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THREE NUNS OF THE Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity who have been teaching at the Blessed Sacrament Church are leaving and they were given a reception by the parish at the Walpole Country Club last Sunday afternoon. The nuns, seated, left to right: Sister Ann Mary, Sister James Ann, and Sister Pauline Marie. Rear, left to right: Mrs. Francis Farley, Rev. Bernard Sullivan, Bernard V. Martin, chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kelliher and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schlenzig.

The Old House in Walpole

Where Lived and Died in Exile Jacques D'Entremont

By REV. CLARENCE J. 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.

(Continued From Last Week)
The land northeast of the dam, which used to belong to Jessie W. Bently, is now the property of the Union Oil Company of Boston, who operates on Main street the gasoline station "Phillip's 66." This company is the proprietor of the land on which stood the old house of Jeremiah Dexter.

A path from Pemberton street, north of the premises we are talking about, starting about half way up hill, passes north-west and west of the cellar and leads to the dam. This path is about the dividing line between the land owned by the Union Oil Company of Boston and the land of Herbert Davis, who is proprietor of a part, at least, of the hill northwest of "Stetson Pond."

With regard to the place where Jacques D'Entremont was buried, Isaac J. Lewis, in his history of Walpole, speaking of the Acadians who had lived here, says: "Some did not survive their experience here, and, exiled and alone, found a too ready grave in the old near-by cemetery." From this, some authors, like De Lue, who refers to this paragraph of Lewis, have concluded that Jacques d'Entremont was buried in "The Old Burial Place," in Walpole, corner of Main and Kendall streets. But it is not so.

Jacques d'Entremont was buried in Roxbury, a distance of between 15 and 20 miles from Walpole, in the "Eliot Cemetery," at "Andrew Coyle Square," corner of Eustis and Washington streets. Here is what Father Ferdinand Blanchet, pastor of St. Peter's parish, West Pubnico, Nova Scotia, wrote in 1860, in the church registers, with regard to Jacques d'Entremont: "Last year, July 26, 1859, I have celebrated the centennial Mass that his descendants asked me to say for the repose of his soul. His tombstone can still be seen around Boston (Roxbury), (sic), and Louis d'Entremont, Esquire, now deceased, has read there the inscription on it, 5 years ago."

This Louis d'Entremont was a merchant at West Pubnico. Born in 1803, son of Charles Celestin and father of Marin, Avite, etc., whose names are still very familiar to the people of the place, he had known perfectly well the two sons of Jacques d'Entremont, who had lived ever since their return from exile in West Pubnico, namely Paul, who died July 19, 1841, and Benoni, who died February 21 of the same year; Louis was their grand-nephew. Surely it is from them that Louis, who was interested in the history of his family, learned where his

great-grandfather was buried. It was the very year that he visited the tomb in Roxbury, in 1855, that he died, on Christmas Day.

Forty years ago, in 1926, Abraham d'Entremont, of West Pubnico, also, son of Mathurin, now deceased whose family is known to have been very interested in the history of the Acadians, went to the Eliot Cemetery in search of the tombstone of Jacques d'Entremont. It is his mother who would have told him of the location where it had been seen. The mother of Abraham was a niece of Louis d'Entremont, by his wife, who would have told her niece where Louis had discovered the tombstone.

The author of these lines learned about this during the Summer of last year from Henry Boudreau of Brockton, then close to 90 years of age, who died this last month of March; he had accompanied 40 years ago his brother-in-law, Abraham d'Entremont to the Eliot Cemetery and had looked with him for the tombstone. But the tombstone was not there any more. In fact, already in 1872, the name of Jacques d'Entremont does not appear on the list of those whose tombstones were still readable at this cemetery. It is not surprising, because it is most probable that the tombstone on the grave of Jacques d'Entremont was only a slate stone erected by the piety of his sons, which was destined to last but for a limited time.

At the time that Jacques d'Entremont died there was in Roxbury another cemetery, that of the Catholic parish of St. Joseph, which cemetery is no longer in existence. This cemetery, being private, would not have accommodated the body of Jacques d'Entremont who was under the care of the government of Boston. Similarly, the other cemeteries in the vicinity of Roxbury, in existence at the time, which we have all visited, could neither have received, for different reasons, his remains.

We may ask ourselves why he was buried in Roxbury instead of Walpole, where there was, right close to where he died, a cemetery similar, seemingly, to the Eliot Cemetery of Roxbury. We believe that the real reason is the following: By the names of those buried in Walpole, it is obvious that this cemetery was a "private" cemetery, that is ex-

clusively for the people of the town of Walpole; while by the names that appear on the tombstones of the Eliot Cemetery, which comprise statements, officials of the government, officers of the army, judges and the like, it would seem that this cemetery was of a more "public" nature, in the sense that it belonged to the government, or at least was under its care. The "French Neutrals," as the exiled Acadians were called, being under the care of the government, Jacques d'Entremont was buried in the cemetery of the government.

And that is the story of "the old house" of Jeremiah Dexter, where lived in exile with his family Jacques d'Entremont and in which he died. And that is the story of the cemetery where repose his ashes. We believe that this constitutes the only case in which has been located the exact spot where lived an Acadian family in exile in what is now the New England States, and the cemetery where one of these Acadians is buried.

Speaking of these Acadians, Willard De Lue, after telling of their return to their native land, says: "Thus they pass from our history. — But whatever the story, Walpole saw no more of them." We may say that the descendants

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of Jacques d'Entremont now number well over 5000, including all the d'Entremonts and all the Duons, (now bearing the name of "d'Eon"), and most of the other Acadians now living or having taken origin in the Publicos, Nova Scotia, of whom the undersigned who has come back to tell to the people of Walpole the story of his ancestor whom they had sheltered in "the old house" of Jeremiah Dexter.

FOOTNOTES

- (26) Lewis, p. 98.
- (27) There has been in Walpole, apart from the d'Entremont family, other exiled Acadians, the families of Pierre Landry and of Pierre Robichaud.
- (28) De Lue, p. 117. — H. Leander d'Entremont, op. cit., p. 51.
- (29) Annual Report of the Cemetery Department of the City of Boston, for the Fiscal year 1903-1904, Boston, (1904), pp. 56 at sqq.; Epitaphs, First Burying Place in Roxbury, Copied in 1872 by Henry A. May.
- (30) De Lue, p. 119.

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