

# La Lignée Saindon

North American Association of Saindons

Volume 24, Number 4

December 2018



## English Summary

### Important notice to our English speaking members - Reminder

As in previous issues, you will note that some articles of the newsletter are now available in English. In addition, as the website is fully translated in English and some articles of the newsletter are published on the site also, this might influence the size and content of this summary. So as you will see further, you might find references to the website without a summary of the article.

Your comments are always welcome and also your English articles for the newsletter

### Le bulletin en bref / Summary of the newsletter (p. 3)

André Sindon reminds us we have finally completed the long road that started with Laurent Saindon's research around 1975 and that led us to the unveiling of the commemorative plaque in 2018.

The unveiling was a great success thanks to the financial support of the members of the Association, the many participants who travelled to Bains, the invaluable collaboration of the Genealogical Society of Oust and Vilaine, the involvement of the municipality of Bains and the perseverance of the organizing committee to bring this project to fruition.

This special edition of the Bulletin provides not only a description of how the event unfolded but also highlights the role of some of the key personalities in its achievement. Additional articles from the participants and the hosts will appear in future editions of the Bulletin.

In addition to the unveiling, the "cousinades" organized by the Genealogical Society, provided an occasion for the Quebec delegation to meet and mix with the Saindon descendants of Bains.

The bonds established by both the participants and

hosts was such that they are already planning to see each other again on future trips either to Quebec or Brittany.

### Le mot du conseil d'administration/From the Board of Directors (p. 5)

This article by our President Claude Saindon is provided in English in the Bulletin.

### Bains..... 2018 / Bains-sur-Oust, Sep 2018 (p.6)

The full English translation of this article by André Sindon is provided here:

#### Something we will remember for a long time

Everything took place as planned and even better thanks to the warm welcome we received. The participants and hosts will remember this unique experience that unfolded in a perfect and harmonious fashion for a long time.

"You must be nervous" one of the participants asked me when we arrived. "Not at all" I answered, as I trusted the relationship we had established with the local organizer, Ginette Fontan and I knew the participants well, responsible individuals, most of whom were comfortable travelling and who had already established contact with their hosts prior to arriving.

#### Welcoming Reception

The Friday afternoon each of the participants arrived at their host's residence and then together they went to the Auberge La Morinais where the Genealogical Society of Oust and Vilaine (CGOV) offered a delicious Breton style supper.

At this event we presented Ginette Fontan with her card as an Honorary member of the Association, a laminated crest to the CGOV and an Association

pin to each of the hosts. The participants introduced themselves and all received a souvenir photo.

### The Unveiling

This took place the following morning Saturday at 10 am.

After introductory remarks by Ginette Fontan and the Mayor Marc Derval, I spoke describing progression of our research over more than twenty years that led to the origins of Michel.

I highlighted the invaluable support we had received from our collaborators in France, especially Jean-Luc Guyot, the Saindons of Bléheu, Marie-Noëlle Jouan, Patrick Callo and Joseph Cindon. All of these individuals were present at the unveiling with the exception of the Saindons of Bléheu and Joseph Cindon who had since passed away. Joseph's wife Marie-Hélène, his daughter Céline and his son Rémi were however present. Finally, I thanked Ginette who was the key organizer for the event and for coordinating the Bainsois hosts.

### Vin d'honneur Reception

After the unveiling, the musicians and dancers of the local group *Korollerien ar Vro*, in traditional dress, accompanied us to the municipal hall for a *vin d'honneur* reception.

The Mayor presented us with the municipal medal of merit, a large bread replica of the crest of the town as well as a number of local specialities that were later shared with the participants.

On our side, the Association presented a laminated crest to the Mayor and copies of our publications (Dictionary and Greffe) to the head of the municipal library.

### Les Cousinades Reunion

The next stop was a few kilometres from Bains at the St-Méen Chapel, under a large tent, for a delicious picnic prepared for us by our hosts with the opportunity to meet with the descendants of the brother and sisters of Michel. Over the past year the CGOV had identified these descendants specifically for this occasion: *Cousinades*.

During the event we were invited to taste a 1978 bottle of "La Goutte", a Breton alcoholic liquor similar to the Normand Calvados.

### The Ancestral Home

Exclusively for the Association participants, Ginette invited us to visit the site of the paternal home of Michel nearby. Covered in branches and bushes, the ruins of the house had been cleared earlier by the members of the CGOV to allow us access. The current owner of the site, Mrs. Geneviève Pacory au-

thorized our visit.

After a day filled with activities and especially emotions, the participants returned home with their hosts while some continued the celebrations at restaurants.

### Lunch Cruise on the Vilaine River

It was the occasion on Sunday for the participants to thank the hosts for their hospitality.

The luxury cruise on a boat operated by Vedettes Jaunes of Redon was complimented by an excellent meal and accompanying wine. The cruise from Redon to Folleux lasted three and half hours.

On our return, some of us visited the village of *Rochefort en Terre* which had been recognized in 2016 as one of France's most beautiful villages.

### Farewell Reception of Fellowship

That evening, in a relaxed atmosphere, we all got together for a reception where we had the opportunity to taste the Séverine pastries and crepes accompanied by local cider. During the evening, one of our hosts, Christian Joubaud with his accordion led us in folk songs.

As a gift of thanks, the Association offered copies of Laurent Saindon's publications, the Dictionary and Michel's *Greffe* to the CGOV.

It was the end of our successful visit, beyond all expectations and we thanked and paid tribute to those responsible for the organization.

### Ils qui ont... / They contributed to search for the origin of Michel and the commemorative plaque (p.10)

The full English translation of this second article by André Saindon is provided here:

***"The municipality of Bains provided their support for the installation of our commemorative plaque, but this was the second time they had come to our aid in our search for Michel's origin"***

This was how I began my speech at the unveiling ceremonies. It was a disclosure that raised the curiosity of the Mayor as well as the participants but which allowed me to recognize the key role of many collaborators unknown until then.

This successful achievement, the plaque, is the result of the collaboration of many individuals from Quebec, the USA and Brittany over more than twenty years. Although we have published parts of this research in the Bulletin in the past, here is a resume of the whole story.

### The Precursors

When I retired in 1996, I began, with my wife Louise Camirand, researching the origins of Michel in France.

The writings of Laurent Saindon, published in 1991 by his son Marc and the 1985 trip to France by Robert Saindon provided the original basis for this research. Laurent believed that Michel originated from Brittany while Robert on his travels confirmed that the Saindons came from the department of Ille-de-Vilaine, possibly from Brain-sur-Vilaine.

### Jean-Luc Guyot

I contacted an amateur genealogist, Jean-Luc Guyot, who worked near the Departmental Archives in Rennes. For many weeks he searched through records of various villages, getting back to me regularly, but found no sign of anything relating to a Michel Saindon. As, on the gravestone of Michel who passed away in 1780, it indicated his age as around 62, he started concentrating his research around the year 1718.

After many months of unsuccessful searching, Jean-Luc suggested that I conduct a survey of the list (which he provided) of 65 French Saindons to gain additional information on their origins. We were in 1997 at this time.

### The Saindons of Bléheu

I received twelve replies, one of which included the baptismal certificate of a Michel Saindon, born 2 December, 1715 in Bains-sur-Oust. It came from the "*Saindon du Bléheu*" of Bains-sur-Oust: Yvette, Albert et René. It was accompanied by a letter written by a relative, Christian Joubaud, which began with:

*"On this 6th day of June, it is my pleasure to ..."*, a reminder of the date of the allied debarkation in Normandy in 1944.

### The Role of the Municipality

Some time later I travelled to Brittany to meet the Saindons of Bléheu who welcomed me warmly. While Jean-Luc had searched unsuccessfully for months, they were able to get a copy of Michel's baptismal certificate. I was curious to find out how they did it. They told me they addressed their request to the municipal offices.

After the recent unveiling ceremonies, Joseph Gérard, who was a municipal councillor at the time, told me that he was the one who took the action on the request from René Saindon.

It was in this way that the municipality came to our

aid the first time.

### Two Questions Remained

*Was the Michel Saindon baptized in Bains the same one that emigrated to Acadia?*

*How to prove it?*

### Robert A. Saindon

The years went by. Around 2005, André Michel Saindon from Nova Scotia sent me a publication by Robert A. Saindon of Montana. The book entitled "Saindon Family History: Paleolithic to 1735" which he received probably from Don Miller of Florida who knew the author and whose wife, Irene Wallace, was a Saindon descendant.

The publication suggested hypotheses on the origin of Saindons in France and in Brittany. It reported the discovery, by Marie-Noëlle Jouan of Theix, of the same baptismal certificate that I had found: like Jean-Luc, she was an amateur genealogist corresponding with Robert A. by Internet, and like me, she had not found any additional records of Michel such as marriage, burial etc.

Robert A. has become a faithful correspondent since and has published numerous articles in the Association's Bulletin.

### DNA

More years passed... and in 2016 I became interested in genealogy by DNA. I learned that by comparing the DNA of a descendant of Michel, me, and that of a descendant of his brother Pierre, we could prove and confirm the origin of Michel. This raised two questions:

*How to find a descendant of Pierre in Brittany and how to obtain his consent to a comparison?*

### Marie-Noëlle Jouan

When I discussed my project with Robert A., he informed me that Marie-Noëlle was a descendant of Pierre. I required, however, a male descendant. I communicated with Marie-Noëlle who, within a few weeks, let me know that Joseph Cindon of St-Perreux had accepted to do the comparison.

### Patrick Callo

I learned later that Marie-Noëlle had noted from the genealogic tree of the husband of her friend Pascale, that Patrick Callo had Saindon ancestry. However, he could not be used for a comparison as he was a descendant of a female Saindon.

### Joseph Cindon

Patrick had contacted one of his relatives, Joseph Cindon, a Saindon descendant, who accepted to participate in the comparison.

I travelled, in 2016, to Saint-Perreux to meet Joseph and the test was carried out and sent to the laboratory in the US: the result, our DNA is identical and

*the Michel baptized in Bains in 1715 is the same one that emigrated to Acadia around 1735.*

### A Plaque in Bains?

Upon my return, I proposed to the Board of Directors that we install a plaque commemorating the baptism of Michel in Bains. A committee was created composed of Louise Camirand, Marie-Noëlle Jouan, Lea Vachon, Réal Saindon (later replaced by Nathalie) and myself.

### Survey of Members

During the Spring of 2017, following a survey, members indicated their willingness to contribute almost \$3300 for this project.

### Support of the Municipality

With the encouraging results of this survey, a letter was addressed to the Mayor, Marc Derval, who gave his support for the project and suggested that the plaque be installed in Place Nominoë, the central square of the town. We were to be responsible for the costs of the plaque but the municipality would carry out the installation.

He formed a committee on which Marie-Noëlle Jouan was a member. We requested her to obtain estimates/quotes from local suppliers that had been recommended by the municipality. The final approval of the Board of Directors of the Association was given later.

### Ginette Fontan

In the meantime, Marie-Noëlle shared the concept of the project with Ginette Fontan, President of the Genealogical Society of Oust and Vilaine based in Bains.

She quickly wrote to me that this would be an excellent occasion to organize a “*cousinades*” that is a meeting of the descendants of Michel who may be coming for the unveiling with the descendants of the brother and sisters of Michel. The Society would carry out the research during the Spring.

She also mentioned that the Saindons coming from Quebec could be lodged with local Bainsois during the unveiling events.

### Lea Vachon

This was an ambitious project that was growing in scope and Lea Vachon accepted to assist in its management even if he would not be attending the unveiling.

His support and engagement were important in the success of this adventure that became a landmark event in the history of the Association. He was involved in the pairing and linking up of the participants and hosts as well as preparing an aide-memoire for those participating. His constant support was invaluable to me. Not to forget the aid and support of Nathalie and Gilles Saindon.

### The Participants

Lea and I were obviously enthusiastic about the project which was evident in the promotional documents we sent to members requesting their presence at the unveiling.

The reply was sensational. We would be 17 at Bains for the unveiling on 15 September: 14 lodging with Bainsois and three others making their own arrangements.

### The Twinning/Jumelage Participants-Hosts

In June, I sent the list of our participants to Ginette who forwarded me the list of hosts. Lea organized the “twinning” of the two groups and encouraged the participants to communicate and establish contact with their hosts prior to the first encounter on the eve of the unveiling.

We developed a three-day program to which participants could add additional travel and visits on their own. In gratitude for the hospitality of our hosts, in addition to numerous personal gifts, we offered the lunch-cruise on the Vilaine River at the suggestion of Ginette.

### Next...

As you can see from the previous article the whole event took place in a spirit of harmony and friendship.

Many Bainsois expressed their desire to visit us in Quebec. Already we are starting to plan for a get together that would take place within the festivities of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Association in 2020. It could take place in Quebec City during the *Fêtes de la Nouvelle-France* in early August 2020.

More to follow....

The article finishes with a press clipping from the local Bainsois newspaper on the visit and unveiling.

## Nouvelles/News (p. 17)

### Meeting of the Board of Directors

This article is a resume of recent Board of Directors meeting that was held in Ottawa on 5 November.

There was a review of the **2018 Reunion** and a discussion on the question of late/slow reservations. It was decided that there would be, for the 2019 reunion, a reduction in the fee for those who reserved at least one month in advance.

The successful **unveiling activities in Bains** was also discussed. Additional photos and a video of the event are available in the members section of the Association website: [www.saindon.org](http://www.saindon.org). This section requires a password, if you do not already have one, please contact the webmaster at :

[asso@saindon.org](mailto:asso@saindon.org).

The Board discussed the **2019 Reunion** that will take place in Longueuil 9-11 August. The program may include and special auction with more details to follow in future Bulletins.

Finally, as the commemorative plaque project in Bains closed with small surplus, and as these funds had come from members contributions and those of the participants, it was decided that this surplus would be best used (in keeping with the original spirit) in a required **renovation of the Association's plaque** at the site of Michel's house in Cacouna.

### Deaths

We are sad to announce the following passings:

**Gérard Saindon** (1941-2018), who passed away on 7 Aug in Rouyn-Noranda at the age of 77. He had been a member of the Association from its beginnings.

**Jean-Paul Saindon** (1929-2018), who passed away on 31 Oct in Saint-Sauveur at the age of 88. He had been a member of the Association for 17 years.

**Claude Pelletier**, who passed away at the age of 71 on 29 Oct in St-Arsène. He was the son of the late Florent Pelletier and the late Véronique Saindon.



### Deadline for the next issue

Feb 1, 2019

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