

# One of oldest families here

One of the first families to settle in Canada arrived on the shores of the St Lawrence River in 1634 and one of this family's descendants has been living in Renfrew for the past 45 years.

Joe Cloutier, 358 Harry Street, has been a "fanatic" about family history and has been able to trace his family line back to Zacharie Cloutier who arrived in Quebec in 1634 with his wife and five children.

Joe learned about his ancestor from Labatt Brewery, who sent him information in 1966 regarding Zacharie and informing Joe that he was a descendant of one of the oldest families in Canada.

This started something which has become a hobby over the years. He and his niece Francoise Cloutier began writing various people and organizations in the quest of knowledge about their ancestors. They have succeeded in tracing the family line 14 generations.

In addition to letters to other Cloutiers, valuable information was received from the Archives of Quebec. A columnist for an Ottawa newspaper, Bob Bowman, who writes "Flashback on Canada," also gave the Cloutier's help in tracing the family.

The information from Labatts revealed that Joe's ancestor Zacharie was born in Montagne France the capital of the province of Perche. Zacharie and his parents were engaged in the breeding of horses that later became known as Percherons.

He and his family arrived in Canada and settled at Beauport Quebec in the seigneurie of Robert Giffard. Giffard had acquired the seigneurie Jan 15, 1634 and was the first seigneur to establish habitants on his land.

The seigneurial system in Canada began in 1606 when King Henry IV confirmed the appointment of the Sieur de Poutrincourt as seigneur of Port Royal (now Annapolis Royal, NS).

Louis Hebert, the first doctor in Canada, was given

a small seigneurie at Quebec in 1623 but Giffard was the first to have habitants on his land.

Cloutier came to Canada in 1634 and six years later a census of Canada showed that there were only 374 people of European descent living in the country.

A seigneur obtained his land on conditions that he make lands available to habitants. He was expected to build a mill at which they could grind their grain into flour and the inhabitants paid him rent usually in kind. They worked for him several days a year and usually had about 100 acres of land which were passed along to their children.

Thus the first generation of Cloutier in Canada became the first habitants on the Beauport Seigneurie of Robert Giffard. Zacharie is the ancestor of all the Cloutiers in Canada and the United States.

Joe was born Dec 27, 1912 in Masham Quebec, about 60 miles from Renfrew and lived there until he was eight years old.

His parents Mr and Mrs John Batiste Cloutier moved to Arnprior with their family of 17 in 1920. Joe's father bought the Central Hotel there (now the Madawaska) in 1920. Joe went to school in Arnprior and married Mabel Guyea of Renfrew in 1935. They were married in Renfrew and Joe worked at the Woolen Mills for 10 years as a weaver. The late George Buffam was manager at the time and the late Ray McNevin was weaver foreman.

From the Woolen Mills, Joe worked for Renfrew Light Alloys for 30 years and retired in 1977. He and his wife have three sons Jerome, Randy and Maurice who live in Renfrew.

Joe is enjoying his retirement as it gives him time to think, write and investigate his ancestors. In the summer, he cuts some wood for himself and repairs old furniture as another hobby. He has been in fair health and enjoys reading.

"This is a great country and I really enjoy it", Joe

said. "I believe in Canada and feel there is plenty of room for lots more people of all colours, races and creeds."

Joe says everyone should "feel at home in Canada." He does not want a divided Canada. He says he "doesn't want someone with one foot in England or one foot in

France" telling Canadian people what to do.

Joe plans continuing his research into his family. He is now interested in finding out more about his ancestors who lived in France. With Joe and Francoise's persistence, they'll soon find more information about the Cloutiers.



Joe Cloutier, 358 Harry Street, is a descendant of one of the earliest families to emigrate to Canada from France. He is now retired and uses his time to trace his family tree. He also repairs old furniture as a pastime. He is shown above working on a chair.

## Man traces ancestors

February 3, 1911

County Councillors meeting at Pembroke increased their pay to \$5.00 per day at sessions and \$3.00 per day when engaged in committee work outside sessions.

W A Smith was appointed Town Assessor. He had served as member of council.

Canadiens of Montreal defeated Renfrew 6-5 in hockey game at Renfrew. Two former Renfrew players, "Newsy" Lalonde and Didier Pitre starred for Canadiens as did Vezina in goal. Fred Taylor and the two Cleghorn Brothers, Sprague and Odie were best for Renfrew.

Central Canada Ice Races were being held in Ottawa. There were reduced fares on both CPR and GTR railways.

January 29, 1886

A J Lindsay of Lochwinnoch gave a talk on the Scientific Feeding of Animals at Renfrew Farmers' Institute.

The high school had 115 pupils on the roll. There were more expected to come.

Council appointed A A Wright, Jas H Walford and Dr D O'Brien as Local Board of Health.

A young lady school teacher before re-engaging for another year was requested by the trustees to agree to (1) Not to be seen skating at a public rink (2) not to go with many young men (3) must not dance. She engaged with another section.

The young husband wrote home from his new job saying: "Made foreman—feather in my cap."

A few weeks later he wrote again saying: "Made manager—another feather in my cap."

After some weeks he wrote again saying: "Fired—send money for train fare."

His wife, unfeelingly, telegraphed back: "Use feathers and fly home."

### For The Grocers

Here's a joke that grocery store owners, and in particular their butchers can share the next time they are attending a meeting or convention.

**Bright young man to butcher:** "Say, your ad says you have meat cuts to suit all purses. Is that right?"

**Butcher:** "Certainly."

**Young man:** "What have you for an empty wallet?"

**Butcher:** "Cold shoulder."