

RESOURCES
See
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Bernard family
Grafton ND
1908.

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The Bernard-Collette and French-Canadian community of Walsh Co N.D.

1. A major work on these French-Canadian families of northeast North Dakota was completed in 2010, and the contents of this book are the contents of this pdf. The complete book is approximately 400 pages. **It is intended to have this book available on line at this website by the summer of 2021.** The book covers the earliest history of the French in North America, going back to the early 1600s.
2. Background genealogy materials on the family are archived as Series 29 at the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections, University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library, 3051 University Avenue Stop 9000, Grand Forks ND 58202-9000, phone (701) 777-4625. Current head, Curt Hanson. The finding aid for the collection can be viewed here:
<https://apps.library.und.edu/archon/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=131&q=&rootcontentid=126781#id126781>
3. Additional photo files for the Bernard family are part of the Busch-Berning Collection at the North Dakota Historical Society in Bismarck ND. The Direct link is <https://www.history.nd.gov/archives/manuscripts/inventory/11082.html>. Currently the information is found in Box 30 of this collection.
4. Site owner Dick Bernard is a frequent blogger at <https://outsidethewalls.org/blog/>. Simply entering in the search box specific words, like Bernard, Collette, Oakwood, Grafton, North Dakota, etc., can easily bring up blog articles on the family.
5. The compiler of these materials has been Dick Bernard (2021 contact information on letterhead).

Final: September 21, 2010

THE FIRST 400 YEARS:
Remembering
Four of the Families
(Cote, Blondeau, Bernard, Collette)
Of
Henry Louis Bernard
Born December 22, 1907
Grafton North Dakota
Died November 7, 1997
Our Lady of the Snows
Belleville Illinois

Including a tribute to
Jean-Marc Charron
Nov. 19, 1936 - Sep. 16, 1996

Compiled and Edited by:
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Special thanks to
Dr. Remi Roy

Cover photo:
Grafton, North Dakota, early 1908
Josephine Collette, Henry Bernard,
and their 5 year old daughter Josephine,
posing proudly with their new son and brother,
Henry.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS BOOK

This book is divided into five specific parts:

- Part I: A Sketch History of the four root families
- Part II: Picture pages
- Part III: Basic Genealogy and other pedigree data of the families
- Part IV: Stories from the collected editions of Chez Nous, a newsletter edited or co-edited by Dick Bernard from 1985-2001.

Appendices:

- 1 Samuel Collette's unit in the 1863 Dakota Conflict
- 2 A portion of the History of Anoka & area MN
- 3 A Special section of writings by Jean-Marc Charron on assorted topics relating to the French-Canadian Culture and Family History.

OTHER RESOURCES

Dick Bernard's Family Website www.chez-nous.net/fc.html includes an earlier and brief history of the Collette's written by Dick Bernard in 2002; a longer history of Collette's et al by Philippe Collette's great-grandson, Dr. Remi Roy, written 2003; and a recollection by Bishop Raymond Lessard written about 1975.

An important addition to this website is the entire **1981 Centennial History of Sacred Heart Church in Oakwood**. Because of its length, this book is in four parts at the website.

Dick Bernard's blog www.outsidethewalls.org/blog includes categories on Quebec/French-Canadians, Native Americans and North Dakota, each of which may occasionally have relevant additional material.

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STORIES

Primarily from Chez Nous

Chez Nous was a small newsletter which I edited from 1985 till it ceased publication in 2002. It began in 1980 and continued as the publication of the now defunct La Societe Canadienne-Francaise du Minnesota, and usually went to about 150 people. I kept the entire collection and indexed it in February, 2009.

The very modest "cut and paste at the kitchen table" collection of newsletters had, in the end, nearly 900 pages, and a similar number of specific articles, most of which were very short, to some quite lengthy. The entire collection is now with Initiatives in French Midwest at the University of North Dakota and may someday be available online at the IFMidwest website www.ifmidwest.org. (I'd be happy to e-mail the index to anyone interested.)

Unless specifically noted, all of the below stories were printed in Chez Nous, in whole or in part.

Dick Bernard, former editor of Chez Nous

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* Chez Nous included a pretty rich variety of assorted recipes over the years. For an interested person, a review of the index would be worthwhile.

** Sr. Ellen Murphy, who passed away in 2004, was a gifted and published poet. She was part of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. She grew up in Bachelors Grove ND. Her mother, Helen Normand, was the daughter of Catherine LeBourdais Normand and her husband, early residents of Oakwood.

The Families of Henry Bernard

A Thumbnail sketch:

Champlain establishes Quebec City in 1608
(map of family locations in France on following page).

Jean **COTE** arrives from Mortagne, Perche, France in early 1630s; and marries Anne **MARTIN** in 1635 at Quebec. Anne and Jean were among the very earliest settlers of New France from France. There is a remote possibility that Anne was born in Quebec, but this is a question likely never to be answered definitively.

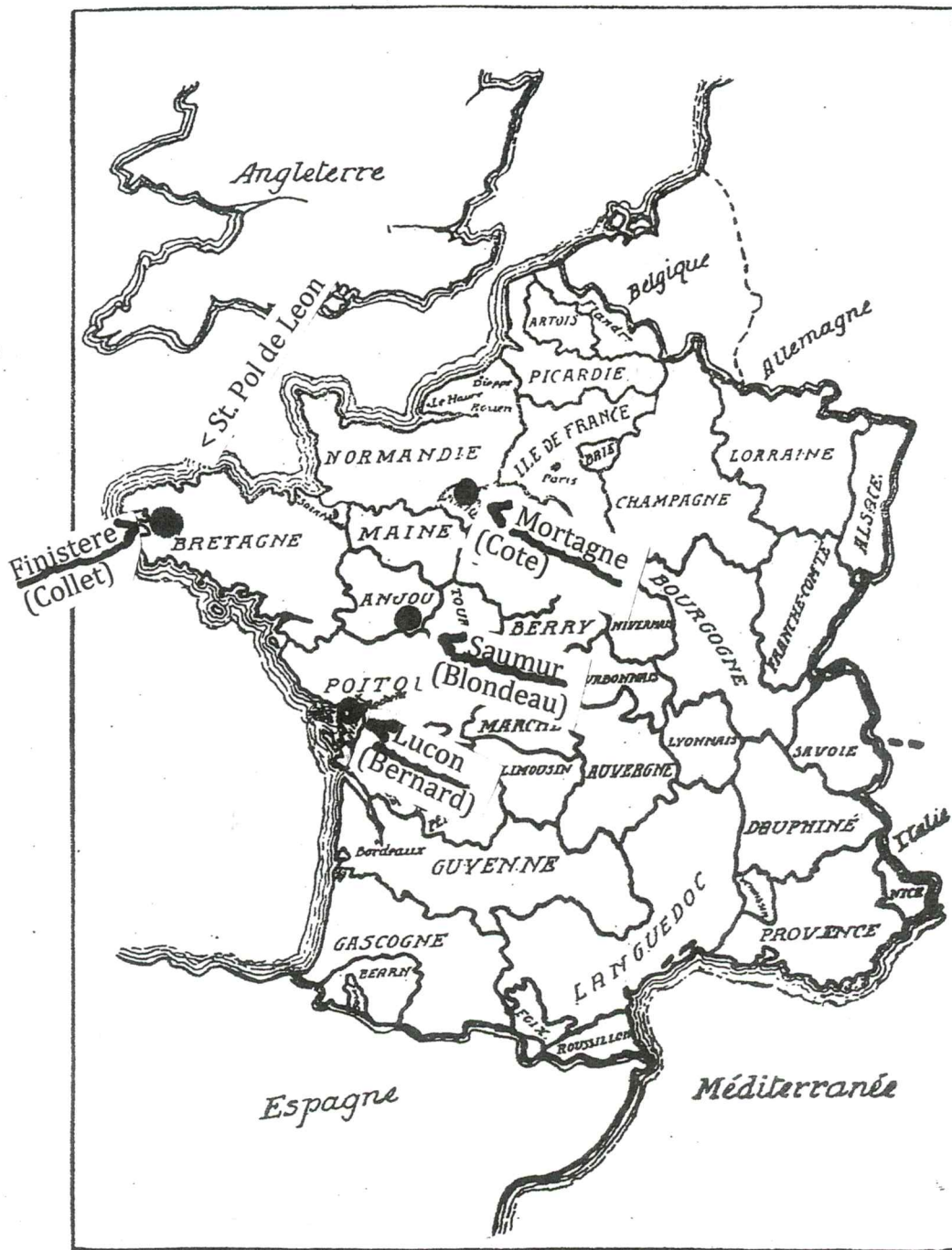
Francois **BLONDEAU** arrives from Saumur, France, in early 1650s; marries Nicolle **ROLLAND** in 1655 at Quebec. This branch becomes part of the fur trading community.

Pierre **BERNARD** arrives from Lucon, France, about 1726; marries Marie-Genevieve **GIROUX** in 1730 at Beauport. The Bernard family has a long tradition as Millers.

Francois **COLLET** arrives from the Finistere region of Brittany, France, about 1757; marries Marguerite **TANGUAY** in 1762 at St-Vallier.

Soon after Collet's arrival in Canada, the British defeated the French at the Plains of Abraham (1759), effectively stopping further French migration to New France. The English regime begins.

In 1776, the fledgling United States of America declares its independence from England, and in 1787 begins its history as a country.



LA FRANCE. (anciennes provinces).