



# The Turgeons

*Spanning Five Centuries and Three Nations*  
*1627-2007*

A Family History for the Descendants of  
Walter W. and Alexine M. (Bergeron) Turgeon

2007

# Acknowledgments

Many friends and relatives supported and contributed to this project. I would like to acknowledge the following:

--Cousins Mary Ellen Eiler and Adelle (Eiler) Johnson, and my brother, Bill, for sparking my interest in doing a family history and for sharing their considerable amount of research work;

--Dorothy Chandler of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, for providing a complete genealogical chart;

--Bridgette Murray of the Beaumont, Quebec, municipal office for helping me locate Canadian history resources;

--The staff of the Laval University (Quebec) Genealogical Library for access to research material;

--David and (niece) Mary (Cyr) Alton of Wokingham, U.K., for providing transportation and interpreting services while doing research in Normandy, France;

--The Indiana University French Department for providing translations;

--My brother, Bill, for the title of this family history and for writing the final draft, and

--Finally, my wife, Bonnie, the love of my life, who endured the trips through Quebec and Normandy, endless conversations about Turgeons, and my occupation of our basement family room for two years of drafting. Thank you, my dear.

If I have overlooked anyone who assisted me, I apologize and say "thank you."

**Fran Turgeon**

What is any man but the total of what he has seen?  
The sum of what he has done?

--Louis L'Amour  
Off the Mangrove Coast

\*\*\*\*\*

Printed by Spectrum Printing, Hackensack, Minnesota  
Maps by David Swanson, Cartographer, Hackensack, Minnesota

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b> .....	pg. 3
<b>Chapter 1:</b> <i>The Charles Turgeon Family: From the Perche Region to New France (Quebec)</i> .....	pg. 5
<b>Chapter 2:</b> <i>The Turgeons in Quebec (1662-1879) Beauport, Beaumont, Lambton</i> .....	pg. 15
<b>Chapter 3:</b> <i>The Turgeons in Minnesota (1879-2007) Lambert, Oklee, Brooks (Red Lake Co.)</i> .....	pg. 23
<b>Appendix</b> .....	pg. 43

# Foreword

In 1662, Charles Turgeon left his home in France for Quebec, where he settled at Beauport, just outside Quebec City. He was one of a small number of farmers, craftsmen, woodcutters and adventurers from the Perche region in France, who, often with wives and children, departed their homeland in the middle of the 17th Century to populate New France in North America.

Charles and his wife, Pasquiere Lefebvre, had 10 children, four of whom died at a young age. Today, their descendants number more than 13,000 in the U.S. and Canada, and the Turgeon name has remained unchanged in the nearly 350 years since the couple crossed the Atlantic to make a new home along the St. Lawrence River.

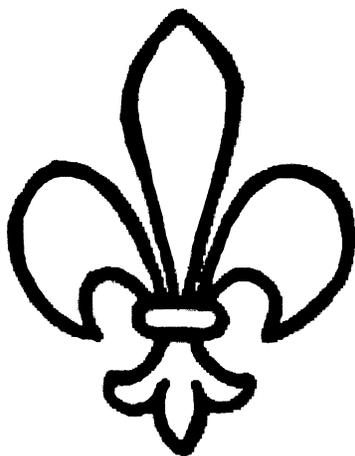
Members of the Walter W. and Alexine M. Turgeon family of Oklee and Brooks, Minnesota, in Red Lake County are direct descendants of Charles and Pasquiere's youngest child, Jean, who was born in 1670. This family history, spanning five centuries, starts with the birth of Charles in 1627, and then follows the descendants of his son, Jean, through the many years, focusing finally on our great-grandparents, grandparents and parents.

More than anything else, these pages depict the remarkable pioneering spirit of our ancestors, not only those who first came to Quebec in the 1600s, but also those who much later sought new lands within Quebec and, finally, new lands halfway across the continent in Minnesota. We truly have a proud heritage that should be remembered and honored.

We have gathered information for this family history from many different sources, including courthouse documents, genealogical centers, the Internet, personal memories, the research work of relatives and visits to many of the locales. Such a history is open to correction and addition, and we invite other family members to carry on this work in the future.

**Fran Turgeon  
Bill Turgeon**

**June 2007**



# Chapter 1

## **The Charles Turgeon Family: From the Perche Region to New France (Quebec)**

Our ancestor, Charles Turgeon, was born in 1627 in Mortagne, a city located in the Perche region of Normandy in northwest France. He was baptized on September 3 of that year in the Roman Catholic church of St. Jean de Mortagne. The site of this church is located at 42 Rue de Paris in present-day Mortagne, and a veterinary clinic is built over the basement of the former church. Charles' parents were Jean and Sebastienne (Liger) Turgeon (no other information is available about them.)

Charles married Pasquiere Lefebvre in 1649 in Notre Dame church in Mortagne (the church still exists). Pasquiere probably was born in 1627 -- the same year as Charles, because a 1667 census in Beauport, Quebec lists her as 40 years of age. The couple had a total of 10 children -- born over a 20 -year period from 1650 to 1670 -- four of whom died at a young age. Of the ten children, six were born in France, while the remaining four were born after Charles and Pasquiere emigrated to Quebec. Three of the four children who died as infants or children were born in France and died there.

The names, dates of birth and other vital statistics about Charles and Pasquiere's family are listed in the Family Group 1 sheet in the Appendix. Of special interest, of course, is their youngest child, Jean, a son born on May 17, 1670 in Quebec City. He is the direct ancestor of the Walter W. Turgeon family of Oklee and Brooks, Minnesota. He was born eight years after Charles and Pasquiere emigrated to Quebec when both were about 43 years old.



*The Perche region lies mainly in the present-day Department of Orne in Normandy.*

It should be noted that even though Charles and his family emigrated to New France in 1662, Charles had made the trip across the Atlantic at least once earlier if not several times. Even though he was from Perche, a rural, agricultural area located a fair distance from the sea coast, his occupation is listed as sailor in a police report of this incident in Quebec history, dated 1657:

*“Jean Chausse dit Lemeine, while he was making his rounds around nine o’clock at night near the Place-Royale in Quebec, when passing by the home of Charles Turgeon, a sailor, had urine thrown on his head that Turgeon was in the process of throwing into the street from his balcony.” For this impoliteness, Turgeon was brought before the courts.*

*Andre Lachance  
Crimes et criminels en Nouvelle-France,  
Montreal, Boreal express, 1984, p. 28.*

From this amusing account, we can conclude that Charles had already made at least one sea voyage from France to New France and back again before emigrating with his wife and children five years later. We also likely can conclude that he was working as a sailor in the 1650s, and, when in New France, was residing in lower Quebec City, the waterfront area, when the chamber pot incident occurred. We can only surmise that Charles became a sailor based on his personal connections with the hardy group of adventurers from the area around Mortagne, who, starting in 1634, left their homes to settle the new lands overseas.

Charles and Pasquiere, with children, Marie Clair, age 14; Jacques, age 10, and Anne, age 4, emigrated to New France in the summer of 1662, settling in Beauport, near Quebec City, where he took possession of a parcel of land.

Charles was solvent enough to lend money to another Mortagne area resident who also wanted to leave France for Quebec but didn’t have enough money to pay for his family’s travel from their home area to the sea coast, where they would board their ship to New France.

The following information is reported in a genealogical dictionary of original Quebec families:

*Robert Boulay (Boule, Boulet), who was a plowman from the St. Germain de Loise parish in Le Perche, decided to leave his country with his wife, Francoise Garnier and their three-year-old daughter, Jacqueline. On June 23, 1662, he borrowed 20 pounds from Charles Turgeon to help pay for his trip from the Mortagne area to La Rochelle, where the ship to Quebec was to embark. The Boulay family boarded a sailing ship of 300 tons named the Golden Eagle at Chef de Baye near La Rochelle. [Charles and his family were on the same ship] Apparently the trip across the Atlantic was "restless and longer than usual." On November 8, 1662, some months after arriving in New France, Robert repaid the money he had borrowed from Charles.*

## **People of Perche: New France's First Settlers (1634-1668)**

A family history of the Turgeons would be profoundly lacking without sufficient attention to the historical importance of the Perche region in France to the original settlement of Quebec. Residents of Perche comprised the first wave of French citizens who populated the new land starting in 1634. Few would have thought that the population of Perche, living far from the coast in a rural, agricultural area with significant forests, would play such a major role in settling New France. Craftsmen, lumberjacks, plowmen and others left their homes to brave the challenges of living in the wilderness of Quebec.

Many of the Perche emigrants have names that are familiar to those who grew up the Oklee and Brooks area in Red Lake County, Minnesota: Boucher, Cote, Gagnon, Lefebvre, Mercier, Paradis, Poulin, Provost, Roy, Suprenant and Turgeon, to name some.

The Perche region is located 100 miles west of Paris. It is a lovely pastoral area consisting mainly of gently rolling hills and meadows. Unlike much of France, Perche is blessed with remarkable beech and oak forests like the Belleme Forest with centuries-old trees. It also benefits from a number of rivers and streams. (The Perche residents knew how to farm and work as woodcutters in the forests, something that would serve them well in Quebec.) Its main cities are Nogent-le-Rotrou, pop. 11,524, and Mortagne-au-Perche, pop. 4,943. The region is probably best known as the home of the famous Percheron draft horse.

Perche has always been a region -- never a province or department. Before the French Revolution, it was part of the Province of Normandy. Today, most of the original area is part of the Department of Orne, but small parts lie in four other departments. The parishes of St. Jean de Mortagne (where Charles Turgeon was baptized) and St. Aubin in nearby Tourouvre accounted for a disproportionately large number of the original emigrants to Quebec. Fifty-three came from Mortagne and 45 from Tourouvre.

## Local and National Factors Affecting Emigration

Perche was not especially prosperous, but poverty was not a direct factor of the emigration. The movement was not spontaneous at all, and the emigrants were chosen according to many factors. In the years 1646-48 when most departures occurred, there were no bad crops or other immediate factors to drive emigration, but the lack of opportunities for young people to buy or inherit land in France spurred their interest in crossing the sea where opportunities beckoned. While some people had a taste for adventure, others wanted to obtain land and establish a new life for themselves and their families. In France at the time, wealth and poverty were primarily inherited, and the social structure pretty much assured that everyone, in the words of a history book, "exists in the place God gave him from birth." Such factors likely were contributors to the great Canadian adventure.



*A view of the city of Mortagne in Perche*

But in addition to the factors just mentioned, the emigration took place because of the strong will and persuasiveness of such men as Robert Giffard and his companions, the brothers Jean and Noel Juchereau, who led their families, friends and neighbors in Perche to the new land. Mortagne and Tourouvre briefly became the stepping-stones of a rather original intercontinental migration in the middle of the 17th Century.

We also must consider -- in general terms -- the national political factors that drove the settling of Quebec. The region was first looked at by the King of France as a "gold mine" for his nation to exploit, particularly in the fur trade, and only later was viewed as a place for settlers to colonize. Also, there was a spiritual dimension to this historical movement. The Jesuits saw Quebec as a place for evangelization and established missions there from the earliest days.

Along with an understanding of the reasons for emigration, we also need to keep in mind that these early settlers at one time or another faced formidable challenges: attacks by the Iroquois, incursions by the British and the hardships of the climate. For these hardy souls, it was no holiday excursion, even though the land was fertile, wild game plentiful, and the prospect of getting rich in the fur trade was real. We also must remember that they left their families and friends behind in France, with the likely prospect of never seeing them again.

## Robert Giffard: Leader of the First Emigrants

Robert Giffard, an apothecary (pharmacist) and surgeon from Tourouvre, was the first Quebec pioneer and the first to receive a “seigneurie,” which is a grant of land from the King of France that could be subdivided and conceded to qualified immigrants. His seigneurie, granted in 1634 on the condition that he establish colonists there, was at Beauport, where Charles Turgeon settled 28 years later.

Giffard, along with a carpenter named Jean Bourdon, are credited with the creation of the “row,” a subdivision of land into narrow, long parts perpendicular to a river (in particular, the St. Lawrence at the time). The “row” allowed each settler to have access to the river so that he could travel by canoe, ship wood produced when clearing land, and fish, which was important because of religious holidays (one third of the year was devoted to fasting). The parcel of land Charles Turgeon obtained in 1662 at Beauport probably was subdivided in this way. These long, narrow farms consisted of river frontage, farmstead, fields and wood lot running perpendicular from the river, often up a slope from river’s edge to the wooded area. Houses were built close to the river separated by less than a quarter mile, which provided some security in case of attacks by Indians.

Giffard had lived in Quebec for a time before receiving his seigneurie. A French naval decree required a doctor on board every vessel, so in 1621 Giffard signed on to a ship heading for New France. He landed on land near the “Habitation” built by explorer Samuel de Champlain a decade or so earlier. The settlement had at most about 40 residents (this is the site of present-day Quebec City). Giffard lived in a cabin by the Beauport River until 1627, when he returned to France convinced New France would not survive without the arrival of new settlers.

There were only about 80 French settlers in all of Quebec in 1627 compared to 4,000 Dutch and British already settled on the East Coast. Giffard spoke about the great potential wealth of Quebec and in that same year the Company of One Hundred Associates was founded by Cardinal Richelieu, King Louis XIII’s chief minister. This was a trading monopoly, chartered by the king for all of Quebec on the condition of settling 4,000 people there before the year 1643, an immense task. In addition, the company had the power to govern, allocate land and a monopoly in the fur trade.

The Company appointed seigneuries with feudalism as the model. Nobles, clerics and merchants were granted control over a parcel of land for subdividing into the long, thin farms, as we have discussed. The tenants, or habitants, paid rent and were charged for fishing, cutting wood, and use of the seigneur’s mill. Habitants could not be evicted so long as they met their obligations; they could even sell, lease, or bequeath their farms.

Giffard was married on Feb. 12, 1628 and shortly after sailed back to Quebec with a contingent of would-be settlers in vessels chartered by the Company of One Hundred Associates, leaving his new wife behind. Troubles had broken out between France and Britain, and the French vessels were intercepted off the coast of Quebec near Tadoussac by Admiral Kirke in the service of the British. Kirke seems to have agreed to return two vessels to the French to let them return home, and Giffard's dream of bringing over settlers was temporarily dashed. The British now controlled Quebec, where Champlain was obliged to capitulate. But in 1632, a treaty gave Canada back to France, so Giffard linked up again with the Company, which made him the first recipient of a seigneurie, and the effort to recruit settlers for Quebec was on again.

When the very first Giffard recruits crossed the Atlantic in 1634, Charles Turgeon was only 7 or 8 years old. The 1634 crossing began in early April and totaled 43 people, including six complete families. No doubt many of them saw the sea for the first time. As an historical account put it, the settlers "deliberately surrendered themselves to their destiny, which (though they did not know it) was to found a country unbelievably more vast than the one they had left behind." They first set foot on land at Quebec on June 4.

With the help of brothers Jean and Noel Juchereau of Tourouvre, Giffard, in the years following, continued to recruit people in the Perche area for migration to Quebec. According to historians, Noel spent much of his time in France doing the actual recruiting and contracting of emigrants, while Jean spent most of his time in Quebec working with the emigrants. The recruits were often hired for a period of three years, and most were bachelors paid from 40 to 120 pounds (livres) per year. They received free passage to New France and were to receive some land. Most were unskilled and illiterate. Most stayed in Quebec following completion of their contract, but they could return to France if they wished.

Although Charles Turgeon was about 43 when he emigrated with his wife and children to New France in 1662, he had worked previously as a sailor in the 1650s, as we have seen. He apparently had resided in Quebec City at least for a time, perhaps while awaiting a return sea voyage to France. The main migration of Perche residents to New France occurred between 1634 and 1663, so while Charles and his family came late, he was familiar with Quebec because of his experiences as a sailor.

It should also be noted that the emigrants from Perche were only 5% of the population when the colony of New France reached 3,000 inhabitants at the time of Robert Giffard's death in 1668. A total of 146 adults -- masons, carpenters, brickmakers, etc. -- representing 80 families from Perche undertook the great voyage between 1634 and the early 1660s. But Historian Francoise Mortagne notes, "If the contribution of The Perche to the settlement of Canada -- approximately 5% of the French emigrants -- can appear modest, it should be stressed that the Percheron emigration, the oldest one, is charac-

terized by a remarkable prolificacy." Their descendants are estimated today at 1,500,000 in Canada and much more if we add in those in the U.S. (which would include the Walter and Alexine Turgeon family and their descendants, of course).

One final note on French emigration to Quebec. Luring settlers always was difficult. In the first 150 years of French rule only 10,000 people left Europe for the St. Lawrence River Valley. About 500 of them came of their own initiative. The remainder were indentured servants, soldiers or prisoners. Louis XIV made New France a crown colony in 1663 and promptly recruited 800 poor girls as brides. High birthrates soon produced an astounding increase. Canada had 3,000 colonists in 1663 and 65,000 by 1759.

## **Museum of French Emigration to Canada at Tourouvre**

On October 1, 2006, local and regional French institutions and the Government of Canada opened the Museum of French Emigration to Canada (La Maison de l'Emigration francaise au Canada) in Tourouvre near Mortagne. This is a genealogical research center which will certainly be of great assistance to descendants of the original Percheron emigrants seeking information on their ancestors.

The center has close ties to French and Canadian universities, and one tool being developed is an in-depth study of the Perche region, which will involve going through the archives of the townships of Tourouvre, Mortagne-au-Perche and Belleme -- 330,000 notarial acts and 200,000 baptismal, marriage and burial certificates. It is hoped this research will make it possible to more closely reconstruct the possible social and genealogical background of the French emigrants and help shed light on their family and social history, as well as their reasons for leaving their country.

Canadian descendants of the original emigrants from the Perche region have long had an interest in learning more about their roots, and the establishment of the genealogical center at Tourouvre represents a major step in strengthening ties between the homeland of the first colonists and the country where their descendants took root. We should note that in 1905 Adelard Turgeon, Quebec minister of waters and forests, visited the Perche region.

As descendants of Charles Turgeon, we can hope that family members will be able to use the resources of the museum in the future and expand on the information provided in this family history.

\* \* \* \*

## Chronology of the Emigration from Perche (1608-1670)

**1608:** On July 3, French explorer Samuel de Champlain establishes a settlement (now Quebec City) on the St. Lawrence River at a place called Kebec, an Algonquin Indian word meaning "where the river narrows." This was the second attempt by the French to establish a colony on the St. Lawrence. The first attempt, by explorer Jacques Cartier in 1541, failed after two years. (*Note: the Province of Quebec will celebrate the 400th anniversary of Quebec's founding in 2008.*)

**1621:** Apothecary and Surgeon Robert Giffard of Tourouvre leaves for Quebec and spends a number of years living along the Beauport River. (The settlement at Quebec City at this time is just a fur trading post with about 40 inhabitants. French fur trappers ventured deep into the wilderness for beaver pelts, relying on alliances with the Huron and with Algonquian-speaking Indians. Algonquian allies came at the cost of making Iroquois enemies, who attempted to obstruct the fur trade throughout the 1600s.)

**1627:** Charles Turgeon is born. Robert Giffard returns to France convinced that more settlers must be recruited to populate the shores of the St. Lawrence River. That same year the Company of One Hundred Associates is formed under the authority of the King of France.

**1628:** Robert Giffard marries and returns to Quebec intent on preparing the way for future emigration. His ship is intercepted by a British fleet, and he is forced to return to France.

**1629-31:** British occupy Quebec.

**1632:** The Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye gives Quebec back to France.

**1634:** In January, Robert Giffard gets the first seigneurie from the Company of One Hundred Associates. Giffard's seigneurie consisted of the Beauport River area just east of Quebec City. He recruits colonists, and in March he and his family and about 30 colonists leave for Quebec, reaching there in June.

**1635:** The colony counts 132 settlers of which 35 come from the Perche region. This begins the migration from Perche which continued until 1663.

**1641:** The colony totals about 300 residents.

**1650-53:** Franco-Iroquois War (the Iroquois were supported by the British).

**1653:** Pierre Boucher, a very significant person in early Quebec who was born in Mortagne in 1622, defends Trois-Rivieres against the Iroquois. Peace between the Iroquois

and French follows.

**Mid-late 1650s:** Charles Turgeon of Mortagne serves as a sailor on French ships, making the trip to and from Quebec. We do not know how many years he served as a sailor, but we are pretty much certain he was doing so in the year 1657.

**1662:** Pierre Boucher, the hero of Trois-Rivieres, returns to France and, to save the country threatened by the Iroquois, requests the support of King Louis XIV. He also convinces France to send a regiment of 1,200 men to defend the colony. [*The regiment did not arrive there until 1665.*] Boucher then returns to New France with “many” new colonists -- including our ancestor. “Under the influence of Pierre Boucher,” as one listing of early settlers puts it, Charles Turgeon and his family leave Perche and settle in the Beauport area, marking the beginning of the Turgeon family’s long history in North America.

**1663:** Robert Giffard dies in Beauport. The colony has 3,000 inhabitants, including Charles Turgeon, his wife, and, at the time, four children.

**1670:** Charles Turgeon’s wife, Pasquiere, gives birth on May 17 to a son named Jean, direct ancestor of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Walter W. Turgeon of Oklee/Brooks, Minnesota. Charles and Pasquiere had no more children after that.

\* \* \* \*

## An Enduring Charles Turgeon Legacy in Perche

Visitors to the Perche area today can see a house that Charles Turgeon purchased *eight years after* he had moved to Beauport. The house still exists in the hamlet of Le Bignon outside of the village of Revillon.

Charles bought the home on October 22, 1670, the year his youngest child and our direct ancestor, Jean, was born in Quebec, from Toussaint Giroux, a weaver who is an ancestor related to our family through the Ferdinand Poulin lineage. Toussaint Giroux was born in Le Bignon in 1633 and came to Quebec in 1653 at the age of about 20. He inherited the house and adjoining meadow and garden after his parents died.

A notation by a photo of the house found on the Internet says, “The

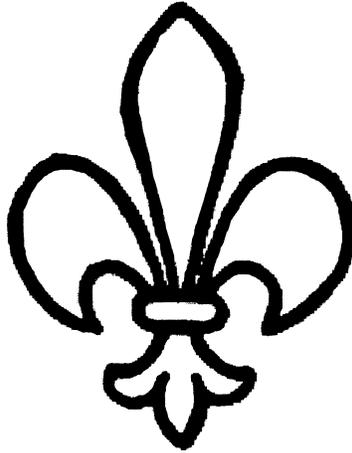


*Charles Turgeon purchased this house from Toussaint Giroux in 1670. The house still exists in the hamlet of Le Bignon outside the town of Revillon.*

*farmer who described it to the royal notary Romain Becquet, says the Perche house was surrounded with 'garden, a small enclosure and about two arpents of a little tillable land.'*" In Chapter 2, we will discuss this matter a little more as we speculate why Charles and his wife, Pasquiere, would decide to purchase a house in France when they and their children were residing in Beauport, Quebec.



*Francis Turgeon visited the Turgeon/Giroux house in Le Bignon in 2002.*



## Chapter 2

### **The Turgeons in Quebec (1662-1879): Beauport, Beaumont, Lambton**

As we have noted, small numbers of settlers from the Mortagne and Tourouvre areas of Perche embarked for Quebec throughout the nearly 30-year period from 1634 to 1663. Historians Raymond Douville and Jacques Casanova offer the following about the settlement in the Quebec City area:

*“A nation continues to hope as long as crops grow and mothers give birth. The little settlement increased. Every year other families, attracted by the example of relations or friends, emigrated in their turn, leaving, regretfully or otherwise, their little towns of Mortagne and Tourouvre and the adjoining villages. Giffard welcomed them eagerly, and within less than ten years, he was able to count among the immigrants members of every profession and trade...”*

The historians go on to say, *“The sons of Robert Giffard did not perpetuate his name, but the registers serve to do so. His worth is obvious from the works he undertook and from his unwavering example to his compatriots, the fifty or so heads of the families he brought out from his native land between 1634 and 1663. . . The whole of this region owed its rapid and intense development to the colonists from the district of Perche.”*

Once a settler had secured his land from the seigneurie, the task of clearing space for buildings and fields began. One historical account puts it this way: *“They are their own horses, their own oxen, lifting and hauling timber, trees, rocks.”* We can imagine that Charles Turgeon and his family faced those same formidable tasks when

they arrived at Beauport.

The Beauport census of 1667 records that Charles and his wife, both 40 years of age, had ten arpents of land under cultivation. (An arpent is an old French unit of land measuring approximately an acre.) Their children included Jacques, 14; Anne, 9; Zacharie, 4, and Pierre, 1. Daughter Marie Claire married Abel Sagot in 1665 and lived in Quebec City. Zacharie and Pierre, as well as their last child, Jean, were born in Quebec following the family's emigration.

## **Stomping on a Bonnet: Charles Gets in Trouble**

In 1669, Charles purchased 40 arpents of land with a hut and barn in the village of St. Joseph, which is across the St. Lawrence River from Beauport. This land was bordered by land owned by Jean Lemarie and Pierre Lefebvre. St. Joseph no longer exists but was located just west of Beaumont, where the cities of Levis and Lauzon exist today.

Below is an account related to this land purchase and may explain why Charles and Pasquiere returned to France and purchased the Giroux home in Le Bignon in 1670 (which we discussed at the end of Chapter 1). This account was written by a genealogist researching the Turgeon ancestry and is roughly translated from French:

*“Charles Turgeon was something of a character. Here is an anecdote transmitted by a woman named Lemaire who was a genealogist in Ottawa at the time during a visit with genealogist George Henri Temblay:*

*“Jean Lemarie [who apparently owned the land next to the 40 arpent parcel Charles Turgeon had purchased] had one day an argument with Charles Turgeon concerning the limits of his property. It so happened the wife of Lemarie got involved with the discussion. Charles Turgeon, not appreciating this intrusion of a woman in the discussion of men, then tore off the bonnet of the lady and trampled it, which, at the time, was a supreme insult.*

*“Mrs. Lemaire carried the bonnet in front of the courts, which helped her prove her case. Turgeon was thus forced to pay court costs and a fine appropriate for such circumstances.*

*“Would this be the reason which caused Turgeon to return to France? The history does not say, but one can certainly suppose that [following the disagreement with the Lemaries] it was very difficult to have good relations with his neighbors.”*

## **Some Cultivated Land, 2 Guns, 5 Horned Animals**

We do not know how long Charles and Pasquiere stayed in France following the purchase of the Giroux property in Le Bignon, but we do know that in the census of

1681, 11 years later, the couple was back in Beauport.

The census of 1681 also reports that Charles and Pasquiere were both 55 years old; Zacharie was 18; Pierre, 15, and Jean, our direct ancestor, 10. The family had the following modest possessions: 2 guns, 5 animals with horns and 12 arpents of land under cultivation.

Son Jacques had left home and was residing across the river at Beaumont. Jacques had six arpents of land cleared. Jacques is credited with opening the way for our ancestors to become established in Beaumont. Zacharie followed his brother there at some later date. According to the same genealogist who provided the Lemarie account, Zacharie became a benefactor of the church at Beaumont and had a mass said every year "for the rest of his heart." Exactly what is meant here is not clear, but we speculate that Zacharie left some money to the church and requested that a mass be said each year at the church in his memory.

With the two eldest sons in Beaumont, the younger brothers -- Pierre and Jean -- stayed in Beauport. They married and some of their offspring went to Beaumont to be among their cousins. This seems to have displaced the seat of the family in Beauport to a great degree.

## **The Final Years of Charles and Pasquiere**

Jacques, the eldest son and the first who moved to Beaumont, remained a bachelor for many years until finally marrying in 1704 at the age of 51.

Charles and Pasquiere also had two daughters -- Marie Claire, mentioned earlier, and Anne, who became a nun. Anne resided at Hotel Dieu, a hospital in Quebec City. On June 8, 1677 at the age of 18, she became a novice in the order of the Sisters of Ste. Marthe. Anne was designated "professe" on January 31, 1679 at the age of 21.

In 1691 Charles and Pasquiere, both at the age of 64, returned to France on one of the last ships of the year leaving Quebec. They remained there until the fall of 1693, when they returned to New France once again. Their late departure begs a question, because Jean, their youngest son and our direct ancestor, married Anne-Therese Vachon of Beauport on Nov. 8, 1691. Did Charles and Pasquiere attend the wedding? Since they left so late in the year, did they delay their travel plans until after the ceremony?

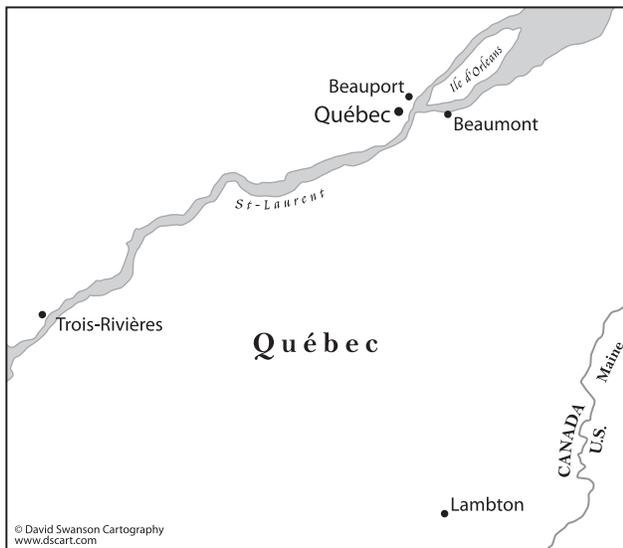
With the marriage of their son, Pierre, in Lauzon, Quebec, on Nov. 16, 1695, Charles and his wife are listed as residents of Beauport. When Jacques was married in Beaumont on Nov. 26, 1704, they are listed as deceased. We do not know the exact date of their deaths, but we do know that they both died sometime between 1695 and 1704 -- the time between the two marriages.

*A short diversion here.* In putting this family history together, we noticed that all of Charles and Pasquiere's children were married either in October or November: Marie Clair, Oct. 15; Jacques, Nov. 26; Zacharie, Oct. 24, Pierre, Nov. 16, and Jean, Nov. 8. What, if anything, does this tell us? One might speculate that marriages were best left for late in the year, after all the clearing, tilling, planting, gardening, haying, harvesting, etc. was completed. June, a traditional time for marrying now, was just too busy a time for anything else but farm work. Or, all of it may be a coincidence.

## Turgeon Name Never Changed Through 4 Centuries

Our ancestral history is somewhat unusual in that Charles Turgeon was the only Turgeon to emigrate to New France in the 17th Century and is the head of all Turgeon descendants.

Historical records prove that the Turgeon name was not modified in any way over the past five centuries, and contemporary records show that only some 13,000-plus Turgeons live in North America. While many Turgeons no longer speak the French language -- especially those of us who reside in the U.S. -- our roots run deep and are a source of pride for all family members. We are the offspring of courageous, hard-working ancestors who helped open up the vast Canadian frontier, and our family has been in North America for nearly 350 years!



*Quebec City and environs along the St. Lawrence River, including Beauport, Beaumont, and the Ile-D'Orleans. Also shown is the village of Lambton, located southwest of Quebec City in Beauce County, where members of the Turgeon family moved in the 1800s.*

## Beauport/Beaumont Home to Turgeons for Generations

Beauport, on the north side of the St. Lawrence, and Beaumont, just across the river on the south bank, have been the hometowns for Turgeons continuously for nearly 350 years.

Today the city of Beauport is basically a suburb of Quebec City. Just a short distance northeast up Highway 138 is the Basilica of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupre, an important Catholic shrine of our French-Canadian ancestors. In the 1940s and 1950s the Walter and Alexine Turgeon household in Oklee/Brooks became very familiar with *The Annals of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupre*, a magazine published by the shrine in both English and French. Ste-Anne-de-Beaupre was an important saint in the life of Alexine.

A visit to the Church of the Nativity of Notre Dame in Beauport did not provide any information on our ancestor, Charles. A priest there indicated that early settlers were buried in unmarked graves behind the church and beneath it. We can only assume Charles and Pasquiere were buried there.

From Beauport one can take a bridge over to the Isle of Orleans (Ile d'Orleans), a beautiful island in the St. Lawrence with many quaint villages and farms. Strawberries and potatoes are among the prevalent crops grown there.

*Attention children of Francis and Albine (Bonnie) (Fortier) Turgeon: Beauport and the Isle of Orleans are significant locales in your ancestry. Noel Forestier, now spelled Fortier, emigrated from Dieppe, France, to Beauport with his son, Antoine, in 1663-64. Antoine later resided at Ste. Laurent on the Isle of Orleans. It is interesting to speculate whether Charles Turgeon and Noel and his son were acquainted, since their descendants and your parents, Francis of Oklee and Bonnie of North St. Paul, Minn., would meet 300 years later and marry.*

Beaumont ("beautiful mountain") is a place where some of Charles Turgeon's children and their descendants became established, with the exception of his son, Jean, our ancestor, who remained in Beauport. Jean's son and our direct ancestor, Joseph Rene, appears to be the first to settle across the river in the Levis/Beaumont area. Joseph Rene's son, Michel, also our direct ancestor, was married in St. Charles, near Beaumont, and died in Levis, a short distance from Beaumont. It was not until two generations later that we find an ancestor anywhere but Beauport and Beaumont. Narcisse Turgeon (1830-1899), Walter W. Turgeon's grandfather, moved to Lambton, Quebec in Beauce County southwest of the Beaumont area as a young man, living on the rolling plain near Lake Saint Francis.



*Nativity of Notre Dame Church*

## Historic Places in Beauport and Beaumont

THE NATIVITY OF NOTRE DAME CHURCH, BEAUPORT: The existing church is the fifth built on this site and is located in the heart of Beauport and, as we have mentioned earlier, is the likely burial place of Charles and Pasquiere Turgeon.



*Belanger/deRainville House*

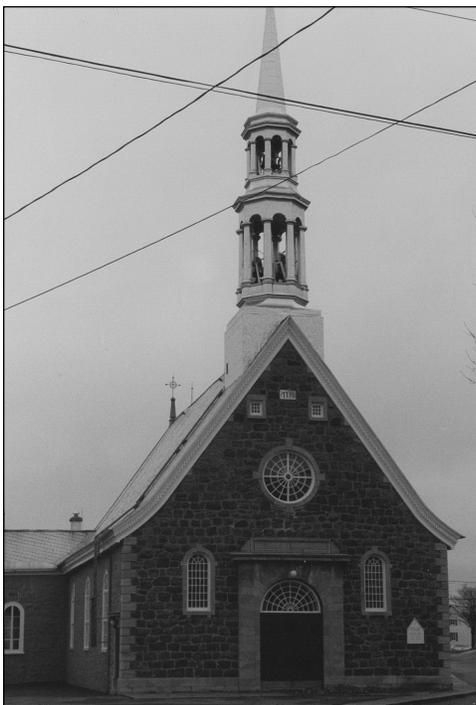
HOUSE OF NICHOLAS BELANGER AND MARIE DE RAINVILLE, BEAUPORT: Constructed in 1660, it now serves as the Historical Center in Beauport. Since Charles Turgeon arrived in Beauport in 1663 and lived there, it's likely he visited the house.



*Home Originally Built by Jacques Turgeon*

JACQUES TURGEON HOME, BEAUMONT: A visit to Beaumont should include the municipal library dedicated to a local folklorist, Luc Lacourciere. Luc's ancestors owned a home built by Jacques Turgeon, Charles's son, in 1715. The home has been restored, is still occupied and is an excellent example of

early French Canadian architecture. Other Turgeon ancestral homes are featured in literature available at the library. One can also browse through historical books on Beaumont for information on early settlers and their families.



*Saint-Etienne Church, Beaumont*

SAINT-ETIENNE CHURCH, BEAUMONT: The first settlers arrived in Beaumont in 1672 but they had no church or priest before 1694. The first church was made of wood, but starting in 1721, construction of a stone church commenced but took many years before it was completed. Behind the church is a cemetery overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Many of our ancestors are buried there.

## The Generations from Jean to Narcisse Turgeon

Below is the ancestral line from Charles Turgeon down to Narcisse Turgeon, who was born in 1830. From everything we can tell, Narcisse was the first in our ancestral line to leave the Beauport/Beaumont area. He left there to homestead in Lambton, Quebec, some 190 years after Charles settled in Beauport. (A more detailed family tree will be provided later.)

**Charles Turgeon (1627-1704?)**

|

**Jean Turgeon (1670-1749)**

|

**Joseph Rene Turgeon (1710-?)**

|

**Michel Turgeon (1766-?)**

|

**Jean Baptiste Turgeon (1808-?)**

|

**Narcisse Turgeon (1830-1899)**

We do not have much information to report on three generations of our ancestors -- Joseph Rene, Michel and Jean Baptiste Turgeon, who preceded Narcisse --except for dates of birth, marriages, etc., which are listed in the family tree. However, we know more about the activities of Narcisse in the 1800s, and that is where we will resume our story.

## The Turgeons in Lambton, Quebec; Death of Narcisse

Narcisse Turgeon was the grandfather of Walter W. Turgeon of Oklee and Brooks, Minnesota. He was born in Beaumont in 1830, and at the age of 21 he homesteaded in Beauce County, Quebec, near Lambton. Narcisse and Angele Goulet were married on April 20, 1852 at St. Vital Church in Lambton. According to Roseanna Poulin, mother of Walter Turgeon, Narcisse was killed in 1899 at the age of 69 in a sawmill accident which occurred on the Poulin farm at Lambton. Narcisse was removing debris from the carriage of the rotary saw. The sawmill operator didn't realize this and engaged the saw, which struck Narcisse.

Lambton is located roughly 60 miles southwest of Quebec City. Here the Turgeon and Poulin families (Walter Turgeon's grandfather and grandmother's families) came to know each other.

We can only assume that both families were engaged in farming. However, there is information handed down to indicate the Poulins were lumber men, which is evidenced by later generations being in that business in Yakima, Wash.

Lambton is in a region Canadians call the “Eastern Townships.” We assume, again, that Narcisse migrated there from Beaumont because of available land for settlement.

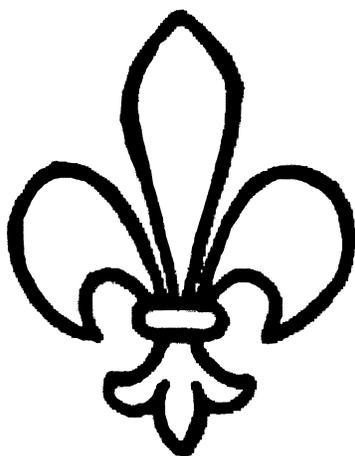


*St. Vital Church, Lambton, Quebec*

St. Vital Church in Lambton dates back to our ancestors. Early graves are unmarked, so we were unable to find relatives buried there, but both Turgeons and Poulins still live in the area and likely are distant relatives.

Angele Goulet Turgeon, wife of Narcisse, moved from Lambton to Lewiston, Maine, after her husband’s death to be near members of her family. She died in 1905 and is buried in St. Peter and Paul’s Cemetery in Lewiston.

Narcisse and Angele had ten children, including our direct ancestor, Antoine Ferdinand, father of Walter Turgeon. Antoine Ferdinand came to Minnesota in 1879, as our family moves west, out of Canada and into the United States, where new opportunities awaited.



## Chapter 3

### **The Turgeons in Minnesota (1879 - 2007): Lambert, Oklee, Brooks (Red Lake Co.)**

The story of the Turgeons in North America really is one pioneering effort after another -- in three major phases. First, of course, we have Charles Turgeon joining a small number of fellow Perche residents to take on the challenges of settling in New France. Then, in the 1850s, nearly two centuries later, we have Narcisse Turgeon leaving family and friends in the Beauport and Beaumont area -- the first Turgeons to pack up and leave there since Charles arrived -- to tackle land clearing, hard-scrabble farming and lumbering at Lambton, Quebec. And then, just one generation later, we see Narcisse's own son look westward for his chance to claim a piece of land, establish a farm, raise a family and help build a new community -- half a continent away in Minnesota.

#### **Ferdinand Continues Pioneering Heritage**

For the reasons above, we can take pride in our heritage. The pioneering spirit runs deep in our family. How else can we explain why Antoine Ferdinand Turgeon, only 16 years old, would leave his parents and siblings in Lambton and come to largely wild and untamed Northwestern Minnesota in 1879 to seek his fortune?

Ferdinand (he did not use the name Antoine, but rather Ferdinand, and he also was known in Minnesota as both John and "A.F.") was born in Lambton to Narcisse and Angele (Goulet) Turgeon on Oct. 2, 1863. He apparently received his parents' permission to join a group of relatives from Lambton who emigrated to Minnesota in 1879.

The group included his brother, Louis, married to Adeline Hince (sister of Peter Hince); his sisters, Felexine, married to August Mercier, and Tarcille, wife of Johnny Audet, and the Peter Hince family. So, four of the ten children of Narcisse and Angele -- Ferdinand, Louis, Felexine and Tarcille and their spouses -- made the trek west in 1879.

We presume that Ferdinand, like the others, was seeking a better life in Minnesota with more opportunities for work and the prospect of homesteading in an area that was being populated by other French-Canadian relatives and acquaintances.



*In 1888 Ferdinand Turgeon obtained a homestead in Lambert Township between Brooks and the settlement of Lambert. When the Soo Line railroad came through the area, it bypassed Lambert, and the new town of Oklee was established in 1910 on the rail line a couple of miles away.*

It is understood that Ferdinand first arrived in the Crookston, Minn., area in approximately 1880 (the group first traveled to the Province of Manitoba before entering the U.S.). In 1888, when he was about 25, he took possession of 160 acres of land in Lambert Township near Brooks under the U.S. Homestead Act of 1862. Prior to that time, Ferdinand worked in Crookston at the railroad roundhouse, a railroad station and also for a circus that came to town. At that time, Crookston was the county seat for Polk County, which then included what is now Red Lake County -- where Ferdinand's homestead is located.

Ferdinand's future wife -- Roseanna Poulin -- and her family also came from Quebec to Minnesota, settling first in Austin, Minn., later moving to Lambert Township where they homesteaded at about the same time as Ferdinand. Roseanna was 15 at the time, and she and Ferdinand married five years later on January 17, 1890 in the hamlet of Lambert in Lambert Township (when the Soo Line railroad came through the area in the early 1900s, it bypassed Lambert, and the new town of Oklee was founded along the tracks a couple of miles to the northeast. The Catholic church and other buildings in Lambert were moved to Oklee, which was founded in 1910.)



*Ferdinand and Roseanna, in a photo taken while visiting her family in Yakima, Wash., in 1916.*

Less than two years before, on June 4, 1888 in District Court, Fourteenth Judicial District, Polk County, Minnesota, Ferdinand Turgeon was awarded U.S. citizenship and swore to support the Constitution of the United States and to “renounce and abjure” forever all allegiances to foreign powers, in particular the “Queen of Great Britain.” A couple of months later -- on August 7 -- he applied for his 160-

acre homestead as recorded in Book 36, page 344, Application #6679 in Polk County Courthouse, Crookston. He paid a \$4.00 fee. Then, on Dec. 24, 1900, he was granted his homestead patent for the 160 acres located at S.E. 1/4 quarter of Section 20 in Township 150, North of Range 41, West of the 5th Meridian in Minnesota (Lambert Township). Ferdinand first worked his homestead with oxen, then used horses.



*The Ferdinand Turgeon family in front of their home on Grand View Farm, from left to right: Adelaide, Ferdinand (holding daughter Dorothy), Alice, Walter, Angeline, Roseanna (holding infant daughter Mae), Maybelle, Deneige and Mr. Alfred Paquette, friend of the family who lived at Grand View Farm.*

## **Memories of Grandfather Ferdinand**

Ferdinand had a beautiful singing voice and would often sign at gatherings. He was a very progressive dairy farmer and named his homestead, “Grandview Dairy Farm.”

Ferdinand could be considered an “early adapter” when it came to farming practices. His dairy operation was, for the time, a first-class operation. The barn was insulated, so comfortable that, in the memory of our late uncle, Walter Fournier, “you could do chores in the dead of winter in your shirt sleeves.” (Walter Fournier was the husband of Dorothy, one of Ferdinand and Roseanna’s children.)

A pressurized water system delivered water to individual watering cups for each milk cow stall. An overhead track and manure carrier system reduced the chore of cleaning gutters. A modern silo provided for storage of ensilage for season-long feeding. Cream was separated from whole milk and marketed to the Oklee Co-op Creamery. Skim milk was fed to calves, of which some were sold as veal, others kept for replacement milk cows. A quality Holstein sire was kept for breeding purposes.

Ferdinand planted a protective windbreak on the north, west and south sides of the farmstead, leaving a "grand view" to the east overlooking farm buildings and cows in the pasture.

The Turgeon home was quite modern for the times. A cistern in the basement that collected rain water provided "wash water" and was accessed by a lift pump in the kitchen. Lighting was first provided by carbide lamps, later replaced with electric lights powered by a DELCO light plant. This system consisted of a bank of large storage batteries located in the basement. The batteries would be recharged by a wind-powered turbine mounted on the windmill tower at the well adjacent to the house. This system provided "running water" to both the house and barn from the well.



*The Grand View Dairy Farm featured a fine barn and silo. The barn still stands today.*

Ferdinand was active in his church and community and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He once ran, simultaneously, for three different offices in the March 14, 1893, Lambert Township election, winning only the Justice of the Peace position. The results were: Supervisor position: 10 votes; Treasurer position: 9 votes, and Justice of the Peace position: 52 votes. He must have been perceived by his French-Canadian neighbors as a no-nonsense but fair-minded fellow.

Ferdinand was a Republican and knew the local congressman, who visited the farm. He favored the Hupmobile for automobile transportation. As a sideline, he sold farm machinery, likely specialty equipment used in dairying and hay/ensilage production.

He adopted farming practices promoted by the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston, which was established in 1895 and would become the high school of choice for his son, Walter, and grandsons Francis and Jerome. He practiced crop rotation and diversification, growing potatoes in addition of livestock feedstuff.

The Turgeon farmstead include the following out-buildings: an old log shop, a barn and attached silo, granary, chicken coop, hog house, wood shed and garage for the Hupmobile.

The Grand View Dairy Farm prospered, and Ferdinand was very interested in education for his children. He had a one-room school house built on his property and hired a teacher, who lived in his home. All of his children went to the Turgeon School through 8th grade and then went to high schools in Crookston. Later he had a small house built just south of their main house for use by his sister, Tarcille, who later moved back to Canada. After Tarcille left, the house was used by the school teachers and/or Alfred Paquette, an elderly carpenter who lived on the Turgeon farmstead (more on Mr. Paquette later).



*Turgeon School students in 1917: back row, from left to right, Clarence Parsley, Leona Bergeron, Rose Parsley, Alice Turgeon, Myrtle Keanes, Deneige Turgeon, teacher Florence Cyr; second row, Leuwena Belland, Jim Parsley, Velma Peterson, Maybelle Turgeon, Eunice Keanes, Omer Boucher, Crowella Mickelson, Walter Turgeon; front row, Evert Peterson, Dorothy Turgeon, Aldia Boucher.*

Ferdinand and Roseanna's daughter, Dorothy, was one of the last teachers at Turgeon School, and their son, Walter, and his wife, Alexine, occupied the small house following their marriage in 1929, living there with their children, James, Shirley and Francis until moving to Oklee in 1935. To get one child out of the house, it was customary to send James, then a 3-4 year old, over to the Turgeon School, where Aunt Dorothy, a loving person who adored children, would baby sit and teach young James along with her class. No doubt because of his early instruction, James was the youngest ever to graduate from Oklee High School and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn. He first attended St. John's at the age of 16.

Ferdinand died of a heart attack in Brooks, Minnesota, on April 3, 1928, at the age of 64. His obituary in the Oklee Herald carried the headline, "Another Pioneer Called." Ferdinand had been attending an auction sale during the day and went to town in the afternoon to attend to some business matters. He entered the Brooks bank,

where he mentioned how cold his hands were (apparently from a lack of blood circulation) and died suddenly. According to the Herald, he “was apparently in good health and well in every way when the mortal stroke fell upon him. He has been a resident of the town of Lambert for more than 40 years, was one of the original homesteaders and a very successful farmer.” His funeral was at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Oklee, and he is buried in the church cemetery south of town.

Ferdinand returned only once to his native Canada, when in 1919 he visited Lambton for the funeral of his brother, Joseph, which was held in St. Vital Church, still in use today.

## Memories of Grandmother Roseanna

Our grandmother, Roseanna (Poulin) Turgeon was born on May 12, 1873 at St. Francois, Quebec to Ferdinand (Fortunat) Poulin and Rose (LaChance) Poulin. Her grandfather was Hubert Poulin, and her grandmother was Flavie Claudia Bourque.



*An early photo of Roseanna before her marriage to Ferdinand.*

The Poulins migrated to the Austin, Minnesota, area from Quebec when Roseanna was only one year old. An Issac Poulin accompanied the family in the move, and it is assumed that Isaac was a brother or son of Ferdinand Poulin, and that he followed first to Austin, then to Brooks in Polk County (now Red Lake County). Roseanna was six years old when her family moved to their homestead on the Lost River north of Brooks. She was very disappointed in this move because there were no schools, church, railroad or roads. She had received only six months of schooling.

Ferdinand and Rose Poulin homesteaded (160 acres) in Poplar River Township. A warranty deed dates July 6, 1886 shows that they sold that land to Isaac Poulin for the sum of \$1,200.00. The family then moved to the Yakima Valley in Washington state in 1902. Ferdinand’s occupation was listed a retired farmer at the time of his death in 1930.

Roseanna Poulin Turgeon died at age 88. She bore 14 children, losing the first three at childbirth and a fourth died at age 3 or 4. A list of children, as recorded on birth records at the Red Lake County Courthouse, is as follows:

**Sidney**, died at birth, no date known.

**C.J.**, died at birth, no date known.

**Roseanna**, died at birth, no date known.,

**Rebecca**, born on Feb. 4, 1892, died on March 1, 1954

**Adelaide**, born on Nov. 12, 1896  
**Angeline**, born on March 5, 1898  
**Alice**, born March 10, 1900  
**Deneige**, born on January 22, 1902  
**Theodore**, born March 27, 1904, died 1907 (spinal meningitis)  
**Walter**, born March 20, 1906, died Nov. 1, 1964  
**Maybelle**, born April 7, 1908, died on Jan. 19, 1994  
**Dorothy**, born on Nov. 6, 1910, died on Dec. 4, 1959  
**Mae**, born on July 7, 1912  
**Theodore**, born on Oct. 24, 1917, died on June 9, 1956

Roseanna was a strong woman who remained in the Minnesota homestead while her entire Poulin family relocated to the Yakima Valley. Imagine the joy when she, grandfather Ferdinand and Aunt Mae, age 3, traveled there in 1916 via train to visit her parents and siblings!

Roseanna was an excellent homemaker and was renowned throughout the countryside for her cooking and nursing skills. Aunt Maybelle recounted the story of a man, Mr. Alfred Paquette, who had been sent to the Turgeon farm badly injured. He was nursed back to health by Roseanna and spent the rest of his life working on their farm. He was a trusted friend and was in charge of the children when Roseanna and Ferdinand traveled to Yakima to visit the Poulins. Alfred is buried in the Turgeon family plot at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery at Oklee.

Roseanna was an avid gardener. Working with her in the garden was work. You could not just chop out weeds, you had to haul them out of the garden to keep them from growing again.

She was a wonderful cook and creative, too. She fashioned roll-up curtains from twine and newspaper and placed them over the windows of the early log home she and Ferdinand lived in to keep the Indians from looking in.



*Roseanna on Grand View Diary Farm with family dog, possibly in 1940s or 1950s.*



*Grandmother Roseanna*

After Grand View Dairy Farm was sold in approximately 1950 to Raymond Chaput, Grandma Roseanna lived until her death with daughter Mae (Turgeon) Bachand and her husband, Onezime, and their family.

It was enjoyable to visit with her in later years. Fran and Bonnie Turgeon remember their last visit with her when she rocked and sang to their infant son, Greg, as she had done countless times to children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is buried in the Turgeon family plot at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

## **Our Parents: Walter and Alexine Turgeon**

When finished with high school in 1925, Walter William Turgeon, who in later years would be widely known as "W.W.," stayed on the family farm, working with his father milking cows, haying, growing potatoes and feed grains, and tending to chickens, hogs and goats. We don't know what his intentions were at this time of his life. Perhaps he was just taking life in stride until he was ready to settle down and raise a family.



*Walter on Wedding Day, 1929*

In any event, following his father's untimely death a few years later in 1928, his choices narrowed dramatically. Since he was the only adult male in the family (his younger brother, Ted, was only 11 when Ferdinand died), he assumed responsibility for the farming operations with help from his sisters and hired hands. Then, just a little more than a year later, on Nov. 6, 1929, he married Alexine M. Bergeron. So, at the age of 23 he rather quickly took on significant responsibilities.

The stock market crash and the country's slide into the Great Depression of the 1930s would also profoundly affect the fortunes of his family -- as it did for virtually everyone -- and brought on some hard choices for him that ultimately proved beneficial. The Depression -- "The Dirty Thirties," as he would say -- also would deeply influence his perspective on things.

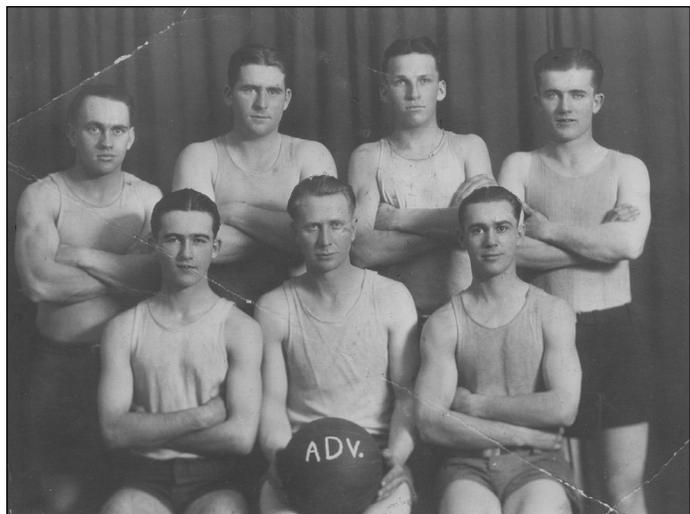
## Memories of Our Dad

Born on March 20, 1906 on the Grand View Dairy Farm, Walter (most called him Walt or W.W.), attended the Turgeon one-room country school grades 1 through 8, completing the last year in 1920 or 1921. He received his high school education at the Northwest School of Agriculture (everyone called it the "AC").

The AC curriculum included standard high school subjects plus elective courses in agricultural sciences and home economics. The school year began in October and was completed in March, thereby allowing farm boys and girls to return to the farm prior to planting season without having to go back to school until after the harvest season. The AC was a co-educational boarding school (it later became a two-year college before becoming a full four-year college within the University of Minnesota system) and offered two programs: Senior and Advanced. The Senior Program was for three years, and students had the option to return for a fourth year for the Advanced Program, in which students received the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Walter attended as follows: Freshman, 1921-22; Sophomore, 1922-23, and Senior, 1923-24. He then completed the Advanced Program in 1925. He was an active student at the Crookston AC, participating in Boys Glee Club, Boys Octet, class plays, and the Pioneer Debating Society, and playing on the football and basketball teams.

Students who lettered in sports received an "A" card, which after graduation entitled holders to get in free to any Crookston AC sporting event. A.M. Folker, who served as Walter's coach, signed both his and his son, Francis', card some 25 years later (sons Francis and Jerome both graduated from the AC in the 1950s; eldest daughter, Shirley, graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Crookston, run by the Sisters of St. Joseph; James, Alyce and William (Bill) all graduated from Oklee High School).



*Walter, second from left in back row, played on the Northwest School of Agriculture basketball team in Crookston in this photo taken during the 1924-25 school year.*



*Walter played the banjo in his younger years and was a member of two different bands at the Crookston AC.*

Walter could play the banjo and was a part of two bands while at the AC -- first the "Foxy Five," and second, the "Hayshakers Trio." In later years he taught his younger brother, Ted, to play his banjo. Ted played in bands around Brooks and Oklee. Many years later, in 1953, at his son Jim's wedding in South Milwaukee, Wis., Walter picked up his banjo again and played a couple of tunes for the wedding party.

As we have noted, Walter remained on his family's farm following graduation from high school. He married Alexine Marie Bergeron of rural Oklee (Lambert Township) on November 6, 1929. Following their honeymoon to Winnipeg, Manitoba, they settled into the little house near the main Grand View Dairy Farm home. James, Shirley and Francis were born there. Walter continued to operate the dairy farm, but with the Depression worsening and money in short supply, he must have been looking around to see what else he could do. He expressed his disgust at being offered work on a neighbor's farm for the princely sum of fifty cents a day, and instead began selling *The Farmer* magazine published by Webb Publishing Co. of St. Paul on a part-time basis, calling on farmers in the off season.

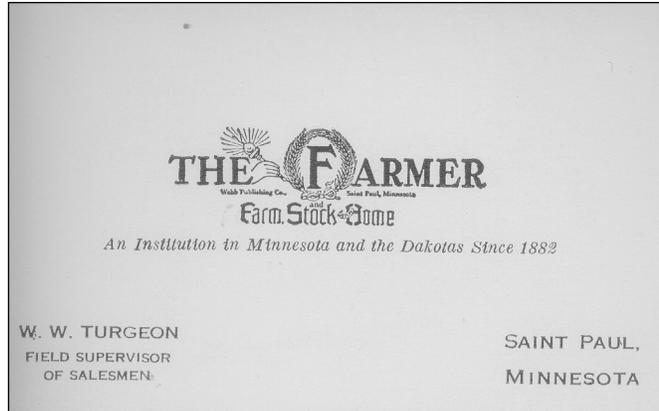
This proved to be a good choice to help get his family through the worst of the Depression. In the spring of 1935, things had gone well enough so that he and Alexine could purchase their own home on Main Street in Oklee. Now parents of three children -- Jim, Shirley and Francis -- the family moved into the home, which they kept until it was sold to oldest son Jim and his wife, Delores, in 1953.

Upon moving to Oklee, Walter began selling *The Farmer* magazine full time, hiring salesmen to work for the publisher under his supervision. Younger brother Ted assumed responsibility for the Grand View farming operations. In the coming years, three more children came into the family -- Jerome, born in 1936; Alyce Claire, born in 1940, and William, born in 1942. He had nicknames for each of his children, as well as many friends in the community.



*The Turgeon family home in Oklee, purchased in 1935*

Walter traveled the northern half of Minnesota and North and South Dakota for the magazine, eventually having responsibility for 17 sales representatives. A born salesman, he also took on a franchise to sell insurance for Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. of Madison, Wis.



Through the years, Walter told family and friends many wonderful stories about his days on the road for Webb Publishing, and his sons and daughters have passed on these stories to the grandchildren, few of whom remember their grandpa because he died when they were very young or before they were born. An example:

*Walter was a big man and had a big appetite. Entering the porch of a North Dakota farm house one day as he was traveling dusty roads to make calls, he spied a pumpkin pie and immediately told the farm wife he would like to buy a piece of that pie. It just looked so good. She was happy to oblige and cut him a large slice. Taking the first bite, he realized what a mistake he had made -- it was the worst-tasting pie he had ever eaten because it was made with strongly alkaline water. As he related, he couldn't push the pie away because he had been praising it so profusely, so he had to sit there and eat it all, bite by bite.*

In the early 1940s he purchased his first farm -- the Joseph Bergeron farm (Alexine's parents farm) -- from the heir to the property and worked it part-time with his friend and brother-in-law, Uncle Walt Fournier. Walt and his wife, Dorothy, lived in the house on the farm. Because of family friction created by another member of the Bergeron family, Walter (Turgeon) sold it to the one complaining. This resulted in displacing Uncle Walt and Aunt Dorothy. But the two Walts later said it was a blessing since they both ended up with more productive farms.

In 1947, Walter purchased 280 acres approximately one mile northwest of the Grand View Dairy farm. A year later, in February 1948, he purchased the adjacent Bourque homestead -- 160 acres -- for \$2,625 or \$16.50 per acre -- from his lifelong friend, August Bourque. By 1949-50 he was farming 440 acres, working to develop and improve the land and surface drainage systems.

In the years 1946 and 1947, Walter discontinued selling *The Farmer* and sold the insurance agency to begin farming full-time with Walt Fournier, who later lived and farmed on another farm to the east of the Grandview Dairy Farm.



*Walter, at right, and his brother-in-law Walt Fournier in a potato field on the Turgeon farm (1959). The two Walters farmed together in the early years and continued to work together even after both had separate farms.*

Walter was an excellent farmer. He was very successful in producing seed grains and potatoes. In marketing his seed potatoes, he became acquainted with Ben Picha, a retired produce broker whose avocation was developing new potato varieties.

In addition, Mr. Picha continued to broker seed potatoes throughout the U.S. and Canada. Living in Grand Forks, N.D., he needed a place to plant his new seed selections developed in a greenhouse there. Walter needed the resources of a broker, so a partnership was born. For nearly 20 years, Mr. Picha conducted his potato variety development work on the Turgeon

farm and partnered with Walter in producing seed potatoes.

The two were very successful, attracting the attention of Mr. Nickolia Lay (of the Frito-Lay Co.), who visited the Turgeon farm on several occasions to inspect seed potatoes being produced for Lay's growers in Texas, Arizona and Florida. The potatoes were grown there to supply product for Lay's potato chip plants.

Turgeon family members recall summer days when Mr. Picha and their dad organized field visits for growers, agronomists and others. Walter and his sons would drive the visitors around the farmstead and fields on flatbed hayracks pulled by 8N Ford tractors. Alexine would provide for delicious lunches on the lawn.

In a letter dated August 28, 1968, four years after Walter died, Mr. Picha wrote, "I, , too, miss Walt. He was one of my best friends. In farming, he knew exactly what to do and at the right time, as well as how to do it. There was none better."

Walter had a keen interest in the improvement of agricultural production in Red Lake County. Working with several other like-minded farmers, he helped form a Soil Conservation District to focus on farmland drainage improvement. He also was one of the very first farmers in the area to use commercial fertilizers, crop protection chemicals and new tillage practices. He followed closely recommendations from both the University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University, cooperating with the U of M on several on-farm experiments.

He was a strong supporter of farm cooperatives and rural electric co-ops and was a member of the Farmers Union. He also was active in the Red Lake County DFL (Democrat-Farm Labor) party for many years and was a strong Roosevelt New Deal Democrat. When John Kennedy was elected president in November 1960, he sent post-cards to family and friends with the sole handwritten message, *"Happy days are here again!"*

He farmed using tractors equipped with the three-point hitch developed by Ford-Ferguson -- revolutionary technology that all other farm machinery manufacturers eventually copied because the tractors can carry equipment rather than tow it. His first two tractors so equipped were 8N Fords, extremely small tractors by today's standards, and later he moved up to a larger 1953 Ford Jubilee and then an even larger Fordson Major Diesel tractor manufactured in England, both with three-point hitches, of course.

One of his sons once balked at the prospect of plowing a 50-acre oat stubble field using the 8N Ford with a meager two-bottom plow. "I'll never get done," said the son. Walter replied, "Son, if you go around the field enough times, you'll get done." He was right, of course. Walter generally had a happy disposition and often whistled and sang while he worked.

Until 1957, Walter and Alexine lived with their children in their home in Oklee. The Turgeon farm had an old house on it in which they would move into during the summer months when farming was in full swing. They would return to the home in Oklee in the fall.

In 1957, they built their dream home on the farm, which was located about five miles south and west of Oklee and three miles east of Brooks. The old house was moved away, and the new house built in the same location. The house was built mostly of redwood salvaged from old Soo Line Railroad water towers at Brooks, Plummer and Erskine, Minn. Walter also was the successful bidder for lumber salvaged from old stockyards along the railroad. These planks and salvaged electric and telephone poles were used to build a pole barn.



*Alexine and Walter and Grandmother Rose Anna at the wedding of daughter/granddaughter Shirley Turgeon and Harold Cyr in Oklee in August 1953.*

The new home was the first home in Red Lake County to use electric heat. The Red Lake County Rural Electric Cooperative provided the electric panels in exchange for the opportunity to hold an open house to demonstrate the new type of heating.

Walter and Alexine's retirement plans were to build a home on a lot in Oklee next to Harold and Shirley Cyr that they had purchased years earlier. Plans for this retirement home included a large front porch for sitting, a custom they enjoyed at their previous home on Main Street in Oklee.

One can only imagine the joy Walter would have experienced on that porch swapping hunting stories with his son-in-law Harold, and the pleasure it would have been for Alexine to live next door to Shirley and participate in small town social life. But, because of a combination of other factors, this was not to be.

In the 1950s, agricultural overproduction caused farm prices to plummet, and Congress established the Soil Bank program to take land out of production in hopes of reducing commodity surpluses. With the military draft taking sons Francis and Jerome away from the farm for two years of Army service in 1955 and 1957 respectively, Walter released 240 acres of land he was renting and placed another 160 acres of the home farm in the Soil Bank. Without the assistance of Francis and Jerome, Walter also reduced the labor-intensive potato-growing operation and research work with his partner, Ben Picha. The latter continued his research with Walter's friend and neighbor, Ray Chaput.

In the early 1960s, Walter and Alexine continued to farm less acreage and teamed with Jerome and Ray Chaput on some farm operations. Even so, they made plans to sell the farm altogether because of the progressiveness of Walter's heart disease. With a new home and a new pole barn, they felt the farm was more saleable and provided prospective buyers with a livestock production option as well. But, as we shall see, Walter passed away before completing any deal.



*Constructed largely of redwood salvaged from abandoned Soo Line railroad water towers along the tracks at Brooks, Plummer and Erskine, Minn., the Turgeon farm home, built in 1957, was the first all -electric home in the area.*

In addition to the house, the farmstead included a detached two-car garage; a quonset building which served both as a grain/potato storage facility and farm shop; a 40x100-foot pole barn for hay and machinery storage, and a small well house.

Sad to say, everything on the farmstead is gone today. Seventeen acres of woods -- including a number of fruit trees -- and all the buildings were razed in 2003. Gone with the wind, you might say. The only landmark of any kind left is a post marking the location of the farmstead's former well.



*Walter and his sons, along with Erik Erikson, a carpenter friend, built this 40x100-foot pole barn in the 1950s using abandoned high-line and telephone poles and planks salvaged from old stockyards along the Soo Line railroad.*



*Walter in 1950-51 on the U.S.S. Resolute, a Booth Fisheries boat out of Warroad, Minn., enroute to the Northwest Angle, Lake of the Woods, where he stayed several days at his friend Morris Grove's cabin, accompanied by sons Francis and Jerome, and Morris' boys.*

Walter's hobbies included gunsmithing, hunting and, to a lesser extent, fishing and trapping. He loved to hunt ducks, prairie chickens, crows and pheasants, as well as deer and fox. He was an expert shot and enjoyed fine guns for sport, owning many different kinds. One of his favorites was a Finnish Sako .222 caliber equipped with a Weaver scope for picking crows off fence posts from a great distance. He could spot a pair of fox ears sticking out from a stubble field when his rider in the pickup next to him could only see stubble. His children grew up with the smell of gunsmithing oils and cleaners wafting through the house, and young hunters loved to drop by to talk to him about guns and hunting. Once, in Oklee, he was admonished for testing a gun he had repaired by propping open the back door of the house and firing it into the night sky.



*Although he wasn't supposed to smoke, Walter occasionally lit up a "duke" (rolled cigarette from a little sack of tobacco) or his corn cob pipe using Half and Half canned tobacco. He is shown wearing one of the felt hats he purchased from "L.L. Bean, Freeport, Maine." He would never say just "L.L. Bean." It was always, "L.L. Bean, Freeport, Maine." The hats were bright red or yellow in color. The outer Pendleton wool shirt he is wearing in this photo was another favorite of his. (Photo taken in early 1960s).*

In later years he owned hunting land and a cabin in the Grygla area in northwestern Minnesota. On Sunday morning, November 1, 1964, he suffered a fatal heart attack while at the cabin. He was making preparations for the upcoming deer hunting season and with him that Sunday afternoon were Alexine, daughter Shirley and her husband, Harold Cyr, and their children; daughter Alyce and her husband, Ron Svedjan, and Ron's parents. Walter decided to go for a walk to inspect some traps previously set for mink or weasels. When he did not return, the men went looking for him, and Harold found him lying on a road near the cabin. He tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate him. Walter was only 58 years old at the time of his death. He had suffered from angina for many years and had his first heart attack when he was 41.

Following the funeral service on Nov. 5 at the Catholic church in Brooks, he was buried at the St. Francis Xavier Church cemetery near Oklee with two jet airplanes from the Minnesota National Guard flying overhead in a salute ordered by Minnesota Governor Karl Rolvaag.



*Walter at his hunting shack near Grygla in northwestern Minnesota (1960).*



*Family photo with Alexine, Walter and children, from left, Jerome, Francis, toddler Alyce, James and Shirley taken in front of the family home in Oklee in 1941. Bill, the youngest of the family, was born in 1942.*

# Memories of Our Mother

Alexine Marie Bergeron was born on Nov. 21, 1904 on her parents' farm in Lambert Township. She completed eight years of schooling at Bucktown School, a one-room country school located near her family's home. She mentioned more than once how much she regretted never having the opportunity to complete high school and perhaps become a teacher or go into nursing.

Her father, Joseph Albert Bergeron, emigrated from St. Ursule, Quebec, to Minnesota by way of New York state in 1893 with two of his brothers. He filed for two homesteads in section 23 of Lambert Township on Dec. 30, 1887. (Relatives of the Bergerons still live in St. Ursule, a small town west of Trois-Rivieres.)

Her mother, Marguerite (Lambert) Bergeron came to Lambert Township at the age of 11 (the township is named after her father, Francis Xavier Lambert).

From a family of 11 children, Alexine undoubtedly remained at home assisting her parents following completion of 8th grade. She took her first job at age 18 at as a township appraiser/assessor, working with her sister, Cecile, who later became a nun. The two traveled by horse and buggy throughout the township to complete their work.



*Alexine on her wedding day, 1929*

Incidentally, Alexine's oldest daughter, Shirley, also became a part-time city assessor many years later, working at that job for a number of years.

Before her marriage, Alexine also ventured to the Twin Cities, working in the Montgomery Ward catalog department in St. Paul, along with another sister, Evelyn. And she worked for a time as a domestic for families in Fisher and



*Another family photo taken in the late 1940s at the family home in Oklee, from left, Walter, Jerome, Alyce, Alexine, Bill, Shirley and Francis. Jim, the oldest, was away at college.*

Glenwood, Minn. She talked of making pies and bread for the large threshing crews that came to the farms where she worked.

She was an excellent cook and baker. Her children watched

her make large batches of bread and rolls. At a certain point, when the yeast was added to the flour and other ingredients, she made the Sign of the Cross so that the bread would rise properly.

Very devout, she prayed the rosary throughout her life. When it began to hail during summer thunderstorms on the farm, threatening crops, she would cut a piece of palm frond blessed on Palm Sunday, put it in an ashtray and burn it, praying that the hail would stop. "Ave Maria" was her favorite hymn.



*Studio portrait of Alexine  
(photo undated).*

With Walter away from home selling *The Farmer* magazine, she filled the role of both parents for many years. She was active in St. Francis Xavier parish organizations (St. Ann's Sodality and the St. Francis Ladies Guild) and the American Legion Auxiliary.

She very much enjoyed tending to her flower and vegetable gardens, and canning fruit and produce. Her sisters, Evelyn Gibeau and Antoinette Gibeau, also lived in Oklee in the 1940s and 1950s, and they often visited each other in the afternoons, bringing their children with them and speaking in French to each other. Like most of the early French-Canadian residents of Oklee, Alexine and Walter often spoke to each other in French, especially when they didn't want the kids to know what they were saying. The oldest children understood the language to some

degree but the youngest did not. (Evelyn Gibeau, who had moved away years before with her husband, returned to Oklee following his death and she and Alexine lived next door to each other in the senior apartments, still occasionally addressing each other in French.)

The fact that their mother didn't drive a car amused the Turgeon children, who never tired of hearing the story how she once accidentally drove a car through the back end of a shed. One Sunday afternoon in the summer, probably a bit miffed that Walter had left her stranded at home, she decided she would drive herself into town to visit her daughter, Shirley, who lived there with her husband, Harold Cyr. Alyce and Bill weren't old enough to have drivers



*Alexine with her children in 1988 at the wedding of granddaughter Shari Svedjan, from left: Bill, Alyce, Francis, Alexine, Jerome, Shirley and Jim.*

licenses, but they showed her how to operate the 1956 Mercury. Using back roads, she successfully made the five-mile trip into Oklee, much to the delight of everyone. Even so, she never sought to drive again.

But that didn't stop her from going places. She loved to travel and visited her children in many parts of the country as well as relatives in Canada. She especially enjoyed visiting large cities and never passed up an opportunity to ride elevators to the top of skyscrapers, including the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Sears Tower in Chicago and the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

Following Walter's death in 1964, Alexine sold the farm and moved into Oklee, living in the Oklee Senior Village apartments from 1968 to 1991. In the fall of 1991 she moved to Valley Home in Thief River Falls and later to Pioneer Memorial Care Center in Erskine. She resided there until her death on March 2, 1992, at the Fosston Municipal Hospital. She was 87.

With the passing of Alexine in 1992, the only Turgeon still living in Oklee or Red Lake County was her daughter, Shirley, although several of her children live in other parts of the state. Shirley and her husband,

Harold, are life-long residents of Oklee, and the community will celebrate its Centennial in 2010.



*Alexine, in a photo taken in 1989 at Camden State Park near Marshall, Minn., while she was visiting son, Bill, and his wife, Kathy.*



*In the 1940s Walter sometimes was the village Santa. He rode in the back of his brother Ted's Ford pickup on Oklee's Main Street and handed out bags of traditional hard Christmas candy to kids. Here he is shown with Alexine in front of the family home.*

*(date of photo unknown - 1946 - 1948?)*

# Appendix

This appendix contains the following:

- A. Family Group listing of the Charles Turgeon family.
- B. A listing of the Turgeon Paternal Ancestral Line (1627-Present). This list includes the ancestor and spouse but does not include the names of all their children. Rather it lists just the son who is our director ancestor.
- C. Family Group listing of the Walter and Alexine Turgeon family.
- D. Listing of Walter and Alexine Turgeon's Grandchildren
- E. Sample Family Tree forms for use by the grandchildren of Walter and Alexine to continue the family line.

**FAMILY GROUP NO. 1**

**Husband's Full Name** CHARLES TURGEON

This Information Obtained From:

Source	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
DICTIONNAIRE GENEALOGIQUE DES FAMILLES DU QUEBEC BY RENE JETTE PUBL. BY UNIV. MONTREAL 1983	Birth	CA.	1627		ST-JEAN DE MORTAGNE, PERCHE (ORNE) FR			
	Chr'nd		3 SEPT.	1627	NOTRE-DAME, MORTAGNE, PERCHE (ORNE)			
	Mar.	CA.	1649		MORTAGNE, FRANCE (NORMANDY)			
	Death		1695 or 1704		BEAUPORT, QUEBEC, CANADA			
	Burial				"	"	"	

Places of Residence MORTAGNE FRANCE ; BEAUPORT QUEBEC, CANADA

\* NEW ADDRESS: Occupation SAULT/FARMER Church Affiliation CATHOLIC Military Rec. Other wives, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.  
 5768 OLSON MEMORIAL HWY. GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55422  
 His Father JEAN TURGEON Mother's Maiden Name SEBASTIENNE LIGER

**Wife's Full Maiden Name** PASQUIERE LEFEBVRE

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	CA.	1627		MORTAGNE		FRANCE	SHE WAS 40 YRS OLD IN CENSUS OF 1667
Chr'nd							
Death							
Burial							

\* MN. GENEALOGICAL Soc. Compiler NWT & CH / Address PO. BOX 16069 ST. PAUL, MN 55116 Date MAY 1986  
 Places of Residence Occupation if other than housewife Church Affiliation Other husbands, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar. Her Father Mother's Maiden Name

From M. Copyright 1983 by The Family Publishers, Inc. P.O. Box 388, Logan, Utah. Publishers of THE GENEALOGICAL HELPER. Send for a free catalogue with lists and full descriptions of many genealogical aids.

Sex	Children's Name in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
1	JEANNE	Birth	18	JULY	1650	ST-JEAN de MORTAGNE		FRANCE	
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death	20	JULY	1650	"	"	"	
2	MARIE-CLAIRE	Birth	29	SEPT	1657	ST-JEAN de MORTAGNE			
	Full Name of Spouse*	Mar.	15	OCT	1665	QUEBEC CITY			
	ABEL SAGOT	Death	20	AUG	1711	"	"		
3	JACQUES	Birth	29	SEPT.	1653	ST-JEAN de MORTAGNE			M-JEAN WAS THE WIDOW OF PIERRE BOURGET
	Full Name of Spouse*	Mar.	26	NOV	1704	BEAUMONT QUEBEC			
	MARIE JEAN	Death	12	DEC.	1728	BEAUMONT			
4	FRANCOISE	Birth	18	NOV	1656	ST-JEAN de MORTAGNE			
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death		APR.	1657	"	"		
5	ANNE (A NUN)	Birth	28	AUG	1658	ST-JEAN de MORTAGNE			HOTEL-DIEU 1045 A
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death	15	APR.	1725	HOTEL-DIEU, QUEBEC (A RELIGIEUSE)			HOSPITAL (see reverse)
	SISTER OF STE-MARTHE ORDER	Burial							
6	MICHEL	Birth	3	SEPT.	1661	ST-JEAN de MORTAGNE			
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death		BEFORE	1667				
		Burial							
7	ZACHARIE	Birth	7	MAY	1664	QUEBEC CITY			
	Full Name of Spouse*	Mar.	24	OCT	1691	BEAUPORT QUEBEC			
	ELISABETH ROY	Death							
		Burial							
8	PIERRE	Birth	19	OCT.	1666	QUEBEC CITY			
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death	10	FEB.	1667	"	"		
		Burial							
9	PIERRE	Birth	CA.	1669					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Mar.	16	NOV	1695	LALIZON, QUEBEC.			
	MARIE-ANNE CARRIER	Death	9	NOV	1699	HOTEL DIEU QUEBEC.			
		Burial							
* 10	JEAN	Birth	17	MAY	1670	QUEBEC CITY			* OUR ANCESTOR
	Full Name of Spouse*	Mar.	8	NOV	1691	BEAUPORT QUEBEC.			
	ANNE-THERESE VACHON	Death	4	OCT	1749	BEAUPORT QUEBEC			
		Burial							

\* If married more than once No. each mar. (1) (2) etc. and list in "Add. info. on children" column. Use reverse side for additional children, other notes, references or information.

# TURGEON PATERNAL ANCESTRAL LINE (1627- PRESENT)

Charles Turgeon, b. 1627 --- Pasquiere Lefebvre, b. 1627  
(10 children -- among them, a son, Jean, our ancestor)

|

Jean Turgeon, b. May 19, 1670 --- Anne-Therese Vachon, b. July 3, 1674  
(16 children, among them, a son, Joseph Rene, our ancestor)

|

Joseph Rene Turgeon, b. June 8, 1710 --- Marie Anne Morin, b. Aug. 19, 1705  
(among offspring, a son, Michel, our ancestor)

|

Michel Turgeon, b. ? --- Elisabeth Roberge, b. Oct. 30, 1742  
(among offspring, a son, Jean-Baptiste, our ancestor)

|

Jean-Baptiste Turgeon, b. 1773 --- Euphrosine Roy, b. ?  
(among offspring, a son, Narcisse, our ancestor)

|

Narcisse Turgeon, b. 1830, -- Angele Goulet, b. 1831 or 1834  
(10 children, among them, a son, Antoine Ferdinand, our ancestor)

|

Antoine Ferdinand Turgeon, b. Oct. 2, 1863 --- Rose Anna Poulin, b. April 12, 1873  
(14 children, among them, a son, Walter, our father, grandfather and greatgrandfather)

|

Walter William Turgeon, b. March 20, 1906 -- Alexine Bergeron, b. Nov. 21, 1904  
(Six children , see Family Group listing on next page)

# Family Group Sheet

Husband's Full Name Walter William Turgeon Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth	20	03	1906	Brooks, MN	Redlake	MN	
Chr'nd							
Marr.	06	11	1929	Oklee, MN	St. Francis Xavier Church		
Death	01	11	1964	Gyrgla, MN	hunting cabin		
Burial	St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Oklee, MN						
Places of Residence <u>Brooks and Oklee, MN</u>							
Occupation <u>Salesman, Farmer</u> Church Affiliation <u>Catholic</u> Military Rec. _____							

Other wives, if any: No. (1) (2) etc.  
Make separate sheet for each marr.

His Father A.E. Turgeon Mother's Maiden Name Roseanna Poulin

Wife's Full Maiden Name Alexine Marie Bergeron

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	21	11	1904	Lambert Township	Redlake	MN	
Chr'nd							
Death	02	03	1992	Fosston, MN	Hospital		
Burial	St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Oklee, MN						
Places of Residence <u>Brooks and Oklee, MN</u>							
Occupation <u>Housewife</u> Church Affiliation <u>Catholic</u> Military Rec. _____							

Other husbands, if any: No. (1) (2) etc.  
Make separate sheet for each marr.

Her Father Joseph Bergeron Mother's Maiden Name Marguerite Lambert

Sex	Children's Names in F# (Arranged in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Childre
M	1 James Duane	Birth	25	08	1930	Erskine, MN	Polk	MN	
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.	07	02	1953	So. Milwaukee, WI			
	<u>Delores Benoit</u>	Death	04	04	1994	Thief River Falls, MN	Hospital		
		Burial	St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Oklee, MN						
F	2 Shirley Ann	Birth	14	01	1932	Brooks, MN	Turgeon Farm		
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.	04	08	1953	Oklee, MN			
	<u>Harold A. Cyr</u>	Death							
		Burial							
M	3 Francis Richard	Birth	03	12	1934	Brooks, MN	Turgeon Farm		
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.	06	06	1959	No. St. Paul, MN			
	<u>Albine (Bonnie) Fortier</u>	Death							
		Burial							
M	4 Jerome Arthur	Birth	10	04	1936	Crookston, MN			
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.	19	03	1960	Brooks, MN			
	<u>Dianne Nelson</u>	Death							
		Burial							
F	5 Alyce Claire	Birth	02	03	1940	Crookston, MN			
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.	23	06	1962	Oklee, MN			
	<u>Ronald Svedjan</u>	Death							
		Burial							
M	6 William Walter *	Birth	16	09	1942	Crookston, MN			
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.	28	02	1981	Great Bend, KS			
	<u>Kathleen Ann Potter</u>	Death							
		Burial							
	7	Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	8	Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							

Compiler Francis R. Turgeon Address 111 Meadow Creek Court City, State, Zip Lexington, IL 61753 Date May 22, 2006

Notes: \* Ellen Errett Elgin, married on 19-06-1965 @ Louisiana, MO (first spouse)

Form A100, Family Group Sheet by The Everton Publishers, P.O. Box 368, Logan, UT 84321. Publishers of The Genealogical Helper. Send for a free catalogue with list and full descriptions of many genealogical aids.

Husband's Full Name

# Walter and Alexine Turgeon's Grandchildren

## Children of James (Sr.) and Delores (Benoit) Turgeon

James Duane (Jr.), b. Sept. 10, 1953  
Debra Jean, b. Nov. 1, 1954; d. Aug. 22, 1999  
Colleen Marie, b. Feb. 21, 1958  
Bonita Kay, b. March 12, 1961  
Keith Allen, b. Aug. 27, 1963

## Children of Harold and Shirley (Turgeon) Cyr

Paul Turgeon, b. May 19, 1954  
Stephen John, b. Sept. 27, 1955  
Joseph Harold, b. Feb. 17, 1960  
Mary Lynn, b. April 24, 1961  
John Walter, b. Oct. 11, 1964  
Catherine Marguerite, b. Nov. 6, 1967

## Children of Francis and Bonnie (Fortier) Turgeon

Gregory Fortier, b. March 12, 1960  
Michelle Renee, b. June 1, 1962  
Douglas Fortier, b. Feb. 8, 1964  
Nannette Renee, b. July 16, 1965

## Children of Jerome and Dianne (Nelson) Turgeon

Kelly Jerome, b. Sept. 26, 1960  
Mark Jon, b. Feb. 20, 1962  
Kimberly Diane, b. Oct. 11, 1963  
Michael Allyn, b. Feb. 15, 1966

## Children of Alyce Turgeon (father Ronald Svedjan)

Shari Lynn, b. July 2, 1963  
Jennifer Lee, b. May 11, 1965  
Stefanie Jo, March 24, 1970

## Children of William W. Turgeon (mother Ellen E. [Elgin] Hutchinson)

Amanda Ellen, b. Nov. 15, 1966  
Matthew Clark, b. July 3, 1968

# Family Group Sheet

## Husband's Full Name

Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth							
Chr'nd							
Marr.							
Death							
Burial							
Places of Residence							
Occupation				Church Affiliation		Military Rec.	
<small>Other wives, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each marr.</small>							
His Father				Mother's Maiden Name			

## Wife's Full Maiden Name

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth							
Chr'nd							
Death							
Burial							
Places of Residence							
Occupation				Church Affiliation		Military Rec.	
<small>Other husbands, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each marr.</small>							
Her Father				Mother's Maiden Name			

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arranged in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
1	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
2	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
3	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
4	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
5	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
6	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
7	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
8	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							

Compiler	Notes:
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Date	

Form A100, Family Group Sheet by The Everton Publishers, P.O. Box 368, Logan, UT 84321. Publishers of The Genealogical Helper. Send for a free catalogue with list and full descriptions of many genealogical aids.

Husband's Full Name