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# Foreword

*This book is dedicated to those who have contributed to the history and genealogy of the Saindon family in Canada and the United States.*

## In Canada

Laurent and Robert Saindon were pioneers regarding the Saindon family heritage.

**Laurent Saindon** devoted over 16 years of his life to the history and genealogy of the Saindons. Precise and tenacious, he enjoyed sharing his findings with both relatives and friends through his writings and speeches.

"My manuscript is finished," he told André Saindon sometime before his sudden death in 1989. Thankfully, his son Marc published his work in French in 1991 under the title "*Histoire et Généalogie des Saindon de l'Amérique du Nord*". "This publication was to be one of the events that triggered the creation of the Association of Saindons in 1995," stated Fernand Saindon, a founding member.

While Laurent was interested in the Saindons of North America, a remote cousin and friend, **Father Robert Saindon**, inspired by Laurent's work, went to France in 1985 to find the origins of our ancestor Michel Saindon. Contact with locals and research at the Departmental Archives of Brittany led him to conclude that Michel Saindon was probably born in 1717 in Brain-sur-Vilaine. This date, therefore, was inscribed on the memorial plaque inaugurated in 1995 and located on the ancestral land of the Saindons in Cacouna, Province of Québec.

In 1995, Robert, along with his cousin Yvon and his nephew Fernand, founded the North American Association of Saindons. He died in 2005; all remember him for his pride in being a Saindon, his loyalty in attending the meetings of the Association and his warm personality.

I have great admiration for these people who retraced our history and genealogy before the widespread use of computers and the facility, these days, to do research from home on the Internet. In their research they were required to physically go to the parish rectories, obtain permission from the pastor, sometimes being almost forced to give a donation and finally being allowed to search the records under conditions not always favourable because of space and lighting. Afterwards, the information had to be organized on cards and lists, classified by family, parishes, date, etc., a considerable task compared with the ease of processing that today's computers and genealogy software provide.

**André Saindon**, great-grandson of Augustin Saindon, intrigued by the spelling of his name, began his research in 1976 and met with Laurent Saindon. This led to a close friendship that lasted until Laurent's death. Later, with the help of a French amateur genealogist and the involvement of his wife, Louise Camirand, a certified genealogist, he found the baptismal record of a person named Michel Saindon born December 2, 1715, who could possibly be the ancestor of all Saindons in North America. In the Fall of 2016, this finding was confirmed by a DNA comparison between a Saindon from North America and a Saindon from Brittany.

## In the United States

Many Saindon descendants of both sexes gathered information about their ancestors coming from French Canada. Some exchanged data with researchers in Canada, mainly Laurent Saindon, others published books where we find a large number of American contributors (Annexes 1 and 2).

**Rosamond Barland**, daughter of Olive Saindon from Kansas and **Neleda Desbiens-Jones**, granddaughter of Marie-Adéline Saindon from Kansas also exchanged correspondence regularly with Laurent Saindon. Information on their ancestors appears in Laurent Saindon's books and those of Sister Veronica Roy and Robert A. Saindon which are described below.

**Sister Veronica Roy** (Ila Mae Jean Roy), granddaughter of Laura Saindon from Kansas, published a book entitled "Our Saindon Cousins" in 1991 about the descendants of Achille Saindon and Henriette Caron and the history of the immigration of Saindons to Kansas. She exchanged correspondence with Fernand Saindon, one of the founding members of the Association.

**Robert A. Saindon** from Montana wrote a book in 2005 about his ancestor: "The Man in the Unmarked Grave, the life and times of Jake Saindon (1862-1936)". He published a second book in 2008 entitled "Saindon Family History: Paleolithic to 1735 AD" on the history of the Saindons' evolution throughout the world and their settling in Brittany. Recently, he wrote another book on "The Life and Times of Michel Saindon on the St. John River 1736-1764"

With research by a French collaborator and unaware of the work done by André Saindon, Robert discovered the baptismal record of the same person named Michel Saindon born on December 2, 1715, a great finding as well as a confirmation of André Saindon's investigation.

As Laurent Saindon is considered to be the pioneer regarding the Saindon heritage in Canada, Robert A. has the same status in the United States. He writes regularly in the *"Lignée Saindon"*, the newsletter of the Association of Saindons. There are many citations of his research published and unpublished in this book that I have had the privilege of sharing with him.

In the above-mentioned publications, we find references to **Gordon Saindon** of Las Vegas as being an important source of information. Thankfully, I got in touch with Gordon through the Association's website. He contributed to the Saindon genealogical databank from which this dictionary is printed, adding valuable information on the Saindons living in the United States.

Many thanks to all these people.

*André Sindon*

May 2017



The Coat of Arms of the North American Association of  
Saindons

# Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks to the members of the Association who provided genealogical data about their immediate family and ancestors.

We wish to emphasize the significant contribution of:

- Gilles Saindon, Manitoba
- Doris. A Nieman, Maine
- Florence Saindon, Madawaska
- André Saindon, Cacouna
- Madeleine Saindon Bouchard, Montréal
- Rachel Saindon, Québec
- Paul Saindon, California
- Jean-Pierre Saindon, Québec

There are many references from previously published works about the Saindons. Our thanks to the authors or their families:

- The family of Laurent Saindon
- The family of Reverend Robert Saindon
- Linda R. Cross, executor of Sister Veronica Roy's will
- Robert A. Saindon from Montana for his valuable advice and permission to quote his publications
- Gordon Saindon from Las Vegas for his invaluable research on the Saindon living in the United States
- Darel Saindon from Colorado
- Andrée Thinel, co-author of *"Le Dictionnaire historique illustré de la famille Saindon"*
- Marie-Noëlle Jouan from Brittany for her contributions to Robert A. Saindon research and the DNA comparison.
- Joseph Cindon from Brittany: DNA comparison.

Many thanks to Lea Vachon, for the revision of the English translation of many of the texts of this book.

## Description of genealogical data

Genealogical Content: in addition to the authors' personal research, data comes from:

- a) "*Histoire et Généalogie de la famille Saindon d'Amérique du Nord (HGFS)* Tome : II, Généalogie", Laurent Saindon;
- b) "Our Saindon Cousins," Sister Veronica Roy;
- c) "The Man in the Unmarked Grave: The Life and Times of Jake Saindon (1862-1936)" and "Saindon Family History, Paleolithic to 1735 AD", Robert A. Saindon;
- d) "*Les Gens de Saint-Modeste*" and "*Les Gens de St-Arsène*", Reverend Robert Saindon;
- e) "Saindon Family History", Leo and Gladys Saindon;
- f) Gilles Saindon's research in Manitoba;
- g) Doris A. Nieman's research in Maine;
- h) Data collected by Gordon Saindon from Las Vegas; and
- i) "The story of Ovide Saindon" supplied by Darel Saindon.

### Presentation

Descendants are listed from one generation to the next. There is detailed information only for the persons that have lived before 100 years ago or that have died since. An asterisk \* identifies the persons still living or those that we do not know of their death since 1916. There is no detailed information on these persons.

### Index

There are two indexes: one by marriage, listed under each spouse's name, male and female and another by name and given name.

### Validating Information

As far as possible, the genealogical data collected was validated through copies of the original acts from parish records either on microfilm or by the Internet at Ancestry.ca (<http://www.ancestry.ca>), Family Search (<https://familysearch.org>) or at the Drouin Institute (<http://www.institutdrouin.com>)<sup>1</sup>. In addition, numerous parish register books, PRDH<sup>2</sup> and BMS2000<sup>3</sup> Internet sites, were also consulted.

There are over 14,500 references. For those acquiring the Dictionary, one can obtain the references for a specific case.

### Name Variations: Sindon—St-Don—Syndon—Cindon

The most common variation encountered is 'Sindon', even in former acts. It is used in Canada by the lineage of Auguste Saindon (Sindon) from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many Sindon living in the USA could be former Saindon. There has been no special research so far. The next more frequent variation is 'St-Don' then 'Syndon'. We also see 'Cindon', 'Seindon' and 'Saindoux'.

### Common Given Name

There is always more than one given name written on the baptismal record; it does not state which one is to be used commonly. When available, we used the name as that specified by the person when signing an act. In other cases, we used the one appearing on the marriage or burial act.

<sup>1</sup> "*Institut Drouin*" has collected most of the baptism, marriage and burial acts over a 50-year period. Digitized documents are available on their website or at Ancestry.ca, through a subscription.

<sup>2</sup> "*Programme de Recherche Démographique de l'Université de Montréal*" (The Research Program in Historical Demography): data from the beginnings of the French Colonization in the 17<sup>th</sup> century; available on the Internet through a subscription.

<sup>3</sup> BMS2000: Genealogical databank of 23 Québec Genealogical Societies available on the Internet through a subscription.