

Channel Islands Surnames of French Origin in North America

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Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, migrants from the Channel Islands settled in various parts of North America. Many of them bore French names which their ancestors had brought over from Normandy and Brittany to Jersey and Guernsey in previous centuries. However, since many of these surnames were no longer found to exist in France or had evolved beyond recognition, their etymologies became irretrievable in standard French onomastic works. In this study, it will be shown that their origins can be ascertained for the most part by supplementing traditional research methods with the vast onomastic, geographical and genealogical data that has become available on the internet in recent years.

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Introduction

Although the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey are now British Crown dependencies where English is the prevalent language, they were colonized in large part by Norman French settlers over the course of many centuries.¹ Then, in the 18th and 19th centuries, many Channel Islanders started emigrating to North America, but whereas a great deal of genealogical research has been done on these migrants, most notably by Turk (2008), there is no single repository of onomastic information on the French surnames they bore such that one has to cull their possible origins from sources dealing specifically with the main areas in which they settled.

There are three such areas. One is the United States for which Hanks (2003) is the primary source. Out of the 103 surnames (including offshoots) of suspected French origin from the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey that were collected for the purposes of this study, 39 were found to be listed there while 30 were found in Seary et al. (1998) for those that were brought over to Newfoundland.² For the east coast of Canada, and notably the Gaspé Peninsula, 48 of the total are listed in Picard (2010b). Finally, ten of the names to be dealt with here are absent from all three works, having been uncovered only since their publications.³

Assembling an inventory of French Channel Islands surnames in North America is only a first step, however. More important is the task of ensuring that the origins that have been proposed for them in the aforementioned sources are accurate. One reason why they might not be is that many of the surnames borne by the Norman, and in some cases, Breton migrants to Jersey and Guernsey were either altered in various ways over the centuries or simply disappeared in northwestern France with the consequence that they could not be found in the standard French onomastics dictionaries of Dauzat (1989) and Morlet (1997).

As a result, this has seriously stymied the authors of works devoted to North American surname origins in their attempts to provide the etymologies of French surnames emanating from the Channel Islands. For example, out of the 39 listed in Hanks (2003), only 14 have been found to be accounted for with complete accuracy.⁴ Similarly, Seary et al. (1998) have 30 such surnames, 15 of which are either incorrect or left unexplained.⁵ Finally, in Picard (2010b), there are still a few entries whose origins are undetermined.

Onomastics and Genealogy of French Channel Islands Surnames

Each of the entries below containing data on the Jersiais and Guernésiais immigrants to North America consists of two parts. The first of these is onomastic in nature in that it provides the etymology of the surname along with its variants. The second part ideally contains the following information: the name of the first bearer followed by that of his parents, his place of origin, the name of his spouse as well as that of her parents, and the place and date of their marriage. Some of these details may be missing, however, if the genealogical records are incomplete.

Ahier, apparently from the Germanic name *Hadhari*, from *had* ‘battle’ and *hari* ‘army’.
— Jacques **Ahier** (*Philippe and Marthe Blouet*) from *Saint-Clément (Saint Clement)* in *Jersey m. Isabella Brotherton (Alexander and ...)* in *Hope Town, QC c. 1802*.

Aupin, alteration of *Aubin*, from the Latin name *Albinus*, derived from *albus* ‘white’.
— Samuel *Aubin/Aupin* (*Jean and Marguerite D’Amours*) from *Guernsey m. Caroline Collin (Jean-Baptiste and Marthe Réhel)* in *Percé, QC in 1843*.

Beauchamp, alteration of *Beaucamp*, from (*Le*) *Beaucamp*, the name of several places in the north of France.

— Georges **Beaucamp** from *Jersey m. Olive Forest (Maximien and Scholastique Leblanc)* probably in *Paspébiac, QC c. 1816*.

Besso, alteration of **Bisson**. — Var. **Beeso**.

— John - presumably Jean - **Bisson** from *Guernsey m. Anne ... probably in Guernsey c. 1757, d. in Spaniard’s Bay, NL c. 1800*.

Bisson, from *Le Bisson*, the name of several places in Basse-Normandie. — Var. **Besson**.
— Daniel **Bisson** (*Charles and Marie Harmon*) from *Saint-Jean (Saint John)* in *Jersey m. Mary Jane Almond (James and Catherine Garrett)* in *Hope Town, QC in 1842*.

Brouard, from the Germanic name *Berward*, from *ber(n)* ‘bear’ and *ward* ‘guard’.

— Nicolas-Martin **Brouard** (*Daniel and Marie Lestoc*) from *Sainte-Marie-du-Câtel (Castel)* in *Guernsey m. Sophie Lüders (Jean-Baptiste and Marie-Louise Jolin)* in *Saint-Henri-de-Lévis, QC in 1817*.

Bullen, alteration of *Balleine*, from (*La*) *Balleine*, the name of several places in the north of France.

— *Philippe Balleine* (*Philippe and Rachel Payn*) from *Saint-Pierre* (*Saint Peter*) in *Jersey m.* *Deborah Hutchinson* (*Samuel and Sarah Fassett*) in *Charlestown, MA* in 1734.

Burhoe, alteration of *Bréhaut*, from (*Le*) *Bréhaut*, the name of a few places in the north-western part of France.

— *Jean Bréhaut* (*Jean and Rebeca Guille*) from *Guernsey m.* *Jane Douglas* (*James and ...*) in *Charlottetown, PE* in 1787.

Cabot, from (*Le*) *Cabot*, the name of several places in the northern part of France.

— *Jean Cabot* (*Noé and Sara du Fresne*) from *Saint-Martin* (*Saint Martin*) in *Jersey m.* *Rachel de Gruchy* (*Pierre and Élisabeth Romeril*) probably in *Grande-Grève, NS* in 1785.

Decaen, from *de Caen* ‘from Caen’, a placename in *Calvados* (*Basse-Normandie*). — Var. **De Caen**.

— *Frédéric-Jean Decaen* (*Jean and Élisabeth Deslandes*) from *Jersey m.* (1) *Victoire Lambert* in *Paspébiac, QC* in 1858; (2) *Victoire Delarosbil* (*Frédéric and Séraphine Duguay*) in *Paspébiac* in 1863.

Decarteret, from *de Carteret* ‘from Carteret’, the name of two places in the northwestern part of France.

— *John De Carteret* (*Isidore and Jeanne Le Cornu*) from *Saint-Jean* (*Saint John*) in the *isle of Jersey m.* *Mary Anne Le Masurier* (*Jean and Rachel De Gruchy*) in *Jersey c.* 1872, *d.* in *Chelmsford, MA* in 1932.

Degarie, alteration of *Degaris*, from *de Garris* ‘from Garris’, a placename in *Pyrénées-Atlantiques* (*Aquitaine*). — Var. **Dégarie, De Garie**.

— *Nicolas Degaris* (*Nicolas and Judith Bailleul*) from *Saint-Pierre-du-Bois* (*Saint Peter in the Wood*) in *Guernsey m.* *Julienne Duguay* (*Pierre and Marthe Roussy*) in *Percé, QC* in 1833.

De Gruchy, from *de Gruchy* ‘from Gruchy’, the name of several places in *Normandie*.

— *Percy Charles John De Gruchy* (*Charles and Anne Le Boutillier*) from *Saint-Hélier* (*Saint Helier*) in *Jersey m.* *Eva Baker* (*James and Martha Collin*) in *Cape Cove, QC* in 1904.

Duchemin, from *du Chemin*, derived from *Le Chemin*, the name of several places throughout France.

— *François Duchemin* (*Élie and Rachel Robillard*) from *Guernsey m.* *Louise Marcotte* (*Joseph and Marie-Louise Lefebvre*) in *Cap-Santé, QC* in 1793.

Dumaresq, probably from *du Marais*, derived from *Le Marais*, the name of several places in France and in the Channel Islands.

— *Elias Dumaresq* (*Daniel and Elizabeth Anne ...*) from *Sainte-Marie* (*Saint Mary*) in *Jersey m.* *Christine-Delphine Després* (*Jean-Baptiste and Christine Samuel*) in *Rivière-au-Renard, QC* in 1857.

Duval, from *du Val*, derived from *Le Val*, the name of several places throughout France.

— *Georges Duval* (*Philippe and Jeanne Rouet*) from *Saint-Pierre* (*Saint Peter*) in *Jersey m.* *Véronique Paulin* (*François-d’Assise and Véronique Haché*) probably in *Caraquet, NB* in 1882.

— *Philippe Duval* (*Philippe and Jeanne Rouet*) from *Saint-Pierre* (*Saint Peter*) in *Jersey m.* *Suzanne Cormier* (*Armand and Charlotte Lebreton*) in *Bathurst, NB* in 1866.

Fallu, apparently from Old French *falue* ‘deception, trickery’, the nickname of a deceitful individual.

— *Georges Fallu* (*Philippe and Élisabeth Lefebvre*) from *Sainte-Marie* (*Saint Mary*) in *Jersey m.* *Geneviève McIntyre* (*John and Reine Bergeron*) in *Carleton, QC* in 1830.

Ferbrache, probable variant of *Forbras*, from *fort* ‘strong’ and *bras* ‘arm(s)’.

— *Daniel Ferbrache* (*James and Anne Mahy*) from *Saint-Samson* (*Saint Sampson*) in the *isle of Guernsey m.* *Judith Sarchet* (*Thomas and Judith Jouanne*) in *Saint-Samson* (*Saint Sampson*) in 1792, d. in *Cambridge, OH* in 1857.

Fillatre, from Old French *fillatre* ‘son-in-law’.

— *Francis Fillatre* from *Jersey m.* *Elizabeth Swyer* (*Samuel and Ann Heulan*) in *Sandy Point, NL* c.1825.

Garcelon, derived from Old French *gars* ‘valet, servant’.

— *James - presumably Jacques - Garcelon* (*Pierre and Jeanne Badet*) from *Saint-Pierre-du-Bois* (*Saint Peter in the Wood*) in *Guernsey m.* *Deliverance Annis* (*Isaac and Experience Harraden*) in *Gloucester, MA* in 1760.

Gibeaut, alteration of *Gibaut*, from the Germanic name *Gibwald*, from *gib* ‘gift’ and *wald* ‘power, authority’.

— *Charles-Jacques Gibaut/Gibeaut* (*Charles-Jacques and Anne Jehan*) from *Saint-Pierre-Port* (*Saint Peter Port*) in *Guernsey m.* *Matilda Jackson* in *Muskingum County, OH* in 1849.

Grandin, derived from **Grand**.

— *Amos/Amice Grandin* (*Daniel and Rachel Lebrocq*) from *Saint-Pierre-Port* (*Saint Peter Port*) in *Guernsey m.* *Patience Throckmorton* (*Job and Sarah Leonard*) in *Monmouth, NJ* in 1732.

— *Daniel Grandin* (*Daniel and Rachel Lebrocq*) from *Saint-Pierre-Port* (*Saint Peter Port*) in *Guernsey m.* *Mary Throckmorton* (*Job and Sarah Leonard*) in *Monmouth, NJ* in 1719.

Grandy, alteration of **Grandin**.

— *Philippe Grandin* from *Jersey m.* *Elizabeth Poole* in *Garnish, NL* c. 1767.

Grouchy, from *Grouchy*, a placename in *Manche* (*Basse-Normandie*).

— *John - presumably Jean - Grouchy* from *Jersey m.* *Ann ... in Jersey* c. 1800, d. in *Pouch Cove, NL* in 1842.

Gustin, derived from *Augustin*, from the Latin name *Augustinus*, derived from *augustus* ‘saint, majestic, venerable’. — Var. **Gustine**.

— *Augustin Jean dit Gustin* (*Edmond and Esther Lerossignol*) from *L'Étacq* in *Jersey m.* *Elizabeth Browne* (*John and Esther Makepeace*) in *Salem, MA* in 1677.

Hacquoil, probably from *Hacqueville*, the name of a few places in *Normandie*. — Var. **Hawco**.

— *Jacques Hacquoil* (*Philippe and Marguerite Romeril*) from *Saint-Ouen* (*Saint Ouen*) in *Jersey m.* *Rosalie Duguay* (*Jacques and Marguerite Chapados*) in *Restigouche, NB* in 1811.

— *James Clement Hacquoil* (*Phillip Clement and Elizabeth Green*) from *Jersey m.* *Frances Louise Halliday* in *Bay du Nord, NL* in 1887.

— *William Hacquoil* (*Phillip Clement and Elizabeth Green*) from *Jersey m.* *Jane Baker* probably in *Pool's Cove, NL* c. 1890.

Janvrin, derived from Old French *jenvre* ‘youngest child’.

— *Jean Janvrin* (*Jacques and Marie Le Couteur*) from *Saint-Hélier* (*Saint Helier*) in *Jersey m.* *Elizabeth Knight* (*John and Bridget Sloper*) in *Dover, NH* in 1706.

Langlois, from Old French *l'Anglois* ‘the Englishman’.

— *Pierre Langlois* (*Abraham and Martha Tostevin*) from *Torteval* in *Guernsey m.* *Mary Bourgaize* in *Gaspé, QC* in 1833.

Le Bouthillier, from Old French *le boutillier* ‘the cupbearer’. — Var. **Lebouthillier**, **Leboutillier**.

— *Jean Le Bouthillier/Le Boutillier* (*Jean-David and Marie Baudains*) from *Saint-Jean* (*Saint John*) in *Jersey m.* *Élisabeth Robin* (*Philip and Marthe Arbour*) in *Percé, QC* in 1824.

Lecouteur, from Old French *le costor* ‘the custodian, beadle, sexton’.

— *Philippe Lecouteur* from *Saint-Ouen* (*Saint Ouen*) in *Jersey m.* *Genevieve Flynn* (*John and Catherine Henley*) in *Percé, QC* in 1830.

Le Gallais, apparently from Old French *le galais* ‘the man of pleasure, bon-vivant’. — Var. **Legallais**.

— *Philip Le Gallais* (*Jean and Jeanne De Caen*) from *Saint-Brelade* (*Saint Brelade*) in *Jersey m.* *Mary Caroline Holmes* (*Clement and Anne Paxton*) in *Cox* (now *New Carlisle*), *QC c.* 1818.

Le Gresley, from Old French *le greslé* ‘the pockmarked (man)’, the nickname of an individual with a face marked by smallpox. — Var. **Legresley**.

— *John Le Gresley* from *Saint-Ouen* (*Saint Ouen*) in *Jersey m.* *Mary Boyle* (*Stephen and Mary Anastasia Nancy Element*) in *Percé, QC* in 1842.

Legrow, alteration of *Legros*, from *le gros* ‘the fat (man)’.

— *Simon Legros* from *Jersey m.* an unidentified spouse probably in *Broad Cove, NL c.* 1750.

Lemessurier, variant of **Lemesurier**.

— *James Lemessurier* from *Saint-Pierre-Port* (*Saint Peter Port*) in *Guernsey m.* *Anna ...* in *St. John’s, NL* in 1855.

Lemesurier, from Old French *le mesurier* ‘the measurer’, the nickname of a surveyor.

— *John Thomas Lemesurier* (*Thomas and Margaret Nicolle*) from *Saint-Clément* (*Saint Clement*) in *Jersey m.* *Jane Elizabeth Gallie* (*John Francis and Anna Maria Scott*) in *Hope Town, QC* in 1855.

Le Moignan, from *Le Moignan*, a placename in *Seine-Maritime* (*Haute-Normandie*).

— Var. **Lemoignan**.

— *Pierre Le Moignan* (*Amice and Marie Le Rossignol*) from *Saint-Jean* (*Saint John*) in *Jersey m.* *Salomé Dupuis* (*Germain and Louise Blais*) in *Grande-Rivière, QC* in 1837.

Lemoine, from *le moine* ‘the monk’, an ironic nickname.

— *John Charles Lemoine* from *Jersey m.* *Ann Poole* in *Newfoundland* in 1840.

Lemprière, alteration of *Lemprière*, either from *L’Emprière*, a placename in *Calvados* (*Basse-Normandie*), or a variant of *Lempérière*, from Old French *l’empérière* ‘the empress’, an ironic nickname.

— *Alfred Lemprière* (*Thomas and Esther Godfray*) from *Saint-Jean* (*Saint John*) in *Jersey m.* *Harriet Susannah Hooper* (*William and Martha ...*) probably in *Newfoundland c.* 1881.

Lenfestey, from regional French *l’enveisié* ‘the happy (man)’.

— *Abraham Alfred Lenfestey* (*Abraham and ...*) from *Guernsey m.* *Sylvia Ella Alley* (*John Merrill and Lois Mansfield Woodward*) in *Jonesport, ME* in 1887.

Lenfesty, alteration of **Lenfestey**.

— Jacques *Lenfestey* (Thomas and Rachel Lenfestey) from Guernsey m. Susan Dobson (Charles and Anne Spencer) in Percé, QC in 1804.

Lepoidevin, from *le Poidevin*, same origin as **Potvin**.

— John *Le Poidevin* (Jeb and Rachel Cohn) from Saint-Samson (Saint Sampson) in the isle of Guernsey m. Ophelia Alvina Martin (William Henry and Phoebe Mariah McGinnis) in Beatrice, NE in 1873.

Leriche, from Old French *le riche* ‘the rich, powerful (man)’.

— James Robert *Leriche* from Jersey m. Elizabeth Strickland (William and Frances Organ) probably in Isle aux Morts, NL in 1857.

Le Scelleur, from Old French *le scelleur* ‘the sealer’, the nickname of an individual who affixed seals on documents. — Var. **Lescelleur**.

— Charles *Le Scelleur* (Charles and Sophie-Esther Gendron) from Saint-Héliér (Saint Helier) in Jersey m. Joséphine Caron (Jean-Baptiste and Marcelline Fournier) in Grande-Vallée, QC in 1876.

Letemplier, from *le Templier* ‘the Templar’, probably an ironic nickname.

— Octave *Letemplier* from Jersey m. Odile Blais (André and Louise Roy) in Bonne-Espérance, QC in 1860.

Marquand, from regional French *marquand* ‘merchant’.

— Charles *Marquand* (Charles and Élisabeth Guérin) from Guernsey m. Rachel Lovett in Guernsey c. 1793, d. in Monroe, OH in 1855.

— Jean *Marquand* (Nicolas and Marguerite Delarue) from Guernsey m. Caroline Langlois (James and Judith Gallienne) in Guernsey c. 1796, d. in Cambridge, OH in 1850.

Meservey, alteration of *Messervy*, probably derived from Old French *messervir* ‘to mistreat, do harm to’. — Var. **Meserve**, **Meservie**, **Meservey**.

— Clément *Messervy* (Jean and Marie Vachon) from Gouray (Gorey) in Jersey m. Elizabeth ... in Kittery, ME c. 1671.

— Philippe *Messervy* (Philippe and Rachel Bertram) from Saint-Sauveur (Saint Sauveur) in Jersey m. Suzanne Dennis (John and ...) probably in St. George’s, NL c. 1800.

Monger, alteration of *Mauger*, from the Germanic name *Madalgāri*, from *madal* (> *mal*) ‘council, reunion’ and *gāri* ‘spear’. — Var. **Major**, **Munger**.

— Jean *Mauger* (Jacques and Marie Le Ray) from Grouville in Jersey m. Scholastique McNicoll (Agapit-Archibald and Marie-Angélique Dallaire) in La Malbaie, QC in 1823.

— Richard *Mauger* (Richard and ...) from Saint-Ouen (Saint Ouen) in Jersey m. Angélique Loiselle (Robert and Anne-Élisabeth Roussy) in Hope Town, QC in 1809.

Naftel, from *Naftel*, a placename in Manche (Basse-Normandie).

— Saint John *Naftel* from Guernsey m. Willie Ann Simmons probably in Montgomery, AL c. 1823.

Nicolle, derived from *Nicolas*, from the Greek name *Nīkolaos*, from *nīkē* ‘victory’ and *laos* ‘people’, hence ‘prevailing among the people’. — Var. **Nicholle**.

— Philippe *Nicolle* (Jean and Élisabeth Le Masurier) from La Trinité (Trinity) in Jersey m. Elizabeth Forsey (George and Esther Petite) in Grand Bank, NL in 1796.

Noftall, alteration of **Naftel**. — Var. **Noftle**.

— Pierre *Naftel* (Pierre and Judith de La Mare) from Saint-Sauveur (Saint Saviour) in Guernsey m. an unidentified spouse probably in Blackhead, NL c. 1783.

Ogier, from the Germanic name *Adalgāri*, from *adal* ‘noble’ and *gāri* ‘spear’.

— *James Ogier* (*Henri and Marie Gallienne*) from *Sainte-Marie-du-Câtel* (*Castel*) in *Guernsey m.* *Marie Maindonald* (*Jean and Marthe Blondel*) in *Sainte-Marie-du-Câtel* in 1816, d. in *Jackson County, OH* in 1840.

— *Jean Ogier* (*Pierre and Marie ...*) from *Saint-Samson* (*Saint Sampson*) in *Guernsey m.* *Marie Moullin* (*Jean and Marie Renouf*) in *Saint-Pierre-Port* (*Saint Peter Port*) in *Guernsey* in 1798, d. in *Baltimore, MD* in 1821.

— *William Ogier* (*Henri and Marie Gallienne*) from *Sainte-Marie-du-Câtel* (*Castel*) in *Guernsey m.* *Judith Ferbrache* (*Daniel and Judith Sarchet*) in *Guernsey County, OH* in 1819.

Ozanne, from Latin *hōsanna* ‘praise, blessing’, from Hebrew *hōsha’nā* ‘save, we pray’.

— *Abraham Ozanne* (*Jean-Eturs and Judith Lihou*) from *Sainte-Marie-du-Câtel* (*Castel*) in *Guernsey m.* *Sophia Le Cronier* (*Philippe and ...*) in *Kenosha, WI* in 1860.

— *William Ozanne* (*Jean-Eturs and Judith Lihou*) from *Sainte-Marie-du-Câtel* (*Castel*) in *Guernsey m.* *Sophia Le Cronier* (*Philippe and ...*) in *Saint-Pierre-Port* (*Saint Peter Port*) in *Guernsey* in 1843, d. in *Somers, WI* in 1860.

Pasher, alteration of **Perchard**. — Var. **Pasha**.

— *Charles Parshar* - presumably *Perchard* - from *Jersey* or *Guernsey m.* *Jane Corneaux* probably in *Carbonear, NL* c. 1819.

Perchard, from (*Le*) *Perchard*, the name of a few places in *Maine-et-Loire* (*Pays de la Loire*).

— *Frédéric Perchard* (*Nicolas and Mary Burke*) from *Jersey m.* *Edwidge Deroy* (*Basile and Hélène Lamarre*) in *L’Islet, QC* in 1874.

Perrine, alteration of *Perrin*, either from (*Le*) *Perrin*, the name of several places throughout France, or derived from *Pierre*, from the Latin name *Petrus*, derived from *petra* ‘rock, stone’ — Var. **Perine**.

— *Daniel Perrin* (*Pierre and Adrienne Jubril*) from *Jersey m.* *Marie Thorel* in *Elizabethtown, NJ* in 1666.

Pieroway, alteration of *Pirouet*, a placename in *Manche* (*Basse-Normandie*).

— *Georges Pirouet* from *Saint-Héliér* (*Saint Helier*) in *Jersey m.* *Marie-Philippe Messervy* (*Philippe and Suzanne Dennis*) probably in *Sandy Point, NL* c. 1850.

Pipon, from Old French *pipon* ‘cheater, deceiver’.

— *Jean Pipon* from *Jersey m.* *Jeanne Slous* in *Jersey* in 1824, d. in *Québec* c. 1875.

Puddester, alteration of *Poingdestre*, from Old French *poing destre* ‘right fist’, the nickname of a pugnacious individual. — Var. **Puddister**.

— *Henri Poingdestre* from *Jersey m.* an unidentified spouse probably in *Western Bay, NL* c. 1753.

Ramier, from (*Le*) *Ramier*, the name of several places in various parts of France.

— *Ernest Ramier* (*John and Elizabeth-Denize Esnouf*) from *Saint-Héliér* (*Saint Helier*) in *Jersey m.* (1) *Octavie Proulx* (*Louis and Aurélie Landry*) in *Saint-Camille, QC* in 1891; (2) *Évangéline Martel* (*Joseph and Élise Paquet*) in *Saint-Camille* in 1903.

Renouf, from the Germanic name *Raginvulf*, from *ragin* ‘counsel’ and *wulf* ‘wolf’.

— *Philippe Renouf* (*Philippe-Thomas and Anne Benest*) from *Saint-Brelade* (*Saint Brelade*) in *Jersey m.* *Charlotte Fournier* (*Anselme and Marie-Louise Plante*) in *Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, QC* in 1825.

— *Phillip Renouf* from *Saint-Héliér* (*Saint Helier*) in *Jersey m.* *Margaret Parsons* in *Sandy Point, NL* in 1842.

Romeril, probably derived from *Romier*, the nickname of an individual who had made a pilgrimage to Rome. — Var. **Romrell**.

— François **Romeril** (*Jean and Rachel Le Cornu*) from *Saint-Jean (Saint John)* in *Jersey m.* Jeanne Hotton (*Jean and Marie ...*) in *Saint John* c. 1798, d. in *Ogden, UT* in 1875.

Rumery, alteration of **Romeril**.

— Thomas **Romeril** from *Saint-Héliier (Saint Helier)* in *Jersey m.* Mehitable Brier probably in *Biddeford, ME* c. 1685.

Rumrill, alteration of **Romeril**.

— Simon **Romeril** from *Saint-Jean (Saint John)* in *Jersey m.* Sarah Fairman (*John and Elizabeth ...*) in *Enfield, MA* in 1691.

Sarchet, apparently from Old French *sarchet* ‘spud, weeding hoe’, the nickname of an individual who made or used such an implement.

— Moïse **Sarchet** (*Thomas and Anne Bichard*) from *Saint-Samson (Saint Sampson)* in *Guernsey m.* Martha Bichard (*James and Rachel Delarue*) in *Cambridge, OH* in 1826.

— Pierre-Joseph **Sarchet** (*Pierre and Marie Gibaut*) from *Saint-Samson (Saint Sampson)* in *Guernsey m.* Jane Wallace (*Thomas and Susan ...*) in *Cambridge, OH* in 1826.

— Thomas **Sarchet** (*Thomas and Anne Bichard*) from *Saint-Samson (Saint Sampson)* in *Guernsey m.* Jane Wallace (*Thomas and Susan ...*) in *Cambridge, OH* in 1809.

Sohier, from the Germanic name *Sighari*, from *sig* ‘victory’ and *hari* ‘army’.

— Wesley **Sohier** (*Pierre and Henriette Pinel*) from *Jersey m.* Sarah Castonguay (*Charles-Philibert and Marguerie Henley*) in *Mont-Louis, QC* in 1884.

Ste-Croix, from *Sainte-Croix*, the name of several places throughout France. — Var. **Saintcroix, St. Croix**.

— Guillaume **Sainte-Croix** (*Jean and Élisabeth Lemercier*) from *Saint-Héliier (Saint Helier)* in *Jersey m.* Marguerite Chicoine (*Aubin and Marie-Anne David*) in *Percé, QC* in 1803.

Syvret, variant of *Sivret*, derived from *Sévère*, from the Latin name *Sevērus*, from *sevērus* ‘stern, serious, austere’. — Var. **Sivrais, Sivret, Syvrais**.

— Georges **Syvret/Sivret** from *Jersey m.* (1) Angélique Forest (*Maximien and Scholastique Leblanc*) in *Arichat, NS* c. 1805; (2) Scholastique Chiasson (*Paul and Isabelle Roussy*) in *Caraquet, NB* in 1824.

— Jacques **Syvret** from *Jersey m.* Nancy Le Page (*Thomas and Elizabeth Misson*) in *La Malbaie, QC* in 1856.

Thelland, origin undetermined. — Var. **Thellend, Thellen**.

— François **Thelland** (*Guillaume and Esther Luce*) from *Saint-Pierre (Saint Peter)* in *Jersey m.* Angélique Defoy (*Pierre and Angélique Ouvrard*) in *Neuveville, QC* in 1823.

Touzel, from Old French *to(u)sel* ‘stripling, youngster’.

— Philippe-Gédéon **Touzel** from *Jersey m.* Margaret Maria Lucas (*Abel and Margaret Mullin*) in *La Malbaie, QC* in 1854.

Trachy, origin undetermined.

— Abraham **Trachy** (*Benjamin and Elisabeth Lebrun*) from *Saint-Pierre (Saint Peter)* in *Jersey m.* Louise Bourget (*Charles and Louise Turcotte*) in *Percé, QC* in 1819.

— Édouard **Trachy** (*Benjamin and Elisabeth Lebrun*) from *Saint-Pierre (Saint Peter)* in *Jersey m.* Suzanne Bourget (*Charles and Louise Turcotte*) in *Percé, QC* in 1819.

Vautier, from the Germanic name *Waldhari*, from *wald* ‘power, authority’ and *hari* ‘army’. — Var. **Voutier**.

— *François Vautier from Jersey m. Sarah ... probably in Newfoundland c. 1840.*

Vibert, from the Germanic name *Wigberht*, from *wīg* ‘battle’ and *berht* ‘bright’.

— *Pierre Vibert (Philippe and Marie de la Perrelle) from Sainte-Marie (Saint Mary) in Jersey m. (1) Judith Ingrouville (Daniel and Judith Brouard) in Gaspé, QC in 1831; (2) Sarah Bunton (Mark and Elizabeth Austin) in Gaspé, QC in 1855.*

New Research Methods

Out of the 63 original French surnames from the Channel Islands that were analyzed in this study, only 26 can be found in Dauzat (1989) and 31 in Morlet (1997). This is not surprising given that 25 of the 63 surnames are either no longer found in France or are extremely rare there, and so would not be expected to be listed in these two works. Since Seary et al. (1998) and Hanks (2003) depend almost entirely on these two dictionaries for their information, as was noted at the outset, this explains in large part why they fare so poorly in their account of the origins of Jersiais and Guernésiais surnames.

So how is it, then, that only two of these, namely *Thelland* and *Trachy*, have been left unexplained in the present study? As I have pointed out in a number of instances (see Picard 2013, 2010a, 2010b, 2009, for example), the effect that the internet has had upon onomastic research is nothing short of revolutionary, and it is only by mining its immense resources that one can hope to achieve a much greater accountability that was done using traditional methods.

Onomastically, Tosti (2016) has proven to be a welcome addition to Dauzat and Morlet for two reasons. One is that it contains surnames that are absent from those two sources, with *Ahier*, *Fallu*, *Lepoidevin* and *Pipon* being examples from the data above. Another is that the origins it proposes are generally more plausible than those found in the other works. A Guernésiais case in point is *Brouard* which they see as a variant of *Brouet* from Old French *brouet*, a kind of soup or stew, and thus a nickname “appliqué à un individu qui se nourrissait seulement de potage, qui vivait chichement” (Morlet 1997, 144). However, given that *Brouard* and *Brouet* are found in different parts of France as shown at the website *Géopatronyme* (2016), Tosti’s assumption that *Brouard* is a variant of *Berouard* of Germanic origin is much more plausible, particularly since both forms occur in the same region.

Another area where data from the internet has played a significant onomastic role is that of toponymy since so many French surnames come from placenames. Thus, were it not for a website like *Géoportail* (2016), it could not have been ascertained that Channel Islands family names like *Bréhaut* (> *Burhoe*), *Cabot*, *Grouchy*, *Gruchy*, *Le Moignan*, *Lemprière*, *Bréhaut* (> *Burhoe*), *Perchard* (> *Pasha*, *Pasher*), *Perrin* (> *Perrine*), *Pirouet* (> *Pieroway*) and *Ramier* are derived from toponyms since these are not listed in either Dauzat and Rostaing (2002) or *Nègre* (1990–1991), the two most complete dictionaries of French placenames.

The most significant contribution the internet has provided to North American onomastic research, however, is genealogical in nature. The proliferation of websites, both general and individual, devoted to this pursuit is probably the most important reason why so many surnames that were heretofore unexplained or misinterpreted have recently been elucidated. This is due to the fact that tracing modern names back in time genealogically can help us recover their original forms which would otherwise remain undetected.⁶

Four cases from the Channel Islands data we have examined can help illustrate the usefulness of genealogy in getting to the bottom of things. The surname *Aupin* appears to be anomalous in that it originates with a migrant from Guernsey where, according to the information provided on the Ancestry (2016) website, it is nonexistent. Moreover, it is absent in northwestern France where Jersiais and Guernésiais names normally come from. However, it turns out that the original bearer's name was not *Aupin* as many records show but *Aubin*, a name which is plentiful in both Normandy and the Channel Islands.

Similarly, as made clear on the Rootsweb (2016) website, some of the bearers of the name *Beauchamp* in Québec are actually descendants of a migrant from Jersey named *Beaucamp*. Again, we find on the Ancestry website that only the latter is found in the Channel Islands. Another case is *Burhoe* whose origin is classified as “unidentified” by Hanks (2003). However, working back in time on *Rootsweb* clearly shows that it is an alteration of Guernésiais *Bréhaut* mentioned above. Finally, were it not for the genealogical information provided by De Garie (2016), chances are that the origin of *Degaris* would have remained undetermined, as it was deemed to be in Picard (2010b).

Conclusion

This study was designed to fulfill two main objectives. The first was to collect from different sources a number of surnames of French origin that had been brought to North America from the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey. The second goal was to verify the correctness of their etymologies that had been proposed in the sources dealing with their presence in the areas where they had proliferated, namely the United States, Newfoundland and Québec. These historical origins were found to be either absent or erroneous in many instances. In this regard, it was shown that this could be remedied by resorting to the vast array of onomastic, geographical and genealogical evidence that has become available on the internet in the last few years.

Notes

¹ As explained by Thomas, “English influence in the Channel Islands grew apace in the 18th and 19th centuries, and English names are now more common there than native Channel Island names [which are] those of French origin which developed after the islands ... began to lose close contact with Normandy, of which linguistically they were part” (1999, 10).

² In an introductory section entitled *Surnames from the Channel Islands*, Seary et al. (1998, xlii) list hundreds of names that purportedly hail from there, a large percentage of which are ostensibly of French origin. However, as noted by Thomas, “Seary’s list of such names is far too inclusive to allow precise identification of many Newfoundland names” (1999, 10). Thus, only those surnames for which there is a clear genealogical Channels Islands connection have been retained here.

³ That this totals more than 103 surnames is due to the fact that some of them are found in more than one source.

⁴ There are various reasons why so many of the proposed origins are inaccurate. Some are given French etymologies that are simply erroneous while others are ascribed, rightly or wrongly, to other languages or simply left “unexplained” or “unidentified”.

⁵ In Thomas’ view, “when dealing with French material, ... many of [Seary et al.’s] comments on the origins and evolution of names are highly speculative” (1999, 9).

⁶ For example, Hanks (2003) contains approximately 1,300 names that are labeled “origin unidentified” or “origin uncertain” but most of these are accounted for in Picard (2010a) in large part through the use of reconstructive genealogical data.

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