandotte after learning of her father's accident which left him paralyzed. She cared for him until he died.

She started a cottage millinery business after her father's death and continued it until her hearing became

Notes: (con't)

so bad she had to give it up.

Both Lena and W. A. Ferguson list their addresses as Forest Park, Lawrence County, Missouri on their marriage license. Their marriage was held at Mount Vernon, Lawrence County, Missouri. Lena was 29, William was 23.

Lena and W.A. Ferguson were living as husband and wife in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma in the 1910 Federal Census. They were renting a house on Broadway Street. Arthur was listed as being 27 and stated his father was born in Georgia and his mother in South Carolina. Lena was 31 years of age.

Lena stated in her writings that she and Arthur stayed together as a couple for around nine years. In the 1920 Census she was living by herself on Springer Street. In the 1930 Census, she had her brother, Frank, living with her at the same address. In the 1940 Census, Lena and her brother Frank were still living in the same house on Springer Street in Wyandotte and the Census taker noted that she was the head of the household even though her brother was her senior by 10 years!

Sadly Lena was found dead in her house in Wyandotte in mid-October 1955. She apparently died alone. She died 13 October 1955 and is buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery.

Charles Zephirin (Charlie) ROBITAILLE

Charles Zephirin Robitaille was born 26 March 1880 in Indian Territory (which later became Wyandotte, Ottawa, Oklahoma) to Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille and Elizabeth Robitaille. He attended Seneca Indian School and also went to Haskell Indian Institute in Lawrence, Kansas twice, the interruption was due to his father's accident.

He married Francis "Fannie" Carnes in Miami, Oklahoma Territory 8 October 1905. As World War 1 approached able body men had to register with the local draft board. He registered but was not drafted.

Charles and Fannie led quite a social life. They had numerous dinners, concerts, and socials. They were the hosts and at times just the visitors. His wife hosted several parties including one on Valentine's Day. She was known as culinary expert in her obituary. Fannie passed on 20 March 1944. She was loved by Charles and greatly missed.

Charles outlived his wife by 14 years. He was a farmer. He operated a 20-acre farm near Grand Lake until he suffered a stroke on 9 July 1958 and could no longer operate the farm. He died in the home of his nephew, Frank Schiffbauer, on 2 August 1958. Fannie and Charles were both buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery in Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

Charles Zephirin was the last of Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille's children.

Sources:

- 1 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130218.jpg, Baptism Record: St-Roch-de-L'Achigan. Born: 15 July 1842
Baptized: 15 July 1842. <http://www.institutedrouin.com/>.
- 2 Institute Drouin Record d1p_01120590.jpg, Baptism Record. Marie Félonise Archambault born and baptized 20 July 1815, the daughter of François ARCHAMBAULT and Victoire CORMIER. <http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/>.
- 3 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, OK, Died 26 May 1895 - Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma
Buried in the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery.
- 4 Wyandotte Commercial Gazette newspaper, 6 October 1860. "Louis Eugene Napoleon and Elizabeth Robitaille were married by Esquire HUDSON on 26 September 1860."
- 5 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, OK.
- 6 1900 United States Census, Provides enumeration of family members. See:
<http://us-census.org/pub/usgenweb/census/ok/indian-terr/1900/reservations/ed003-pg163a.txt>.
- 7 Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002, <http://www.ancestry.com/>.

Sources: (con't)

- 8 Miami Daily News Record, Miami, Oklahoma, 3 Feb 1931, Page 6: James Robert Robitaille, 70 year old Picher man and well known throughout Northeast Oklahoma, died at 2 o'clock this morning at his home on East A Street in Picher. The funeral will be at 10 o'clock Thursday morning at the home of Charles Robitaille, his brother, at Wyandotte. Mr Robitaille is survived by his wife, Mrs. Emma Robitaille; five sons: Arthur and Homer of Joplin; Wilfred, Francis, and Theodore Robitaille of Picher; one daughter, Mrs Beulah Purnell of Picher; three brothers, Ernest, Robitaille of Tulsa, Charles and Frank of Wyandotte; and two sisters; Mrs Azilda Schiffbauer and Lena Robitaille, of Wyandotte.
- 9 Joplin Globe Newspaper, Joplin, Missouri, Friday, 15 January 1954, page 9: Mrs Emma Robitaille Biller, 83 years old died at 1:55 o'clock this afternoon in Miami Baptist hospital after an illness of four years. Born 21 August 1870, in Washburn, Missouri, Mrs Biller had been a lifelong resident of the Wyandotte community. Surviving her are four sons, Wolford Robitaille of Quapaw, Arthur Robitaille of Los Angeles, Frank Robitaille of Wyandotte and Theodore Robitaille of El Dorado, Kansas, a daughter, Mrs Beulah Parnell of Phoenix, Arizona, 26 grand children and seven great grandchildren. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Miami, Oklahoma funeral home.
- 10 Cemeteries of Southern Ottawa County, OK.
- 11 The Wyandott Herald, Kansas City KS, 9 June 1881, p3. Alfred C Mudeater and Julia Robitaille were married in the Indian Territory on Tuesday May 17th 1881.
<http://newspapers.com/>.
- 12 Family Search, "Missouri, Marriages, 1750-1920," database, FamilySearch : accessed 4 August 2015), Lafayette Buzzard and Rosalee Robetaille, 07 Dec 1885; citing Newton, Missouri; FHL microfilm 929,790. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V2D2-54F>.
- 13 1900 United States Census, Robitaille, Frank. DOB: December 1869.
- 14 Cemetery Headstone, Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Headstone states date Frank's of death was 11 April 1941. Newspaper obituary and Lane Funeral Home in Miami, OK state 12 April 1941. This record uses the date on the cemetery headstone.
- 15 Lena Robitaille Correspondence, Oklahoma Historical Society.
- 16 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Membership Application for Leo McGuire.
- 17 Oklahoma State Board of Health Death Certificate, Ernest Robitaille 1124 South Columbia Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Date of birth 21 August 1872. Age at death 61 years, 4 months, 1 day. Occupation Lawyer. Date of death 22 December 1933, 9 A.M.
Cause of death: Cerebral Embolism.
- 18 Miami Daily News-Record, Miami, OK 29 December 1933, Page 2, Ernest Robitaille obituary. Funeral Services were conducted Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Charles Robitaille for Ernest Robitaille, a former Wyandotte Resident.

The following was taken from the Tulsa Tribune and will be of interest to his many friends in Wyandotte:

"Ernest Robitaille, 62, pioneer attorney, who deserted the law for the fickle fortunes of the oil fields only to see his profits eaten away by later ventures, dropped dead in his office in the Robinson Hotel 22 December 1933. A blood clot formed on his brain. Robitaille was born in Quindaro, Kansas, of Indian and French-Canadian stock. He was graduated from the Dickinson law school, Carlisle, PA, and from the Kansas University law school, and located in Tulsa in 1905. Alive to the opportunities the development of oil presented, he gave up a successful practice when his first well proved a money maker and devoted himself to the oil business. But Dame Fortune, having caught his eye, skipped nimbly away. He drilled 20 more wells, and each was a dry hole. Two daughters, Mrs. George Schwab, Tulsa and Mrs. Leo McGuire, Los Angeles and two brothers and two sisters who live in Wyandotte, OK, are included among the survivors. Interment is to be in the family burial plot at Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, with arrangements under the Barnes Undertaking Company. Robitaille attended the Holy Family church regularly. He lived with his daughter in Tulsa at 1124 South Columbia Avenue."

Sources: (con't)

- 19 Marriage License Application, Cumberland County Pennsylvania, Ernest A. Robitaille, age 27, Law Student, and Emily Elizabeth Peake, age 24, Lady Clerk, appeared before Charles Logan, Minister of the Gospel, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 16 April 1900 and were united in marriage.
- 20 Miami Daily News-Record, Weds May 22nd, 1946. Page 1. Mrs Azilda Schiffbauer, a 71-year-old Wyandotte pioneer woman died 9.30pm Tuesday night at her home.
<http://newspapers.com/>.
- 21 Oral History of Robert Schiffbauer, Marriage date of Azilda Robitaille and Robert Schiffbauer is taken from the oral history of Robert SCHIFFBAUER, erroneously titled Joseph SCHIFFBAUER, recorded by Nannie Lee BURNS, Indian Pioneer History S-149, recorded 14 October 1937.
- 22 Lena Robitaille's history papers and letters., Oklahoma Historical Society, Tulsa, OK.
- 23 Miami Daily News Record (Miami, Oklahoma) Friday October 14, 1955, Page 1, Obituary "Last Rites Held for Wyandotte Pioneer". Wyandotte, October 14 - (Special) - "Funeral services were to be held here this afternoon for Miss Lena E. (Ernestine) Robitaille, 78, who was found dead in her home by relatives about 4 p.m. Thursday (13 October). Relatives theorized Miss Robitaille may have died 24 hours or more before discovery of the body. Death was attributed to a heart attack.

Miss Robitaille, a member of the Wyandotte Baptist church, had resided here all her life. Survivors include a brother, Charles Robitaille, also of Wyandotte, and several nieces and nephews. The reverend Tom Hainey, pastor of the Baptist church, was to officiate at services in the Friends church. Burial was to be in Wyandotte (Indian) Cemetery."
- 24 Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, [www.rootsweb census of the records of the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery burials, in Wyandotte, OK.](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~oklahoma/wyandottecemlist.html)
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~oklahoma/wyandottecemlist.html>.
- 25 Guilford - Thomas Funeral Home Records of Ottawa County 1934-1967, Provided DOB and DOD information as well as a brief obituary for Charles Zephirin ROBITAILLE.
- 26 USA Indian Territory Northern District Marriage License, 7 Oct 1905, Charles Robitaille and Fanny Carnes.

Appendix III. **Descendants Charts**

Chart 1 - Robert Grant Robitaille

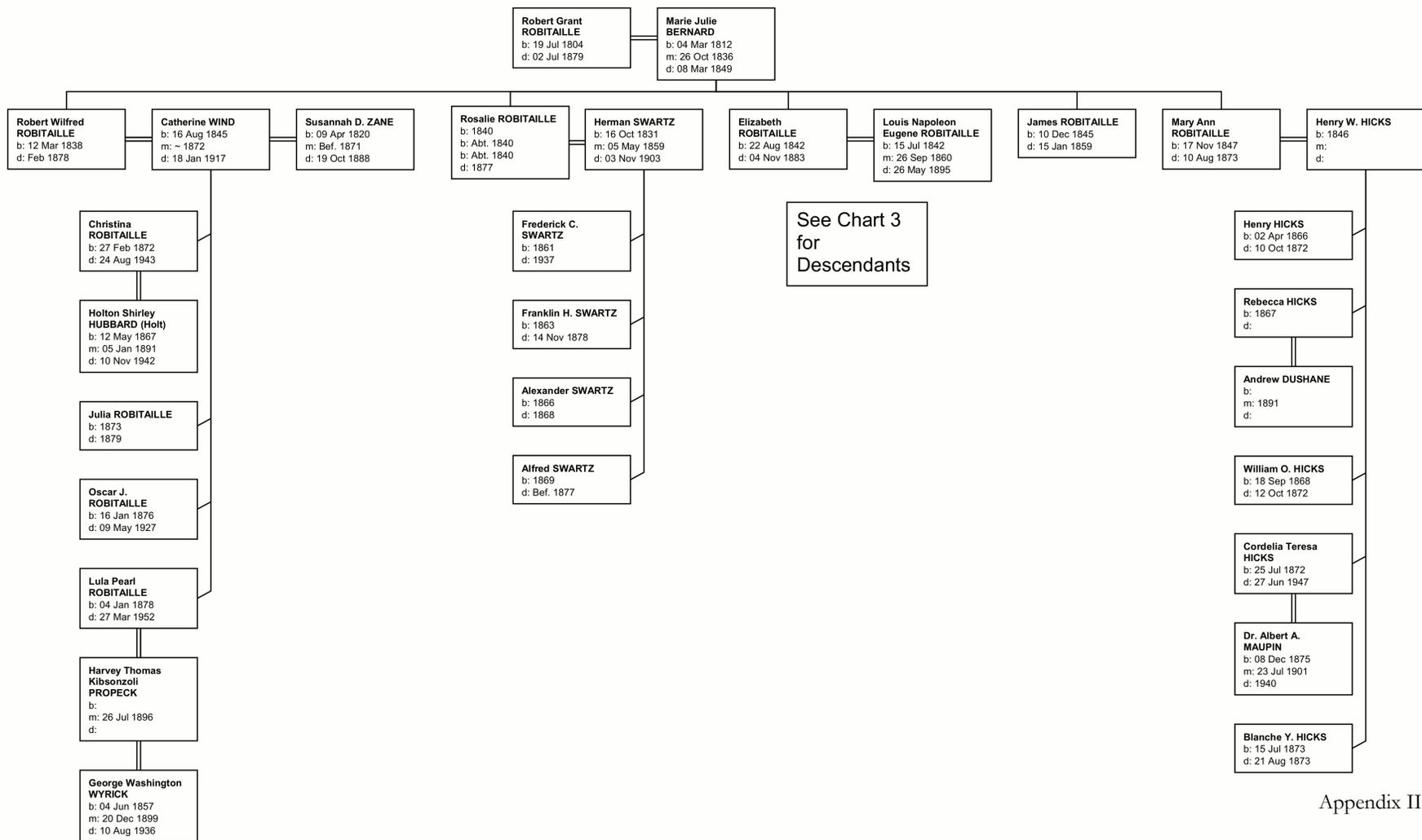


Chart 2 - James (aka Jean Jacques Narcisse) Robitaille

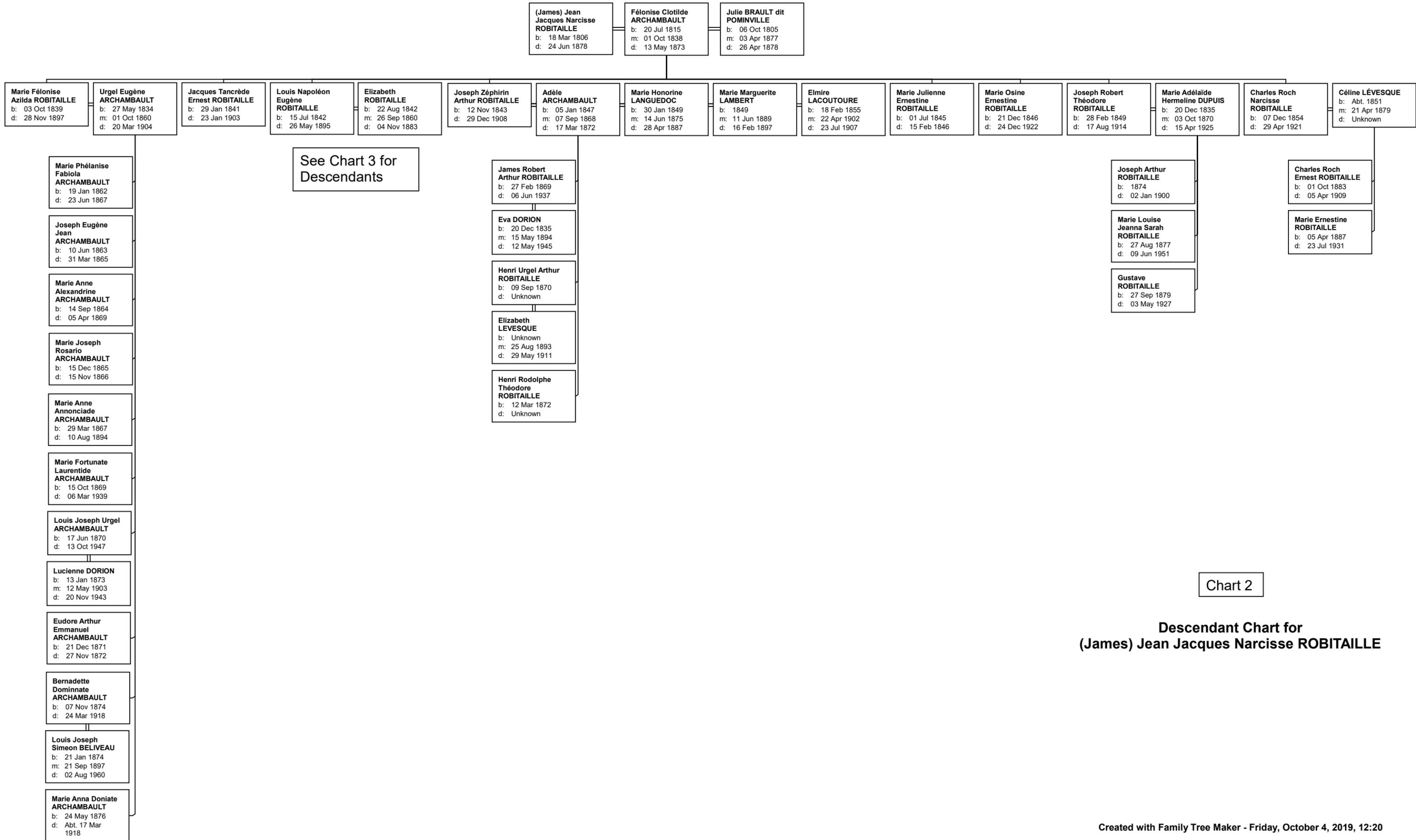


Chart 2

**Descendant Chart for
(James) Jean Jacques Narcisse ROBITAILE**

Chart 3 - Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille

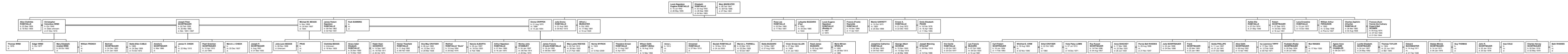


Chart 3

Appendix IV. Cemetery Appendix

Sources:

Index of Known Burials in Huron Indian Cemetery (in Kansas City, KS)
Compiled March 1979 and September – January 1990
Kansas State Historical Society

Cemeteries of Southern Ottawa County, by Delaware County Cemetery Readers
Published by Stauber Books, Grove, Oklahoma

Ottawa Indian Cemetery Ottawa County, Oklahoma 1870-1995,
Compiled by Gerald L. Housman, Bartelsville, Oklahoma
Published by Cock-A-Hoop Publishing
1927 S. Boston, #207
Tulsa, Oklahoma

All photographs were taken by Paul Robitaille in 2014 and 2017.

Note: The descendants of Robert Grant Robitaille, Jean Jacques Narcisse Robitaille, Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille and Robert Wilfred Robitaille are identified by the following codes in this appendix respectively: RGR, JJNR, LENR, and RWR. These are the same codes used in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this paper. The descendants are numbered in the order they are born. For example, RGR-1, Robert Wilfred Robitaille is the first born of Robert Grant Robitaille's family. Some descendants moved away and could not be found in the cemeteries of Kansas and Oklahoma.

Cimetière des Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie
Chambly Road
Longueuil, Québec

Description: This cemetery is co-shared with the Cimetière of Cathédrale St-Antoine-de-Padoue.



S. MARIE – LADISLAS **1846 – 1922**
(ERNESTINE ROBITAILLE)

This monument covers burials of the Sisters of the Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie (Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary) who died between 1921 – 1924. The gravesite for the order is in Section Z of the Cimetière of Cathédrale St-Antoine-de-Padoue. Sister Marie Ladislas, Ernestine Robitaille's name and the dates 1846 – 1922 are in the 2nd column.

**Cimetière Notre-Dame-des-Neiges
4601, chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges
Montréal, Québec**



Description: Located on the south face of Mount Royal, it was founded in 1854. Consisting of 343 acres, and over a million people buried, it is the largest cemetery in Canada. It originally served Roman Catholics and rural French Canadians. Today is it open to all faiths.

Notre-Dame-des-Neiges is the burial place for the Parish of Notre-Dame-de-Montréal.

Several family groups of the Wyandotte Robitaille's are buried in this cemetery. The descriptions below provide the names of the interred; the section of the cemetery where their graves are; the concession number (a term used by the cemetery to describe the plots that were purchased); and the dates of their burials.

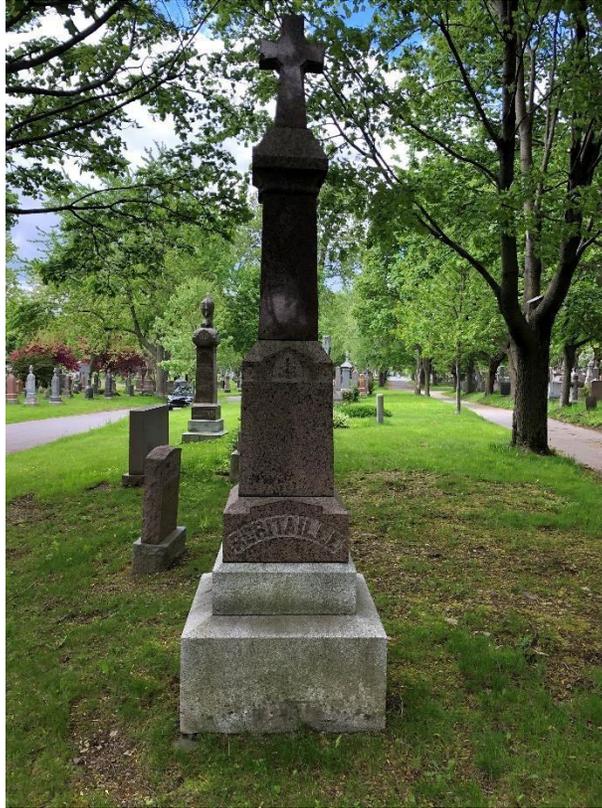


**Section O – concession 00091
Urgel Eugène Archambault’s Family Plot
Cimetière Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Photo Credit – Author’s collection**

Burials at this location are as follows:

28 November 1872	Eudore Arthur Emmanuel Archambault	Son of Azilda & Urgel Eugène
13 August 1894	Marie Anne Annonciade Archambault	Daughter of Azilda & Urgel Eugène
02 December 1897	Marie Félonise Azilda Robitaille	Wife of Urgel Eugène Archambault
03 March 1899	Cécile Bernard Béliveau	Son of Bernadette Dominate & Louis Joseph Siméon Béliveau
23 March 1904	Urgel Eugène Archambault	Husband of Azilda Robitaille
19 March 1918	Dominate Archambault	Daughter of Azilda and Urgel Eugène
27 March 1918	Bernadette Archambault	Daughter of Azilda and Urgel Eugène
28 April 1924	Fabiola Alexandrine Archambault	Daughter of Azilda and Urgel Eugène
22 November 1943	Lucienne Dorion	Wife of Louis Joseph Urgel Archambault
15 October 1947	Urgel Archambault	Son of Azilda & Urgel Eugène; husband of Lucienne Dorion
23 February 1984	Charles Oudry	Husband of Alice Beliveau
16 October 1985	Marie Yvonne Oudry	Believed to be the child of Alice Beliveau and Charles Oudry
12 June 1998	Alice Béliveau	Daughter of Bernadette Dominate Archambault and Louis Joseph Siméon Béliveau

There are no monuments on this concession today, but in our discussions with the staff at the cemetery, they said this concession was one of the most desired sections of the cemetery.



**Section N - concession 00584
Joseph Zéphirin Arthur Robitaille's Family Plot
Cimetière Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Photo Credit – Author's collection**

Burials at this location are as follows:

26 June 1878	Justine Perrault	Relationship unknown
30 April 1887	Marie Honorine Languedoc	2 nd wife of Joseph Zéphirin Arthur Robitaille
21 May 1892	Marie Ernestine Bohémier	Daughter of Wilfrid Bohémier & Marguerite Lambert
18 February 1897	Marie Marguerite Lambert	3 rd wife of Joseph Zéphirin Arthur Robitaille
31 December 1908	Joseph Zéphirin Arthur Robitaille	Son of Dr. J.J.N. Robitaille; husband of Adèle Archambault, his 1 st wife
08 June 1937	James Robert Arthur Robitaille	Son of Joseph Zéphirin Arthur Robitaille & Adèle Archambault; husband of Eva Dorion
14 May 1945	Eva Dorion	Wife of James Robert Arthur Robitaille
15 September 1961	Camille Lajoie	Daughter of Marie Marguerite Jeanne Robitaille & Paul Georges Lajoie
16 August 1969	Marie Marguerite Jeanne Robitaille	Daughter of James Robert Arthur Robitaille & Eva Dorion; wife of Paul Georges Lajoie
11 June 1973	Pierre Lajoie	Son of Marie Marguerite Jeanne Robitaille & Paul Georges Lajoie

Section B - concession 00909
Joseph Robert Théodore Robitaille's Family Plot
Cimetière Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Burials at this location are as follows:

01 January 1900	Joseph Arthur Robitaille	Son of Joseph Robert Théodore Robitaille & Marie Adélaïde Hermeline Dupuis
19 August 1914	Joseph Robert Théodore Robitaille	Son of Joseph Zéphirin Arthur Robitaille & husband of Marie Adélaïde Hermeline Dupuis
18 April 1925	Marie Adélaïde Hermeline Dupuis	Wife of Joseph Robert Théodore Robitaille
05 May 1927	Gustave Robitaille	Son of Joseph Robert Théodore Robitaille & Marie Adélaïde Hermeline Dupuis
12 June 1951	Marie Marguerite Louise Jeanne Robitaille	Daughter of Joseph Robert Théodore Robitaille & Adélaïde Hermeline Dupuis; wife of Paul Georges Lajoie

Cemetery Burials
Huron Cemetery, Kansas City, Kansas

Julie Bernard Robitaille and James Robitaille are known to have been buried in this cemetery. The names that follow lived near the original Wyandot Settlement in Indian Territory and are assumed to have been buried in this cemetery, but no record has been found to date to substantiate this.

Julie Bernard – Wife of Robert Grant Robitaille
Born: 4 March 1812 - St-Luc, Québec, Canada
Died: 8 March 1849 - Indian Territory

(RGR-2) Rosalie Robitaille – Wife of Herman Swartz
Born: 1840 - Upper Sandusky, Ohio
Died: 1887 - Wyandotte County Kansas

Franklin H. Swartz – Son of Herman and Rosalie Swartz
Born: 1863
Died: 14 November 1878

Alexander Swartz – Son of Herman and Rosalie Swartz
Born: 1866
Died: 1868

Alfred Swartz – Son of Herman and Rosalie Swartz
Born: 1869
Died: Before 1877

(RGR-4) James Robitaille - Son of Robert Grant Robitaille and Julie Bernard
Born: 10 December 1845 - Indian Territory
Died: 15 January 1859 - Indian Territory

Cemetery Burials
Bland Cemetery, Ottawa County, Oklahoma

Entry gate – Gate is not locked but be careful of the electric fence wires.

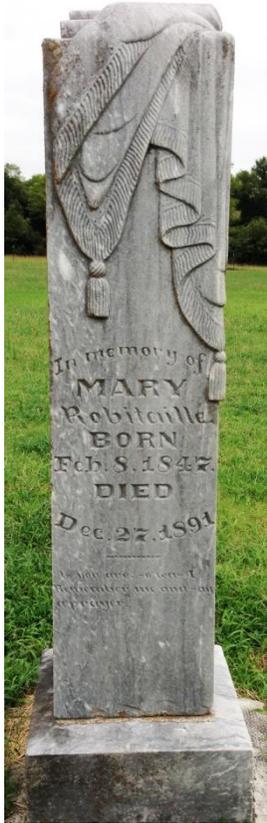
Location: Sect 18 Twp 27 R24. From Highway 137 at north end of Twin Bridges State Park, take S625 Road north .5 mile; then east .5 mile on E140 Road; then north .5 mile on S630 Road. The cemetery is west of the road a short distance across a field.



**(RGR-5) Robitaille, Mary Ann
& Hicks, Blanche Y.**
Wife and daughter of Henry Hicks



Hicks, Henry and William O.
Sons of Mary Ann Robitaille and Henry Hicks



Mudeater, Mary
Married W. S. Armstrong and, following his death,
Louis Eugene Napoleon Robitaille

Cemetery Burials
Ottawa Cemetery, Ottawa County Oklahoma

Location: NW Corner of Section 1, T-27-N, R-23-E, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. About 5 miles east of Miami, one quarter mile south, one quarter mile east, and on one quarter mile south.



Wind, Catherine
second wife of Robert Wilfred Robitaille



Wyrick, George
Husband of Lula Robitaille



(RWR-4) Robitaille, Lula
Wife of George Wyrick

Others, without marked graves, but known to be buried at the Ottawa Cemetery:

(RGR-1) Robert Wilfred Robitaille – Son of Robert Grant Robitaille and Julie Bernard

Born: 12 March 1838

Died: February 1878

(RWR-3) Oscar Robitaille – Son of Robert Wilfred Robitaille and Catherine Wind

Born: 16 January 1876

Died: 9 May 1927

Others who may be buried in the Ottawa Cemetery:

(RWR-2) Julia Robitaille – Daughter of Robert Wilfred Robitaille and Catherine Wind

Born: 1873

Died: About 1879

Wyandotte Indian Cemetery, Wyandotte, Ottawa County, Oklahoma

Location: Section 21, TWP 27 R24 of Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

The cemetery is on the west side of the Wyandotte Nation's Offices on Highway 60 in Wyandotte, Oklahoma.



The following people are known to be buried in the Wyandotte Cemetery:



(LENR-1) Robitaille, Alice Clotilda
Married thrice



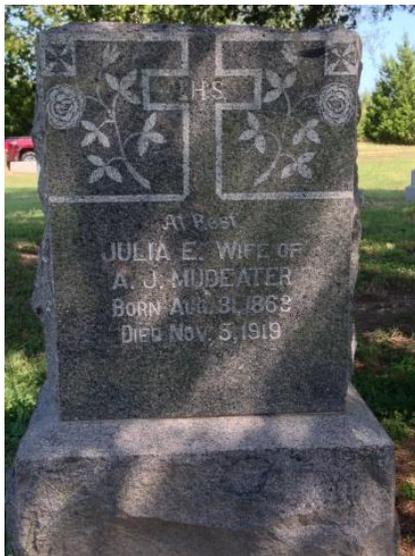
Beggs, Michael M.
Third husband of Alice C. Robitaille



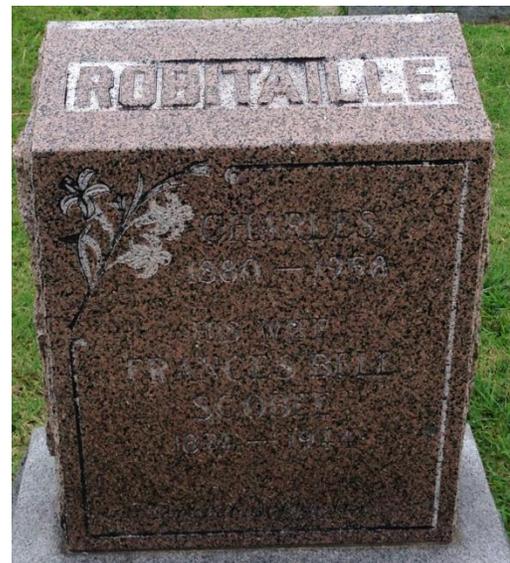
Schiffbauer, Lucille E.
Daughter of Azilda Robitaille and Robert Schiffbauer
Wife of Edward Buckmaster



(LENR-4) Robitaille, Rosa
Wife of Lafayette Buzzard



(LENR-3) Robitaille, Julia Emma
According to his obituary, her husband, Alfred Mudeater, is also buried in the Wyandotte Cemetery but there is no known marker.



(LENR-10) Robitaille, Charles
Husband of Frances Bell Scobee



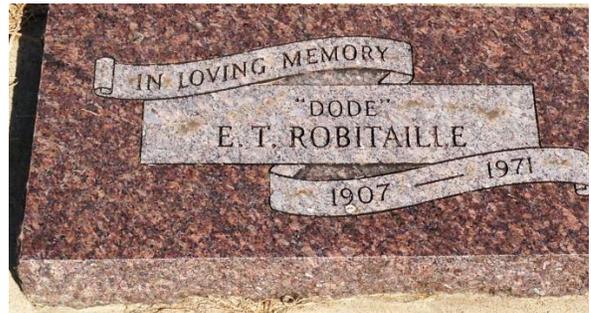
(RGR-3) Robitaille, Elizabeth
Wife of Louis Napoléon Eugène Robitaille



Crippen, Emma
Wife of James Robert Robitaille



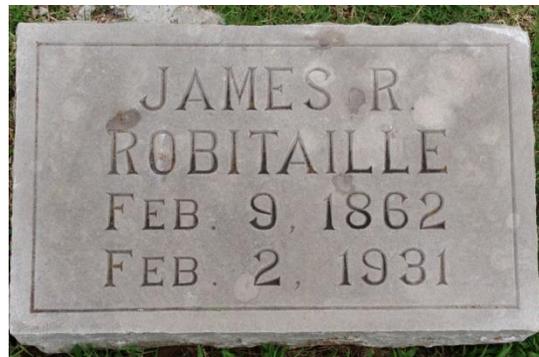
(LENR-7) Robitaille, Ernest A.
Husband of Emily Peake



Robitaille, Ernest T.
Son of James R. Robitaille & Emma Crippen



(LENR-6) Robitaille, Frank Reynolds
Husband of Mamie Garrett



(LENR- 2) Robitaille, James Robert
Husband of Emma Crippen



Robitaille, James Francis
Son of James Robert Robitaille



(LENR-9) Robitaille, Lena Ernestine
Wife of William Ferguson



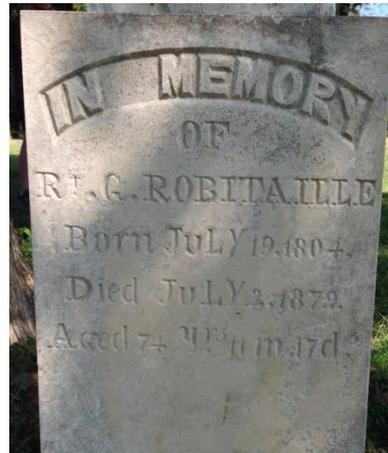
(JJNR-3) Robitaille, Louis Eugene Napoleon
Husband of Elizabeth Robitaille



Robitaille, Mamie
Wife of Frank R. Robitaille



Alburta, Nancy
Wife of Wolford Robitaille



(RGR) Robitaille, Robert Grant
Son of James Robitaille & Elizabeth Zane



Zane, Susannah
Second wife of Robert Wilfred Robitaille



Landry, Wilson Edith
Wife of Theodore Ernest Robitaille



Robitaille, Wolford
Son of James Robert Robitaille
Husband of Nancie Alburta



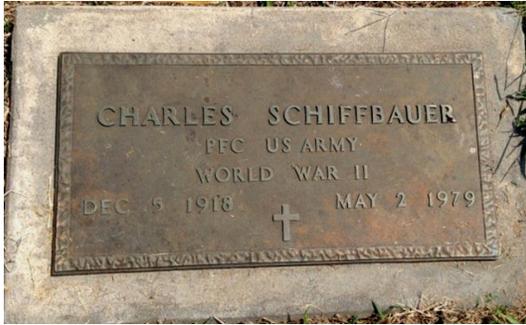
Williams Chandler, Agnes Irene
Wife of Rudolph (Rody) Schiffbauer



Shackey, Anna
Wife of Roy Schiffbauer



(LENR-8) Robitaille, Azilda Ella
Wife of Robert Schiffbauer



Schiffbauer, Charles
Son of Robert Schiffbauer & Azilda Robitaille



Schiffbauer, Cyril
Son of Robert Schiffbauer & Azilda Robitaille



Schiffbauer, Frank
Son of Robert Schiffbauer & Azilda Robitaille



Schiffbauer, Gladys M.
Daughter of R. Schiffbauer & Azilda Robitaille



Phillips, Golda
Wife of Frank Schiffbauer



Whitecrow, Jane
First wife of Joseph P. Schiffbauer



Schiffbauer, John R.
 Son of Azilda Robitaille & Robert Schiffbauer



Schiffbauer, Joseph P.
 Son of Alice C. Robitaille & Jos. P. Schiffbauer



Schiffbauer, Julia
 Daughter of Azilda Robitaille & Robert Schiffbauer



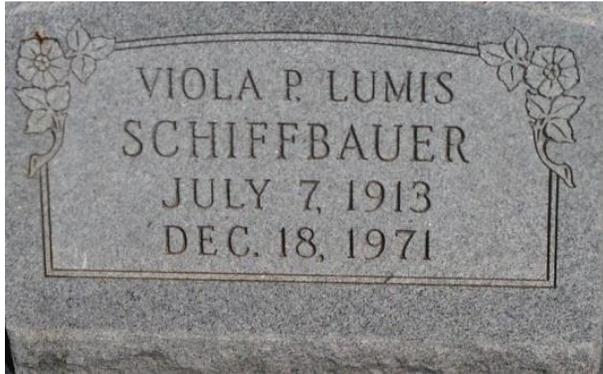
Schiffbauer, Robert
 Husband of Azilda Ella Robitaille



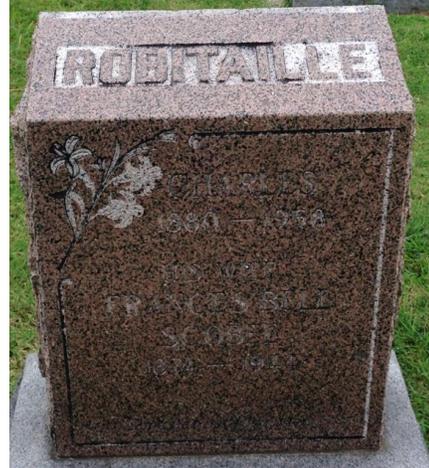
Schiffbauer, Rody
 Son of Azilda Robitaille & Robert Schiffbauer



Schiffbauer, Roy R.
 Son of Azilda Robitaille & Robert Schiffbauer



Lumis, Viola Patsy
Wife of Cyril Schiffbauer



Scobie, Frances Bell
Wife of Charles Robitaille



Schiffbauer, Alice E.
Daughter of Azilda Robitaille & Robert Schiffbauer
Wife of Ivy Tippit



Tippit, Ivy L.
Husband of Alice Schiffbauer

Endnotes

-
- ¹ “*An Encyclopedia of World History, Ancient, Medieval and Modern, Chronologically Arranged*”, Compiled and edited by William L. Langer, Revised Edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1940, page 516
- ² Ibid, page 522
- ³ Ibid, page 766
- ⁴ Ibid, page 766
- ⁵ *Memoirs of the Miami Valley*, Volume One, pages 3 & 4.
- ⁶ Herman Marmon’s “Scrapbook”, copy provided by Sloan Library, Zanesfield, Ohio.
- ⁷ Logan County Ohio Sesquicentennial Booklet, research and contents credited to Herman C. MARMON, Historian, 900 North Main Street, Bellefontaine, Ohio, Copyright 1970.
- ⁸ Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers:
<http://find.galegroup.com/ncnp/newspaperRetrieve.do?qrySerId=Locale%28en2C%2C%3AFQE%3D%28tx%2CNone%2C10%29Robitaille%24&retrieve>
- ⁹ Bill and payment from Meldrum & Park Merchants, to Peter Audrain Esquire, 20 July 1790. Cover sheet and invoice noting amount received by Peter Audrain Esq. Reproduced from the original in the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.
- ¹⁰ *Historical Review of Logan County* – page 37.
- ¹¹ Author’s photograph, see Cemetery Appendix, page 131
- ¹² “*History of Zanesfield*” by O.K. Reams, page 12, reprinted 1976; “Historical Review of Logan County” by Robert Peterson Kennedy, page 44, printed 1903.
- ¹³ *Historical Review of Logan County*, by Robert Petterson Kennedy, printed 1903, page 44.
- ¹⁴ Belleville Cemetery location description, Observers Column, Belleville Weekly Examiner, Friday, 12 May 1911; and a second, a map from the Belleville Public Works Department showing the location of Belleville Cemetery. Map is dated May 7, 1945.
- ¹⁵ “*Ohio Marriage Records Through 1820*”, page 878, The Ohio Genealogical Society.
- ¹⁶ *Memoirs of the Miami Valley* – Volume One, page 4.
- ¹⁷ Wiki Tree- Elizabeth Reed, formerly Zane Robitaille
- ¹⁸ Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division.
- ¹⁹ See endnote 1, pages 792 and 793.
- ²⁰ Typewritten three-page document titled Robert Robitaille in the Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division.
- ²¹ Maritime History of the Great Lakes; online document, see:
<http://www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca/documents/hgl/default.asp?ID=c014>.
- ²² *Le Collège de Montréal 1767-1967*, deuxième édition, Montréal, 1967, page 221.
- ²³ PRDH record #3536903, Mariage, Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal) 1836 -10 – 26.
- ²⁴ <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/rebellions-of-1837/>.
- ²⁵ <http://heritage.canadiana.ca/?usrlang=en>, microfilm reels H1734 and C3947.
- ²⁶ Institute Drouin Record d1p_11790612.jpg Baptism, Notre Dame de Montréal, Québec.
- ²⁷ Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ), PISTARD Cote : E17, S37, D2805 Déposition de Robert Robitaille, de Saint Édouard, contre Pierre-Remi Narbonne. -20 Décembre 1838.
- ²⁸ “Strange Steamboat Walk-in-the-Water” see the following URL:
<http://perdurabo10.tripod.com/ships/id126.html>.
- ²⁹ *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*, (BRH) Vol 8, #7, Juillet 1902, pg 201 « Licenciés des Bureaux Médicaux du Canada-Est de 1788 à 1848 », page 201, Éditeurs Propriétaire, Rue Wolfe, Lévis, Québec.

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- ³⁰ “*The Geographical Origins and Destinations of Medical Graduates in Québec, 1834-1939*”; *Histoire Social*, Vol. XIX, No 37, (May 1986): 93-119.
- ³¹ Library and Archives Canada, <http://heritage.canadiana.ca/?uslang=en>. Microfilm reels H1734 and C-3947.
- ³² Institute Drouin Record d1p_011309676.jpg.
- ³³ “*The Canada Directory*” by Robert W.E. Mackay, printed and published by John Lovell, St. Nicolas Street, Montréal. 1851, page B. Available on the internet at: <https://archive.org/stream/canadadirectoryc00montuoft#page/n11/mode/2up>
- ³⁴ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01131370.jpg
- ³⁵ Personal correspondence with Laurier Dugas, Secrétaire, Société d’histoire de St-Roch-de-L’Achigan, Québec, Canada in October of 2015.
- ³⁶ Personal correspondence with Lise Gauthier, Société d’histoire de St-Roch-de-L’Achigan, Québec, Canada in December 2017.
- ³⁷ “A Visit From One of the Old Citizens of Logan County”, article in *The Bellefontaine Republican*, Friday 10 November 1876.
- ³⁸ Institute Drouin Record d1p_1119b1107.
- ³⁹ Quebec, Vital and Church records (Drouin Collection) 1621-1967, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=drouinvitals&h=4706082>
- ⁴⁰ Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=drouinvitals&h=4999814>
- ⁴¹ Institute Drouin Record <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=drouinvitals&h=7289647>.
- ⁴² Institute Drouin Record d1_p01130967.
- ⁴³ https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urgel-Eug%C3%A8ne_Archambault
- ⁴⁴ Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Archambault, Urgel-Eugène; online document, see: http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/archambeault_urgel_eugene_13E.html
- ⁴⁵ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130156.
- ⁴⁶ Les membres du 22^e Cours (1854-1861), L’Association des anciens et anciennes du Collège de l’Assomption, Mars 2014, page 16.
- ⁴⁷ Censes of Canada 1861 and 1871, Québec, District 100, l’Assomption, St. Roch, l’Achigan.
- ⁴⁸ www.quebecgenweb.com/~qcmtil-w/photographers.htm
- ⁴⁹ Ancestry.com. U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s, page 8 (database online). Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc. 2010
- ⁵⁰ Ancestry.com U.S and Canada, California State Hospital records, 1856-1923.
- ⁵¹ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130218.
- ⁵² Les membres du 22^e Cours (1854-1861), L’Association des anciens et anciennes du Collège de l’Assomption, Mars 2014, page 14.
- ⁵³ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130285.
- ⁵⁴ See endnote 52.
- ⁵⁵ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01080701.
- ⁵⁶ Institute Drouin Records d13p_11840930; d13p_11850021; and d13_11850625 respectively.
- ⁵⁷ Institute Drouin Record d13_11970659.
- ⁵⁸ Institute Drouin Record d1p_10481304.
- ⁵⁹ 1881 Census of Canada, Québec, District 90 Montréal City, Sub-District, Montréal East, Sub-Division St. Louis.
- ⁶⁰ Institute Drouin Record d13p_1103a305.
- ⁶¹ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01210518.

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- ⁶² 1891 Census of Canada, Québec, District 172 Montréal East, Sub-District 10, page 31.
- ⁶³ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01081540.
- ⁶⁴ 1901 Census of Canada, Québec, District 176 Montréal, Sub-District B-66, St. Jacques Quarter
- ⁶⁵ Institute Drouin Record d13p_1109a450.
- ⁶⁶ Institute Drouin Record d13p_11940223.
- ⁶⁷ Institute Drouin Record d13_20441486.
- ⁶⁸ Institute Drouin Record d13p_1121a1248.
- ⁶⁹ Institute Drouin Record d13p_1138a0137.
- ⁷⁰ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130365.
- ⁷¹ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130397.
- ⁷² Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130429.
- ⁷³ 1871 Census of Canada, Québec, District 176 Montréal, Sub-District B-66, St. Jacques Quarter
- ⁷⁴ Author's personal correspondence with Geneviève Noël, Archivist, Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie, 80 rue Saint-Charles Est, Longueuil, (Quebec) J4H 1A9.
- ⁷⁵ Institute Drouin Record d1p_1170c1151.
- ⁷⁶ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130533.
- ⁷⁷ Les membres du 32^e cours. L'Association des anciens et anciennes du Collège de l'Assomption.
- ⁷⁸ Institute Drouin Record d13_01241195.
- ⁷⁹ Institute Drouin Record d13_11920947.
- ⁸⁰ 1871 Census of Canada, Québec, District 105, Montréal East, Division 02, St. Louis Ward.
- ⁸¹ Institute Drouin Record d13p_01251224.
- ⁸² Institute Drouin Record d1p_1111a0216.
- ⁸³ Institute Drouin Record d13p_1121a1248.
- ⁸⁴ 1921 Census of Canada, Québec, Georges-Étienne Cartier District, No. 166, St. Louis Ward, Montréal.
- ⁸⁵ Institute Drouin Record d1p_01130783.
- ⁸⁶ 1871 Census of Canada, Québec, District l'Assomption, Sub-District St-Roch-de-l'Achigan.
- ⁸⁷ Institute Drouin Record d1p_11930247.
- ⁸⁸ Institute Drouin Record d13p_18531010.
- ⁸⁹ Institute Drouin Record d13p_18531057.
- ⁹⁰ 1891 Census of Canada, Québec, District 172, Montréal – East, District 48-(g), St. Louis page 1.
- ⁹¹ 1901 Census of Canada, Québec, District 176, Montréal, Sub-District Montréal City, St-Jacques Ward, Sub-District B-5.
- ⁹² Institute Drouin Record d13p_1117a0667.
- ⁹³ Institute Drouin Record d13p_1127A0870.
- ⁹⁴ Institute Drouin Record d13p_1134a1303.
- ⁹⁵ Robert Grant testified in Montréal in December of 1838 and by 17 March of 1842 had already had a parcel of land in Mifflin Township, Wyandot County, Ohio.
- ⁹⁶ "A Book of Diagrams and Index of Indian Landholders on the Wyandot Reservation, Wyandot County, Ohio at the Time of Cession", by Lonny L. Honsberger, 429 East Church Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351, 1989

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- ⁹⁷ Robitaille, Lena, Interview 7707, recorded by Nannie Lee BURNS, WPA Field Worker, 30 September 1937, page 5.
- ⁹⁸ Treaty of 1842, Treaty with the Wyandot: <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/culture/treaties/treaty-of-1842/>
- ⁹⁹ "Moccasin Trails to the Cross" – A History of Mission to the Wyandot Indians on the Sandusky Plains" by Thelma R. Marsh, Authorized by the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio, May 1974. Pages 120 & 122.
- ¹⁰⁰ A Brief History of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas presented by Darren Zane English, Cultural Coordinator. Presented at The Reardon Center, Kansas City, Kansas, 9 March 1995.
- ¹⁰¹ Lucy B. Armstrong's Account of Travel from St. Louis to Kansas on the Missouri on the Riverboat Nodaway; <https://www.wyandot.org/lucyriv.htm>.
- ¹⁰² "The Migration of the Wyandots to Kansas" by Mrs. Lucy B. Armstrong.
- ¹⁰³ Ibid
- ¹⁰⁴ Ibid
- ¹⁰⁵ Journal of William Walker, Provisional Governor of Nebraska Territory.
- ¹⁰⁶ Ibid
- ¹⁰⁷ Index of Known Burials in the Huron Indian Cemetery, Compiled March 1979, September 1989 – January 1990. Kansas State Historical Society, K929.3-W97 cemetery.
- ¹⁰⁸ "Statement Number 1 from the Shawnee Indian Manual-Labor School in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for the current year ending September 1851". "Methodist Missions Among the Indians in Kansas", pages 187-189.
- ¹⁰⁹ Ancestry.com, *Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1831-1971*. (online database), Provo, Utah, U.S.A.: Ancestry.com Operations, INC, 2010.
- ¹¹⁰ Lena Robitaille correspondence with Mr. Connelley, Secretary Kansas Historical Society
- ¹¹¹ Robitaille, Lena, Interview 7707, recorded by WPA Field Worker Nannie Lee Burns, 30 September 1937, pages 6&7.
- ¹¹² The NEEAC is explained in more detail at the following website:
<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/new-england-emigrant-aid-company-sign/10231>
- ¹¹³ The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Volume III, 1933, page 254.
- ¹¹⁴ List of Members of Families arranged under their Heads and Persons without Families of the Competent Class; an enclosure of a letter dated 22 February 1859, from the Wyandot Commissioners in Wyandot City Kansas to the U.S. Government Indian Agent.
- ¹¹⁵ The Kansas Herald of Freedom, Wakarusa, Kansas, 26 February 1859, Issue 30.
- ¹¹⁶ Kansas Historical Society, Miscellaneous Papers, Volume IX. "The Railroad Convention of 1860" pages 467-469.
- ¹¹⁷ U.S. Civil War Soldiers & Sailors, 1861-1865, National Park Service (online database) <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss>, page e13, entry number 126.
- ¹¹⁸ Find A Grave memorial 21916633, Catherine Wind Jennison. www.findagrave.com
- ¹¹⁹ Walter JENNISON testimony for a land allotment.
- ¹²⁰ "The Neosho Daily News", Neosho, Missouri, Tuesday 10 May 1927, page 1.
- ¹²¹ *40 Years among the Indians: A Descriptive History of the Long and Busy Life of Jeremiah Hubbard*; page 130, printed and bound by The Phelps Printers, Miami, Oklahoma 1913.
- ¹²² Wyrick, Lula, Interview 6790, 20 July 1937, recorded by Nannie Lee Burns. WPA Field Worker, pages 83 & 84.
- ¹²³ 17th Kansas Infantry Company A muster roll, page 13, entry number 126.
- ¹²⁴ Marriage certificate, State of Missouri, County of Jackson dated 26 September 1860
- ¹²⁵ Zane, Leander, Interview 12146, 16 November 1937; and Interview 7707, Lena Robitaille (Second Interview); September 1938.

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- ¹²⁶ Indian Territory was the name used for “Oklahoma” which first became Oklahoma Territory on 2 May 1890, and later on 16 November 1907 become a state.
- ¹²⁷ Robitaille, Lena, Interview 7707, recorded by WPA Field Worker Nannie Lee Burns, 30 September 1937, pages 12 and 13.
- ¹²⁸ Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- ¹²⁹ Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- ¹³⁰ 1900 Federal Census, providing enumeration of family members: <http://us-census.org/pub/usgenweb/census/ok/indian-terr/1900/reservations/ed003-pg163a.txt> and Wyandotte Indian Cemetery headstone.
- ¹³¹ Wyrick, Lula, Interview 6790, recorded by WPA Field Worker Nannie Lee Burns, 20 July 1937.
- ¹³² The source is a cryptic entry on the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery List. The child is possibly an infant who died shortly after childbirth on 18 November 1909. The entry states it is the daughter of a Robitaille, which of course was Alice’s maiden name. Alice died two days earlier on 16 November 1909.
- ¹³³ Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- ¹³⁴ Quawpaw Police Records, a microfilm record, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library.
- ¹³⁵ Estimated date. The couple is listed as living together in the 1893 Indian Census Report with two children; Grace, age 4 and Robert, age 2.
- ¹³⁶ Student records of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Oklahoma, for Wolfred, and Arthur Napoleon.
- ¹³⁷ *History of Wyandotte Oklahoma*, Compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard, Second printing for the Wyandotte Nation, Gregath Company Incorporated, page 6.
- ¹³⁸ Miami Record-Herald Newspaper (Miami, Oklahoma) Friday, 17 October 1902, page 4.
- ¹³⁹ Memorial number 12136154, James Robert Napoleon Robitaille. <https://www.findagrave.com>
- ¹⁴⁰ Joplin Globe (Joplin, Missouri) Friday 15 January 1954, page 9. “Wyandotte Woman Dies in Hospital at Miami”.
- ¹⁴¹ The Wyandotte Herald, Kansas City, Thursday 9 June 1881, page 3.
- ¹⁴² Find a Grave Memorial 49342455, Julia Emma Robitaille Mudeater.
- ¹⁴³ Newton County, Missouri Marriage License issued 4 December 1885. The marriage was held the same day in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri.
- ¹⁴⁴ Find a Grave.com, Memorial number 141734678.
- ¹⁴⁵ Find a Grave.com, Memorial number 36504038.
- ¹⁴⁶ Cemeteries of Southern Ottawa County, Oklahoma.
- ¹⁴⁷ Phoenix Indian School – The Native American, Volume 10; pages 87, 223, and 270.
- ¹⁴⁸ Miami Daily News-Record, Miami Oklahoma, Friday December 17, 1937 page 9.
- ¹⁴⁹ Lane Memorial Home Records, Miami Oklahoma; also Find A Grave Memorial #14821265.
- ¹⁵⁰ Carlisle Indian School Records, available on line at the following URL: http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/sites/all/files/docs-ephemera/NARA_1327_b042_f2068.pdf
- ¹⁵¹ Penn State Law Review, Volume 9.
- ¹⁵² Record of Application for Marriage License # 244.12, dated 19 March 1900, Cumberland Pennsylvania, page 244.
- ¹⁵³ “Trouble over Her Allotment” article in The Morning Tulsa Daily Word (Tulsa Oklahoma), Saturday 18 August 1906, page 1.
- ¹⁵⁴ 1910 Federal Census, Emily Robitaille, which shows an address of West 14th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota and a marital status of married for 10 years.

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- ¹⁵⁵ Carlisle Institute Report After Leaving Carlisle – Emily Peake / Mrs. Ernest Robitaille. 1909 Entry states she left her husband.
- ¹⁵⁶ Lena Robitaille Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. – Typewritten letter dated 10 October 1932, on his Law Office letterhead stationery from Ernest Robitaille to his brother (Frank) and sister (Lena).
- ¹⁵⁷ Miami Daily News-Record, (Miami, Oklahoma), Friday 29 December 1933, page 2. Ernest Robitaille Obituary.
- ¹⁵⁸ Ibid, page 544 and 545.
- ¹⁵⁹ *History of Wyandotte, Oklahoma*, compiled by Nadine Grant and Della Vineyard. second printing, Gregath Company Incorporated. Pages 1-4.
- ¹⁶⁰ *The History of Wyandotte Oklahoma*, by Velma NIEBERDING, published 1983 and reprinted in 1989, page 218.
- ¹⁶¹ Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma), Wednesday 22 May 1946, page 1.
- ¹⁶² Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma).
- ¹⁶³ Lena Robitaille Interview 7707, recorded by WPA Field Worker, Nannie Lee Burns, 30 September 1937.
- ¹⁶⁴ Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma 14 October 1955, page 1.
- ¹⁶⁵ Federal Register Volume 24, Number 38, 25 February 1959, “Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma Notice of Final Membership Roll”, page 1391.
- ¹⁶⁶ Haskell Indian Institute, Lawrence Kansas student records for Charles Robitaille.
- ¹⁶⁷ Marriage License, issued at Miami, Indian Territory, Northern District, Charles Robitaille and Fannie Carnes; marriage officiated by J. Edward Hurtonok, Minister of the Gospel, 8 October 1905.
- ¹⁶⁸ Miami Daily News – Record (Miami, Oklahoma) – Sunday, 3 March 1957, page 1.
50 – Year Club: Postal Impressions by Velma NIEBERDING.
- ¹⁶⁹ Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma) – Monday, 23 October 1944, page 1.
- ¹⁷⁰ Miami Daily News-Record (Miami, Oklahoma) – Sunday, 3 August 1958, page 1.
- ¹⁷¹ Institute Drouin Record d1p_33481292.jpg.
- ¹⁷² Institute Drouin Record d1p_33481163.jpg.
- ¹⁷³ *The Québec Almanac* for the years: 1814, 1816, 1817, 1818, (separate printings). Printed and sold by J. Neilson, No. 3 Mountain Street, Québec.
- ¹⁷⁴ Institute Drouin Sépulture – Marievalle, Robitaille, Fr. Pierre, Acte Fonds Drouin d1p_03541307.jpg.
- ¹⁷⁵ BAnQ, Final Inventory of Pierre Robitaille, Prêtre.
- ¹⁷⁶ « Site de la Tannerie Robitaille – Gauvreau 1999 » par Serge Rouleau, Centre de Développement Économique et Urbain, Division Design et Patrimoine, pages 4-11.
- ¹⁷⁷ PRDH Family Record # 34189, Pierre Robitaille and Marie Geneviève Parent.
- ¹⁷⁸ PRDH Marriage Record #212945, Pierre Bruneau and Marie Anne Robitaille.
- ¹⁷⁹ *Les Patriotes de 1837-38*, Aegidius FAUTEUX, Les Éditions des Dix, Montréal, page 112.
- ¹⁸⁰ «Les Robitailleries» Bulletin de l'Association des familles Robitaille inc. Issues 75-79.
- ¹⁸¹ “Michigan’s Habitant Heritage”, the Journal of the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan, Volume 35, numbers 2 & 3.
- ¹⁸² PRDH Couple Record 34189.
- ¹⁸³ Exploring the Fur Trade Routes of North America, Barbara Huck et al, published by Heartland, Winnipeg, Canada, 2002. Page 23.