**Lejeune**

The family of Paul Guédry dit Grivois and Anne (dit Nannette) Mius appears to have shared strong family ties with yet another mixed-blooded family from the East Coast of Acadia, as they are frequently found in the historical record as residents of the same area as the family of ***Germain Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and his second wife, Marie Guédry. Marie’s mixed-blood ancestry is widely accepted, however, the long-suspected First Nations roots of the “Lejeune dit Briard” family is currently a topic of debate.

Volume II: H-Z of Stephen A. White’s 1999 *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Acadiennes. Première Partie 1636 à 1714 en Deux Parties* notes that Germain, the son of ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and Marie Thibodeau, first married Marie-Anne Trahan, daughter of Alexandre Trahan and Marie Pellerin, circa 1717 (p. 1052). Germain was married for a second time, to Marie Guédry, circa 1735. White has concluded that Marie Guédry was the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Guédry I *dit* Laverdure and his mixed-blood wife, Madeleine Mius, daughter of Philippe Mius d’Entremont II and his second First Nations wife, “Marie” (unknown surname). The connections between the family of Germain and that of Paul Guédry dit Grivois lie in the fact that they both married mixed-blood women of Mius descent and that Germain’s wife, Marie, was Paul’s niece.

White concludes that Germain’s father, Pierre Lejeune dit Briard, was the son of Pierre Lejeune dit Briard I and an “Unknown Doucet”—daughter of Germain Doucet, Sieur de Laverdure— whom he married circa 1656 (p. 1051). In addition to marriage dispensation and the fact that Germain’s father, Pierre, and Pierre’s supposed brother[[1]](#footnote-1), ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard*** both had sons named Germain; this conclusion is largely based on the deposition given by Claude Pitre on February 28, 1767 at Belle-Île-en-Mer, France. According to a transcription of this deposition found on pages 32 to 35 of Public Archives Canada’s record collection entitled, *France: Départementales du Morbihan, (Vannes),* *Série E*, *Généalogie des Familles acadiennes établis à Belle-Isle-en-Mer, 1767.* Microfilm # C-7202 (MG 6, A 6, Série E),” Claude was the second husband of the widow “Magdeleine Darrois” (Madeline Darois) of the great-grandson (Alexis Trahant) of ***Pierre Lejeune I*** and the “Unknown Doucet.” This transcription notes, in relation to Germain’s father, Pierre, that “*Le dit Pierre Le Jeune issû d’un autre Pierre Le Jeune venû du France, marié au Port Royal et decedé audit lieu*” (Said ***Pierre Le Jeune*** issued from another Pierre Le Jeune who came from France, married at Port Royal and died at said place).

Given the degree of separation between the informant, Claude Pitre, and this ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard I*** and the fact that, according to his deposition, Claude and Madeleine Darois did not even marry in Acadia, but married in Liverpool, England on May 09, 1760, it is worth considering a document that can be found in transcription form on pages 07 to 19 of the Public Archives Canada collection, “Colonial Office, Nova Scotia “A” Phillips and Armstrong; 834-835. MG II N.S. “A” Vol. 23” Microfilm C-9122”. This document is properly entitled, “Schedule of the Seignorial Rents for one Whole Year Payable Yearly by the Inhabitants Within the Banlieu of the Fort of Annapolis Royal in His Majesties Province of Nova Scotia on the First Day of January for which they stand annually De to His Majesties Revenue.” The original document was “Enclosed in a Letter of 10th May 1734 – Armstrong to Secy of State.” The importance of this document is that the original grantees of a plot of land located in the region of Belisle by Annapolis Royal (previously Port Royal) were “The Heirs of ***John Le Jeune***”. The current possessors of this land in 1734, Alexander Hebert (Alexandre Hébert) and Michel Richards (Michel Richard) do not appear to be descended from this ***Jean Lejeune***, nor do they appear to be of any relation to Jean at all (see page 1050 of “Volume II: H-Z” of Stephen A. White’s 1999 *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Acadiennes. Première Partie 1636 à 1714 en Deux Parties*). It is the belief of White that the original grant to the heirs of John Le Jeune was made sometime between 1670 and 1686.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The purpose of recording of the “*Déclarations de Belle-Île-en-Mer*” was to trace the French origins of each family that participated in the process. However, the mixed-blood wife of Martin D'Aprendestiguy, Sieur de Martignon, named Jeanne Saint-Étienne de La Tour, was also omitted in this document. Although the omission of the wife of ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard I*** does not necessarily mean she *was* of First Nations heritage, or at least of mixed-blood origins, it seems plausible that a supposed “Unknown Doucet” daughter of someone as important as Germain Doucet, Sieur de Laverdure would have been proudly mentioned in a deposition that was focused on identifying the French origins of these families unless some social stigma was in place. Similar conclusions may be made in relation to the omission of Jeanne, because she was the daughter of Sieur Charles de Saint-Étienne de La Tour and his first wife, who was an unknown First Nations woman.

The early Acadian censuses (see Public Archives Canada Microfilm C-2572), the 1708 census of Acadia, and the 1678 census of Acadia (found on Public Archives Canada Microfilm F-774), in addition to the surviving pre-Deportation parish registers make it apparent that ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and Marie Thibodeau spent their lives together with their families, moving back and forth between the regions of Port Royal, La Hève/Petite Rivière, and Grand Pré, but mostly from La Hève to Petite Rivière.

The fact that Pierre Le Jeune (***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard***) and “marie thibaudeau” (Marie Thibodeau) were first recorded as being residents of Port Royal in the 1678 census of Acadia leads us to believe that Pierre was likely a descendant of this “John Le Jeune” (***Jean Lejeune***).

Regarding the possible parentage of the ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** who married Marie Thibodeau, Jean Lejeune seems more likely to be Pierre’s father than Pierre Lejeune does, especially given the fact that the name of “Pierre” for ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard’s*** father, as seen above, was provided by Claude Pitre, who was not even a descendant of this man, nor was he married to a descendant. Or perhaps this man was known as “***Jean-Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard***” or another variant of these names.

Père Clarence Joseph d’Entremont notes, on page 1121 of Volume 3 of his 1981 book, *Histoire du Cap-Sable De l'An Mil Au Traité de Paris (1763)*, that the so-called “***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard I***,” father of the ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** who married Marie Thibodeau came from France as a child with his two French parents and his two sisters (***Catherine Lejeune*** and ***Edmée Lejeune***) before, or during the time of Razilly, settled in La Hève, and eventually married an unknown First Nations woman. However, this conclusion is based on pages 144 to 151 of François Edme Rameau de Saint-Père’s 1890 writing entitled, *Documents Inédits du Canada-Français: Documents sur l’Acadie: CII: Remarques sur les Registres de Belle-Isle-en-Mer, par Mr E. Rameau de Saint-Père* (p. 144-151). Rameau de Saint-Père asserts that these Lejeunes arrived at La Hève prior to 1636. Both Père d’Entremont and Rameau de Saint-Père claim that ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and his First Nations wife had three children named Pierre, Martin, and Jeanne.

An additional document concerning ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard***, who was married to Marie Thibodeau is the September 01, 1689 *Mémoire instructif de la conduit des Sieurs Soulégre et desgoutin au Port Royal de l’Acadie. par le Sieur de Meneval Gouverneur*, written by Sieur Louis-Alexandre des Friches de Meneval at Port Royal. A transcription of this document can be found on pages 275 to 300 of Public Archives Canada’s collection entitled, *France: Archives des Colonies, Série C11D, Correspondance générale, Acadie, Volume 2, 1686 to 1695*, Microfilm C-11359. The importance of this document lies in the fact that Sieur Meneval refers to Pierre on page 287 of this transcription as “*le nommé Briard espèce de sauvage beau frère du sieur Desgoutin*” (the named Briard, species of Savage, brother-in-law of Sieur Desgoutin). Pierre had been trading “*dans le bois vers le cap de Sable contre le deffence que j’ay faite d’y aller sans ma permission*” (in the woods around Cape Sable against the defence that I made of him going there without my permission). It is possible that Sieur Meneval’s usage of the term “*espèce de sauvage*” (type of Savage) could have been a slur made toward Pierre, however, it is equally possible that this may have been a reference to Pierre’s ancestry. It is further stated by Sieur Meneval on the same page that Sieur Desgouttins had given Pierre II “*entre ‘autres choses de l’eau de vie pour traitter aux dits sauvages*” (among other things alcohol to trade with said Savages). It seems apparent that Sieur Meneval believed that Sieur Desgouttins was the “mastermind” behind Pierre II’s illegal activity.

Sieur Louis-Alexandre des Friches de Meneval’s reference to Pierre Lejeune dit Briard II being the “*beau frère du sieur Desgoutin*” is rather misleading, as this would insinuate that Pierre II had married a sister of Sieur Desgouttins, or vice-versa. If we are to believe page 1509 of “Volume II: H-Z” of Stephen A. White’s 1999 *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Acadiennes. Première Partie 1636 à 1714 en Deux Parties*, Pierre II’s wife, Marie Thibodeau, was the sister of Sieur Desgouttins’ wife, Jeanne Thibodeau. Marie and Jeanne were the daughters of Pierre Thibodeau and Jeanne Thériot.

Evidence to support this connection can be found in the February 26, 1710 marriage of “Michel du pont Ecuyer Sieur de Renon” (Michel du Pont) son of “huges du pont” (Hugh du Pont) and the “Dame Marie herault” (Dame Marie Herault) to “anne degoutins” (Anne Desgouttins), daughter of “Monsieur Mathieu Degoutins” (Monsieur Mathieu Desgouttins) and “Dame Jeanne tibaudeau” (Dame Jeanne Thibodeau). The record of this marriage can be found in the registers of the parish of Saint-Jean-Baptiste at Port Royal, Acadia and in the record; Sieur Desgouttins is referred to as “*Conseillur du Roy, Lieutenant general Civil et criminel à l’Acadie*” (King's counsellor. Lieutenant General of Civil and Criminal in Acadia).” It is evident that Sieur Desgouttins was married to a Thibodeau woman.

The conflict between ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard II*** and Sieur Louis-Alexandre des Friches de Meneval appears to have been intense and rather enduring, as yet another document has been brought to light detailing conflict between the two men. This second document is a *Mémoire* that was written by Pierre II’s “beau frère” (brother-in-law), Sieur Mathieu Desgouttins, on October 02, 1690. A transcription of this *Mémoire* can be found on pages 357 to 374 of the Public Archives Canada collection, *France: Archives des Colonies, Série C11D, Correspondance générale, Acadie*, Volume 2, 1686 to 1695, Microfilm C-11359 (p. 367-369);

*Pour ce qui est de la fonction d’escrivain Vostre Grandeur entend aussy que J’agiray de conseil avec Monsieur de Meneval, mais il fait tout s’en m’en rien communiquer et je ne sçay rien que lorsqu’il s’agit de faire les payements sur les ordres comme il seroit dans le marché pour faire faire une maison pour loger les soldats, il pouvoit faire faire une publication au rabais y ayant icy plusieurs habitans qui l’auraient entrepris à meilleur marché, de plus il n’étoit pas nécessaire de leur faire avancer 200 (?) qu’il n’entend que la maison se commence qu’a l’arivé des navires Il en a fait de mesme lorsqu’il fut question de mener le sieur Pasquine aux costes de la nouvelle Angleterre où il fit arriver une (?). et la désarmer sans m’en rien communiquer et je ne sçay la quantité des (?) qui furent embarqués n’y débarqués il les a fait payer sur le mémoire qu’en à donné le Sieur Vilbon à qui il a fait donner la paye de sergent pendant six mois de l’année 1686. sans qu’il ait esté reconu pour (?) et qu’il fit de service n’y ayant que son nom qui parut sur les estats. Deux jours après mon dit sieur de Meneval fit faire un autre mémoire et y fit mestre un ancre de perdu et luy ayant représenté qu’il ne pouvoit pas faire payer sans un procés verbal, il me dit qu’il le vouloit et que (?) à me faire: huit jours après il fut question de mener le dit sieur Pasquine au Port Rossignol où il étoit attendu par la Friponne distant d’icy de 40 lieues Monsieur de Meneval fit marché avec deux habitans pour le conduire à vingt-quatre livres pour aller et revenir, il dit au dit sieur Pasquine qu’il luy avoit trouvé deux hommes avec lesquels il avoit convenu à 40 pour le mener et luy dit a luy faire un marché par lequel il le pris de faire payer 40H à Pierre le jeune et son compagnon aves lesquels il avoit fait marché pour le mener au Port Rossignol au pied du marché. Monsieur le Gouverneur mit son ordonnance de 40 et me dit qu’il les avoit avancé à ses habitans, ce qui m’obligea à luy remettre en mains cependant Monsieur le Gouverneur n’en a donné que 24 à ses habitans lesquels ont (?) du sieur Pasquine qu’il en devoient avoir 50 et me l’ayant demandé je leurs dit qu’il étoit vray, monsieur le Gouverneur ayant (?) cela envoyer chercher Piere le Jeune pour le mestre prisonnier sous le prétexte d’avoir demandé le restant de ses 40. Ce que le dit leJeune ayant apris s’absenta d’icy pendant deux mois et voyant que Monsieur le Gouverneur continuoit tousjours sa poursuite. il a esté contrain de s’évader.*

Translated, this reads,

As for that which is the function of the writer Your Greatness also hear that I will act to consult with Monsieur de Meneval, but he does everything without communicating with me and I know nothing except when it comes to making payments on orders like he would be in the market to build a house to lodge the soldiers, he could have a discounted publication having here many inhabitants who would have undertaken it at better market, furthermore it was not necessary to advance them 200 (?) that he only hears that the house commences with the arrival of the ships He did the same with the question of taking the Sieur Pasquine to the Coasts of New England where he made arrive a (?). and disarm it without communicating anything to me and I do not know the quantity of (?) which were embarked or landed there he made them pay on the memorial that in given the Sieur Vilbon to whom he gave the pay of Sergeant for six months of the year 1686. without it being recognized for (?) and that he did service there having that his name appeared on the estates. Two days after my said Sieur de Meneval made another memoir and put a lost anchor and having represented him that he could not charge without a Procès-verbal, he told me he wanted it and that (?) to make me: eight days later there was question of taking the said Sieur Pasquine to Port Rossignol where he was expected by the Friponne distant from here of 40 leagues Monsieur de Meneval made a deal with two inhabitants to bring him at twenty four livres to go and, he said to the said Sieur Pasquine that he had found two men with whom he had agreed at 40 to bring him and he said to him to make him a bargain by which he took it to charge 40H to ***Pierre le jeune*** and his companion with them he had made a deal to bring him to Port Rossignol at the foot of the deal. Monsieur le Gouverneur made his order of 40 and told me that he had advanced it to the inhabitants, which obliged me to put it in his hands however Monsieur le Gouverneur gave only 24 to the inhabitants which have (?) of the Sieur Pasquine that he must have 50 and asked me I told them it was true, Monsieur le Gouverneur having (?) it went to find Piere le Jeune to imprison him under the pretext to have asked for the rest of his 40. What the said leJeune having learned left here for two months and seeing that Monsieur le Gouverneur always continued his pursuit. he have been forced to escape…”

Based on this excerpt, there was a long-standing conflict between ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard II*** and Sieur Louis-Alexandre des Friches de Meneval.

Given what we know based on the true ancestry of Germain Doucet (1641), who was said to have been the son of Germain Doucet, Sieur de Laverdure, there is no reason that the so-called ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard I*** could not have married an “Unknown Doucet” who may have been of First Nations blood and sister to Germain (1641). What we can conclude is that, despite whatever his true origins may have been, the ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** who was married to Marie Thibodeau lived the lifestyle of a “*coureur de bois*” (runner of the woods) and lived in such locations in Acadia that have historically been claimed by genealogists, historians, and various primary source documentation to have been highly populated with mixed-blood individuals and families, including the regions of La Hève and Grand Pré.

To add to what we know about the life of this ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard,*** we may consider an excerpt from a December 29, 1708 letter written at Port Royal by Sieur Mathieu Desgouttins to the Minister. This letter primarily concerns attacks on Port Royal by troops from New England; however, part of the letter discusses an incident involving “***Pierre le Jeune***” (Pierre Lejeune dit Briard II) and a man named “Allein” (Louis Allain), who had moved to Acadia from New England. A transcription of this letter can be found in Public Archives Canada’s collection, *France: Archives des Colonies, Série C11D, Correspondance générale, Acadie, Volume 6, 1707 to 1708*, Microfilm C-11361. The excerpt reads: “*Allein faisoit ce qu’il vouloit, & quelque temps de la il battit le nommé* ***Pierre le Jeune*** *habitant était pris de vin et le mit en un estat qui lobligea de garder le lit pendant sept semaines*” (Allein does whatever he wants, & some time from there he beat the said ***Pierre Le Jeune*** inhabitant was taken of wine and put him in a state that forced him to be bedridden for seven weeks) (p. 376). The letter continues; “luy demande pardon et luy dit de luy demander ce quil voudroit, la (?) fut qu’Allein luy donneroit des planches pour bastir sa maison” (he asked for forgiveness and he told him request what he would like, the (?) was that Allein gave him boards to build his house) (p. 376)

Returning to the 1708 census of Acadia, we find that, residing in the household of his parents, Pierre and Marie, in the “Francois” (French) settlement at La Hève was a nineteen year old (born circa 1689); “Pierre” (***Pierre Lejeune III***). The registers of the parish of Saint-Charles de la Grand-Prée in Grand-Pré, Acadia, on September 12, 1712, state that “Pierre Le Jeune” (***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard III***), son of Pierre Le Jeune (***Pierre Lejeune dit Briard II***) and Marie Thibeaudo (Marie Thibodeau), who were then inhabitants of Piziquid (present-day Windsor, Nova Scotia), married Jeanne Benoit, daughter of Martin Benoit and Marie Chaussegros, also inhabitants of Piziquid.

Given that Pierre Lejeune dit Briard III was still residing in the home of his parents in 1708 when the letter was written by Sieur Mathieu Desgouttins detailing the attack by Louis Allain on “***Pierre Le Jeune***,” in addition to the fact that Pierre III would not marry for another four years after the attack took place, it is reasonable to assume that the “Pierre Le Jeune” who was attacked by Louis Allain was indeed ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard II***.

***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard*** appears to have been a permanent resident of the region of La Hève as mentioned on page 1054 of “Volume II: H-Z” of Stephen A. White’s 1999 *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Acadiennes. Première Partie 1636 à 1714 en Deux Parties* and to have been the full-brother of the ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** who married Marie Thibodeau. Martin was married three times (p.1054-1055). According to the 1686 census of Acadia for the region of “Port la haive & de Mirliguaiche” (Port La Hève and Mirliguesche), a twenty-five-year-old (born circa 1661) ***Martin le Jeune*** was residing in the region with his wife, Jeanne, a “*Sauvagesse de nation*” (savage woman of the Nation), along with an unnamed daughter. No ages are provided for Jeanne or this unnamed daughter. A twenty-eight-year-old (born circa 1658) ***Pierre Le Jeune* dit *Briars*** (Pierre Lejeune *dit* Briard) and his twenty-five-year-old wife (born circa 1661), Marie Thibaudeau (Thibodeau) are recorded in the census for this region living next to the family of Martin and Jeanne. Pierre and Marie were listed as inhabitants of Port Royal eight years prior on the 1678 census of Acadia. This is the first indication that Pierre had ties to both Port Royal and to the region of La Hève.

However, as per the 1693 and 1698 censuses of Acadia, Pierre and Marie appear to have moved back to the Port Royal region. According to a document created by the above-mentioned Sieur Mathieu Desgouttins in 1703 entitled, *État de la depence et payament faits par moy Mathieu de Goutin, Écrivain du Roy entretenu en la Marine (?) a l’accadie*, foundinLibrary and Archives Canada’s collection, “*Série C11A. Correspondance générale; Canada (MG1-C11A* Microfilm F-113, Sieur Desgouttins, who was Pierre’s supposed “brother-in-law,” paid ***Pierre Le Jeune*** (Pierre Lejeune *dit* Briard), a then-inhabitant of La Hève, and a man called “*Bonis Sauvage*” for delivering letters and consulting with Sieur Desgouttins about constructing a road between La Hève and Port Royal. This entry is as follows, verbatim;

A Pierre le Jeune habitant de la heve et Bonis sauvage suivant lordre de Monsieur Brouillan du deuxe Nobre mil sept cent deux, la somme de trante livres et ce pour estre venu expres de la heve au port Royal aporter des lettres à Monsieur le Gouverneur, et pour conferer avec luy sur le Chemin a faire par les terres du port Royal audit lieu.

Cy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 30

Translated, this reads,

To ***Pierre Lejeune***, inhabitant of La Hève, and Bonis Sauvage per the order of Monsieur de Brouillan of the second of November 1702, the sum of thirty livres, which is for having come directly from La Hève to Port-Royal bringing some letters to Monsieur the Governor, and for conferring with him about the road to be built by land from Port-Royal to the said place

Total . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 30

This excerpt, in addition to providing evidence to show that ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and Marie Thibodeau had moved their family back to La Hève by 1702, also provides further evidence of the lifestyle that Pierre lived.

A twenty-eight-year-old (born circa 1688) “francois Bonis” (François Bonis), his seventeen-year-old (born circa 1691) wife, who was recorded simply as “Marie” (who was also likely of First Nations descent), and their one-year-old (born circa 1707) daughter recorded as “Caherine” (Catherine) were enumerated on the 1708 census of Acadia as being residents of the “*Sauvage*” (First Nations) settlement in the La Hève region. Also residing in the La Hève region, but in the “Francois” (French) settlement there, was fifty-five-year-old (born circa 1653) “***Pierre Briart***” (Pierre Lejeune *dit* Briard), his forty-six-year-old wife, Marie Thibaudeau (Thibodeau), and their eight children, one being the fifteen-year-old (born circa 1693) ***Germain Lejeune* dit *Briard***. Given that the families of Pierre and of François were both residing in the vicinity of La Hève in 1708, only six years after Pierre and “Bonis Sauvage” received their payment from Sieur Mathieu Desgouttins, in addition to the fact that François was recorded as being an inhabitant of the “*Sauvage*” settlement at La Hève in 1708, it seems that “Bonis Sauvage” and “François Bonis” were likely one and the same, and François was a “*Sauvage*”. These records provide further evidence to demonstrate that Pierre was very close to the Mi’kmaq people.

The family of ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard’s*** supposed brother, ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard*** is also recorded as a resident of the “Francois” settlement of the La Hève region on the 1708 census of Acadia; however, by this time, forty-five-year-old (born circa 1663) Martin had married his much younger second wife, Marie Godet (Gaudet) who was only twenty-eight years old (born circa 1680). Also residing in this household were six of Martin’s children, from both of Martin’s wives.

One of these children worth noting is ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard’s*** two-year-old (born circa 1706) daughter, ***Claire Lejeune* dit *Briard***. Relating to the *Sang-Mêlé* (mixed-blood) ancestry of the Corporon family of Southwest Nova Scotia/Cape Sable during Père Jean-Mandé Sigogne’s time spent there around first half of the nineteenth century, Claire was an ancestor to the descendants of this family, as she was married to the mixed-blood François Viger II (son of François Viger I and Marie Mius, who was the daughter of Philippe Mius d’Entremont II and his first wife, an unknown First Nations woman). According to White’s *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Acadiennes. Première Partie 1636 à 1714 en Deux Parties,* Claire’s mother, Anne-Marie Gaudet was the daughter of Jean Gaudet II and Jeanne Henry (p. 1054-1055). Recent mt-DNA analysis of a female descendant of Jeanne Henry has produced a Haplogroup of X2a2, which is Native American in origin.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Without additional analysis of other descendants, we cannot conclusively determine if ***Claire Lejeune* dit *Briard’s*** maternal lineage was Native American in origin. If proven through further testing, this would add yet another root source of First Nations ancestry among the Sang-Mêlés of Southwest Nova Scotia.

Claude Lejeune (***Claude Lejeune* dit *Briard***) of Port Maltois was the son of ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and his first wife, Marie Kagigoniac. Claude was married to Marie Godet (Gaudet), daughter of Jean Godet (Jean Gaudet II) and the deceased Jeanne henry (Jeanne Henry) of Petite Rivière. The marriage was performed by Récollet missionary, Père Félix Pain and a record can be found in the registers of the parish of Saint-Jean-Baptiste at Port Royal, Acadia. Also worth noting in relation to this record is that a Pierre Briard (***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard***) and a Monsieur Mius (very likely Philippe Mius d’Entremont II) were witness to the ceremony. This record not only tells us that Martin’s first wife was referred to as “Marie-Jeanne Kagigonius,” but also that, if White is correct in his conclusion regarding the parentage of Martin’s second wife, Anne-Marie Gaudet, then Martin and his son, Claude, both married sisters and Claude’s sister-in-law was also his step-mother.

In the registers of the parish of Saint-Charles de la Grand-Prée in Grand-Pré, Acadia, we find that it was here on October 16, 1729 that “Martin Lejeune” (***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard***) was married for a third time to a woman named Marie Renot (Renaud). Unfortunately, no parents’ names are provided in the record of this marriage for either the bride or the groom. According to White in *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Acadiennes. Première Partie 1636 à 1714 en Deux Parties*, this marriage did not produce any progeny and the bride, Marie Arnault (Renaud) *dit* Grislard, was the widow of a man named “Jacques Carne” (p. 1999).

There are also two female “Briarts” (Briards) who per the 1708 census of Acadia were also residing in the vicinity of La Hève; a fifty-year-old (born circa 1658) widow named “Marie briart” (***Marie Lejeune* dit *Briard*** (?)) and a sixty-two-year-old (born circa 1642) “Jeanne briart” (***Jeanne Lejeune* dit *Briard***). Marie is recorded on this census as being a resident of the “*Sauvage*” (First Nations) settlement of La Hève whereas Jeanne is recorded as having been an inhabitant of the “Francois” (French) settlement there and residing with her fifty-eight-year-old (born circa 1650) husband, “Jean Godet” (Jean Gaudet II) and her twenty-three-year-old (born circa 1685) daughter, Catherine. White notes that this was Jeanne’s second marriage, as she had first married a First Nations man named François Joseph circa 1673 and was married for a second time to Jean, circa 1694 (p.1050). Given these approximate marriage years, we can conclude that Jeanne’s daughter, Catherine, was the daughter of her first husband and therefore, her name was Catherine Joseph.. White also asserts that Jeanne was Jean’s third wife, he having recently become the widower of Jeanne Henry; therefore, ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard’s*** second wife, Marie Anne Gaudet, was Jeanne’s step-daughter. Jeanne and Martin, both ***Lejeune* dit *Briards***, were residing next to each other per the 1708 census of Acadia, which suggests a familial relationship between them; however, one sure familial relationship is the fact that Martin was married to Jeanne’s step-daughter at that time.

***Jeanne Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** appear to have had a family tie, as they frequently appear in close proximity to each other on various Acadian censuses, even when Pierre had moved his family to multiple locations such as Grand Pré, La Hève, and Port Royal. One census of particular importance is the 1693 census of Port Royal. It is on this census that we find a thirty-five year-old (born circa 1658) François Joseph, his thirty-four-year-old (born circa 1659) wife, Jeanne La Jeune (***Jeanne Lejeune* dit *Briard***), and their four children. Residing only a few houses over were thirty-seven-year-old (born circa 1656) “Pierre le Jeune” (***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard***), his thirty-year-old (born circa 1663) wife, Marie Thibeaudeau (Thibodeau), and their three children.

Having established that ***Jeanne Lejeune* dit *Briard*** was indeed first married to François Joseph, we turn to the registers of the parish of Saint-Jean-Baptiste at Port Royal, Acadia. It is in these registers that we find that Jeanne’s daughter, Catherine, who was recorded as residing in her and her second husband, Jean Gaudet I’s household at La Hève in 1708, was indeed the daughter of Jeanne and François. It is in these registers that we find “Caterine Joseph” (Catherine Joseph), daughter of “françois Joseph” (François Joseph) and “***Jeanne le jeune de la nation Sauvage***” (Jeanne Lejeune *dit* Briard of the savage nation) married Jean Comeau, widower of “francoise hebert” (Françoise Hébert) on January 07, 1720. The reference to Jeanne having been “*de la nation Sauvage*” has been dismissed by White as being only applicable to her husband, François Joseph, however, recent mtDNA testing of Jeanne’s direct female descendants, especially through her and François’ daughter, Cécile Joseph (who is found in the Joseph/Lejeune *dit* Briard household on the 1693 census of Port Royal as the thirteen-year-old (born circa 1680) Cecille) have repeatedly produced Haplogroup results of A2f1a, Native American in origin.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Further evidence to suggest a connection between the four “Briarts” (Briards) who, per the 1708 census of Acadia, were residing in the vicinity of La Hève in 1708 and were the appropriate approximate ages to have been siblings (Martin (forty-five years old), Jeanne (sixty-two years old), Pierre (fifty-five years old), and Marie (fifty-years old)), is that, in addition to the fact that both ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard*** and ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** had sons named Germain, the other censuses of late-seventeenth and early eighteenth century Acadia[[5]](#footnote-5) tell us that Pierre and his wife, Marie Thibodeau, had sons named Jean and Pierre and a daughter named Jeanne. Also worth noting is that they also had a daughter named Catherine and a daughter named Marie. With her first husband, François Joseph, Jeanne had a daughter named Edmée, another daughter named Catherine, and a son named Jean.

The fact that ***Jeanne Lejeune* dit *Briard*** gave these names to these three children is a strong indication that her daughters, Edmée and Catherine, were likely named after their maternal great-aunts, Edmée Lejeune and Catherine Lejeune, whom historians and genealogists claimed to have come to Acadia as children with their alleged brother, the so-called ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard I***.[[6]](#footnote-6) The conclusion that Pierre I was the brother of Catherine and Edmée has since been challenged.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Also, the fact that both Pierre Lejeune dit Briard II and Jeanne Lejeune dit Briard had sons named “Jean,” is further evidence to suggest that these sons could have been named after their grandfather, ***John Le Jeune*** (Jean Lejeune). Pierre and Jeanne may have named some of their children after their father, siblings, aunts, and uncles, particularly if one is to believe that Pierre II and ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard*** named their sons Germain after Germain Doucet, Sieur de Laverdure; thus, the other recently mentioned children of both Pierre II and Jeanne who shared similar names could have equally been named after their family members.

White proposes that ***Jean Lejeune*** and the so-called ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard*** I could have been brothers and that Jean could have been ***Jeanne Lejeune* dit *Briard’s*** father; however, he denies the possibility that ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard II*** and/or ***Martin Lejeune* dit *Briard*** were brothers of Jeanne Lejeune dit Briard. Lucie LeBlanc Consentino of the Acadian Ancestral Home website[[8]](#footnote-8) notes that

Stephen White tells me that the only place where the ***Lejeune* dit *Briard*** ancestor is named Pierre is in the *Déclarations de Belle‐Île‐en‐Mer*. He says “As I intended to suggest in the DGFA‐1 by the way in which I arranged my information, the Lejeune *dit* Briard ancestor might in fact have been ***Jean Lejeune***, rather than Pierre. After all, we do know that there was a man named ***Jean Lejeune*** at Port‐Royal and that his heirs were among the early grantees there. Obviously those heirs must show up later in some record or other, and the 1693 census does show that some Lejeunes did subsequently live at Port‐Royal.

It appears that “John Le Jeune” (***Jean Lejeune***) and the so-called ***Pierre Lejeune* dit *Briard I*** may have been the same person.

Another contemporary hypothesis concerning the Lejeune family of pre-Deportation Acadia is included in “Genealogy of the family of Pierre Lejeune and Marie Doucet” published by historian and genealogist, André-Carl Vachon, online at the “*Famille Lejeune*” website.[[9]](#footnote-9) Vachon takes White’s original arguments from “A Closer Look at Some of the Records” and asserts that “ [It was] in 1654. That's when he married Marie Doucet, the daughter of the Major of Port Royal garrison, Germain Doucet and a French woman (a European: DNA haplotype T2).”

This assertion contains several assumptions. The first is that the “Unknown Doucet” daughter of Germain Doucet, Sieur de Laverdure, actually existed, in addition to assuming that her mtDNA would match that of Marguerite Doucet, the presumed daughter of the Sieur de Laverdure; mtDNA testing of Marguerite’s direct female descendants has produced a consistent Haplogroup of T2, which is European in origin.[[10]](#footnote-10) The second problematic presumption is that Vachon has created a name for this “Unknown Doucet” of “Marie Doucet.” This presents an issue, as the unknown Doucet woman has not been conclusively proven to exist.

1. See <http://www.acadian-home.org/SAW-CloserLookRecords.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See White’s undated “A Closer Look at Some of the Records” (see <http://www.acadian-home.org/SAW-CloserLookRecords.html)> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Refer to the Mothers of Acadia mtDNA Project [https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mothersofacadia?iframe=mtresults](https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mothersofacadia?iframe=mtresults)) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See the “Mothers of Acadia mtDNA Project” [https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mothersofacadia?iframe=mtresults](https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mothersofacadia?iframe=mtresults)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Refer to Public Archives Canada Microfilm C-2572, the 1708 census of Acadia, and the 1678 census of Acadia found on Public Archives Canada Microfilm F-774. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. These include François Edme Rameau de Saint-Père on pages 144 to 151 of his 1890 work, *Documents Inédits du Canada-Français: Documents sur l’Acadie: CII: Remarques sur les Registres de Belle-Isle-en-Mer, par Mr E. Rameau de Saint-Père* and Père Clarence Joseph d’Entremont on page 1121 of Volume 3 of his 1981 book *Histoire du Cap-Sable De l'An Mil Au Traité de Paris (1763)*. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Stephen A. White. “A Closer Look at Some of the Records” <http://www.acadian-home.org/SAW-CloserLookRecords.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Rootsweb post entitled, “Subject: [AFC] another myth to dispel: Pierre Lejeune *dit* Briard and his Mi’kmaq Spouse” http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ACADIANFRENCHCANADIAN/201001/1264603141 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. This article has since been removed from the internet; however, as of February 20, 2017, it could still be found at <http://lejeune.cma2014.com/en/genealogie> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. See the “Mothers of Acadia mtDNA Project” [https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mothersofacadia?iframe=mtresults](https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mothersofacadia?iframe=mtresults)) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)