**Cottreau**

Captain Hilaire Valentin Pothier of Wedgeport, Nova Scotia makes an interesting statement about one of ***Jean-Marie Cottreau’s*** female descendants on pages 08 and 09 of his 1884 to 1885 logbook. In his November 30, 1884 entry, Captain Pothier discusses a tuberculosis epidemic in the region. A copy of Captain Pothier’s logbook can be found in the *Archives du Centre Acadien* at l’Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point, Nova Scotia, titled *22 - Fonds Hilaire Valentin Pothier* (MG 22); Père Clarence-Joseph d’Entremont transcribed the entire document, included his own commentary, and published it in 1986 as *Historique de Saint-Michel de Wedgeport, Nouvelle-Écosse: Par Le Capitaine Hilaire-Valentin Pothier, 1884-1885: Notes et Commentaires par Clarence-Joseph d’Entremont, Prêtre.*

Pothier writes; “*Marc avait marié une tranquille de la butte a deux mille plus haut que Meteghan elle est morte et laisse trois ou quatre enfant il est remarié avec un fille a* ***Adrien Cotro*** *(Nathalie) peut être sa fera du bien en croissant bride.*”Translated, this reads, “Marc married a quiet [woman] from the butte two miles up from Meteghan. She died and left three or four children. He remarried to a daughter of Adrien Cotro (Nathalie); maybe it will do some good as a crossed bride.**”**

Père Clarence-Joseph d’Entremont published the following interpretation (with commentary) of this excerpt *Historique de Saint-Michel de Wedgeport;* “*Marc avait épousé une [femme] tranquille de la Butte, à deux milles plus haut que Meteghan; elle est morte et a laisse trois ou quatre enfants. Il s’est remarié avec une [9] fille à* ***Adrien Cottreau****, (Natalie); peut-être ça fera du bien en croissant la “breed” [c’est-à-dire la race].*”

This alternate reading of the original provides a clearer interpretation of the latter part of Pothier’s quote: “Marc married a quiet [woman] from the Butte, two miles higher than Meteghan; she died and left three or four children. He remarried to a [9] daughter of Adrien Cottreau, (Natalie); perhaps it did good to cross the “breed” (that is to say, the race)” (p. 8-9).

d’Entremont’s translation of this excerpt is significant, as he interpreted Captain Hilaire Valentin Pothier’s usage of *“croissant bride”* to mean *“croissant la ‘breed’”*(cross the breed) to refer to the race of Marc Boudreau’s second wife, ***Nathalie Cottreau***. The Cottreaus of post-Deportation Wedgeport were, and continue to be, of mixed-First Nations and French/European ancestry, supporting this interpretation.

We find, on page 136 of the Wedgeport Genealogical Committee’s 2004 collection of genealogies of the core families of Wedgeport, Nova Scotia entitled, *Genealogy Saint Michael’s Parish/Généalogie Paroisse Saint-Michel 1767-1925 (Wedgeport),*that “Natalie Cotro’s” (***Nathalie Cottreau’s***) full name was ***Mathilde Athalie “Natalie” Cottreau***, her mother’s name was Mathilde Richard, she was baptized on October 24, 1850, and that she married Marc Boudreau, son of Jean Baptiste Boudreau and Ursule Amirault, on June 17, 1883. Marc’s first wife was named Vitaline Maillet, according to this source, the daughter of Joseph Maillet and of Anne Domitilde Saulnier. An excerpt from Captain Hilaire Valentin Pothier’s logbook informs us that Vitaline was from the region of Meteghan, Nova Scotia.

This raises the question, was ***Mathilde Athalie* dite *Natalie Cottreau’s*** mother Mathilde Richard? The answer can be found in the registers of the parish of Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau in Argyle Nova Scotia, which notes that “***adrien cottero***” (Adrien Cottreau), son of “jean marie cottero” (***Jean Marie Cottreau***) and “marie ignard” (Marie Hinard) married “thildé Richard” (Mathilde Richard), daughter of “magloire Richard” (Georges Magloire Richard) and “marie le blanc” (Marie Leblanc) there on November 14, 1843.

The same registers state that ***Adrien Cottereau*** (Adrien Cottreau), son of ***Jean Cottereau*** (Jean Marie Cottreau) and of Marie Henard (Marie Hinard) was born on November 15, 1815 and formerly baptized on June 20, 1818; however, he had been baptized at birth by Amable Boudreau, his neighbor.

According to an enumeration of the parishioners of the parish of Sainte-Anne, which appears to have been made sometime prior to 1840 and can be found in the Nova Scotia Archives’ *An Acadian Parish Reborn: Post–Deportation Argyle—First 50 Years of Catholic Parish Records 1799–1849* online database, “Matilde Richard” (Mathilde Richard), daughter of “George M. Richard” (Georges Magloire Richard) and of “Marie Leblanc” was born on April 27, 1823. Another entry, on what appears to be a different enumeration, states that George Magloire Richard (Georges Magloire Richard) and Mary Leblanc (Marie Leblanc) were married on November 26, 1823, which is a few months after Mathilde’s birth. However, Père Jean-Mandé Sigogne recorded a birth date of April 27, 1824 for “Matilde” (Mathilde), daughter of Georges Magloire Richard and Marie Le Blanc (Leblanc) on his *1816 to 1824 Census* (properly entitled, *Registre des Familles de la Paroisse de Ste Anne & de Saint Pierre D’Argyle*), which is a more likely date of birth.

The registers of the parish of Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau in Argyle Nova Scotia record the March 02, 1835 burial of the thirty-five-year-old (born circa 1800) “George Magloire Richard” (Georges Magloire Richard), husband of “Marie Le Blanc” (Marie Leblanc). According to the information given by Marie to Père Jean-Mandé Sigogne, Georges died the previous day (March 01, 1835). The entry was made on October 03, 1835.

Given this information, Georges Magloire Richard was likely born circa 1800. The registers of the parish of Sainte-Anne, provide a record of the April 24, 1800 baptism of Georges Magloire Richard, son of Antoine François Richard and of “Cecile Douset” (Cécile Doucet), who was born the previous day (April 23, 1800). Georges’ godfather is recorded as “Pierre Douset” (Pierre Doucet) and his godmother is recorded as “Anne Douset” (Anne Doucet), who were Georges uncle and aunt, respectively.

Cécile Doucet descends from Germain Doucet (1641), who is shown through Y-DNA testing to have been of First Nations descent and the progenitor of the Doucet *Sang-Mêlés*(mixed-blood) family of the post-Deportation Southwest Nova Scotia.

It is apparent that ***Adrien Cottreau*** was the son of ***Jean Marie Cottreau*** and Marie Hinard. Marie was a descendant of Philippe Mius d’Entremont II and his first wife, who was a First Nations woman, likely from the Cape Sable region, through Marie’s mother, Anne Rosalie Mius. Philippe II’s son, the “part Indian,”Joseph Mius d’Azy I was the progenitor of the Mius *Sang-Mêlés*family of post-Deportation Southwest Nova Scotia, yet another case of a descendant of the union of the “outsider,” ***Jean Marie Cottreau*** and his *Sang-Mêlé*wife, Marie Hinard marrying a descendant of the union of Antoine François Richard (another outsider) and his *Sang-Mêlé*wife, Cécile Doucet.

Regarding the First Nations ancestry of “Natalie Cotro” (***Nathalie Cottreau***), it is helpful to explore the ancestry of her maternal grandmother, Marie Le Blanc (wife of Georges Magloire Richard). Georges was born on April 23, 1800, so it is very likely that Marie would have been born approximately around that time period. Turning to the registers of the parish of Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau in Argyle, Nova Scotia, we find the July 15, 1799 baptism of Marie Le Blanc (Leblanc), daughter of Jean Baptiste Le Blanc (Leblanc) and ***Anne Mius***. Anne’s father, Jean-Baptiste Mius II, was paternally descended from the “part Indian” Joseph Mius d’Azy I, and her mother, Marie-Modeste Doucet, was paternally a descendant of Germain Doucet (1641), of First Nations ancestry (at least paternally) as demonstrated via Y-DNA testing.

To tie the Cottreau family to an additional family with *Sang-Mêlé* roots, a January 15, 1840 land document outlines the annexation of Pierre Hinard’s original land acquisition, received as part of the land deeded by Ebenezer Moulton to Pierre, Eustache Corporon, Jean Magloire Doucet, and Pierre Robichaud II shortly after their return to the Southwest Nova Scotia region after Deportation. This record, which was passed down in one of the authors’ family to a cousin, states;

Know all men by these presents that we **Charles Cottreau, Peter Cottreau, Thomas Cottreau, Vincent Cottreau, Adrien Cottreau, Jerome Cottreau, J. Francois Cottreau, Isadore Cottreau, Francis Cottreau, Marie Cottreau,** Elizabeth Doucet and her husband Ignace Doucet, and Henriette Doucet with her husband Celestin Doucet, all of Argyle in the county of Yarmouth and province of Nova Scotia, have this day caused a division to be made for us of the land bequeathed to us by our grandfather Peter Henor, late of Argyle, deceased, lying on Tusket Wedge in the said township of Argyle and which so made for us is agreeable to a Plan thereof hereunto annexed and in which the several lots set off by us are inscribed with each of our names, and the dotted lines on the said plan are roads and the parallelograms marked A and B are landings – places which shall be equally for each- and we do hereby severally and separately bind and oblige ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators to conform to and abide by the division and partition hereby made by us agreeable to the annexed plan FOREVER under the penalty of 100 pounds . In witness thereof we have set our hands and seals

This fifteenth day of January, 1840. In the presence of John Bourque.

This record of the annexation of the land once owned by the “outsider,” Pierre Hinard, to his grandchildren, descended from him and his second wife, Anne-Rosalie Mius, whose nephew (through her brother, Louis Mius I), Louis Mius II is stated to have been of the *“caste dêtestée des gens mêlés”* in Père Jean-Mandé Sigogne‘s April 29, 1809 letter written to Monseigneur Joseph-Octave Plessis (see *Achidiocèse de Québec Archives, 312 CN, Nouvelle-Écosse*, vol. 61), and resulted in the creation of what is now known as the ***Chemin des Cottreau***(Cottreau Road) in Wedgeport, Nova Scotia. This transcription of the record was done by Peter M. Crowell, CG(C), Municipal Historian & Archivist at the Argyle Township Court House Archives (ATCHA) in Tusket, Nova Scotia and the land annexation record is now housed there.