

# The Old House in Walpole

## Where Lived and Died in Exile Jacques D'Entremont

The following article, dealing with the early history of Walpole, was written by Rev. Clarence J. d'Entremont of 71 Center street, Fairhaven. It is hoped that the people of Walpole will take interest in this article which tells them of a phase of their history of which they may not know too much. The article will be run in serial form.

By REV. CLARENCE J. D'ENTREMONT

The student of American literature knows through the study of Longfellow's poem *Evangeline of the Expulsion of the Acadians*. These people, of French origin, lived in Nova Scotia, then called "Acadie", where "the richest was poor, and the poorest lived in abundance." By the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, their land passed into the hands of England. Summoned by their conquerors to pledge allegiance to the crown of England, they asked to remain neutral in case of war so that they would not have to fight against their mother country. For this reason the whole population, about 18,000 of them, less some 2000 fugitives, were boarded on ships and vessels, between 1755 and 1758, even up to the Treaty of Paris, in 1763, and "scattered like dust and leaves" all along the American Atlantic coasts and the shores of England. Massachu-

setts received about two thousand of them and placed them, under its care, in its different towns.

There is in Walpole the remains of a cellar on which stood the house where lived in exile, with his family, one of these Acadians, Jacques d'Entremont, (1680-1759), son of Jacques Mius d'Entremont and of Anne de Saint-Etienne de la Tour, and where he died July 28, 1759. This house belonged at the time to Jeremiah Dexter. Isaac N. Lewis, in his history of Walpole,<sup>1</sup> calls this house "the old house", although at the time of Jacques d'Entremont it must not have been so old, as Jeremiah Dexter, who probably built it, is mentioned for the first time in 1748 in the history of Walpole.<sup>2</sup>

Jacques d'Entremont was, with the members of his family, among the 70 Acadians from Baccareau Passage, Cape Sable, Nova Scotia, whom Colonel Prebble,<sup>3</sup> after burning all their buildings, 44 in all, brought to Boston on a Friday, the last day of April, 1756.<sup>4</sup> They were destined to North Carolina; a vessel under the command of Thomas Hancock, was to take them there. But after embarkation, they came back on shore and refused to re-embark. May 11th, Jacques Amirault and Joseph d'Entremont addressed a letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts and his Council stating the reasons why the group refused to go to North Carolina, begging that they be allowed to stay in Massachusetts.<sup>5</sup>

Three days later, May 14th, Thomas Hancock, who it would seem had written of his own hand the petition of May 4th, to which Jacques Amirault and Joseph d'Entremont affixed their marks, appeared before the lieutenant governor and his council to discuss this matter. It was decided to give to these Acadians a delay of 14 days, during which they would be under the care of Thomas Hancock.<sup>6</sup> The 14 days having elapsed, it was decided to distribute these families in the several seaports of the "Province."

August 20th, 1756, we find in Marblehead, Jacques d'Entremont with his family, that is, his wife, nee Marguerite Amirault, and his

children, Ann, (b. 1732), Marguerite, (b. 1734), Joseph, (b. 1739), Paul, (b. 1742) and Benoni, (b. 1745).<sup>7</sup> Jacques d'Entremont and Marguerite Amirault had had at least two other children, namely, Jacques, the oldest, married in 1753 to Marguerite Landry, exiled with his family to England and then to Cherbourg, France, where he died in or before 1767; and Marie, married to Rene Landry, brother of Marguerite.

In the summer of 1756, Anne d'Entremont married in Marblehead Abel Duon who had been among the 70 Acadians who arrived from Cape Sable to Boston April 30th and who was quartered at Marblehead with the d'Entremont family. The following year, that is June 1st, 1757, we find this family in Medfield, along with Paul and Benoni, sons of Jacques d'Entremont.<sup>8</sup>

March 1st, 1758, Jacques d'Entremont, his wife, his daughter Marguerite and his son Joseph are found in Walpole, where they had been transferred.<sup>9</sup>

A few months later, on November 8th, 1758, Joseph d'Entremont sent a petition to the lieutenant governor, stating that being in Walpole with his aged father and mother, a brother and a sister, while another brother, a brother-in-law, a sister and her child were in Medfield, asking, for different reasons, if it would be possible for the family to be all united together at the same place. January 2nd, 1759, this petition was sent to a committee who, January 13th, decided that the members of the family who were in Medfield would be removed to Walpole.<sup>10</sup> It would seem that this decision was not carried out, not immediately at least, because June 1st of that year Benoni, Abel and his wife are still in Medfield;<sup>11</sup> these two last are still there August 22nd, 1760.<sup>12</sup>

After the death of Jacques d'Entremont, July 28th, 1759,<sup>13</sup> his son Joseph and his daughter Marguerite are transferred August 22nd, 1760, to Chelsea,<sup>14</sup> at which date Paul and Benoni are said to be "retained" in Walpole with their mother.<sup>15</sup>

We can recapitulate these events in the following chronological order:

— April 30th, 1756, arrival in Boston of the family of Jacques d'Entremont;

— August 20th, 1756, this family is in Marblehead, along with Abel Duon;

— Summer of 1756, marriage in Marblehead of Abel Duon and Anne d'Entremont;

— June 1st, 1757, Abel Duon, his wife, Paul and Benoni are in Medfield;

— March 1st, 1758, Jacques d'Entremont, his wife, Marguerite and Joseph are in Walpole;

— Between the preceding and following dates, Paul is transferred to Walpole;

— November 8th, 1758, petition of Joseph so that all the family would be united;

— January 13th, 1759, it is decided that the family would be united in Walpole;

— July 28th, 1759, Jacques d'Entremont dies in Walpole;

— August 22nd, 1760: Paul and

Benoni are "retained" in Walpole with their mother; Joseph and Marguerite are sent to Chelsea; Abel and Anne are retained in Medfield.

On August 23rd, 1866, "Captain Amiro" received a permit to clear his vessel from Boston for Quebec. Undoubtedly this captain was Ange Amirault, who, ten years earlier, in the month of February of 1756, being not yet 20 years of age, sailed in his small vessel from Cape Sable to the shores of Massachusetts to ask of his future father-in-law and mother-in-law, already in exile, the hand of their daughter, Natalie Belliveau, who, like himself, was still in liberty at Cape Sable.<sup>16</sup> The fact is that the Amiraults, the Belliveaux, the d'Entremonts and the Duons arrived by sea<sup>17</sup> to Nova Scotia, on their way to Quebec, at the end of the summer of 1766, 200 years ago, this very year. Having received from the civil authorities of Halifax the permission to stay in Nova Scotia and the promise of the service of a priest, they settled the following year, in 1767, in Pubnico, the land of their ancestors.<sup>18</sup>

(Continued Next Week)

### FOOTNOTES

- (1) Jacques Mius d'Entremont, baron of Pobomcoup, was the son of Philippe Mius d'Entremont, (1601-1700), who came to Acadia in 1651 with Charles de Saint-Etienne de la Tour and who in 1653 was made lieutenant governor of Acadia and received the barony of Pobomcoup, (now Pubnico, Nova Scotia); he was named king's attorney about 1670, an office he held until 1688. — Anne de Saint-Etienne de la Tour was the daughter of Charles de Saint-Etienne de la Tour, governor of Acadia.
- (2) "A History of Walpole, Mass.", 1905, p. 97.
- (3) Willard De Lue, *The Story of Walpole*, 1925, p. 297.
- (4) *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Thursday, May 6, 1756.
- (5) *Mass. Archives*, XXIII, 69.
- (6) *Mass. Archives*, Council Records, XIII, (1755-1759), 80.
- (7) *Mass. Archives*, XXIII, 106.
- (8) *Mass. Archives*, XXIII, 406.
- (9) *Mass. Archives*, XXIII, 626.
- (10) *Mass. Archives*, XXIV, 76, 77A, 108, 110.
- (11) *Mass. Archives*, XXIV, 108.
- (12) *Mass. Archives*, XXIV, 389, 392. — Benoni's name appears, at this date, in these two documents, in the lists of the Acadians quartered in Medfield and of those quartered in Walpole. But most likely he was transferred around this date from Medfield to Walpole, from where his brother and sister, Joseph and Marguerite, were leaving for Chelsea.
- (13) *Mass. Archives*, XXIV, 272.
- (14) *Mass. Archives*, XXIV, 389, 392. — De Lue, p. 117.
- (15) *Mass. Archives*, XXIV, 389, 392.
- (16) From the French newspaper, "L'Evangeline", Weymouth, Nova Scotia, Thursday, July 13, 1893, article by Placide Gaudet on the Amirault family. — Ange Amirault, who came back from exile with this group, was a seafarer most of his life. — See H. Leander d'Entremont, "The Baronne de Pobomcoup and the Acadians", Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, 1931, p. 54.
- (17) They did not "walk back overland from Boston through Maine, to their old homes", as says De Lue, p. 119.
- (18) *The Yarmouth Herald*, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, November 25, 1964. — La Societe Historique Acadienne, *Sixieme Cahier*, 1964, Moncton, New Brunswick, p. 24. (11).

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