

COMMUNITY OF WATERVILLE, MAINE

BY

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ABSTRACT

In the early 1800's, there was a slow migratory movement from Lower Canada into the United States. The major causes for this flow of immigrants were first: a flourishing Republic adjacent to the Canadian border which offered economic opportunity; second: the existing colonial dissatisfaction or ethnic difficulties between the French Canadians and the British rulers; and third: the dismal economic outlook within Canada.

Most of Waterville's early French Canadian immigrants were led to this locality by one or all of these motives. They came a few at a time and some occasionally returned to their Canadian farms or villages. Several developments quickened the migration. The first was the building of the 'Kennebec Road' in 1830. Twenty-five years later, the construction of railroads made travel ever easier. Then came the Civil War in 1861 with its many offers of employment. However, it was the building of the cotton mills in 1874 and in 1882 that attracted the greatest number of French Canadian immigrants into Waterville.

These people, generally poor and largely illiterate, suffered many hardships. Many of these were common to industrial communities of the Northeastern section of the United States in a period when *laissez-faire* was the prevailing philosophy. However, under the guidance of the church, parochial schools and national societies, some of the bitter edges were worn off and the social and economic status of these people was gradually improved.

The small French community soon developed into a flourishing 'French village'. There were professional men, doctors, lawyers and teachers besides an impressive group of men who without much formal education but plenty of initiative, attained marked success and recognition in business, industry and politics.

In the course of this slow, gradual development, the French people have retained much of their basic culture but there have also been changes occasioned by constant association with Yankees. Today the French language is disappearing but there is still the same love of the Catholic Church, the parochial schools, and benevolent and social societies. Yet in many respects it is difficult to distinguish a French Canadian from a Yankee. Considering the numeric superiority that the French population now holds in Waterville, it is possible to predict that within the next three or four generations, Waterville will be almost totally dominated by the French or better to say 'American-French' element.

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PREFACE

The French Canadian migration into New England in the 19th and 20th centuries constitutes one of the largest and most important recent movements of population into the area by a foreign people. Starting slowly, the migration gradually increased until by 1900 the French Canadians had become one of the major elements in the population of New England. As a people, they have made a valuable contribution not only to industrial development but also to business and politics, the professions, the arts, and community life in general.

While there have been a number of books and articles on the French Canadians in New England, very little has been written about the French Canadians in Maine. This thesis presents a study of a typical Maine French Canadian community, that of Waterville. It covers their early settlement in the area, the part played by the church and the schools, and their role in the life of the city.

Although many newspapers, documents and records have been placed at my disposal, the scope of the field of investigation, the destruction of important information, and the inaccessibility of some of the first handness of the study.

Throughout this work, the words "French" and "French Canadian" have been used interchangeably. It should be noted that these terms are not accurate when applied to the present, since these people are today loyal citizens of the United States.

There are many individuals to whom I owe thanks and recognition for their patient cooperation and assistance in the compilation of this thesis. Among those to whom I am most indebted are the Reverend Monsignor Desjardins, my father and mother, my wife, who spent long hours organizing and typing this material, and Mr. Leonard Cabana Jr.

I am equally grateful to the clergy of the city of Waterville, the Ursuline Nuns, F. Harold Dubord, and the numerous older citizens of Waterville who contributed vivid recollections of old times.

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CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND OF THE MIGRATION

The story of the French Canadian migration into Waterville is a continuation of the story of the French expansion into North America. It was not until the middle of the 16th century, that France, following the trend of the day, began her search for new routes to the East, and wealth in foreign lands. It is quite probable that the French fishermen of Dieppe, St. Malo, like those of Devonshire and Cornwall,¹ roamed the North American waters as early as 1504. It is said that a certain French Captain, Denis de Honfleur, explored the Bay of St. Lawrence in 1502, and in 1518, Baron de Lery made a first attempt to establish a French colony on Sable Island, off Nova Scotia.²

France, like the neighboring European powers was gripped with a fever for colonial expansion. It was ultimately the greed for wealth, and not Christianization that interested the French imperialistic minds. The French

1. Jean Bruchesi, *Histoire du Canada Pour Tous*, Tome I, Montreal, P.Q., 1935, p. 14.

monarchs such as Louis XI, and in particular, Henry IV, had high ideals of colonization and dreamed of a world power. Still it remained to Francis I, successor to Louis XII, to send in 1523, the first confirmed expedition to the New World, led by an Italian, Giovanni da Verrazano. Early in May, 1524, this explorer reached the great Gulf of Maine³ after touching Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island. Following him in the discovery and settlement of North America were Jacques Cartier, who in 1534 and 1535, entered the St. Lawrence river and with a troop of a hundred men settled "Ile de L'Assomption", on the Gaspé Harbour.⁴ Many explorers followed, among them, Sieur de Monts and Champlain. In 1603, Henry IV issued a patent granting to De Monts a tract of land between the 40th and 46th degree latitude. There the French settled on the banks of Saint Croix river, near the site of Calais.⁵ Champlain, Sieur de Monts' geographer, on his 1604 voyage made a detailed map of the entire Maine coast describing its significant features. It was on this expedition that Champlain sailed up the Penobscot [Pemetigoit]⁶ and Kennebec [Quinibeguy]⁷

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3. R. J. Lawton and J. H. Burgess, *Franco-Americans of the State of Maine*, Lewiston, Me., 1915, p.

4. V. Piquet, *Histoire des Colonies Francaises*, Paris, 1931.

5. Howe, *op. cit.*, p. 193.

rivers. With the aid of Indian guides, he went through the Hell Gate rapids of Sasanoa, into the Kennebec itself, and came out into Merrymeeting Bay.⁸

The French soon sent missionaries to the new world. In 1613, Fathers Biard and Masse attempted to establish a colony at Mount Desert Island. This attempt was soon ended by the raid of the British Captain Argall, who likewise destroyed the French settlements of Saint Sauveur and Port Royal.⁹ More successful missions to the Indians of Maine soon followed, however, best known of these being those of Father Rale, and Father Druillettes. Undeterred by the wars with the English and Iroquois, the French continued to set up settlements throughout Maine, notably on the Penobscot and Saint Croix rivers during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Among the best known French pioneers of this time was Baron de Castin who came to make his home among the Abenakis of Maine.¹⁰ These settlements or scattered posts, failed to prosper because of the continual wars, the lack of interest from the mother country and the unenterprising character of the settlers. They were gradually dominated by the British and suffered long persecutions.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 89

9. Lawton, Burgess, *op. cit.*, p. 10-11.

10. John S Abbott, Edward H. Elwell, *The History of Maine*, 1892, p. 157.

The policy of the conquerors was to rid Maine and Canada of further Jesuit influence. By the time of the American Revolutionary War, this wish had been realized, at least in the United States. However, supported by such Catholic missionaries as Fathers Cheverus and Romague, the settlements slowly regained their lost strength.¹¹

The first permanent contribution to Maine's French-speaking population came with the settlement of the Acadians in the Saint John valley and throughout the wilderness of what was then New Brunswick. The majority of these settlers came as small groups escaping deportation by the British.¹² These settlements in the valley and on the upper Saint John were at first isolated and suffered tremendous hardships. Being largely illiterate,¹³ these people found great difficulty in adjusting themselves to the American ways and policies even after the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842.¹⁴ Development of communication and a better educational system rapidly changed this attitude and situation in the late 19th century.¹⁵

11. A Guide Down East, American Guide Series Boston, 1937, p. 33.

12. Reverend Charles W. Collins, *The Acadians of Madawaska, Maine*, Boston, 1902, p. 24.

13. A. H. Chadbourne, *A History of Education in Maine*, Orono, Maine, 1936, p. 252.

14. Collins, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

15. *Ibid.*, pp. 52-53.

The greater affluence of French-speaking settlers into Maine came, however, from the immigration of French Canadians from Lower Quebec. These early immigrants for the most part were but passers-by or seasonal settlers. Many young men would travel southward into New England in the spring, work in brick yards, lumber camps, fisheries or on the railroads, then in the fall, clad in a new suit of clothes, their pockets heavy with money, and a sparkling gold chain and watch hanging from their vest pockets, would return to the old homestead, and there would become the center of attraction and admiration. This spectacle would very often excite the envious eyes of a friend or relative, who in turn, went "aux Etats".¹⁶

This slow migratory movement was accelerated, however, by the building of the "Kennebec Road". This road was traced along the old Indian trail up the Kennebec and Dead Rivers. It then followed the Chaudiere River to the Saint Lawrence. This trail had been used by the Indians in 1724, following the destruction of Norridgewock by the English and by the retreating Benedict Arnold in 1775. The road, which finally reached the Canadian border in 1818, but was not completed until 1830, was immediately put to use by the French-Canadian emigrants. Doubtless, drivers of the

16. Iris S. Podea, "Quebec to Little Canada The Coming of the French Canadians to New England in the Nineteenth Century", *The New England Quarterly*, Sept., 1950 p. 368. See also, Belisle, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

cattle purchased in Canada and brought down the "Kennebec Road", noticed the advantages and possibilities in Maine.¹⁷

This happy discovery led to an increase of French Canadian immigrants. In 1831, we learn that there were about thirty families at Lewiston, Maine.¹⁸ These no doubt, had followed the newly built "Kennebec Road."

"This migration southward..," summarizes Iris S. Podea," was induced by a variety of reasons: geographical proximity, colonial struggles, and seasonal opportunities. Lumber camps and farms, canals and railroads, quarries and brickyards, river and lake steamers: all were clamoring for man-power in the growing Republic and Quebec had more than an ample supply. Political unrest in Canada before Confederation also contributed to the migration, but those who came as refugees after the 1837 Rebellion or as malcontents following the union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1840 were relatively few."¹⁹ Statistics show that by 1850, there were 14,181 Canadians in Maine of whom perhaps a third may have been French-speaking.²⁰

A greater French Canadian migration into

17. Right Reverend Monsignor Philip E. Desjardins, "French Canadians of Central and Southern Maine", *The Church World*, June 1, 1951, p. 4.

18. Marcus Hansen, John B. Brebner, *The Mingling of the Canadian and American Peoples*, New York, 1940, p. 124.

19. Podea, *op. cit.*, pp. 365-366.

20. L. E. Truesdell, *The Canadian-Born in the United States*, New Haven, 1943, pp. 26, 46.

Maine was introduced by the Civil War. Many enlisted in the ranks of the Union armies while a greater number came down to do the work of the men who had enlisted or been drafted. It is estimated that out of 40,000 enlistees in New England, 36,000 were French Canadians. In some regiments from Northern New England so many of the privates were from Quebec that French was the prevailing tongue.²¹ As a result of this new influx an editorial writer for the Portland Daily Press, commenting in 1866, on the French in Maine, could report that here and there scattered throughout the middle and northern part of the State, could be found a considerable number of French Catholics, who, unlike the Irish, did not gather in the cities, but preferred quiet rural localities.²²

The Civil War also accelerated an industrial development which continued in the years after the war. This expansion created a demand for workers which could not be satisfied from the existing population. Mill owners, after initial experiments, began to turn to rural Quebec for a steady supply of workers. The French Canadians were welcomed workers. "Quick accessibility, low wages,

21. The Nova Scotian, March 6, 1865, as cited by Hansen and Brener, *op. cit.*, p. 146; see also Podesha, *op. cit.*, p. 367.

22. Portland Daily Press, Sept. 25, 1866, cited by A. R. Stewart, *The Historical Background of the French-speaking People of Maine*, [Unpublished Manuscript], 1951.

industrious and uncomplaining",²³ made them excellent prospects. Agents were sent throughout the Quebec country-side to stimulate emigration. Thus, the movement which had been a trickle, turned into a flood. The men left the villages and farms to seek the welcome possibility of wealth, and, making good in the United States, returned to get their families. Whole sections of the country were swept by 'la fievre des Etats-Unis'. "A bishop visiting his diocese that summer", Louis de Goesbriand says, "was much concerned to meet on the roads, caravans of carts filled with families and baggage moving down to New England cities where every hand could find employment."²⁴

So alarming was the movement that in 1873, the Reverend P.E. Gendreau was authorized by the Department of Immigration of the Dominion of Canada to investigate the number and status of Canadian-born residents in the United States, with a view to their possible repatriation. The Reverend Gendreau claimed after his inspection, that out of 80,000 Canadian-born immigrants in the United States, some 400,000 were French, 200,000 of whom had settled in New England.²⁵ This immigration continued until

23. Podea, op. cit., p. 368.

24. Louis de Goesbriand, *Les Canadiens des Etats-Unis*, 1889, p.3, quoted by Hansen, Brebner, op. cit. p. 152.

25. Hansen, Brebner, op. cit., p. 168.

1896 when several significant trends occasioned the slackening of the movement. A period of prosperity in Canada, and the appearance of the first French Canadian Prime Minister in the Province of Quebec, marked the decline.²⁶ In the next ten years the French Canadian population in the United States decreased by 9,000.²⁷ By 1910 there were some 35,000 French Canadians in the State of Maine.²⁸

The causes for this exodus, which began almost imperceptibly but which eventually became a major migration, are diverse. There was no one cause for this movement. Motives varied according to circumstances and individuals. For some it was the desire for adventure. Others sought greater freedom, both religious and political.²⁹ The general causes, however, for the migration of the French Canadians into New England were, first, the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, second, the search for a better standard of living and third, the unfavorable political and social conditions of rural Quebec in the 1870's and 1880's.

26. Podea, *op. cit.*, p. 368.

27. Truesdell, *op. cit.*, p. 77, Table 30; see also Podea, *op. cit.*, p. 368.

28. *Ibid.*

29. The Reverend J. J. Nycolin claims that many of the early French settlers left to escape too close moral supervision by their priests. Reverend Nycolin's personal correspondence is in the possession of Monsignor Desjardins.

CHAPTER II EARLY SETTLERS

The first French Canadian immigrants to come to Waterville were for the most part, members of that first slow migration into Maine in the early 19th century. They were seeking better living conditions than were possible in their Quebec homeland. This was the case with Waterville's first French Canadian settler, Jean-Baptiste Mathieu. Like many other immigrants of his day, he came down the Indian Trail which was to become known later as the "Kennebec Road". Also like them, he may have stopped at farm houses or camps on the way seeking food and shelter, in exchange for a day's work. If by chance the farmland happened to be fairly extensive, he might stay for a week, or even a month. If, as was probable, he was skilled woodsman, he could easily find employment in the lumber camps along the road. It was after such experiences that Jean Mathieu finally reached Shirley, Maine, in the early 1820's. Shortly after his arrival in Shirley, Mr. Mathieu entered the business of trucking foodstuffs to lumber camps and villages. His normal route was from Bangor to Jackman by way of the "Kennebec Road". It was after a number of such journeys, that Jean Mathieu decided to make his permanent home in Waterville, which he had often visited. Mr. Mathieu found this attractive town of slightly over 2,000 people more centrally located for his work than Shirley. So, in 1827, he came to Waterville to become the first settler in what was to become a flourishing French Canadian community.³⁰

Jean Mathieu lost little time in establishing himself in Waterville. Shortly after his arrival, he purchased a tiny frame building in the town of Fairfield and had it moved to the Mathieu lot on the East side of Water street, where it was renovated and enlarged. Among other changes made in the original building, the Mathieu house was almost doubled by the addition of the new section, intended for Moise Mathieu, brother of Jean-Baptiste, who, hearing of his brother's success, wished to join him and share in his prosperity.³¹ This house, with its additions, was the first 'framed house' owned by a French-speaking settler in the district, known then and now, as 'The Plains'.³²

30. This is the story as gathered from Mrs. Delia Cabana, distant relative of the Mathieu family. We also find in the Reverend J. J. Nycolin's correspondence, a statement claiming Jean-Baptiste Mathieu as the oldest and first French Canadian in Waterville. For a description of Waterville in that period, see E. C. Whittemore, *The Centennial History of Waterville, Waterville, Maine, 1902*, pp.63-64. 140-142.

31. *Ibid.*

32. This house still stands today at the very same spot where it was moved some hundred and twenty-five years ago. It is presently at 134 Water street and is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Denis. See also, Whittemore, *op. cit.*, p. 80.

appeared in Waterville, this `Plains' section of the town was vast, thickly wooded area with a few tiny clearings here and there for grazing. The whole section up to what is commonly known as the `flat', was sort of peninsula, surrounded on the East side by the Kennebec river and on the West by a narrow, marshy stream having its source at the further end of Pine Grove Cemetery. This muddy brook slowly curved along today's King street and emptied into the Kennebec canal around the bottom of today's Sherwin hill.³³

The French settlement of Waterville was stimulated by the building of the "Kennebec Road". The city of Waterville had its share in the construction of this road, which they called the `Canada Road'.³⁴ City records state that "at a meeting held January 20, 1827, at which Hon. Timothy Boutelle was chosen Moderator, it was unanimously voted to petition the Legislature of the State of Maine for the grant of a sum of money to be expended in making the Canada Road, so called, between Norridgewock and the Canada line...."³⁵ An answer to the petition soon followed,

33. Information gathered from an interview with Mr. Napoleon Loubier and Mr. Alfred Bolduc.

34. C. Giveen, *A Chronology of Municipal History and Election Statistics, Waterville, Maine, Augusta, Maine, 1908.*, p. 81.

35. *Ibid.*

for on February 12th, the Legislature passed a resolve approving the construction of the road. On June 21, Governor Enoch Lincoln designated Abijah Smith the agent to assist in superintending the building of the road.³⁶ On the Canadian side, however, the road was developed more slowly. Not until 1830, was it completed to a junction with that on the American side. "The Quebec Mercury of September 11, of that year records the arrival of two Americans who had driven over it, and reported it as in fair condition except for a seven mile stretch."³⁷ Traffic by this road expanded rapidly because of the horse, sheep, and cattle trade. In 1833, the road became the Post Road on which mail was transported from Boston to Quebec. In 1835, Jonathan Spaulding of Skowhegan and Samuel Hough of Quebec, inaugurated a stagecoach service on the road. So rapid was the expansion of this service that within a very short time a trip from Boston to Quebec was possible in two days and a half, at a rate of ten dollars.

No sooner was this "Kennebec Road" opened than many French Canadian families began to emigrate to such towns and villages along the route as Skowhegan, Waterville, and Augusta. Among those settling in Waterville

36. Ibid.

37. As cited in Monsignor Desjardins, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

38. Ibid.

or vicinity in the early 1830's were: Jean Marcou, Pierre DeRocher, Abraham and Joseph Ronco [Rancourt].³⁹ There were, as a matter of fact, some 300 French Canadian families settled in Waterville by 1830-31, 40 most of them in the 'Plains' section of the town.

Of special interest is the way these early French Canadian pioneers established themselves in the midst of completely new Yankee surroundings with only a few cherished and antiquated belongings. The more prosperous of them owned some domestic animals. Most were very poor, so much so that many sought steep slopes into which they dug shelters which were then reinforced with slabs or rough planks and used as temporary homes. In front of such excavations, they usually built a rude facade so as to block the entrance and give this new 'home' a more acceptable appearance. There is a story often told of a certain family who, one day, was unexpectedly greeted by an unsuspecting cow who had strayed upon the turf roof and had fallen through. On seeing the head and horns, the poor inhabitants

39. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, p. 80.

Many early French Canadian names were changed due to a number of diverse and complex reasons. As these were strange to the American people, mainly the mill employers, they translated them most of the time, according to their sound. Unless the settler was educated or worried about the situation, his name remained thus for a long time, and is still misspelled today. This is the reason for the correction of such names.

40. *Le Franco-American*, October 31, 1947, p. 1.

were sure the devil was after them.⁴¹

The majority of these early French Canadian settlers came from the southern part of the Province of Quebec, known as 'la Beauce'. Most of these 'Beaucerons' as they were commonly called could trace their ancestry to such towns or villages as Saint George, Saint Victor, Saint Come, Beauceville. In 1853, for example, the pastor of Saint George de Beauce, in a reply to a request from his Bishop for information, reported that in that year alone, nineteen families and twenty-five young men, had gone to the United States.⁴² The following year the same priest tells of six families and ten young men having left for Maine, where they were attracted by the opportunity to work on the railroad and at lumbering. He also remarked that they were constantly going back and forth.⁴³

This nomadic behavior was quite a common practice among the early French immigrants. Many when Spring came went down to New England where they were hired, some as farm hands, others on the railroads, still more in lumber yards or in lumber camps. Others found similar work in Waterville in the 1830's and 1840's. Some robust French Canadians were hired during that period to clear an extensive wooded area

41. Ibid.

42. Desjardins, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

43. Ibid.

which was to become, in 1851, the Pine Grove Cemetery. Others found occupation in the saw mills of the area owned by such firms as W. W. Getchell, and Smith and Meader. A few others, attracted by the rapidly expanding steamboat services along the Kennebec, found occupation in these enterprises. Among the employees of these river transportation companies owned and operated by the Moors and the Getchells,⁴⁴ we find such French names as that of Veder Micue [Mathieu] who died in the explosion of the steamer 'Halifax' off the Augusta wharf on May 23, 1848.⁴⁵ Still others were hired by the 'Shank' shop near the Messalonskee Stream, where the power house now stands, or by the Waterville Iron Works, begun in 1833.⁴⁶ Some came at harvest time to help in the haying or waited for the winter months to work in the lumber camps. Many more, however, came with the spring freshet to 'drive' the logs and pulp wood. A majority of these hard working jacks-of-all-trades, once a profitable sum of money had been earned, returned to the old homestead and there would encourage their families and friends to come and work or settle in the pleasant land where the pay was good and where there was greater assurance

44. Whittemore, op. cit., p. 64.

45. The tombstone of Veder Micue can still be seen in the Pine Grove Cemetery, bearing the above information.

46. Whittemore, op. cit., p. 342.

of security and prosperity for both them and for their children. Both were novelties to the hard laboring Canadians. They found it hard to imagine working but five or six days a week, twelve to fourteen hours a day at the magnificent wage of one dollar or one dollar and a half a day. Moreover, Sundays were days of rest and of worship, when all wore fine clothes and did nothing but smoke and gossip. Even the little tots had shoes and Sunday clothes. The prospect was so inviting and so fascinating that more and more Province of Quebec families moved southward.

The nomadic style of migration was short lived, as Waterville, increasing in business and industrial stature, furnished permanent occupation for any willing worker. The railroads had become by 1855, a major stimulus to business and employment in the city. The construction of the Penobscot and Kennebec Railroad from Waterville to Bangor, begun in 1852, and of the Somerset and Kennebec in 1853, meant more work for the French immigrants.⁴⁷

47. Reverend J. J. Nycolin in his private correspondence of January 11-18, 1859, gives us an interesting list of names and facts with regard to the early French Canadians of Waterville. In one of his letters he states: "It has been some twenty-five years ago since the first immigrants of the province of 'la Beauce', diocese and district of Quebec, came to establish themselves with their families in Waterville. These have attracted a great number of followers after them. The majority came from Saint Francois de la Beauce." Among the French immigrants named by Father Nycolin were Jean-Baptiste Mathieu, the oldest French Canadian resident of Waterville, Marie Mathieu, widow Marcou and niece of Jean-Baptiste Mathieu, her three

The main migration, however, came with the construction of the Lockwood Mill in 1874. From this time on, employment was plentiful for almost every member of the family. Down the roads leading to Waterville came hundreds of Canadians making their way slowly toward the mill city. Some rode in carts or `sly'48 while a great number, the menfolk especially, walked. So significant was this increase in the French population of the city that by 1881, the French Canadians had reached the impressive figure of 1625 out of a total census of about 4,700.⁴⁹

This latest wave of settlers found a greatly changed and improved Waterville, as compared with that to which the first pioneers came. The Elm City boasted then of an expanding industrial structure, a good school system, and many churches. All in all, these people found a prosperous, well-rounded town, on the verge of receiving its city charter. Of particular interest to these French immigrants

sons Pierre Marcou, Michel Marcou, and Joseph Marcou, Philomene Rancourt, wife of the latter Joseph Marcou, Godfroy Champagne, nephew of Marie Mathieu, Jacques Parre, Jean Dorveau, Moise Mathieu, Charles Huard, Pierre Veilleux, called Laranne, Hubert Herbert, known as Frank Hebert, Joseph Rancourt, Jean Mathieu, son, Urbain Boucher and a host of others.

Private Correspondence of the Reverend J. Nycolin, in possession of Monsignor Desjardins, Westbrook, Maine.

48. A `sly' is a slang word for a four wheel wagon with no top except planks.

49. Le Messenger, Lewiston, Maine, July 7, 1881, cited in Monsignor Desjardins' unpublished documents.

was the already flourishing French community of the `Plains' and the latest settlement at the North End. This last section had sprung up almost like a mining town of the Gold Rush era. It came about, because of the establishment of the railroad shops in that part of the town. In addition, some of these newcomers, who for the most part had been hired by mill agents or recruiters, found living quarters either in the large boarding houses or in small, cozy homes, known as `maisons de la compagnie', mostly all owned by the Lockwood Company. Many more had to seek apartments in the Bang's estate, which comprised a long row of tiny, red-painted houses, which people called `Clo a Bang'.⁵⁰

With the expansion of the French-speaking community, came the further development of the `Plains' section of Waterville. Much of this was due to Frederick Pooler [Poulin], who had come to the city in 1848.⁵¹ Mr. Pooler became a prosperous businessman and extensive real estate owner. His property, popularly known as `Pointe a Petit', comprised a large part of the `Plains'. He was well liked and admired by his countrymen for his charity and ingenuity. This highly regarded man was to the French immigrants, a capable advisor and supporter. His once far-reaching estate was slowly cut up into lots and sold at reasonable prices,

50. This expression, peculiar to Waterville in this period, meant `Bang's lot or field'.

51. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, p. 534.

to his countrymen.⁵² This explains why this section of the city developed as a French Canadian center.

The purchaser of such a lot received for some \$50.00 a good sized piece of land,⁵³ usually covered with trees. From this, the new owner built his house. First of all, four large, well set trees were picked and marked as the corner posts for the new structure. These four chosen trees remained there, losing only their upper halves and their branches. The house was then built around these pillars, often with wooden pegs used instead of nails. The result was a very rough affair, as tools were scarce and out-dated, and building material scanty. Once built, often with the assistance of the whole neighborhood, these houses were whitewashed. The inside walls were given the same treatment, except that some color was added to the whitewash, giving the whole a pleasant appearance. This last step was commonly known as 'bleutir'.⁵⁴

The unsophisticated people, who lived in such

52. Mr. Pooler's land, that is, what remain of it, was purchased, a part by the National Guard and the remainder by the city around 1947.

53. Mr. Edward Rancourt commented that in 1861, his father purchased a piece of land and house on lower Water street for \$370.00.

54. 'Bleutir' was local French expression meaning to paint with colored whitewash. Information gathered from an interview with Mr. Edward Rancourt.

primitive homes were nevertheless happy and jovial. Their homes were generally poor but they were crowded and often overrunning with children. A home often had every chair full and one in the cradle. These people had grown to love children because children were God-sent gifts and the only institution, often, to keep their names alive, because children and not money, meant old age security and because they had learned through practical experience that it is only through a strong, young, and vigorous generation that a nation, and in their case, their religion, language and culture would live. It was an imposing sight on Sundays to see a father with his long line of children, of every size and age, jogging along to church. A still more familiar sight was to witness the father's long pants shrink periodically until the shortest legs could hardly fit into them. This was truly an admirable sight, understood by few other nationalities. These French Canadians loved it this way and that is the way they were going to have it. A man might call it a day when his family reached eight or ten but countless were the homes that numbered fifteen or sixteen. For example, Mr. Octave J. Pelletier, an able and very influential French Canadian businessman, who came to Waterville in 1878, was proud to state that he had fourteen brothers and sisters.⁵⁵ Another, Mr. Charles Pomerleau,

55. Lawton, Burgess, op. cit., p. 69.

well known grocer, was one of fourteen children.⁵⁶ Mr. Napoleon Loubier, still living today, is the father of twenty-two children.

In the early days there was bitter feeling between the young men of the 'Plains' and the young men of the town. The reasons for such ill-feeling were diverse. Most of the struggle, however, stemmed from personal animosity and hatred. "Whenever a group of young men, either visited the town or the 'Plains', they always came in bands strong enough for offense or defense, as the case might require. On many occasions, the French warriors imported some redoubtable battler from Bangor or Orono, to retrieve disaster or lead their clan to victory."⁵⁷ This bellicose atmosphere was short lived, however, and gave way to a more peaceful understanding which often resulted in warm friendship.

The migration of these sturdy French Canadian immigrants, often known as 'Canucks' was very puzzling and sometimes annoying to some native citizens. Each year their number increased and the line of Yankees retreated. So much so, that by the end of the 9th century, they had reached a point where their presence merited consideration and partnership in the social, economic, and political life of the city. The chief cause for such a fantastic rise in

56. Ibid., p. 120.

57. Whittemore, op. cit. p. 81.

population and prestige was the prolific character of the French Canadian stock.

The `racial' tree planted by these settlers a century ago has become in late years a gigantic monument which tells and will tell to the world for years to come, a story of undying courage, religious sincerity, and cultural perseverance. These immigrants fought and overcame heavy odds on their migratory movements into Waterville. They were foreign people with strange customs and traits, who through great efforts, built their homes and furthermore, a growing and promising community.

CHAPTER III INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

The history of the French-speaking people in Maine is inseparable from the history of the church. Consequently, it is desirable to sketch the development of the Roman Catholic Church in Maine until Waterville received its first missionary priest.

It is possible that as early as the 16th century, missionary priests, accompanying the fishing expeditions from Normandy and Brittany, touched the rockbound coast of Maine. Somewhere on the picturesque slopes, these missionaries might have celebrated the holy sacrifice of the mass and administered other sacraments of the church. In July 1604, at Sieur de Monts' headquarters in the mouth of the Saint Croix river, for the first time in the history of New England, the Holy Sacrifice of the mass was celebrated by the Reverend Nicholas Aubry.⁵⁸ In 1611, Sieur de Poutrincourt, accompanied by the Reverend Father Biard, landed at the mouth of the Kennebec River, near today's Bath, where the second mass was celebrated, states the Catholic Encyclopedia.⁵⁹

58. The Catholic Encyclopedia, New York, 1907, Vol. III, p. 567.

59. Ibid., Vol. II, p. 542.

The French made another attempt to Christianize the native Indians in Maine when, in 1613, an expedition financed by Antoinette de Pons, marquise de Guercheville, under the leadership of Sieur de la Saussaye and Fathers Biard and Masse, landed on Mount Desert. A Cross was planted in gratitude for deliverance from the fog and the sacred name of Saint Sauveur was given to the new settlement.⁶⁰

Following the dispersion of the colony, the Catholic missionary work is clouded in mystery. It is known that missionaries, Recollets, Capucins, Franciscans, and Jesuits, came from Canada and Port Royal to evangelize the Maine territory.⁶¹ In 1688, the mission of Saint Anne of Panawaniski, the oldest parish in New England, was founded at Old Town.⁶² Later, a second mission was founded at Norridgewock.

With the martyrdom of the Reverend Father Rale of Norridgewock, at the hands of the British in 1724, the Catholic missionary work was halted until the American War of Independence. This time the French missionaries came from the south. The first to come to the Old Town

60. *Le Maine Francais*, Vol. I, No. 39, June 26, 1913, Waterville, Maine, p. 25.

61. *Ibid.*

62. *Ibid.*

Mission was Father Ciquard, a Sulpician.⁶³ A Short time later, in 1797, the Reverend Father de Cheverus, future bishop of Boston, came to the Indian mission of Pleasant Point.⁶⁴

In 1822, nearly a hundred years after Father Rale's death, forty-three Catholics in Portland requested the Right Reverend John Cheverus, bishop of Boston, afterward Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux, to send them a priest, at least for a visit.⁶⁵ There were, however, but four priests in all of New England at this time; one of these, the Reverend Denis Ryan, was at Whitefield, Maine, only a short distance from Waterville. There exists no evidence that he ever came to Waterville or that there were any Catholics here at that time to require his services.⁶⁶

As already mentioned, the French had begun their migration southward from Canada between 1830 and 1835. Lack of Catholic missionaries in the vicinity exposed the French Catholics to the attention of rival clergymen. This is ascertained from the biography of the Reverend John M Furbush, Baptist minister.

About this time, several families of French people took up their residence in Waterville and the vicinity. Here was a new field of labor for young Furbush, and we find him at

63. Ibid.

64. Ibid.

65. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, p. 247.

66. Ibid.

once entering it with deep interest. As his knowledge of the language enabled him to converse with them with tolerable fluency, he very soon secured their confidence, and, though professed Catholics, they readily committed their children to his charge, whom he brought into the Sabbath school, where he instructed them in spiritual things.⁶⁷

By the late 1830's, Saint George de Beauce had its first resident pastor, Father Fortier, who was directed by the Bishop of Quebec to take spiritual charge of the French Canadians migrating to Central Maine. The result was that in 1841, Father Fortier visited Waterville. A report found in the Quebec Annals of the Propagation of the Faith of 1842, describes Father Fortier's visit:

On the 15th at night, I arrived in Waterville, to the great contentment of the Canadians who are there in great numbers. To see a priest was something new to them. Hardly could they believe their eyes; for many had not seen one in 17 years. I made my headquarters in the residence of a certain Mr. Jean-Baptiste Mathieu. I believed this would be the most convenient location for the mission which lasted four days. The very night of my arrival, I had the pleasure of seeing all the Catholics of the surroundings, reunited to hear my first instruction. During my stay at this post, I said mass at 5 o'clock in the morning so that the men could attend before engaging in their daily occupations. The mass was followed by a catechism lesson to some 37 children. At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, I taught more

catechism, then proceeded to hear the confessions until 5 o'clock, at which time the women gathered to hear my instruction. At 8 o'clock, it was the men's turn to have an instruction,

67. The Superintendent, The Cluster or Memoirs of Six Deceased Members of a Single Sabbath School in Waterville, Maine, Boston, 1839, p. 149.

followed by confessions until midnight. Everyone made it a scrupulous duty to assist at every exercise. I heard the confessions of some 100 adults and of 25 children, 5 of whom I hope, have enough religious knowledge to make their first communion next year. I baptized 26 children and communicated 7 adults.⁶⁸

Father Fortier was in Maine again the following year with extended powers and with financial assistance from the Diocese of Quebec. It is not known how many of these visits the missionary priest made. They were meant to be an annual duty, but Father Fortier was drowned in the freshet of 1845.⁶⁹

The next missionary priest was a French Jesuit, Father John Bapst, who first visited Maine in 1848.⁷⁰ In the next few years Father Bapst regularly returned to administer the sacraments. His field of action comprised the missions of Augusta, Waterville, Skowhegan, and Old Town.⁷¹ The settlers benefited much by his devotion.

Father Bapst like the other missionary priests, DeNekere, Force, Ciampi,⁷² who visited the Waterville

68. Notice sur les Missions du Diocese de Quebec, 1 Janvier, 1842. From files gathered by Monsignor Desjardins, Westbrook, Maine.

69. Desjardins, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

70. *Ibid.*

71. *Ibid.*

72. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Wed., Oct. 27, 1920, p. 1.

ville." It reads thus:

We are glad to learn that efforts are in progress to secure the erection of a small chapel for the worship of the Catholics. Mr. Gaspard Poulin and Mr. James Poulin [Pare], both of whom are said to be honest and worthy men, are entrusted with the raising of funds. We heartily commend the enterprise to the benevolent and to the liberal minded of all sects and classes. A large number of families among us are deprived by their honest convictions, of the privileges and benefits of public worship. That a church of their own will tend to their moral and mental improvement we can hardly suppose there will be a doubt. The undertaking is one that would improve that section of our village and we heartily commend its movers for their efforts. Let those connected with other sects see that 'the Greeks are at their doors' and the charity which is at the basis of their religious will tell them what to do.⁷⁶

This disposition of the Protestants to aid their French Catholic friends was shown in liberality not only at the beginning but subsequently from time to time in their larger and later enterprises, and was duly appreciated and acknowledged. More than once did the Catholic pastor publish in the Waterville Mail his card of thanks in behalf of his people for generous aid furnished especially in connection with church affairs. This liberal disposition and grateful appreciation at and from the beginning, have contributed not a little to the development of that marked good will which has ever characterized the mutual

relations of Catholics and Protestants, French and Americans in this town and its neighborhood.⁷⁷

Saint John's Church was a modest structure with a capacity of 300.⁷⁸ The church which at first exceeded the

76. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, p. 248.

77. *Ibid.*

78. *Le Maine Francais*, *op. cit.*, p. 15.

needs of the congregation, soon proved inadequate. The rapid increase in the Catholic population by birth and immigration, plus the erection in 1855 of a railroad station and shops at the other extremity of the city, which attracted a great number of French Catholic settlers to that area not only made the little church too small, but also poorly situated for the large group of railroad employees.

Saint John's served the Catholic community for over twenty years. However, after the consecration of Bishop Bacon as head of the new diocese of Maine, in May, 1855, Father Bapst was relieved of part of his burden. We read in the Directory of 1856, that Reverend J.J. Nycolin was resident pastor in Waterville with Skowhegan attached as a mission.⁸⁰

Evidently Father Nycolin, recently arrived from France, was not received with open arms by his parishioners. Whether this was due to some personality conflict or to the general unrest of his intended flock is not clear. Correspondence indicates that the bishop felt that the parishioners were not without some responsibility for the chaotic conditions.

79. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Oct 17, 1920, p. 1.

David Dusty was a sexton of this church as long as the building was used for religious service.

80. Desjardins, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

A spirit of insubordination was rife among some of those people, and they resorted to intrigue, so as to thwart the good intentions of their pastor. He was relieved of his duties in Waterville, and was transferred to the parish at Old Town. The bishop must have been in sympathy with Father Nycolin, as is evidenced by the fact that he left Waterville without a pastor. For three years Reverend Charles Egan, of Saint Mary's in Augusta, had charge of Waterville and Skowhegan as we gather from the Catholic Directory.⁸¹

In 1865, the bishop relented and assigned the congregation another spiritual leader in the person of the Reverend L.L'Hiver. He was soon replaced by the Reverend F. Picort, who in turn, gave way in 1870, to the Reverend D. Halde.

With the help of Father Eugene O'Sullivan, later of Machias,⁸³ as an assistant, Father Halde led the little flock through a trying period. The year 1870, began a new era in the history of the Catholic church in Waterville. Since the little chapel on Grove street had long proved inefficient, a larger and better located church was imperative. Father Halde and his parishioners set themselves at once to execute the long drawn plans for a

81. Ibid., p. 4.

82. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Oct 27, 1920, p.1.

The only record found of Father L'Hiver's pastorate was the marriage record of Vital LaChance and Marianne Jolicoeur. Their attendants were Joseph Marcoux and Herman Depris.

83. Ibid., p. 4.

larger and more centrally located church. The Waterville Mail of July 14, 1871, states that "The Catholics...have purchased from Mr. John Ware, the old Sanger homestead on which to erect a church...84 With the purchase made, the old chapel, once Saint John's church, was moved to Temple court where it now stands as a tenement house, being used for a time by Father Halde, wishing to extend the church grounds, bought the property once owned by Dr. C. W. Abbott, and some land on Temple Court, from other parties.86 A December, 1871, issue of the Waterville Mail reveals that under Father Halde's direction, the fund-raising campaign was progressing.87 The Waterville Mail of July 5, 1872, further reveals that actual construction had begun:

The Catholics have broken ground for their new house, corner of Elm and Winter streets. The old Sanger house, built by Reverend Sylvanus Cobb, first Universalist minister in Waterville, has been moved to near south line of the lot and drawn back about six feet, and the church will be in line with the house. The church will be a Gothic structure, 50 x 120 feet, twenty-six feet posts, with a spire 120 feet, in height and will seat about 600 persons. The outside will be of brick with heavy buttresses and it will be an ornament to the street.88

84. Waterville Mail, July 14, 1871, p. 3.

85. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Oct 27, 1920, p. 1.

86. Ibid.

87. Whittemore, op. cit., p. 258.

88. Waterville Mail, July 5, 1872, p. 4.

There were a few slight changes made in the plans. The church, christened as Saint Francis de Sales, was consecrated on Sunday, June 14, 1874. Bishop Bacon of Portland, the officiating cleric, gave an appropriate sermon. In the afternoon, the first confirmation ceremony on record was performed. The completion of this noble structure, so admirably located and so perfectly adapted to its purposes, was an event of great significance and a great joy to Father Halde and his parishioners. The church had cost them \$22,000.⁸⁹ Previously, Father Halde had purchased the first Catholic cemetery for \$1,000, which was located near Holland Brook. He sold the first lot in the cemetery to Joseph Begin on May 11, 1874.⁹⁰

"As may well be surmised, the Catholics on the `Plains' were not pleased with the change of location and, the trouble-makers of old were again active in arousing resentment."⁹¹ A French Baptist minister appeared and originated the French Baptist of Second Baptist church, of Waterville.

This Baptist movement among the French-speaking people, was started in the early 1830's by Jonathan Furbush, a

89. Henry Kingsbury, [ed.] *Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine*, New York, 1892, p. 579a.

90. *Waterville Mail*, July 5, 1872, p. 4.

91. Desjardins, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

theological student at Colby College. A devoted young woman by the name of Rebecca Drinkwater continued this work among them. She was followed by Charles Attaway, Superintendent of the First Baptist Church Sunday School of Waterville.

Reverend Samuel P. Merrill, heading the First Baptist Church in 1873, finally succeeded in bringing a French Baptist missionary into the field. The latter was the Reverend E. Leger, who assumed the work on July 28, 1875. In 1879, under the preaching of Evangelist Earl, a goodly revival took place. The name of the first convert was that of Vidal Vigue [Veilleux]. The greatest increase in the membership of the mission was during the pastorate of the Reverend W. Spencer. It is said that a considerable increase in the membership of the First Baptist church was from the mission. The first converts baptized from the mission were: Mrs. Frank Moro [Moreau] and Charles Pelletier.

Reverend Exavier [Xavier] Smith succeeded the Reverend Eusebe Leger. The latter, however, returned and during his second pastorate he built the church which was dedicated in the autumn of 1887. The building is situated on Water street facing today's Halde street, and is commonly called "mittaine"⁹² by the French population. Reverend Isaie

92. "Mittaine", a slang French expression meaning "meeting place."

Leclaire succeeded Reverend Leger, who in turn, was replaced by Reverend N.N. Aubin. Reverend P. N. Coyer however, soon came to the helm and served for fifteen years. He was loved by both Catholics and Protestants. In 1909, he was replaced by Reverend Isaac LaFleur who built the vestry. At this time it was well organized mission with a number of active societies such as the `Ladies Aid', the `Sunday School', the `Y.P.C.E.S.', the `Coligny Club', and the `S.A. club'.

Among the leading figures in the mission were the following: Mrs. Sophia Pooler [Poulin], Mr. Vidal Vigue [Veilleux], Christopher Coro [Caron], Mary Coro [Caron], Miss Hattie Coro [Caron], Miss Gertrude Pare, Forrest Gilman, John Lachance Jr., Lizzie Pare, George Danis, Miss Hattie Marcoux, Miss Maude Marcoux, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Pare, Mrs. Lucy Simpson [Sansoussis], Miss Lena Lachance, Miss Mary Lachance, Mrs. Flavie Pare, Mr. Joseph Pooler [Poulin], John B. Lachance, Vide Lachance, Easie Claprod.

With material improvement, such as the building of a parsonage and the purchase of a vacant lot across Halde street, has come improvement on other lines. The early persecution has been replaced by acceptance. The ideal of every bilingual church has taken place until the until the transition from French-speaking to English-speaking services is now complete, and the church, instead of serving only the peoples in this section of the city, draws from French elements all over the city. Mission services are still held regularly in spite of a marked decline in membership.⁹³

Returning to the more important Catholic parish of Saint Francis de Sales, we notice in 1880, the succession of Father Halde, by the Reverend N. Charland. The history of this untiring apostle is indeed the history of the Catholic Church in Waterville for two generations or a total of forty-three years. Father Charland's life was deeply interwoven, not only with the church life of Waterville, but also with the civic life of the city.

Father Narcisse Charland was born at Richmond County, Canada, Province of Quebec, on August 10, 1848. He was the son of Narcisse and Mary Adelle [Francoeur] Charland. He came of sturdy French-Canadian stock, his father living to the ripe old age of 83 and his mother to that of 79. He received his early education from the local schools from which he proceeded to Saint Francis College and Nicolet College. Six years later, he received the A. B. Degree from the latter school. He then entered the Grand Theological

93. The whole history of the Second Baptist Church of Waterville, was taken from the files of the church available through Reverend Sterling Helmer, or a leading member of the congregation such as Mr. Edward Lashus.

Among the leading pastors of this mission were the Reverends Isaac LaFleur, H. J. Tetreault, Auguste Bocquel, P. N. Cayer, Jean Valet, A. P. Rossier, William Kershaw, and Sterling Helmer.

Seminary at Three Rivers, Province of Quebec, in order to secure the Bachelor of Divinity degree. He was ordained to the priesthood, December 19, 1875, by his Excellency Bishop LaFleche. After serving a few years in Canada, he was transferred to Old Town, Maine, where he remained but a few months before receiving his nomination as pastor of Saint Francis de Sales parish by Bishop Healey.⁹⁴

When Father Charland came to Waterville in the fall of 1880, he found a group of several hundred Catholics, poor for the most part, but eager to serve God.⁹⁵ His field of action was very extensive. With Waterville as a center, the parish included Winslow, Oakland, Vassalboro, and other nearby towns. It was a familiar sight to see the pastor touring his parish by horse and buggy. But still more common was it to meet him making his way on foot to attend some sick or dying parishioner.

Father Charland proved to be an enterprising and sagacious man under whose direction the physical growth

94. Daily Kennebec Journal, Friday, August 11, 1922, p. 4. Also Waterville Morning Sentinel, Oct 17, 1920, p. 1.

95. Father Charland performed his first marriage ceremony in Waterville, September 8, 1880, when he united in marriage, Andre Roy of Fairfield, son of Alexis and Marie Roy, and Ellen Nadeau, daughter of Joseph and Marie Nadeau of this city. The attendants were Joseph Roy and Elise Champine. The first child that Father Charland baptized here was Marie Pomerleau, daughter of George and Lucie Deblois Pomerleau. He performed this ceremony August 29, 1880. The sponsors were Etienne Vashon and Sophie Rancourt.

Waterville Morning Sentinel, October 27, 1920, p. 1.

of the church was phenomenal. In 1886, he purchased the McCaffrey property, from Mrs. Ingalls for \$3,600 and expended an additional \$1,000 upon it to rebuild it into a rectory. In the rear of this property during the following year he began the construction of a parochial school at a cost of \$7,000. It was completed in 1888. In March of that year a small contingent of Ursuline nuns arrived in Waterville amid great rejoicing to take charge of the new school.⁹⁶ A further improvement came when Father Charland undertook in 1891 to build and furnish a boarding school for the Ursuline nuns, at a cost of \$8,788. In 1895, the beautiful rectory which now stands on Elm Street, was erected at an expense of \$8,000.⁹⁷

As the French Catholic population was increasing rapidly, Father Charland was given an assistant priest, N. J. Desilet, around 1885. *Le Messenger of Lewiston*, March 15, 1888, reveals that in 1882, there were 211 English-speaking and 1900 French-speaking parishioners. By 1888, the number had reached 302 English, and 2206 French Canadians.⁹⁸ It was necessary in 1890 to add a third assistant,

96. William Daryl Pelletier is the author of a Master's thesis in history entitled, *The History of the Ursuline Order in Maine, 1888-1950*. In possession of the University of Maine.

97. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p. 15.

98. *Le Messenger*, March 15, 1888; as cited in Monsignor Desjardins personal documents [unpublished].

J.D S. de Carufel. In 1892, Reverend Father Charland published a census of the parish indicating a membership of some 4000 people or 650 families.⁹⁹

Church services on Sunday were generally well attended. It is true that in the very early years of the foundation of the church piety had slackened measurably. `Religion was for the women', some men claimed. Thus, it was not accidental, to see on Sunday morning a host of male gossipers smoking and taking snuff, crowded into some nearby saloon or grocery store, or even horse barn, chatting away about the coming horse races, or pondering about a hotly contested checker game. Meanwhile, the ladies were in church. This situation changed quickly with the arrival of Father Charland. So much so, that by the late 1800's there were four successive services on each Sunday at which there was an aggregate attendance of about 3400 people. The first and third masses were as is still the case today, the best attended. It was common practice then to rent a pew in church, paying \$5.00 for the year. Those who could not afford this amount paid \$.10 for their seat. It must be remembered that no one was ever refused admittance if he could not pay his fee.

99. U. T. R. Lettres de Mere Marie du Sacre Coeur, Quebec, 1917, p. 214.

In 1885, out of a total population of 7500 for the city of Waterville, there were nearly 3000 Catholics. Le Messager, May 12, 1887.

Though weighed down by the burden of parish duties, Father Charland met these responsibilities in a spirit of devotion that endeared him to those under his charge and won the respect of outsiders. Nor were his interests merely those of the parish, for they embraced the whole city. At the laying of the corner stone of the Carnegie Library, as at the dedication of Castonguay Square, Father Charland's dedicatory prayers and addresses were applauded by all Catholics and Protestants alike. Besides holding important posts in the Church, such as membership on the Diocesan Council under Bishop Healey, examiner of the young clergy and the defender of marriage ties,¹⁰⁰ the vigorous pastor excelled as chaplain for a number of French societies, such as the Union Saint Jean-Baptiste d'Amerique and les Artisans Canadiens Francais. He was an honorary member of the Rotary, and a director of the Ticonic Bank.¹⁰¹

The growth of the Catholic parish was so large that by 1905, it was decided to create an off-shoot in the parish of the Sacred Heart which was opened on October 8, with Reverend John E. Kealey as its founding pastor. The new parish comprised, initially, 60 Irish families and 200 French families.¹⁰² In similar fashion other parishes

100. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, p. 251.

101. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Oct. 27, 1920, p. 2

102. Le Messenger, Lewiston, Oct 10, 1905.

sprang up as scions of the mother parish, Saint Francis de Sales. In 1910 the Notre Dame parish was founded in the `Plains' with Reverend Henri Gory as its first pastor. The church was destroyed by fire in 1911, but was immediately rebuilt. Fairfield, North Vassalboro, Skowhegan, Winslow, Dexter, Farmington, all sooner or later had their own thriving parish churches, and nearly all had flourishing parochial schools as well.

The services of the beloved Father Charland were abruptly ended on Friday, January 19, 1923, when he passed away at Sister's Hospital. The flags of the city were ordered at half-mast by Mayor Leon O. Tebbetts, who issued the following statement: "In the death of Father Charland, the city sustains a great loss. Not only among his own people was he loved and respected, but by the entire community in which he has lived so many years."¹⁰³ During his forty-three years in the city, Father Charland was greatly admired. He could step with dignity from the chancel of the church onto the platform of secular discussion and on many occasions when questions of civic virtue were being discussed, he was heard on the stage of the city hall or before the Chamber of Commerce. On all such occasions, Father Charland sought to impress upon his listeners that he was speaking, not as a churchman of as a

103. Waterville Morning Sentinel, January 20, 1923, p. 1.

priest, but as a man and a citizen.¹⁰⁴ Listening to the remarks of his life long friends, we may capture a fairly accurate picture of this saintly priest.

He was a great assistant and help in directing the affairs of the city....He worried over the destitution of public schools where there was no religion, although he never criticized the system, but quietly supported it. He was great supporter in war years....--Justice Philbrook.

His language [English], secondary to him impeccable.--President Roberts, Colby College.

When we remember where he took his people in this city and where he leaves them, we can appreciate the ability and great qualities he possessed.--Dr. D'Argy.¹⁰⁵

At the funeral services, some 2000 citizens crowded into the church. There they heard the solemn words of Bishop Walsho who declared: "Father Charland was not only a priest but a citizen, that if a man is careful to preserve the traditions and language of his mother, he is more of a man and a better man....A Catholic cannot be a practical Catholic and not be a good citizen...."¹⁰⁶ As the casket was slowly borne from the church to the hearse, hundreds stood with heads bowed in reverence. Religious differences

104. Ibid. p. 8.

105. Waterville Morning Sentinel, January 23, 1923, p. 8.

106. Ibid., p. 7.

were forgotten as Catholics and Protestants mourned a man, who was at the same time, a good priest, a great citizen, and a true friend. Father Charland was buried beside his father and mother in the very cemetery he had purchased from the city in 1899. His remains are still reposing there today.

The sudden death of Father Charland was shock to the Catholic population of Waterville, but his work went on under the able hand of the Reverend D J. Martin. To this day under competent clerics, the Catholic church in Waterville has developed and prospered. Saint Francis de Sales church, administered by the Reverend E. Hevey and assisted by the Reverends R.J. Marcotte and E. Hache, comprises approximately 750 families, or 2689 members.¹⁰⁷

The daughter parish of Notre Dame, led by the Reverend H. Carpentier, assisted by the Reverends G. Lemieux and A. Gosselin, numbers 4,031 parishioners,¹⁰⁸ while Sacred Heart, shepherded by the Reverend E. Long, has approximately 3000 parishioners, two-thirds of whom are French.¹⁰⁹

107. Parish Records, Saint Francis de Sales Rectory, 52 Elm Street, Waterville, Maine.

108. Parish Records, Notre Dame Rectory, 112 Silver Street, Waterville, Maine.

109. Parish Records, Sacred Heart Rectory, 72 Pleasant Street, Waterville, Maine.

All three parishes maintain parochial schools staffed by nuns or brothers. In these, the curriculum is similar to the public schools with special emphasis given to the religious instructions and moral and civic codes. These parishes have given many men and women into the service of the Catholic church, either as priests, brothers, or sisters. It is doubtful if any city in the state except Lewiston has given as many of its young people into the service of the church.

There are several religious societies actively associated with these parishes. The most noticeable of these are the Holy Name Society, the League of the Sacred Heart, the Ladies of Saint Anne, the Children of Mary, the Angels of Mary, the Soldiers of the Sacred Heart, the Sodality of the Holy Rosary, the Third Order of Saint Dominick, the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, the Catholic Order of Forresters, and the Knights of Columbus.

The Catholic church, which is the active organ of the French speaking element of the city, not only serves the spiritual needs of the population by a well organized system of church services, societies and schools, but in many other ways assists and influences all kinds of civic enterprises. This church, whose membership includes about three-fourths of the church-goers of the city, offers to the edification of all such public services as the Rosary, annual missions, religious discussion classes, and the May Day Procession,¹¹⁰

which in recent years has reached significant proportion. The church services are, for the most part, in the French language, the only exception being those at the Sacred Heart church, which is commonly called the 'Irish Church'.

110. This is a religious procession organized by the Roman Catholic parishes of Waterville, and vicinities on May 1st., as a counterpart to the communist May Day Parade. The main purpose of the procession is to demand the conversion of Russia.

CHAPTER IV

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Among the numerous changes and achievements attributable to the French-speaking people of the city, the educational development is significant and outstanding. This is especially remarkable, because the majority of the French immigrants to this city were illiterate or nearly so. There were some exceptions to this rule, however. A few received some education prior to the migration to Waterville. Others through personal enterprise and determination became self-made men of stature.

The early immigrants had been surrounded by the poorest of intellectual conditions. There was little opportunity for formal education. Schools were an exception and when they existed at all, were in the nature of a luxury for which there was little time. As the families grew in size year by year, most, if not all, had to devote every hour working in the fields or nearby industries to provide the daily bread. With such a limited scholastic background it is no wonder that most of Waterville's early French settlers could neither read nor write.

Once established in the Elm City, the early immigrants did little to amend their illiterate status.

The only books of learning to be found were the little religious catechisms and probably the "Fables de la Fontaine." This lack of interest in schooling lasted for quite sometime due to the perpetuation of the conditions which existed in the homeland. Chief among these was the need for money. It was not unusual to see a twelve year old boy or girl spinning cotton in the mills in the 1880's and 1890's. Large families and low incomes required every able hand to share the burden of the home and work for the survival of the family.

The first evidence of provision for education in the `Plains' appeared in 1846 when a school building was authorized at a cost of \$250....¹¹¹ The next year, boys under twelve and girls under fourteen were admitted to the summer schools, and it was also decided to admit "foreign" children [French Canadian] under "such restrictions as the district committee might prescribe."¹¹²

In 1856, a certain Jean Dorveau appeared in the locality and announced that he intended to found a school where both French and English would be taught.¹¹³ However, his project was never fulfilled. During the next decade

111. Whittemore, op. cit., p. 276.

112. Ibid., p. 277.

113. Private correspondence of the Reverend J. Nycolin. In possession of Monsignor Desjardins.

some French Canadian children were enrolled in the public schools, but evidently interest and attendance were slight for we read in the School Report of March 8, 1871:

The Primary School on the Plains composed of children in the French Part of the village has never given entire satisfaction to the committee. It has suffered from a very irregular attendance of the pupils, and from a great lack among them of the needed books. Besides, a portion of the smaller children have never well understood what has been said to them in English.¹¹⁴

Around 1876, or 1877, Father Halde, the fourth resident pastor of the Catholic parish in Waterville, realizing the pressing necessity and value of education, had the old building which once served as a chapel on Grove street, moved to Temple court where it was used for several years as a school.¹¹⁵ In the School Report of 1881, we find the following statement:

The two primaries kept last year in the Catholic school building were removed, at the beginning of the Fall term, to Mathew's Hall on Temple street--Father Halde refused to renew the lease of his building to the town.¹¹⁶

This action, for whatever reason taken, did not check the trend toward higher enrollments and in the 1880's more and more children attended the public schools, which ranked among the best of the state. Others attended special classes given in the afternoons and evening by private

114. The Superintendent School Report, March 8, 1871, p. 2.

115. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Oct 27, 1920, p. 1.

116. Annual Town Report of 1881, p. 1.

tutors, who charged a weekly fee or \$.25. Still others sought knowledge either in religious classes held weekly in the church hall, or in the privacy of their homes, using outworn books. In a speech given on the occasion of a statewide French convention held in Waterville on June 17, 1881, the principal speaker exclaimed:

A religious education is of the utmost importance. Closely knitted to this should follow a secular education as required by our present needs. It seems to me, that after examining all necessities, we should be satisfied in giving the religious instructions in French and the rest of the curriculum could be taught in English....¹¹⁷

This statement indicates that one would expect a move to establish a parochial school in Waterville in the near future.

The celebrated Father Charland arrived in 1880, and he, a proven scholar, aroused the people from their degrading illiteracy and encouraged them to seek an education. He invited capable and devoted ladies to teach his parishioners under church sponsorship. Among the women who gave many hours of time to this worthy cause were Mrs. Chasse who taught a class of 35 children in the Dunn Block,¹¹⁸ Miss Louisa Martel, the future Mrs. John L. Fortier, and Miss Pleau.

117. This speech is in the possession of Monsignor Desjardins.

118. *Le Messenger*, Lewiston, November 5, 1885, as cited in Monsignor Desjardins' documents.

Next the Reverend Charland caused to be erected on the McCaffrey property which he had purchased in 1886, a Catholic parochial school which was completed in 1888 at a cost of \$8,000.¹¹⁹ In March of that same year, another of Father Charland's dreams was realized. For four years, he had tried in vain to secure nuns for the education of the Catholic children of the city. Under the guidance and help of Bishop Healy, of Portland, and of Bishop LaFleche, of Three Rivers, he succeeded in obtaining six Ursuline Nuns from the latter city. These pious daughters of Saint Ursula, Reverend Mothers Marie du Sacre-Coeur, Sainte Josephine, Marie de l'Annonciation, Marie du Bon Secours, Marie du Crucifix and Saint Francois de Sales, arrived in Waterville, Maine March 9, 1888, amidst the great rejoicing of the faithful.¹²⁰

The following day, Father Charland notified Catholic parents that registration would be held that day for all the children of age to make their first communion. Three hundred and five children registered, 104 of whom were boys. It was decided to have evening classes for the girls who worked in the mills.¹²¹ Regular classes were from 8 to 11

119. *Le Maine Francais*, June 26, 1913, p. 15.

120. *Ibid.*, p. 5.

121. U.T. R., *op. cit.*, p. 50. Letter addressed to Reverend Mere Superieure, Waterville, Maine, March 11, 1888.

in the forenoon and 1 to 4 in the afternoon.¹²² That the task assigned to the Sisters was not an easy one is indicated by the words of the Mother Superior:

The population of Waterville is very well disposed towards us. But, alas! what poor education the children have received, and what profound ignorance reigns throughout. We have among us big boys of 14 and 16 who do not even know one word of catechism, who mistreat their mothers, and who have been expelled from all public schools. The kind, cordial welcome we have given them seems to have softened their hard wretchedness and disposed them to receive instructions in preparation for their First Communion.¹²³

When classes were resumed in September, over 400 children registered for the school year at Saint Francis de Sales' school.¹²⁴

This was certainly a favorable response. In addition to the six nuns, three ladies volunteered their services as teachers. They were Misses Pleau, Dostaler, and McCaffrey.¹²⁵ Father Charland personally took charge of a special class, teaching Reading, Grammar, Complete Arithmetic, Geography, and United States History.¹²⁶

122. Ibid., p. 54. Letter addressed to Mr. Charles O.L. Caron, Waterville, Maine.

123. Ibid., p. 63. Letter addressed to Miss Alice Grigon, Waterville, Maine, March 21, 1888.

124. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p.5.

125. U.T.R., op. cit., p. 40.

126. Ibid., p. 88.

In 1891, the humble little home used by the Sisters upon their arrival was moved to Charles street where it can still be seen today. Father Charland's parish then erected at a cost of \$9,000, a magnificent convent for the nuns, which was to serve both as a Boarding School and Novitiate.¹²⁷ It was a frame structure of which the school portion consisted of seven well-lighted and thoroughly ventilated classrooms. There were by this time nineteen sisters who were giving instruction to some 500 children.¹²⁸ As more and more children asked admission into the boarding school, it became necessary to expand the facilities and program of studies. An annex was added to the old school in 1902, and in the same year in addition to the commercial course then offered the curriculum was enlarged to include the standard secondary subjects.¹²⁹

The Ursuline Nuns were undismayed by the taxing of the school facilities and already plans were in progress for better accommodations. With the backing of the general Catholic population the city,

127. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p. 7.

128. George Haynes, *Souvenir of Waterville the University City of Maine*. New York, 1898, p. 11.

129. Sister Mary Theresita Larkin, *The History of the Development of Catholic Education in the State of Maine from 1604 to 1933*, May 1934, p. 57. Thesis for Master of Arts Degree, University of Maine.

and especially of Fathers Charland and Kealey of the Sacred Heart parish, and doctors John Fortier, and Charles Rancourt, the Sisters purchased in 1912, the F. Chase property on Western Avenue, on which they erected the well-known Mount Merici Academy. This served as a boarding school for girls, in which the elementary branches were taught and the state requirements for the junior and senior high school in college preparatory and commercial courses, were met. In 1916, Mount Merici was approved by the Maine Department of Education as a class A Academy. In 1933, the teaching staff comprised twelve sisters for an enrollment of 63 pupils.¹³⁰ According to current statistics, the Academy has an enrollment of 175 female students, 125 of whom are day hops and the other 50 are boarders. They receive their education from a staff of 40 nuns.¹³¹

With growth of the French Canadian community and the division of the parish, it was imperative that more nuns be secured for teaching. In 1910, a second religious order arrived in Waterville to take over the direction of the newly built Notre Dame parochial school, an imposing brick building which served both as parish chapel and school.

130. Ibid., p. 81.

131. Statistics acquired from Mount Merici Academy files, Waterville, Maine.

These Ursulines de Jesus, originally Sisters of Saint Joseph from Chavagne, France, operated the school for about 10 years. In 1920, for reasons unknown, the Ursulines from Mount Merici took over the direction of this rapidly growing school. In addition to ten religious teachers, three qualified ladies made up the staff. The total enrollment for that year was 527 pupils.¹³² Today, Notre Dame School, under the supervision of the Ursulines, comprises eight classes with a registration of 322 students, 129 boys and 173 girls.¹³³

The next development in the educational history of the French Canadian population came in 1928 with the founding of Saint Francis de Sales' school for boys. The Brothers of Christian Instruction, a teaching order of religious men, were given charge of this establishment. With the opening of classes in 1928, Brothers Boniface, Clementien-Marie and Georges-Augustin welcomed 134 boys who were distributed in grades four through eight.¹³⁴ Today the parochial establishment comprises 107 pupils tutored by three Brothers.¹³⁵ The approved elementary curriculum, is enriched by special emphasis on the

132. Les Ursulines A Waterville, Souvenir Program of 50th Anniversary, Waterville, Maine, 1938, p. 51.

133. Statistics taken from files at the Notre Dame School, 1952.

134. Les Freres de L'Instruction chretienne en Amerique, Numero Souvenir, Cinquantenaire, Laprairie, P.Q. Canada, 1936, p. 221.

135. From files at St. Francis School, 1952.

French language.

The latest achievement in the field of education, directly related to the French community, is the establishment of another elementary parochial school for boys, this time in the Notre Dame parish. The Brothers of Christian Instruction were again called upon to direct the program. In September, 1939, the doors of this new school, Saint Joseph's, were opened to 73 youngsters. These were distributed into classes, sixth, seventh, and eighth, taught by Brothers Clementien-Marie and Narcisse. This school today, to which a fifth grade has been added, has an enrollment of 107 boys instructed by four teachers.¹³⁶

As the number of Catholic students in elementary schools has increased and as the value of secondary education has been realized, and not having any Catholic high school except Mount Merici Academy, it is not surprising that more and more French Canadian students have been registered in the public secondary school, Waterville High. The first French Canadian boy to graduate from Waterville High School was Levi Alfred Lashus [Lachance] who received his diploma in 1881¹³⁷ while the first French Canadian girl to attain the same diploma was Lena Ella Butler, in 1891.¹³⁸ In the 1951 graduating class there were 78 French

136. From files at St. Joseph School, 1952.

137. This has been ascertained from Mr. A. Lashus' two daughters in an interview.

138. Files of the Superintendent of Schools, Waterville, Maine.

students receiving diplomas out of a total of 154 pupils.¹³⁹ Statistics for the school year 1951-1952 at Waterville High reveal a similar high percentage of French Canadian representation: Senior class, 78 French names out of a total of 146, Junior class, 95 French names in a class of 184, and in the Sophomore class, 99 pupils of French names from a total of 189.¹⁴⁰

From the above we may conclude that French people have realized the absolute value and necessity of elementary and secondary education. Nor are they blind to the importance of a college education. Today there are 23 local students of French stock at Colby College,¹⁴¹ whereas in 1897, there was but one, Miss Hattie Beatty Vigue.¹⁴² The University of Maine has 13 students of French Canadian extraction from Waterville currently enrolled.¹⁴³ It is sad to state, however, that proportionally the number of students attending college is small. The causes of this are three-fold. First, the majority of the French

139. Ibid.

140. Ibid.

141. Colby College Catalog, 1951-52.

142. General Catalog of Officers, Graduates and Former Students of Colby College, 1820-1920, Centennial Edition, Waterville, Maine, 1920, p. 211.

143. Student List, University of Maine, 1952.

element are still of the lower or middle income class with very little of the extra income which is necessary for a college education. Second, there is the emphasis upon immediate pecuniary returns which precludes the delay in earnings which college training entails. This is particularly true in large families where economic pressure is greatest. Parents insist that when a child is of age to work or capable of doing so, he should share the expenses of the household. A third is the lack of interest on the part of youngsters themselves. The home atmosphere supplies little stimulation. conversation centers mostly around religion and money, the weather, food, and sports.

It would be difficult to enumerate all the youth of French ancestry that today attend or have attended schools of higher learning. Names of Waterville lads and lasses of French descent can be found in almost every college and university file of New England and of other educational institutions throughout the country, in Canada, and in Europe. Two examples are Gladys Perry [Sanssoucis] and honor student at the Sorbonne, France, and Forest Simoneau, an honor graduate at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

In spite of a handful of convinced objectors and several adverse conditions, the French citizens have in a relatively short time achieved commendable success in the field of education. Judging from present conditions, the future is bright and promising.

CHAPTER V BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Besides the church, industry is the single element which has had the greatest influence on the French Canadian population of Waterville, and vice versa. When the first immigrants came to this town, there were very few business enterprises and merchants. Money was scarce and merchandise was dear. Barter was still in vogue and the easiest means of securing goods. The people for the most part were poor, depending on the forest and the farm labor to make a living. The newcomers from Canada, who were almost wholly in the same financial bracket, also depended mainly on farming, lumbering, and fishing for their subsistence. The town lay almost dormant with a sort of lethargy pervading its people.

Abruptly the picture changed in the 1860's and especially in the 1870's. This sudden expansion in business and industry resulted chiefly from the building of the Lockwood mill in 1874. This created a sort of boom for all business interests. Agents and recruiters of the cotton factory toured Lower Canada seeking employees for the textile industry. Dozens answered their fantastic offers and propositions. In some cases whole families and villages answered the call and trudged toward the promised land.¹⁴⁴ Most of the immigrants could neither read nor write. Their names were strange to the Americans who hired them, and the employers had to resort either to translation of the names or to phonetic renditions of them. Such was the case with the Poulins who became Poolers, Bretons who became Butlers, Ouellettes who became Willettes.¹⁴⁵

The Lockwood history is one of slow but regular growth. the number and proportion of French employers was small at the start, 90 out of 741 or 12.1% in 1876. This changed substantially as the years passed. Today, this industry has a payroll of 817 of whom about 600 have French sounding names. The percentage thus increased to 72.5%¹⁴⁶ This parallels in a remarkable manner the growth of the French element in Waterville.

Besides this manufactory, Waterville had other but smaller industries which gave work to the French population. Among these the Maine Central Railroad car shops established at the `North End' of the city, the old shank factory on the Messalonskee Stream, the Webber and

144. Louis de Goesbriand in *Les Canadiens des Etats Unis* states an example of such a fantastic migration, p.3; as cited by Hanse, *Brebner, op. cit.*, p. 152.

145. *Desjardins, op. cit.*, p. 4.

146. Information secured from the Files at the Lockwood Duchess Co. through the assistance of Mr. Bridges, Personnel Manager, Waterville, Maine, April 1, 1952.

Philbrick foundry, the Furbush sash and blind mill, the Fiber Ware Co. and the Noyes Stove Co., also afforded opportunities for the immigrants.

In 1892, the Hollingsworth and Whitney Pulp Mill, geographically in Winslow but economically a part of Waterville, began operation. There were 59 French Canadians working for this paper industry in 1893. Today the employment list features some 1063 French workers.¹⁴⁷

From such French Canadians pioneers as Messrs Edward Rancourt, Eddy Cote, Alfred Langlois and Napoleon Loubier who had contacts with the above mentioned mills, we learn of the tremendous difficulties and hardships of the new immigrants. Exceptionally poor, largely illiterate and burdened by large families, it was necessary for all hands, men, women, and children to obtain employment. Working hours were usually from 6 A.M. to 6 P. M. and frequently longer. The wages were on a whole very low. The best weavers or mechanics could only earn about \$1.00 per day. Most were not so fortunate and memories are still fresh of the days when laborers toiled amidst dusty frames, in most unsanitary environments and received the meager wage of \$.25 or \$.50 a day.¹⁴⁸ Evidently the majority of the laborers were satisfied with these

147. Information received from Mr. Stevens, Personnel Manager of the H. & W. Co. Figures gathered from payrolls of May 19, 1893 and from an average week in 1952.

148. The masonry, a highly regarded profession in the late 19th

conditions as their chief hope of survival. Meager though the wages were, many were now earning in a week what it had taken them months to obtain in Canada. Then as today, however, there were some rebels who refused to work for low wages and in such unwholesome conditions, and organized strikes. In the late 1880's when there was much labor unrest nationally, a local union was formed to agitate for higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions. The leaders were two fiery, popular characters, Arthur Ponsant and a certain Mr. Durette. A strike was called and many French laborers in such grave need supported it enthusiastically. Evidently the management had little difficulty in breaking the strike. The leaders were arrested, dismissed from their jobs, and the whole incident ended without any of the workers grievances being met.¹⁴⁹ Today the Lockwood Duchess Company, the Hollingsworth and Whitney Company, and the Keyes Fiber Company are unionized and all belong to the American Federation of Labor. Wages have advanced appreciably. The minimum salary for skilled laborers is \$1.16 an hour. By and large working conditions are very satisfactory. That these mills

century averaged approximately \$2.00 a day for wages. This information was ascertained by the same source.

149. Information gathered from interviews with the above mentioned individuals from Waterville, Maine.

have considered French Canadians to be desirable and trustworthy employees is evidenced by the large number of French citizens who hold responsible and high ranking positions. For example, in the Lockwood Duchess, four overseers and eighteen second hands besides the assistant superintendent are of French Canadian origin.¹⁵⁰

As the number of French Canadians has increased and their economic situation has improved, it is not surprising that great changes have taken place in the business and residential sections since the early 1830's. The 'Plains', once a vast, wooded area, with only a few houses of poor quality and simple construction were widely scattered throughout the area. There was but one main street named then as it is today, Water Street, with a few lanes branching off from this thoroughfare north of Grove Street. Today it is an area with many businesses, of numerous, large, well constructed homes, and of streets running in all directions. In a word it is a small city in itself.

Business life really began¹⁵¹ in the French district in 1869 when

150. Information gathered from interviews with Mr. Wilfred Rancourt, Assistant Superintendent. The names of these individuals may be found in Appendix D.

151. It is claimed that Peter Bolduc opened the first French store in 1862; as cited by Whittemore, op. cit., p. 81.

Mr. Frederick Pooler [Poulin] opened Waterville's first grocery store.¹⁵² The firm later passed into the hands of Mr. Pooler's sons-in-law, Albert Landry and Normand Beaudesne.¹⁵³ Almost every year following 1879 witnessed the establishment of new business shops, grocery stores, jewelry stores, clothing stores and other owner-operator businesses, under French Canadian management. Such was the increase that by the turn of the century the `Plains' had a flourishing business district of its own equipped to meet the average family's needs. Among the more important properties were, O.J. Pelletier's grocery and dry goods establishment at 151 Water street;¹⁵⁴ Peter Marshall's [Mercier] ladies' garment and dry goods store at 143 Water Street, which later became known as Reny and Marshall Dry Goods Co.; the Beliveau Brothers' grocery business at 91 Water Street; George Daviau's pharmacy at 71 Water Street; and Joseph Tardif and son's carbonated beverage plant at 116 Water Street.¹⁵⁵ Nor was French activity confined only to the

152. Leading Business Men of Lewiston, Augusta,....Waterville, Boston, 1889, p. 214.

153. Information gathered from an interview with Mr. F. Harold Dubord.

154. This block is today owned by Mrs. A. Guite.

155. A Business and Professional Manual of the Principal Cities

'Plains'. By the early 1900's French firms were scattered all over the city. On upper Main street, the Milliken block was purchased by O.J. Giguere,¹⁵⁶ and two new blocks, the W. Rancourt and L. Hebert blocks were erected. Already almost every Yankee business firm of public utility felt it advisable to hire bilingual help in order to avoid further loss of business. Thus, we find at Emery-Brown's Co. in 1913, a group of French employees including Eugene Landry, Mrs. Lucie Grondin, Henry Boudreau and many others serving the population.¹⁵⁷ The Kennebec Trust Co. was also forced to hire William P. Toulouse in order to invite and facilitate French commerce.¹⁵⁸

At the present time the French-speaking people hold a slight majority in the total number of business firms of which, of course, many are small businesses; grocery stores, contracting firms, automobile agencies, garages, real estate agencies and the like.¹⁵⁹ Some are

and Towns in the State of Maine, Boston, 1903, pp.124, 128, 129, 120.

156. Supplement au Reveil, Numero Souvenir, 50 ieme Anniversaire de la Societe des Artisans Canadiens Francais, May 23, 1926, p. 13.

157. Le Maine Francais, op. cit., p. 26.

158. Ibid., p. 2.

159. There are approximately 25 grocery stores out of 37, 8 contracting firms, 17 automobile dealers, garages or repairers, 5 real estate agencies, and 13 markets under French ownership and management today.

larger, however, such as Laverdiere's Variety Drug Stores, Drapeaus Electrical Appliances, Donald R. Michaud's Fuel Co., M.G. Morissette and Sons exclusive agents for the North American Van Lines Inc.¹⁶⁰ Many of the leading business establishments are still in Yankee hands, however. Many still bear the old trade names such as Arnold's Hardware, Redington co. and Emery-Brown Co. These, plus new concerns such as Stern's Department Store, Levine's Men's Clothing Store, Dunhams, and the usual chain stores constitute the bulk of Waterville's business center. It should be remembered that French-speaking employees are found in large numbers in all these stores.¹⁶¹

In summary, it has been established that the French Canadian element rapidly became the dominant group in the labor markets of Waterville. At first limited almost entirely to the unskilled and less savory jobs, they have gradually advanced until today there are very few positions for which they cannot qualify. Initially the business life of the city was wholly in the hands of the Yankees. Today the French Canadians have their own business district in the 'Plains' and have successfully invaded the Main Street. Such stores as are still controlled by the Yankees have seen the advantage of having bilingual help.

160. City Directory, Waterville, Maine, 1952.

161. This is clearly exemplified by such concerns as Sterns Dept. Store where over half of the employees are French-speaking.

CHAPTER VI PROFESSIONS AND ARTS

In early years of the migration, the French Canadians brought along with them not only their cherished belongings, but their own professional men. The majority had received professional training in reputable Canadian institutions and consequently proved to be competent in their field.

Such was the medical profession which comprised in the early years most of the educated and influential French Canadians of the village. Being on a higher financial level than most of their compatriots, these men were often sought for economic support as well as for medical care. Supposedly the first doctor of French Canadian extraction to come to Waterville, was a certain Dr. Pichette¹⁶² who was, according to a number of aged Frenchmen, a medicine man with magic powers. He was followed by Dr. John L. Fortier. Mr. Fortier was born in 1853 at St. Sylvester, P.Q., of Frederick and Esther [Wright] Fortier. His first education was received at the Christian Brother's school at Saint Mary, P.Q. and his

162. This was ascertained by Mr. A. Langlois and N. Marcou.

classical education at Sherbrook and Three Rivers. He received his first lesson in medicine from Dr. H.H. Campbell of this city in 1879. Following this he attended the Maine Medical School from which he graduated in 1883. During his long career as an M.D., Dr. Fortier's charity and devotedness were much admired by his countrymen. He was member of the Maine Medical Association, president of the Waterville Clinical Society and member of the French Historical Society of Massachusetts.¹⁶³

As the French community was ever growing the need for more qualified doctors also grew. Thus we notice the arrival in 1893 of Dr. Charles Gedeon Rancourt. Born at Saint George, P.Q., October 9, 1865, he was the son of Jerome and Ludivine [Roy] Rancourt. Mr. Rancourt attended Levis College from which he graduated 1889. Four years later he received his M.D. degree at Laval University. Immediately, the young Dr. Rancourt left for Waterville where he built his home, establishing a reputation still talked about today. His house, one of the finest in those days, can still be seen on Temple Street. He was a member of the Maine Academy of Medicine, the Kennebec Medical Association and the Waterville Clinical Society.¹⁶⁴

163. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, pp. 471, 472.

164. *Ibid.*, p. 474.

In 1902, Waterville received the services of another M. D., Dr. Joseph Arthur Pineau.¹⁶⁵ Several years previous, a local boy had appeared on the medical scene, Dr. J. N. G. Bernard. Following closely were doctors L. A. D'Argy, Napoleon Bisson,¹⁶⁶ and Adelard A. Verville.¹⁶⁷ All these were prominent men whose memory will long live in the annals of Waterville's Medical Association and in the minds of both French and Americans.

Today, the physicians of French ancestry serving the population of Waterville and vicinity are both numerous and capable. These physicians and surgeons are Doctors Napoleon Bisson, Harvey Bourassa, Alfred J. Breard, Richard L. Chasse, Gerald Cyr, Richard H. Dennis, Armand L. Guite, J. C. Michaud, H.L. Parizo, Ovid F. Pomerleau, Rodolphe J. Pomerleau and James E. Poulin.¹⁶⁸

Notice should also be given here to Dr. Achille Joly, who was at

165. Ibid., p. 477.

166. Special mention should be given here to Dr. N. Bisson upon whom the Holy Father Pius XII has conferred the Pontifical honor of Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory for his untiring services to the people and the Church.

167. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., pp. 22-23.

168. Waterville City Directory, 1951.

one time the chief veterinarian of the state of Maine. Dr. Joly was originally from Sainte Rose de l'Isle de Jesus, in the district of Montreal. He came to Waterville in 1890 where he practiced successfully.¹⁶⁹

Among the leading dentists practicing in the Elm City today are a number of French descents: Roger Bourassa, Normand Paquette, Lucien Pellerin, John Poirier, Louis Rancourt, R. Roy, and Fred Toulouse.¹⁷⁰

In The field of law, the French Canadians have also produced prominent and successful men. The first great name in this profession was that of Mr. Fred W. Clair. Born in Old Town, Maine in 1866, son of John B. and Ellen E. Clair, young Fred soon found himself in Waterville. After receiving his early education in the city's public schools, he attended Coburn Classical Institute from which he graduated in 1886. He then read law in the office of S. S. Brown for some years before being admitted to the bar in 1891. From that time on he served his compatriots with an untiring devotion. He also served Waterville as city clerk, city solicitor, and as clerk of the executive committee on the centennial celebration.¹⁷¹

169. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p. 22.

170. *Waterville City Directory*, 1951.

171. *Whittemore*, op. cit., p. 481.

In 1900, a new name appeared in the list of attorneys of Waterville. It was that of Alfred Letourneau. Born at Saint Joseph, Beauce, P.Q., December 3, 1864 son of Joseph Letourneau and Odile Saint Pierre, he was educated in the parish schools and college of Sainte Marie. Coming to Waterville, he studied law under Messrs. Brown and Brown. In 1900 he was admitted to the Maine Bar. He was not only a successful lawyer but also a prominent politician.¹⁷²

Another French Canadian attorney who gained a reputation for himself in Central Maine was Joseph A. Marquis. He was prominently identified with the history of French societies in Waterville.

The lawyers and attorneys of French ancestry serving Waterville and the state today are quite numerous and rank among the best in the field. One needs only to follow judicial cases to realize their prominence. The best known is F. Harold Dubord. The others are: Jerome G. Daviau, Richard Dubord, Napoleon Marcou, Roland J. Poulin, and Paul H. Rancourt.¹⁷³

The French Canadian's marked gaiety and joviality is largely the result of an inborn love for music and beauty. How often does one hear the tunes of 'Au Clair de la Lune' or 'En Roulant ma Boule', when

172. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p. 22.

173. *Waterville City Directory*, 1951.

passing in front of a French residence? These old songs, which are originally Canadian folklore, were brought into the community by the early French immigrants who would sing them in breathless stride. The old folks had an instinctive urge to sing their ever repetitious song and dance to the rhythmic jigs and reels.

There were a good many artistic souls among the old crooners or bassos who led in 'Alouette' and 'Malbrouck'. These were sentimental people who loved music. Their musical temperaments were replicas of their forefathers', who excelled in song and dance. Their Indian neighbors had greatly influenced them with their interesting musical history comprising the monotonous beats of the tom-tom interwoven with weird melodies of unusual tempo. These French Canadians produced a number of great musicians in the following generations.

Among the outstanding singers of the early days were Miss Martel whose soprano voice charmed many a church goer in the late 1880's. Another was Charles Marshall [Mercier] who became a great concert artist and opera singer in 1905. After studying under such maestros as William L. Whitney, Luigi Vannucini, and Luigi Lombardi, he toured most of America's and Europe's leading Opera Houses having the leading male role in some seventy-eight different pieces.¹⁷⁴ Also among Waterville's greatest products was Joseph Henri Marcou who was a vocalist and concert artist of national recognition. After studying voice with Isidore Braggiotte in 1921, he became director of Saint Francis de Sales Chorale. He held this post for fifteen years. Meanwhile, he toured the United States, Canada, and France.¹⁷⁵ When he left Waterville, Mr. Marcou established himself in New York City where his vocal talent was both appreciated and rewarded. Another name quite well-known in the musical world was that of Gladys Cyr, whose vocal renditions were acclaimed throughout New York's great music halls.¹⁷⁶

The French population had in addition some very accomplished instrumental artists in its ranks. As early as 1886, we hear of a French Band receiving full support from the Reverend J.N. Desilet, then assistant priest at Saint Francis de Sales. Jimmy `Mondaine' Rancourt and Frank Dostie were members of this group.¹⁷⁷ Most of these early musicians, however, were trained and made part of R. B. Hall's Military Band. It is said that this remarkable leader was once heard as saying:

174. George Edwards, *Music and Musicians of Maine*, Portland, Maine, 1908, p. 425

175. *Ibid.*

176. *Supplement au Reveil*, op. cit., p. 22.

177. Information gathered from an interview with the Reverend Monsignor Desjardins.

"There is more music in the small finger of a Frenchman than in the whole body of a Yankee."178

The French people of the `Plains' wishing to participate in the centennial celebrations of 1902, organized a band under the leadership of Joseph T. Boulette. The organization, later known as the Boulette Band, whose repertoire was at first limited to `Yankee Doodle', comprised, if not outstanding, at least ambitious musicians. Such were, Fred Boulette, Philip Boulette, Isaac Parent, Alex Donna, Fred Parent, Fred Libby [Labbe], Fred Toulouse, Rock Nadeau, Albert Roy, Henry Burke [Bourque], Paul Butler [Bolduc] Philip Rancourt, Philip Maheu, Eddie Marshall [Mercier], Joseph Rancourt, Edward Belanger, Francis Delaware [Drouin], and John Ferland.179 After the band broke up in 1915, most of the musicians joined either the Waterville Military Band or Drew's Band. The American Legion Band, which is one of Waterville's active musical organizations today, still enjoys the services of a veteran musician, Albert [Mike] Roy, who played in the Boulette aggregation some fifty years ago. Other instrumental artists of the early 1900's were Mrs. H. P. Fiset, M. E. Letourneau, and the Quatour Simard. More recently there is Norman Lambert, serving the Bangor station, W.L.B.Z., as master

178. Ibid.

179. Names were gathered from a photograph of the Band owned by Mr. Fred Toulouse, Waterville, Maine.

organist and pianist; his brother Carroll Lambert, an organist and composer now working in New York City, William `Bill' Provencher, Sister Lucille [Yvonne Cyr] from Mount Merici and Theodore Perry [Pare].

The teaching profession followed the educational development rather closely. At first very few, if any, were capable of entering this profession, which required comprehension of a specific body of knowledge and a mastery of the English language. Moreover, the teaching profession among French Canadians was traditionally dominated by the nuns and brothers. The first lay teachers of French ancestry found jobs only when French parish schools were inaugurated. Among these early pioneers of education, the only ones remembered today are Mrs. Charles Chasse, Miss F. Martel, future Mrs. J. Fortier, and Miss Pleau. In 1888, the Reverend Charland invited the Ursuline Nuns from Three Rivers, Canada, to come and take charge of a new parochial school. That same year, six nuns, already named, began their labors in Waterville. 180

The increase of French teachers was slow and for a long time limited entirely to nuns, most of whom were transferred from Quebec.

180. Later in 1888 five more Ursuline nuns from Morissania, New York, came to teach English courses. *Les Ursulines a Waterville, Cinquantenaire de l'Arrive des Soeurs Ursulines a Waterville, 1938*, pp. 83-84.

Today, there are some 40 religious teachers on the Mount Merici Academy staff, besides the 22 nuns and 7 brothers giving instructions to nearly 450 children in the parochial schools of the city. Moreover, there are actually many local youths of French stock engaged in the teaching profession in several religious teaching orders. The most outstanding are the Ursulines of Mount Merici who claim some 35 local girls, the Sisters of Saint Joseph [Ursulines de Jesus], the Maryknoll Nuns, Brothers Christian Instruction and the Marist Brothers.

Besides this impressive development of religious teachers, a number of secular masters of French Canadian origin also emerged from the community in the late 1880's and early 1900's. Among these were Mr. Lionel Saucier, Miss Julliette Robichaud [Daviau], Mr. Edward Simoneau and Miss Dora Libby. Presently, this number has been appreciably increased. Better known among these are Mrs. Gladys Perry [Pare] who teaches French at Waterville High School, Daniel Loubert who is a professor in a New York College and Thomas Page Jr. who is head coach at Cattaraugus Central School, in Cattaraugus, New York. There is much hope and promise that this number will increase substantially with the advancing years.

Something which is most striking in the French community of Waterville is the fact that so many sons and daughters of this deeply religious people have left, today as in the past, family and wealth, to serve in a most magnificent way, their God, their neighbors and their country. This action not wholly understood by many people not less beautiful and heroic, however, has in late years, reached surprising heights. The Ursulines of Mount Merici have in the past 64 years recruited 35 local girls.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph, more popularly known as Ursulines of Jesus, have two Waterville girls in their congregation. The Brothers of Christian Instruction from Alfred, Maine have six French young men serving in schools in New England, New York and Canada. The Marist Brothers claim the services of two local boys. Besides, the French population has provided at least 12 priests, secular and regular, to the service of the Church. Among these are two Monsignors, the Reverend Philip E. Desjardins, now serving Saint Hyacinthe parish in Westbrook, Maine, and the Reverend J. A. Laflamme heading one of Maine's largest Catholic parishes, Saint Joseph of Biddeford, Maine. In addition many youths are now training either for the priesthood, brotherhood, or sisterhood. Such a record cannot pass without mention, for it is a great honor attributable to few cities and fewer national groups. The meritorious lives of these sons and daughters has no doubt had a salutary effect on the families and citizens of this city.

From the early days come echoes of plays being given in private homes or semi public halls, chiefly in most part confined to small groups and family circles. However, as years passed and the French population increased drama took on greater proportions and occupied a higher place in the social entertainment of the citizens, French and Yankee.

In the year 1906, we learn of a dramatic and musical society called the 'Club Laurier', which was organized by a certain Charles Roderick. This social group held periodic meetings and rehearsals as well as public performances in the Pomerleau and Pelletier Halls and sometimes at the city Opera House. In 1907, the organization presented its first major work, "La Grace de Dieu", directed by Father Charland.¹⁸¹ From this moment on theatrical and musical presentations seems to have flourished in the community. On April 24, 1913, the Notre Dame dramatic organization presented

"Vildac", a comedy-drama in three acts. This show was put on at the Waterville Opera House for the benefit of the Notre Dame Church which had been demolished by fire. The main actors in this presentation were: A. Fortin, A. Poulin, H. Theriault, W. Bourgoïn, E. Bourque, G. Tardif, T. Page, and E. Laflamme.¹⁸² In 1917, the Saint Francis de Sales' troupe offered,

181. Information gathered from an interview with Mr. Edgar Poulin, leading French dramatist today, Waterville, Maine April 6, 1952.

182. Information gathered from a sheet program of the play. In possession of Mrs. C. Cabana, Waterville, Maine.

under the directorship of the Reverend Father Nonorgue, a French operetta, "Les Chaussons de la Duchesse Anne."¹⁸³ The Notre Dame group returned with another presentation in 1925, entitled, "Le Voyage de Berlurons", a four act vaudeville. This presentation directed by Father Anciaux featured such "artists" as Marie Anne Rancourt, E. Breard, Ch. Michaud, Lillian Bolduc, Mamie Roy, and E. Fortin.¹⁸⁴

Many an old timer of the silent film day, still remembers Lou Cody, a nationally acclaimed Hollywood star. Born Louis Cote of French Canadian parent in Waterville, Mr. Cody attended McGill University in Montreal, from whence he jumped to stardom.¹⁸⁵

The French dramatic enthusiasm finally culminated in the organization of the "Cercle Dramatique et Musical", on January 9, 1934. Mr. Alcide Gagne was the first president of this group.¹⁸⁶ In its eight years of

183. Information received from Mrs. Marie Anne Rancourt, herself a part of the presentation, Waterville, Maine, Feb 23, 1952.

184. Information gathered from sheet program owned by Mrs. C. Cabana.

185. Information gathered from Mr. Leonard Cabana Jr., Waterville, Maine, April 3, 1952.

186. Information taken from a program sheet of 'Trop d'Argent', a three act play offered at the City Hall on May 6, 1934. This program contained some historical data on the organization. In possession of Mr. Edgar Poulin.

existence the society offered some 21 presentations and toured New England and the Province of Quebec.¹⁸⁷ Among the artists affiliated with this troupe were Mr. Edgar Poulin,¹⁸⁸ Miss Carmeline Binette, and Mrs. Eva Ferland.

By 1942, a period of indifference toward the theater caused the suppression of the existing theatrical and musical groups. The motion pictures had become more popular and attracted greater audiences. Again, the movies had established a seven day schedule as compared to the six day programs of pre-war years. Admission was cheaper and the entertainment was more appreciated. In spite of this decline in enthusiasm, the French citizens still enjoy occasional French plays and shows such as those presented by 'Tizonne' or Jean Grimaldi, Canadian playwrights. The full house at these presentations is a definite proof that French drama and musical shows are still alive and appreciated.

187. Data received from Mr. Edgar Poulin.

188. Mr. Edgar Poulin is a playwright, and director and is popularly recognized as one of the greatest actors to emerge from the French Canadian community.

CHAPTER VII GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

As has already been mentioned, the French Canadian immigrants of the early 19th century trekked to Waterville for many reasons. Some came for adventure, some to escape the British domination, most to seek wealth. Apparently very few came from the purpose of changing, influencing, or participating in local politics or in the civil service. As in Canada politics was of little concern to the rank and file. Illiteracy, unfamiliarity with the English language, low economic status and Yankee control further militated against immediate active participation in the political life of Waterville.

An exception must be made in the case of Frederick Pooler [Poulin]. Born at Saint George, Canada, on November 26, 1842, Pooler came to Waterville at the age of six. He attended the local schools for a time before taking up the trade of carpenter. In 1869, he entered the grocery business which brought him local fame and fortune. The latter was increased considerably by successful real estate ventures.¹⁸⁹ Soon he attained the stature of a patriarch. He was rewarded by election to the board of selectman in 1883,

¹⁸⁹. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, pp. 534-535.

and again in 1887. He served on the first board of alderman in 1888 and also as overseer of the poor from 1889 to 1892. He was a member of the board of education for the years 1898 and 1899, and was elected representative to the Maine Legislature on September 8, 1902.¹⁹⁰ These honors indicate that Mr. Pooler deserves the title of "Father" of the French politicians of Waterville.

With the many changes characteristic of the life of the French Canadians in the 1880's and 1890's, it is not surprising that they figured more prominently in the political life of the city. In 1888 Waterville received its city charter. In addition to Alderman Pooler, a Democrat, there were two Councilmen, Moses Butler [Breton], and C. Edward Boldic [Bolduc] and a constable, Charles Butler [Breton], in the city government.¹⁹¹ The next year representation was increased by the election of Mr. L. Page, and Charles Bushey [Boucher] as councilmen,¹⁹² Joseph Mathieu, as warden,¹⁹³ George Grondin, Gedeon Picher, Frank Lessor [Lessard] as ward clerks, Thomas

190. *Ibid.*, p. 535.

191. C. Giveen, *A Chronology of Municipal History and Election Statistics of Waterville, Maine, 1771-1908*, Augusta, 1908, pp. 142-143

192. *Ibid.*, pp. 209-210.

193. *Ibid.*, p. 215.

Butler [Breton], as constable, 194 and Fred Pooler [Poulin] as overseer.¹⁹⁵ From this time on the Yankee grip on politics gradually weakened.

For reasons not well understood by the present French Canadian community in Waterville, their forebears became staunch supporters of the Democratic party.¹⁹⁶ So much so, that the term "French" almost became synonymous with "Democrat". The saying "looking for a political plum" soon became a password.¹⁹⁷ Favoritism occasionally led to spirited and even violent demonstrations. These, however, were few and far apart. In the Presidential campaign of 1884, for example, the French citizens zealous supporters of Cleveland who was battling James G. Blaine in a closely contested election, exhibited great enthusiasm for the New Yorker by organizing an impressive parade and demonstration. It is said that the climax came when, under the cover of darkness, they hauled 'La Barbotte' Landry's cannon to the

194. Ibid., pp. 216, 218, 219.

195. Whittemore, op. cit., p. 535.

196. Possible explanations for the Democratic affiliation are: 1. The Republican party was the party of big business, 2. The Democratic Party was the traditional champion of the common man and especially strong in cities.

197. 'Looking for a political plum' meant looking for a position or job in the city government.

summit of today's Summer Street, and began a terrifying artillery barrage which quickly tumbled the startled citizenry out of bed.¹⁹⁸

While the vast majority of the present French population are still affiliated with the Democratic party it is noticeable that in local elections there is frequently a crossing of party lines, particularly if there are no candidates of French Canadian background running for individual offices.

Of course there are some men who have stood out above the others in the political world. The first of these was Alfred A. Mathieu. Born on February 7, 1875, in Farmington, Maine, son of Emma Mathieu and Joseph Mathieu, he received his education in the Farmington schools, and graduated from the local high school in 1893. He continued his education at Notre-Dame de Levis, Levis, Quebec, and at Holy Cross, in Worcester, Massachusetts where he received the Bachelor of Arts degree with high honores in 1898. After practicing law for three years in Rumford, Maine he came to Waterville, where he became an associate of J. A. Letourneau, Lawyer. In 1906, Mr. Mathieu was chosen by the City Council, to serve as City Attorney, which post he held during the years 1906, 1907, 1910, and 1911. The following

198. Account received from Monsignor P. Desjardins.

year he became Recorder of the Municipal Court. That same year he was appointed as a member of the Board of Education which post he held till 1920. In December 1912, Governor Plaisted appointed Mathieu as Municipal Court Judge to succeed Frank K. Shaw.¹⁹⁹ He held this position till 1920.²⁰⁰ He was also named City Solicitor for the years 1931 and 1932.²⁰¹ Besides being an active member of the municipal government, Mr. Mathieu was important figure in many mutual organizations such as the "Association d'Eparnes of Waterville", of which he was a founding associate.²⁰²

The second was Jules Gamache, probably the most amiable figure in the French community. Born at Islet, Quebec, he came to Waterville at an early age. After receiving his higher education at Arthabaskaville College, Mr. Gamache again returned to Waterville where he established a very prosperous grocery business. Politics was his avocation and eventually in 1910 he was elected representative to the State Legislature on the Democratic ticket.²⁰³

The most prominent figure has been F. Harold Dubord who has attained high positions in Waterville, state and national politics. Born in 1892 to Harry Dubord and Mary Poulin, Mr. Dubord received his early education from the

199. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p. 11.

200. Annual Report of the City of Waterville, Maine, 1920, p.7.

201. *Ibid.*, 1931-1932, p. 6.

202. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p. 11.

local schools. He was one of the early French graduates of Waterville High School. After attending Colby College in 1914, he went to the Boston University Law School for completion of his studies. Following this Mr. Dubord came back to Waterville and in association with his brother Carl carried on their father's successful clothing establishment at 69 Water Street. Law and politics were, however, Mr. Dubord's pet interests. In 1922, he began the law practice in which profession he is still prominent. He is recognized as one of Maine's most successful lawyers. In politics, Mr. Dubord accumulated one of the most impressive records in the city. In 1914, he became Councilman. The following year he was elected Clerk of the City Council. From 1918 to 1926, he was a member of the Board of Education, being chairman of this department in 1919, 1923, 1924, and 1925. Meanwhile, Mr. Dubord served as City Clerk and City Auditor in 1921, City Treasurer from 1922 to 1925 and repeated as City Clerk in 1924. In 1929 Dubord was elected mayor of the city,²⁰⁴ thus becoming the first French Canadian to hold this office in the history of Waterville. He held this post for five terms, from 1929 to 1933. In 1932, Mr. Dubord entered the national political picture. From 1932 to 1948, he was Democratic National Committeeman from Maine.

204. Annual Reports of the City of Waterville, for the years 1914-1933.

In 1934, 1936, and 1938, he ran for United States Senator, Governor of Maine and United States Congressman, respectively. Although he lost each contest, he narrowly missed defeating Lewis O. Barrows whose plurality was 1200 votes. In 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, and 1948, he was delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Since 1948 he has been retired from active participation in Democratic politics.

Other who do not rate biographies but who deserve honorable mention are: Gedeon Picher, Alphonse Fred Cyr, Arthur Daviau, Harry Belliveau, Augustus Carey, Napoleon Loubier, J. A. Letouneau, W. P. Toulouse, Fred E. Toulouse, Edgar Binette, Arthur Picher, and Jerome Daviau.²⁰⁵

It is never very safe nor very wise to make predictions. However, concerning the political future of the French citizens of the city, a carefully calculated guess may be ventured. Judging from the tremendous growth of the French population it seems reasonable that their influence in local politics will increase as the years go by. They now hold a majority in at least three of the seven city wards besides commanding important posts throughout the city as industrialists, professional men, businessmen, and politicians. An examination of the City Officials' list of 1952 reveals how truly the old days have passed.

205. Appendix G gives a chronological list of all the French citizens of Waterville who held official posts in the Municipal Government since 1888.

Waterville's present mayor, the youngest in its history, is 30 year old Richard Dubord, son of F. Harold Dubord. He is the second French citizen to hold this post. His father was the first. There is great hope and promise in this young lawyer and politician. The city postmaster is Ernest P. Poulin. Other city officials are: aldermen, John Mathieu and Arthur Baldic [Bolduc]; councilmen, Alfred J. Morin, Luke Lacombe, Leo W. Charland, Omer Richard, David Cote; assessors, Francis Rancourt and Robert Goudreau; auditor E. Albert Rancourt; Health Officer, Dr. Arthur R. Daviau; Board of Education, Jerome Daviau, Dr. James E. Poulin; overseer of the Poor, A. Perley Castonguay; clerk Elmer Cote; constables Wallie J. Rancourt and Anselm Desveaux.²⁰⁶

In government activities the French people had slight representation at first but with the passing of time they succeeded in acquiring and in maintaining posts of importance. They now play a major part in many of the branches of the city government. The most striking example is the local Post Office. The first mail delivery in Waterville was made in 1892. There were then but four mail carriers to cover the entire city. Among these was Charles Butler [Breton]. The second citizen of French stock to secure this employment was A. Robichaud. By 1921, more and more young men of French Canadian descent began to enter the postal service.

206. Waterville City Directory, 1952.

Today, out of 49 men employed at the Post Office, 27 are of French Canadian ancestry. The Post Master, Ernest Poulin, retains the record for holding the position of Post Master for the longest period of time, eighteen years.²⁰⁷

A second organization which followed this pattern is the municipal police department. We find George H. Grondin acting as Deputy Marshall in 1893.²⁰⁸ The following year Frank Lessor [Lessard] held the same rank. In 1903, a French citizen, Edward C. Lasselle, became City Marshall. And so it has developed until this past year 1951, when the local police force was made up of Chief Arthur E. Thibodeau, and six regular officers of French extraction in a total force of twelve.²⁰⁹ There are several French boys from Waterville who hold prominent Federal positions today. Such are Ronald Loubert, a U.S. Vice Council in England, Raymond Poulin, member of the State Liquor Commission, and Robert Maheu. Having attained such recognition and prestige, future progress of the French element in politics and government, municipal and federal, remains to be seen.

207. Information received through Mr. Leonard Cabana Jr. a local mail carrier himself.

208. Giveen, *op. cit.*, 225, 226.

209. Waterville City Directory, 1951,

CHAPTER VIII COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The French Canadian settlers have from the beginning associated either directly or indirectly with the social activities of Waterville. In all of these they played an active and interesting part.

From the earliest years, French societies, be they religious, social or financial, appeared in the city. These were generally private organizations limited to the French speaking people. The first that we know of was "la Societe de Bien faisance Saint Jean Baptiste de Waterville". It was founded on October 23, 1875.²¹⁰ The aim of this organization, which was solely for French Canadians, was to gather and establish funds to assist the sick members of the society, and in case of death, to help the widows and their children.²¹¹ This organization began with a membership of twenty-four.²¹² The officers were Moise Breton, president, Jean Rancourt, vice-president

210. Information gathered from original transcripts of the society's record books. In possession of Mr. Gustave Veilleux, actual recording secretary.

211. Ibid.

212. Ibid.

Louis Silime Marquis, recording secretary, and Henry Breton, treasurer.²¹³ By 1880, the society comprised about one hundred and forty-eight members.²¹⁴ This social group was always very active and influential. Some years later its name was changed to "La Societe Saint Jean Baptiste." In 1913, it had declined to seventy-three members with Mr. Jules Gamache as president.²¹⁵

The next French organization to appear in Waterville was "L'Union Lafayette", founded in 1890. By 1902, this society, which was a social and insurance order, wholly local, had a membership of two hundred and ninety. Among its presidents were Joseph Mathieu, Achille Joly, A. Pichette, Adelard Halde, Fred W. Clair, Abraham Reny, Peter D. Fortier and Gedeon Picher.²¹⁶ The society was dissolved around 1910.

On January 28, 1896, the Richelieu Lodge No. 4, was organized with thirty charter members. The membership reached sixty in 1902. Its successive presidents were Fred W. Clair, Gedeon Picher, Achille Joly, Joseph Bujreau, and Abraham Reny. ²¹⁷ This organization was also dissolved in the early 1900's.

213. Ibid.

214. Ibid.

215. Le Maine Francais, op. cit., p. 28.

216. Whittemore, op. cit., pp. 313-314.

217. Ibid.

During the year 1896, two new societies were established. The first was the Waterville Council, No. 148, Knights of Columbus. It was organized on February 9, 1896, with thirty-nine charter members. It is a social, fraternal and insurance order, supportin great Catholic movements throughout the nation. In 1902, the organization had sixty members.²¹⁸ Since the day of its establishment, the local council has had twenty two Grand Knights of French Canadian ancestry.²¹⁹ The society, which is one of the most powerful Catholic organizations nationally and locally, has a municipal membership of four hundred. The present grand knight is J. O. E. Noel Jr.²²⁰ The other social organization, which was founded in 1896, was the Foresters of America, who were represented in the city by two lodges. The ifrst, Court Canada, was organized among the French citizens with six charter members.²²¹ The second was Court America, No. 14. The former lodge later became known as the Catholic Order of Foresters. The chief ranger was Amable Lampron, vice chief ranger, Onezime Bolduc, ex-chief ranger, Emile Poirier.²²²

218. *Ibid.*, p. 315.

219. Information received from Mr. Denis Chamberlain, Recording Secretary of the Local Council, Waterville, Maine.

220. *Ibid.*

221. Whittemore, *op. cit.*, p. 315.

This organization today has a membership of about 125.²²³ The present chief ranger is Albert Bilodeau.²²⁴

On December 7, 1900, a group of men gathered at 8 West Temple Street and there founded branch No. 81 of "La Societe des Artisans Canadiens-Francais." At this assembly were Napoleon Lachance, organizer, Henri Roy, secretary-treasurer general, and J. E. Landry, acting secretary.²²⁵ At the December 8th meeting, the following were elected as officers: president, Dr. C. G. Rancourt, first vice-president, George Brillant, second vice-president, Joseph Poulin, secretary-treasurer, J.E. Landry, censors, Marjorique Shank and F. B. Poulin Com. ord., Alfred Marcoux and Octave Roberge, directors, William Normand, Charles Roy and Ambroise Denis.²²⁶ The society is a mutual insurance organization, exclusively French Catholic.²²⁷ This outfit whose name is today "La Societe des Artisans Francais", has a membership of 320 with

222. *Le Maine Francais*, op. cit., p. 29.

223. Information received from Mr. William Holmes, Waterville, Maine.

224. *Waterville City Directory*, 1951.

225. *Supplement au Reveil*, op. cit., p. 5.

226. *Ibid.*

227. *Ibid.*, p. 3.

Mrs. Alma M. Webb as acting president.²²⁸

In 1901, another insurance order, The Maccabees, was established. The French lodge of the order had a membership of fifty-two.²²⁹

Another French national organization created on a municipal basis in 1909 was "L'Union Saint Jean Baptiste d'Amerique, Conseil Charland."²³⁰ This society is a national mutual insurance association with its headquarters at Woonsocket, R. I. The original local officers of this group were: honorary president, Louis Breton, dean, Victor Robichaud, president, Arthur Daviau, vice-president, Emile Bourgoin, secretary, Dr. L.A. D'Argy, treasurer, Edgar Binette, perceptor, Joseph Hebert, auditor, Jules Gamache, master of ceremony, G. Bourgoin, and ordinator-commissary, Joseph A. Marquis.²³¹ The organization comprises some four hundred and fifty members today under the presidency of Henri Louis Cloutier.²³² Affiliated with the society in its early years were "L'Union Saint Joseph" and the "Conseil Francoise." The presidents of these two groups were respectively, Mr. Louis S. Marquis,

228. Waterville City Directory, 1951.

229. Whittemore, op. cit., p. 316.

230. Le Maine Francais, op. cit., p. 27.

231. Ibid.

232. Waterville City Directory, 1951.

and Mrs. John Berube.²³³

In 1911, still another French Association was created. It was "L'Association d'Espargnes de Waterville." The purpose of this organization was to encourage savings and economy, by the gathering and uniting of these to purchase property which would procure greater revenue. The membership was limited to fifty at first and no one could own more than one share. The founding officers were: president, Gedeon Picher, treasurer, Alfred A. Mathieu and secretary Leo S. Warren, directors, Arthur Daviau, Jules Gamache, Philippe Guite, W. P. Toulouse and Joseph Bourque.²³⁴ The Association was incorporated under State of Maine law on July 24, 1911.²³⁵ This society is still quite active today with a membership of 100. The present officials are: William P. Toulouse, president, Henry J. Collins, vice president, Napoleon Marcou, treasurer, Napoleon Emond, secretary, and five directors, Adelard Loubier, John Ayotte, Leo Poulin, Wilfred Binette, and Edward Poulin.²³⁶

In addition to their activity in these societies and associations, many French citizens participated in other local organizations of wider concern, among them the Elks, the Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis. The Benevolent

233. Le Maine Francais, op, cit., p. 29.

234. Ibid., p. 31.

235. Ibid.

236. Information received from Mr. William Toulouse, Waterville, Maine.

Protective Order of Elks is today largely composed of French citizens. The Exalted Ruler is Joseph Sirois.²³⁷

The Waterville citizens of French ancestry today are members of most every social group in the city, such as the Kennebec Bar Association, the New England Order of Protection, Veterans' Military Organizations, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.²³⁸ However, there are still several essentially French organizations exercising influence upon both the French and American population. Among the most prominent of these are "l'Assomption", a mutual insurance association comprising some 350 members,²³⁹ whose acting president is Mr. Anselme Desveaux; "L'Association d'Epargnes de Waterville," "L'Union Saint Jean Baptiste d'Amerique," the Realty Club, and the Exchange Club.

An activity in which the French citizens have performed well and have left an impressive record is in athletics. The early immigrants from Quebec were much interested in sports. These people found relaxation and pleasure in the new and strange games which they found in the new country.

237. Waterville City Directory, 1951.

238. Ibid.

239. Information received from Mr. Anselme Desveaux.

They had, of course, their own sports and amusements, but few were as physically demanding as the American sports. The French people, however, who are naturally robust, although generally shorter, soon caught up with the Yankee athletes and on many occasions not only matched their ability but even surpassed them.

Many older citizens still remember the equestrian feats of Mr. Alfred Langlois and his horse, 'Barber Boy', who more than once won trophies and honorable citations. Still more will recall the "Pilgrims", French baseball club of the early 1900's which fielded such star players as Walter Maheu, Henry Carey, and Carl Dubord. But the great names were still to come. In the years 1924 through 1927, the French population organized a football squad, called Notre Dame. It played and often won from semi professional teams, both from other parts of Maine and from out-of-state. The members of this grid aggregation were: Charles Maheu, Norman Picher, Harvey Violette, Armand Michaud, Antonio Roy, Antonio Paganucci, Romeo Bourgoin, Emile Pelletier, Raymond Roy, Armand Poulin, and Augustus Bourgoin. This last player was one of Waterville's outstanding athletes.

In checking the sport records of Waterville High School, we discover many French stars. The first of these appeared in 1896. He was Roderick, who excelled as a right half-back on the gridiron. The next year, Alfred Boucher

starred at right end. Another outstanding athlete, Raymond Labrec, became captain of the Panther football team in 1907. He was the first French player to hold this post. In 1912, he was appointed football coach at Waterville High School. Other names which are still remembered because of their athletic prowess in high school are: George Bourque, a full back who held a position on the regular team from 1909 to 1912; Ernest Poulin who was captain in 1921; Raoul 'Bob' Violette, who besides being one of Waterville High School's football stars, coached the team for some six years, played for Coburn Classical Academy and captained the Colby Mules in 1930; Alberoni Paganucci also was elected captain of the same college team in 1934; Wilfred Rancourt gained similar recognition at John Carroll from 1936 to 1940 for his football and hockey prowess; Romeo Lemieux, a phenomenal athlete, who besides brilliantly serving at the local high school, broke a record at Colby College by receiving twelve athletic letters. Then follows a whole series of young stars who in 1937 gave Waterville High School a championship football team. Among these we notice Robert Carey, Joseph 'Jumping Joe' Hachey and Robert LaFleur.

Hockey, which most recognize as the Canadian national sport, was introduced in Waterville by the Union Saint Jean Baptiste. This new sport was received with enthusiasm. It developed players of exceptional ability.

Such were Florian 'Biddie' Poulin, the most outstanding hockey goalie Waterville ever produced. 'Biddie' as everyone knew him, could certainly have found a berth in the Bruins or Canadiens line up had he been a few years younger. From 1926 to 1930, Waterville High School had four straight champion hockey teams. A few years later, Waterville boasted of an exceptional Notre Dame hockey sextet, containing such players as Roy, Rum, Ray, Lee and Arthur, Fortin, Wilfred Rancourt, and 'Biddie' Poulin.

The list of athletic stand outs of French parentage would be incomplete if mention was not made of such men as Allie Boucher, who played minor league baseball; John Boulanger, who received honorable mention on the All American team while at the University of New Hampshire; Romeo Paganucci, who while at Maryland in 1920, scored the winning touchdown against Yale, the powerhouse of the East, 14-13; Ray Lemieux who made the United States Olympic hockey team in 1932;²⁴⁰ and Lester Plourde, playing minor league baseball with Danville, Illinois, Class B team in the three I's League.²⁴¹

Another very important area of activity was that relating to the perpetuation of the French language.

240. The material for this sport dissertation was gathered by the author in collaboration with Mr. Leonard Cabana, Jr.

241. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Wednesday, April 2, 1952, p. 9.

This was mainly directed toward the establishment of French newspapers. In spite of tremendous odds this movement succeeded at times in securing a foothold and even in appearing to flourish. This, however, was but momentary success.

The pioneer French journalist in the city was M.A. Leger who, in association with E.O. Robinson, published the first issue of the Waterville Sentinel on December 1, 1880. This was the initial competition to the then existing Waterville Mail.²⁴²

In 1897, Waterville saw another French journal, a weekly publication, La Sentinelle. This paper, published by Dr. Avila O. Boulay, lasted but a year.²⁴³ In 1911 appeared another French weekly called La Revue.²⁴⁴ Its publisher was Alfred Langlois Jr.²⁴⁵ This was also a short lived endeavor.

Several other French publications appeared meanwhile. These were Le Maine Francais, a weekly product of the Elm City Publishing Co., and Le Reveil.

Neither succeeded and consequently disappeared after a short duration. On September 3, 1929, there appeared another French journal, La Franco Americain.

242. Whittemore, op.cit., p. 339

It is claimed that the first French newspaper was organized and published by a Mr. Campbell. There exists no proofs or records to support this. This supposition is maintained by Mr. Alfred Langlois and Mr. Napoleon Marcou who knew Mr. Campbell.

243. Belisle, op. cit., p. 175.

244. Ibid., p. 176

245. This was ascertained by Mr. Alfred Langlois Sr.

The editor of this new weekly was Mr. Jules Savarin. This publication met great difficulties at first but eventually surmounted them. It grew until it had members in Winslow, Fairfield, Oakland, Augusta, Winthrop, Lewiston, Auburn, Rumford, Biddeford, and Saco, and even in Aroostook County. The directors of Le Franco Americain, were Ernest Morissette, president, Napoleon Marcou, secretary, Jules Savarin, treasurer, Joseph Hebert, assistant treasurer, F. Harold Dubord, Napoleon Emond, Dr. Harvey Bourassa, Dr. R. T. Turcotte, Mrs. Wilhermine D'Argy, directors. The publication met with such success that it established its own printing shop at 13 Appleton Street.²⁴⁶ The journal, however, changed hands several times until it was discontinued in 1947.

In spite of such failures, some citizens still have hopes of reviving a French newspaper in the city. Such hopes are probably doomed to disappointment as the people of French Canadian Ancestry are gradually losing the knowledge of their tongue. Few today have any interest in reading French publications and still fewer purchase any.

There are today, as in earlier years, journalists, press agents and sports editors, among the French citizens. Among them is Eugene [Gene] Letourneau, who is a recognized and nationally known authority on hunting

²⁴⁶. Information gathered from the program of a French play, 'Trop d'Argent', published by the Franco Americain printing shop. The newspaper sponsored the "Cercel Dramatique et Musicale" on May 6, 1934, which presented this play.

and fishing. His syndicated column for the Guy Gannett Publishing Co. is a daily feature in the Waterville Morning Sentinel, and in many other newspapers throughout the country.

Another project designed to preserve the French language and traditions is the weekly radio program, entitled, "Melodies Francaises". This broadcast, sponsored by French firms of Waterville, was first heard over W.T.V.L. on February 2, 1947. Mr. Altheode [Al] Rancourt, the announcer and originator of this new French program was replaced on July 20, 1947 by Mr. Edgar Poulin, who still holds this post. The aim of this broadcast is to give to the French speaking people of the city and vicinity a half hour of radio entertainment in which their own local talents and the best in French and Canadian recordings are heard. Over 65 local artists and musical groups have appeared on this broadcast since its origin. Many invited guests such as Henri Marcoux, Lucille Despris, Edgar Goulette, and Hector Charland [Seraphin Poudrier], have also appeared on the program. In June, 1950, another French radio program "Varietes francaises" was inaugurated. Its goal was 'the survival of the French language'. Both of these are very active today and are much appreciated by the French population.²³²

232. Waterville Morning Sentinel, Wed. April 2, 1952, p. 9.

These are the fields in which the French citizens have contributed the most to the social and intellectual activities of the city. They are also active in many other social affairs such as dances, theatrical performances, concerts, sport shows, and parades. The French people are as a whole real participants and staunch supporters of all social activities.

CHAPTER IX MILITARY AND DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

The first French Canadians to fight in Maine came as leaders and members of raiding parties in the Indian Wars. During the War of Independence, Clement Gosselin, a young 'Quebecquois' who had enlisted in Montgomery's Army was made a prisoner by the British in 1778. After his liberation the same year he joined Washington's forces at White Plains. In 1780, Gosselin executed a dangerous and confidential mission in Canada, at the request of General Washington, going by way of Lake Champlain and returning through Maine. During this was some French Canadians were suspected by the British of corresponding with Arnold and to avoid arrest sought refuge in Maine. This may explain the tombstone found in the cemetery at Bucksport, whereon is recorded the burial of Joseph Bolduc, a veteran of the War of 1812.²³³

The reduction of Fort Sumter, April, 1861, roused the patriotism of the North. Maine as well as other states mustered its forces to resist the Confederacy. The President's call of April 15th, for 75,000 men was received

²³³. Information received from Monsignor P. Desjardins.

with wild enthusiasm. In Waterville, a recruiting office was opened in the office of Joshua Nye, then treasurer of the Androscoggin and Kennebec Railroad Company, on the second floor of the Hanscom block, corner of Elm and Main Streets.²³⁴ Another recruiting office was opened on the second floor of the Plaisted building to accommodate those who stepped forward to answer Governor Washburn's seconding of President Lincoln's summons.²³⁵ The men were formed into companies and began to drill in the streets of the town.

The recently arrived French Canadians were prompt in responding to the call of military service. Many were mustered into the service as members of Companies G and H of the Third Maine Infantry Volunteers. During the four years of struggle, Waterville furnished 525 soldiers,²³⁶ of whom at least 55 were French Canadians.²³⁷ The only French Canadian who is known to have lost his life in battle was Peter Roderick who died before Petersburg.²³⁸

Some recruiting was also carried on in French Canada, by agents who, for a price, duped young men to sign what they understood were labor contracts,

234. Information received from Monsignor P. Desjardins.

235. Ibid.

236. Ibid., p. 34.

237. Ibid., pp. 16, 33. A list of these may be found in Appendix F.

238. Ibid., p. 15.

but were found to be enlistment papers, once they reached the American side of the boundary. One such agent, a French Canadian himself, lived in Waterville and never dared visit his homeland for fear of vengeance.²³⁹

During the Spanish American War in 1898, Waterville citizens again proved their patriotic zeal by enlisting in large numbers. Altogether some twenty French boys stepped forward for this Ten Weeks' War.²⁴⁰ On a "Table Showing the Organization, Service and Strength of the United States Volunteers Authorized by the Act of March 2, 1899," published by the Adjutant General's office, October 1, 1901, appear the names of some nine French citizens from Waterville.²⁴¹ These men had seen service during the Phillippine Insurrection of 1899 which was an outgrowth of the Spanish American War.

World War I in 1917, was more demanding and disastrous than any war the United States had ever participated in. American expeditionary forces were at the front for many months and suffered heavy casualties. To this army, Waterville again furnished its share in number and in bravery.

239. Information received from Monsignor P. Desjardins.

240. Bang, *op. cit.*, pp. 70-71. These names can be found in Appendix F. From statistical exhibits published by the adjutant general's office, December 13, 1890.

241. *Ibid.*, p. 71.

An examination of service files of men who served as soldiers and sailors in this war, reveals one hundred and eight French names.²⁴² The first local war victim was a French boy, First Sergeant Arthur Castonguay. A monument and the City Square, known as "Castonguay Square" in down town Waterville, were dedicated to his memory on November 11, 1922.²⁴³ Lieutenant G. M. Bourque, another casualty, was the first French soldier from Waterville to become a commissioned officer. The American Legion of Waterville names their post, the Bourque Lanigan Post No. 5 in his honor. Also among the war heroes was Forest J. Pare who, likewise, was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars who dedicated their post, the Forest J. Pare Post, No. 1285, to him. Among tales of war heroism often repeated in the community are the exploits of Arthur Deblois. Mr. Deblois left Waterville early in the war to join the Canadian Army. While in the Canadian forces, he took part in every major battle in which the Canadian Army was involved. In recognition for his services beyond the call of duty, the French Government conferred its highest military honors on him. He thus became by far, the most decorated soldier in Waterville.

242. Names taken from personal files of the Reverend E.C. Whittemore, Waterville Historical Society Museum, Silver Street, Waterville, Maine.

243. Daily Kennebec Journal, Friday, August 11, 1922, p. 4.

World War II, which was much longer and more disastrous, saw approximately 2500 Waterville boys and girls serving in the armed forces. Well over fifty per cent of 1444 were of French ancestry.²⁴⁴ From this group there were many casualties and not a few heroes. The most reknowned of these were Captain Robert Carey whose feats at Enzio will long be remembered; Brandon Nadeau who died heroically in the Pacific, and after whom the local Marine post has been named; and Robert La Fleur, Air force Ace whose memory is perpetuated by the memorial Municipal Airport.

The same interest in America's military strength and prestige has increased today with the growing uncertainty of world conditions. The local National Guard, Co.I, which is formed mainly of French boys, is growing bigger and stronger. A Great many more French youths are also on active duty either at home or abroad. There are approximately two hundred and fifty of these.²⁴⁵ The French population is proud of Major Leonard Cabana, Jr. who is the Plans and Training Officer of Maine's 3rd. Battalion; Lieutenant Colonel Francis Breton of the Army Air Force and Captain Antonio Bolduc of the Unite States Army.

244. Names gathered from files owned by Mr. Paul Dundas, former mayor of Waterville, 11 Center Street, Waterville, Maine.

245. Information gathered from parish honor rolls.

CHAPTER X CONCLUSION

In the early 1800's, there was slow migratory movement from Lower Canada into the United States. The major causes for this flow of immigrants were first: Republic adjacent to the Canadian border, which offered economic opportunity, second: the existing colonial dissatisfaction or ethnic difficulties between the French Canadians and the British rulers, and third: the dismal economic outlook within Canada.

Most of Waterville's early French Canadian immigrants were led to this locality by one or all of these motives. They came a few at a time and some occasionally returned to their Canadian farms or villages. Several developments quickened the migration. The first was the building of the 'Kennebec Road' in 1830. Twenty-five years later, the construction of railroads made travel ever easier. Then came the Civil war in 1861 with its many offers of employment. However, it was the building of the cotton mills in 1874 and in 1882 that attracted the greatest number of French Canadian immigrants into Waterville.

These people, generally poor and largely illiterate, suffered many hardships. Many of these were common to industrial communities of the

Northeastern section of the United States in a period when laissez-faire was the prevailing philosophy. However, under the guidance of the church, parochial schools and national societies, some of the bitter edges were worn off and the social and economic status of these people was gradually improved.

The small French community soon developed into a flourishing 'French village'. There were professional men, doctors, lawyers and teachers besides an impressive group of men who without much formal education but plenty of initiative, attained marked success and recognition in business, industry and politics.

Such was the progress of the French Canadians in Waterville as well as throughout New England that in 1937, the late Jules Savarin, then editor of *Le Franco Americain* of Waterville boasted:

The monuments that they have elevated, the churches that they have built, the hospitals, the colleges, the convents, the orphanages that they have created, are tangible and perpetual evidence of the good they have done in the American community in the midst they live...At every step, the stranger that travels this vast territory finds trace of all the qualities that have made the genius of the race. The history of the majority of the industrial cities which is the glory of the American of the east, is a history truly French....Our people, people from our land, have contributed to a large part, the colonization of the soil, to the prosperity of New England centers, which is the pride of the American nation....From birth, baptism to death, our death, our forefathers have left in those old dusty scrawls, the proof of

their personality truly French by their names and by their actions.²⁴⁶

The same year, Mr. Adolphe Robert of Manchester, New Hampshire, added:

Our contribution to American civilization is spiritual, cultural, economic and numeric. A man is no less American because of his antecedents, but serves greatly to give color to our American life.²⁴⁷

While these two quotations probably exaggerate the contributions of the French Canadians, they do in a very large measure indicate the role that the immigrants have come to play in the life of such cities as Waterville, Lewiston, Biddeford and Worcester, Massachusetts.

In the course of this slow, gradual development, the French people have retained much of their basic culture but there have also been changes occasioned by constant association with Yankees. Today the French language is disappearing but there is still the same love of the Catholic Church, the parochial schools, and benevolent and social societies. Yet in many respects it is difficult to distinguish a French Canadian from a Yankee. Considering

246. *Le Franco Americain*, Waterville, Maine, Jan. 12, 1937, as cited by Edward Fecteau in *French Contributions to America*, Methuen, Mass., 1945, p. 290.

247. *The Evening Tribune*, Lawrence, Mass., May 9, 1937, as cited by Fecteau, *op. cit.*, p. 289.

the numeric superiority that the French population now holds in Waterville, it is possible to predict that within the next three or four generations, Waterville will be almost totally dominated by the French or better to say 'American French' element.

Parish Records, Saint Francis de Sales' Parish Rectory, 52 Elm Street, Waterville, Maine, 1952. Information gathered with the assistance of the Reverend E. Hevey, pastor.

Personal Correspondence of the Reverend J.J. Nycolin with His Excellency David N. Bacon, Bishop of Portland, January 11 to 18, 1859. In possession of Monsignor P. Desjardins, Westbrook, Maine.

Interviews:

Due to the scarcity and diffusion of materials, it was necessary to interview local French citizens. Among those interviewed were:

Mrs. Delia Cabana
Mr. Edward Rancourt
Mr. Alfred Bolduc
Mr. Napoleon Loubier
Mr. Eddy Cote
Mr. Wilfred Rancourt
Mr. F. Harold Dubord
Mr. Ephrem Maheu
Mr. Leonard Cabana, Jr.
Mr. Napoleon Marcou
Mr. Alfred Langlois
Mr. Edgar Poulin
Mrs. Celina Cabana
Mrs. Marie Anne Rancourt
Mr. Gustave Veilleux
Mr. O.J. Giguere
Mr. Denis Chamberlain

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APPENDIX A

Extracts from the Archives of Saint George de Beauce, Province of Quebec, Canada, 1841. The baptisms performed by Father Fortier on his visit to Waterville in that year.i

Baptised at Waterville, July 15-

Sophie Poulin, daughter of Gaspar Poulin and Hermine Poulin,
born July 22, 1839.

Baptised at Waterville, July 17-

Damase Lacombe, son of Andre and Josette Roy,
born October 9, 1839.

Henriette Lacombe, daughter of George Lacombe and Adelaide Thibodeau,
born Oct. 22, 1840.

Leandre Laliberte, son of Jean and Modeste Veilleux,
born July 25, 1841.

Sera Thibodeau, daughter of Alector and Basilisse Veilleux,
born January 2, 1840.

Jean Toulouse, daughter of Jean and Eulalie Veilleux,
born January 10, 1840.

George Lachance, son of Olivier and Marie Poulin,
born August 18, 1840.

George Poulin, son of Gaspard Poulin and Marie Poulin,
born March 28, 1841.

Angele Lachance, daughter of Sylvain and Marcelline Poulin,
born June 2, 1839.

Marie Poulin, daughter of Joseph and Theotiste Bolduc,
born February 25, 1839.

Anathalie Morin, daughter of Joseph and Rose Veilleux
born May 4, 1841.

Baptised at Waterville, July 18, 1841-

Henriette Desrochers, daughter of Michel and Mathilde Janvier,
born May 10, 1839.

Marie Julie Desrochers, daughter of Michel and Mathilde Janvier,
born April 19, 1841.

Augustin Boucher, son of Michel and Marcelline Thibodeau,
born November 20, 1840.

Marie Poire, daughter of James and Marie Latulippe,
born January 9, 1840.

Charles Desrochers, son of Pierre and Adelaide Call,
born March 5, 1836.

Daniels Desrochers, son of Pierre and Adelaide Call,
born June 14, 1838.

Marie Basilisse Boucher, daughter of Joseph and Delphine Rancourt,
born Nov 10, 1839.

Aurelie Rancourt, daughter of Joseph and Marie Gilbert,
born April 1, 1841.

Lucie Pare, daughter of Jacques and marie Mathieu,
born January 23, 1840.

George Rancourt, daughter of Abraham and Eulalie Mathieu,
born August 26, 1838.

Marie Rancourt, daughter of Abraham and Eulalie Mathieu,
born July 3, 1840.

Helene Dostie, daughter of David and Marguerite Pierre Jacques,
born Feb 15, 1841.

George Lachance, son of Sylvain and Marcelline Poulin,
born June 15, 1841.

i. This list is in possession of Reverend Monsignor P. Desjardins.

Baptisms performed by Reverend John Bapst S. J., one of the first missionary priests to visit Waterville.ii

Urbain Boucher, son of Urbain Boucher and Thalie Poulin,
December 19, 1852/

Charles Loubier, son of Georges Loubier and Rosalie Lessard,
December 19, 1852.

Lucie Rodrigue, daughter of Francis Rodrigue and Catherine Loubier,
Dec 19, 1852.

Delina Clerc [Clair], daughter of Joseph Clerc and Francoise Mercier,
Dec 20, 1852.

Mary Florence Rencour[Rancourt, daughter of Pierre Rancour[Rancourt] and Sophie Lachance,
born December 20, 1852

Pauline Fortin, daughter of Joseph Fortin and Thalie Hubert,
born December 20, 1852.

John Roy, son of John Roy and Sophie Poulin,
born March 20, 1853.

Moses Boucher, son of Joseph Boucher and Dometille Boucher,
born March 20, 1853.

John Mathieu, son of Moise Mathieu and Sophie Lachance,
born March 20, 1853.

John Poulin, son of Frederick Poulin and Delina Maheu,
born March 20, 1853.

Frederick Gagner, son of Frank Gagner and Marcelline Desrochers,
born March 20, 1853.

Vital Rodrigue, son of Vital Rodrigue and Angele Mathieu,
born March 20, 1853.

Sophie Poulin, daughter of Joe Poulin and Elizabeth Turcotte,
born March 20, 1853.

Sophie Dosty [Dostie], daughter of James Dosty and Irene Terrien,

born March 20, 1853.

Marie Celanie Rene, daughter of Elzear Rene and Marie Mathieu,
born March 20, 1853.

Ellen Leclerc, daughter of Philip Leclerc and Ellen Boulette,
born March 20, 1853.

Marie Lezeme Lessar [Lessard], daughter of Joseph Lessar and Dimitille Rancour,
born March 20, 1853.

John Roy, son of Sam Roy and Lalitte Labbe,
born March 21, 1853.

Samuel Fortin, son of Isaac Fortin and Esther Grondin,
born June 12, 1853.

Robert Fortin, son of Isaac Fortin and Esther Grondin,
born June 12, 1853.

Godfroy Dosty [Dostie], son of Godfroy Dosty and Esther Rancour,
born June 12, 1853.

David Nadeau, son of Joseph Nadeau and Marie Labbe,
born June 12, 1853.

Thomas Breton, son of Thomas Breton and Angele Gilbert,
born June 12, 1853.

Joseph Loubier, son of Joseph Loubier and Pauline Breard,
born September 25, 1853.

M Louise Poirier, daughter of Frank Poirier and Odele Rodrigue,
born September 25, 1853.

George Carry [Carey], son of John Carry and Mary Poulin,
born September 25, 1853.

Mary Roy, daughter of Moise Roy and Rosalie Rencour,
born September 25, 1853.

Elize Poulin, daughter of Xavier Pouin and Mary Lessar,
born September 25, 1853.

Louis Leblon, son of Ignace Leblon and Pauline Rodrigue,

born September 25, 1853.

Martin Tibodo [Thibodeau], son of Joseph Tibodo and Sophia Turcotte,
born Sept. 25, 1853.

Pauline Rencour [Rancourt], daughter of Louis Rencour and Catherine Vachon,
born Sept 25, 1853.

Cecile Poulin, daughter of John Poulin and Sophia Lacobe,
born September 25, 1853.

David Giroux, son of Frank Giroux and Sophia Poulin,
born Septembr 25, 1853.

Ellen Rencour [Rancourt], daughter of Abraham Rencour and Thalie Mathieu,
Born Sept. 25, 1853.

Clotine Morin, daughter of Joe Morin and Rose Veilleux,
born September 25, 1853.

Vital Bolduc, son of Bolduc and Mary Ody,
born September 25, 1853.

Marcel Rencour [Rancourt], son of Joseph Rencour and Mary Deroin,
born Dec 15, 1854.

Vital Cloutier, son of George Cloutier and Huart,
born January 15, 1854.

Sylvain Lachance, son of Sylvain Lachance and Marcelline Poulin,
born January 15, 1854.

Angele Allere [Allaire] daughter of Ignace Allere and Sophie Fortin,
born Jan. 15, 1854.

Marie Mathieu, daughter of Jean Mathieu and Cheotia Rencour
born January 15, 1854.

Charlie Cary [Carey], son of Joe Cary and Catherine Grondin.
born January 15, 1854.

Caroline Lacombe, daughter of George lacombe and Adelaide Tibodo,
born Jan. 15, 1854.

Marie Nadeau, daughter of Magloire Nadeau and Mary Morin,
born Jan 15, 1854.

Sophie Huard, daughter of Moses Huard and Mary Lessar,
born May 25, 1854.

Auguste Poulin. son of Xavier Poulin and Clotine Kirion,
born May 26, 1854.

William Roy, son of Leger Roy and Marie Gagnon,
born May 28, 1854.

James Collin, son of James Collin and Mary Miny,

born May 28, 1854.

Samuel Micotte, son of James Micotte and Ann Herbert,
born May 28, 1854.

Broderick, of George Broderick and Marcelline Veilleux,
born May 28, 1854.

Father Xavier Grondin, son of Merrith Grondin and Marie Bolduc,
born May 28, 1854.

Francis Lessar [Lessard], son of Francis Lessar and Rosalie Beulette,
born May 28, 1854.

Joseph Morin, son of Peter Morin and Cecile Lebon,
born May 28, 1854.

Henry Marcou, son of Michel Marcou and Adele Poulin,
born May 28, 1854.

Joseph Champagne, son of Joeph Champagne and Mary Rencour,
born May 28, 1854.

Charles Rene, son of Elzear Rene and Mary Mathieu,
born May 28, 1854.

Charles Mercier, son of Louis Mercir and Naflette Bolduc,
born May 28, 1854.

Rosalie Begin, daughter of M. Begin and Rosalie Lachance,
born May 28, 1854.

Mary Mathieu, daughter of Damase Mathieu and Pauline Veilleux,
born May 28, 1854.

Clotine Laliberte, daughter of Joseph Laliberte and Thalie Lachance,
born May 28, 1854.

Domitille Poulin, son of Ochivier Poulin and Sophie Poulin,
born May 28, 1854.

Mary Poulin, daughter of Charles Poulin and Pauline Marcou,
born May 28, 1854.

Joseph Veilleux, son of Peter Veilleux and Mary Lachance,
born May 28, 1854.

Pauline Veilleux, daughter of Peter Veilleux and Mary Lachance,
born May 28, 1854.

Mary B. Lessar [Lessard] daughter of Joseph Lessar and Domitille Rencour,

born May 28, 1854.

Sophie Rencour [Rancourt], daughter of Bernard Rencour and Ursule Carron,
born August 25, 1854.

Joseph Champagne, son of George Champagne and Julia Marcou,
born August 27, 1854.

Olivier Rencour[Rancourt], son of Charles Rencour and Soulange Lachance,
born Aug 27, 1854.

Merence Bolduc, son of Joseph Bolduc and Ladee lessar,
born August 27, 1854.

Marie Giroux, daughter of Peter Giroux and Sophie Veilleux,
born August 27, 1854.

Francis Kirion, son of Joe Kirion and Angele Lachance,
born August 27, 1854.

Elizabeth Morin, daughter of Louis Morin and Angele Toulouse,
born August 27, 1854.

Thalie Toulouse, daughter of [unknown father] and Thalie Toulouse,
born August, 27, 1854.

Michel Dosty, son of David Dosty and Marie Pierre Jacques,
born October 9, 1854.

Clotine Poulin, daughter of Gaspar Poulin and Mary Poulin,
born October 9, 1854.

Olivier Boulette, son of Olivier Boulette and Marguerette Motle,
born December 30, 1854.

Joseph Boucher, son of James Boucher and Mary Desrochers,
born May 3, 1855.

Mary D. Desrochers, daughter of Angele Desrochers,
born May 3, 1855.

Joseph Kirion, son of Gustin Kirion and Basilice Rencour,
born May 3, 1855.

Frantz Rencour, son of Maxime Rencour and Catherine Roderigue,
born May 6, 1855.

Joseph Giroux, son of Frantz Giroux and Sophie Poulin,
born May 6, 1855.

Olivier boucher, son of Peter Boucher and Sarah Vincent,
born May 6, 1855.

Mary E Doyon, daughter of Louis Doyon and Esther Toulouse,

born May 6, 1855.

Rosalie Champagne, daughter of Olivier Champagne and Mary Boucher,
1855

born May 6,

Fortinat D. Amele, son of Joseph Amele and Mary Bolduc,
born May 6, 1855.

Joseph Lachance, son of Joseph Lachance and Rosalie Mathieu,
born May 6 1855.

Marriages-

Michel Mercier and Mary Dosty, June 12, 1853.

Vede Veilleux and Angelene Gagner, June 12, 1853.

Marcel Rancour and Marie Droin, June 12, 1853.

Andre Vachon and Delphine Lachance, June 12, 1853.

Damase Mathieu and Perlin Veilleux, June 12, 1853.

Gaspar Veilleux and Florilee Veilleux, June 13, 1853.

Olivier Champagne and Mary Boucher, September 27, 1853.

Peter Giroux and Mary Poulin, September 28, 1853.

Joseph Perreon and Mary Rencour, May 28, 1853.

John Blair and Lucy Cloutier, December 30, 1854.

Joseph Lessar and Thalie Gagnon, May 6, 1855.

ii. Names gathered from Father John Bapst's diary. In possession of
Bangor, Maine.

Saint John's parish,

APPENDIX B

The pastors and priests that served in the Waterville Catholic parishes. iii

Saint Francis de Sales' Parish, 1874

Reverend L.A. L'Hiver,	pastor	1865
Reverend D.J. Halde	pastor	1870
Reverend N. Charland	pastor	1880
Reverend D.J. Martin	pastor	1923
Reverend J. Normand	pastor	1933
Reverend E.A. Hevey	pastor	1946
Reverend N.J. Desilet	Assistant	
Reverend J.D.S. de Carufel	"	
Reverend H. Gory	Assistant	
Reverend J.A. Kealy	"	
Reverend A. Lacroix	"	
Reverend L.J. Caisse	"	
Reverend J.M. Desilet	"	
Reverend J.O. Casavant	"	
Reverend L. Leduc	"	
Reverend T.B. Cunningham	"	
Reverend P.E. Roy	"	
Reverend J.E. Sellig	"	
Reverend J. Laferriere	"	
Reverend G.C. Chabot	"	
Reverend A.H. Gervais	"	
Reverend J.M. Le Guenec	"	
Reverend A. Laventure	"	
Reverend L.S. Nonorgues	"	
Reverend J.M. Cohem	"	
Reverend J. Kalen	"	
Reverend E. Cramillon	"	
Reverend H. Semery	"	
Reverend J.A. Fredette	"	
Reverend E. Grondin	"	
Reverend F. Martin	"	
Reverend J.W. Gelinas	"	
Reverend N. Pelletier	"	
Reverend L. Poliquin	"	
Reverend N. Cournoyer	"	
Reverend R. Corbeil	"	

Reverend R. Doiron	"
Reverend H. St Amand	"
Reverend R.J. Marcotte	"
Reverend E. Hache	"

Notre Dame Parish 1910

Reverend H. Gory	Pastor	1910
Reverend J. Drolet	Pastor	1914
Reverend J. Orioux	Pastor	1922
Reverend F.J. Carpentier	Pastor	1943
Reverend I. Pihan	Assistant	1910
Reverend D. Martin	"	1912
Reverend P. Buhner	"	1914
Reverend J. Normand	"	1915
Reverend A. Rene	"	1918
Reverend P. Hamel	"	1921
Reverend A. Anciaux	"	1923
Reverend W. Masse	"	1928
Reverend J.U. Corriveau	"	1929
Reverend J. Bouchard	"	1929
Reverend J.U. Thibodeau	"	1930
Reverend R. Doiron	"	1932
Reverend V. Lepine	"	1932-1941
Reverend A. Berard	"	1934
Reverend L. Melancon	"	1936
Reverend A. Girardin	"	1937
Reverend L. Ouellet	"	1939
Reverend R. Caouette	"	1939
Reverend P. Roberge	"	1941
Reverend L. Chaloux	"	1943
Reverend J. Allard	"	1946
Reverend W. Turcotte	"	1945
Reverend H. Carrier	"	1947
Reverend R. Courchesne	"	1947
Reverend G. Lemieux	"	1949
Reverend A. Gosselin	"	1951

Sacred Heart Parish 1905

Reverend J.E. Kealey	Pastor	1905
Reverend M.E. Curran	Pastor	1918
Reverend G.J. Pettit	Pastor	1933
Reverend J.T. Holohan	Pastor	1945
Reverend Edmund Murnane	Assistant	
Reverend Joannes F. Nelligan	"	
Reverend J. Louis A. Renaud	"	
Reverend Philippe J. Boivin	"	
Reverend John J. Finn	"	
Reverend F.M. Coholan		"
Reverend John M. Chatagnon	"	
Reverend Timothy J. Mahoney	"	
Reverend T.H. Moriarty		"
Reverend Ludger D. Ouellette	"	
Reverend Wm. J. Kobelbeck	"	
Reverend J.S. Cleede	Assistant	
Reverend J.M. Frawley		"
Reverend W.L. Ouellette		"
Reverend L. Boudin	"	
Reverend George E. Dandeneau		"
Reverend Lucien Chabot		"
Reverend Emilien E. Faucher	"	
Reverend R.A. Martineau		"
Reverend Joseph P. Seivigny	"	
Reverend Thomas Nelligan	"	
Reverend O.R. Guillet	"	
Reverend A.D. Long	"	

iii. These names were gathered from files in specified parish

rectories.

APPENDIX C

French Business Firms About 1900-iv

Grocery Stores-Management-

Aubrey, William	142 Water Stret
Belliveau Brothers	91 Water Street
Daviau, Arthur	79 Water Street
Gamache, Jules	3 Temple Street
Lacrosse, John	135 Water Street
Landry and Bashan [Beauchesnes]	191 Water Street
Libby, C.H. [Labbe]	105 Main Street
Maheu, Gedeon	19 Main Street
Maheu, Thomas	13 Main Street
Pelletier, O. J.	151 Water Street
Pomerleau, Charles	22 Ticonic Street
Marshall, Paul [Mercier]	Water Street
Darveau and Butler [Breton]	

Dry Good Dealers-

Blanchard, W. B.-Manufacture of Confectionery-	122 Main Street
Carey, Augustus - Foot wear-	107 Water Street
Cariveau, Joseph - Cigars and Tobacco-	11 Main Street
Carron, Mrs. Adele M.-Dressmaker-	11 Spring Street
Clair, E. E.-Shoes-	39 Main Street
Cyr, Marion-Millinery-	77 Water Street
Grondin, E. G.-Clothing-	28 Main Street
Lasselle, E. C. & Co.,-Boots and Shoes-	6 Maple Street
Lessar, Joseph-Trust, Cigars and Tobacco-	98 Water Street
Londare, Thomas, Fruit and Confectionery-	121 Water Street
Picher, Gedeon-Furniture-	8 Main Street
	Plumbing- Water Street
Vigue, Charles, -Fruit-	5 Main Street
Vigue, C.H.,-Harness and Carriage Company-	15 Silver Street
Pelletier, O.J.-Boots and Shoes-	151 Water Street
Marshall, Peter [Mercier]-Ladies' Garments and Dry Goods-	Water Street
	Later became Reny and Marshall
Ponsant, Arthur J.-Confectionery, fruit, cigars, Soda-Manufacture and Retailer of Ice Cream-	79 Water Street

Barbers-

Begin, Joseph, 25 Main Street
Blair, E.C., 170 Main Street
Giroux, J.P., 49 Main Street
Lessard & Breton, 15 Main Street
Lessar, Thonas, 96 Water Street
Londare, Napoleon, 123 Water Street
Pomerleau, Villon, 85 Main Street
Robichaud, Victor, 3 Main Street
Libby, Fred [Labbe], Water Street

Pharmacists-

Daviau, George, 71 Water Street
Fortier, Pierre, Waterville Drug Store, 35 Main Street

Contractor

Carey, Augustus

Undertaker

Vallee, Edmond, 37 Lockwood Street

Lunch Room

Butler, Charles [Breton], 25 Ticonic Street
Noel, Joseph, 81 Water Street

Painter

Raymond, John, 70 Temple Street

Blacksmiths

Lablanch, J.L., 25 Charles Street
Poulin, Omer, 46 Water Street

Carbonated Soda

Ponsant, Arthur J., 79 Water Street
Tardif, Joseph & Son, 116 Water Street

Hotel

Bolduc, Peter, Exchange Hotel, 23 Front Street

Business Firms Added Within Next 20 Years

Ponsant, Arthur, J., Bijou Theater, Water Street
Bourque, Joseph, Jeweler, 85 Water Street
Dubord & Brunelle, Men's Clothing, 69 Water Street
Was later taken over by
Dubord Brothers, Harold & Carl
Simpson & Lachance, Clothing, Common Street
Giguere, O.J., Clothing, 28-30 Main Street
Warren, Leo S., Jeweler and Optician, 43 Main Street
Bourgoin, Gilbert, Bakery, South End Bakery
Lessard, James, Barber, 149 Main Street
Gagne, W.G., Hardware Store, 19 Silver Street
Gauthier, James, Electrician, 70 Main Street
Cloutier Brothers, Specialty Store, 33 Main Street
DeGruchy Company, Ladies Apparel
Blanchard, Frank, Music Store, 15 Silver Street
Cyr, Alphonse, Fred, Contractor
Codere, A.A., Furniture Store, 50 Water Street
Landry, E.E., Oriental Flower Shop, 26 Common Street
Poulin, Adolphe, Furniture, 77-79-81 Temple Street
Poulin, George P., American Clothing Company, 36-38 Main Street
Poliquin, Lionel J., Jeweler, 39 Main Street
Beauchesne, Mrs Lucie F., Millinery, 65 Water Street
Casavant & Daviau Inc., Men's Clothing, 79 Water Street
Cloutier, Edmond A., Ladies' Wear, 55 Main Street
Pilotte, John, Variety Store
Ferland, Joseph, Drug Store, Livery Stable
Raymond, John, Paint Dealer, Interior Decorator
Poulin, Ernest, Insurance Agent, 65 Summer Street
Langlois, Charles, Insurance Agent, 6 Clark Street
Guite, P., Barber, Water Street

iv. The above information has been gathered from diverse sources.

a. A Business and Professional Manual of the Principal Cities and
State of Maine, 1st Edition, Boston, 1903.

Towns in the

b. Interview with Mr. Harold Dubord, Waterville, April 1952.

c. Le Maine Francais, op. cit.

d. Lawton and Burges, op. cit.

Enterprises under `French' management or ownership-1951.v

Accountants and Auditors

Dubord, Carl A., 44 Main Street
Rancourt, Albert, 16 Halde Street
Robichaud, Edmund J. 65 Temple Street

Ambulance Service

Emond's Funeral Home, 10 Elm Street
Veilleux's Funeral Home, 8 Elm Street

Apartment Buildings

Breton Apartments, 128 Kennebec Street
Giroux Apartments, 288 Main Street

Associations, Clubs and Societies

Assumption Society, Pres. Anselme Desveaux
Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, E. R. , Joseph Sirois
Catholic Order of Foresters, C.R., Albert Bilodeau
Kennebec Bar Association, Pres. F. Harold Dubord
Knights of Colubus, G.K., J.O.E. Noel Jr.
La Societe des Artisans Francais, Pres. Mrs. Alma M. Webb
L'Association d'Epargnes de Waterville, Pres. William P. Toulouse
L'Union Saint Jean Baptiste d'Amerique, Conseil Charland, President

Veterans Military Organizations

American Legion

Bourque Lanigan Post No.5
Commander Vincent Audet
George N. Bourque, Post No 5
Ladies' Auxiliary, Pres. Mrs Forestine J. Caron

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Forest J. Pare Post 1285
Commander Lawrence Brayall
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary No. 1285, Pres. Gloria Chamberlain

Automobile Accessories, Dealers, Garages and Repairers

Bechard Motor Co., 20 Charles Street
Bechard's Auto Salvage Co. , 31 High Street
Berard's Body Shop, 16 Kennebec Street
Drouin, Ernest Body Shop, Rideout, R. D. I.
Lacroix Garage, 11 1/2 Birch Street
Landry Fred, J., 203 Water Street
LeClair's Radiator Shop, 14 Water Street
Marcoux's Garage Inc., 93 College Avenue
Mathieu, David Co., 22 Front Street
Michaud Motor Mart, 200 College Avenue
Pelletier Motor, 208 College Avenue
Pelletiers Garage, 22 Water Street

Bakers

Bolduc Baking Co., 15 Veteran court

Barbers

Breard's Barber and Beauty Shop, 10 Silver Street
Caron, Philip, 53 Main Street
Dumont, Napoleon, 241A Main Street
Francoeur's Barber Shop, 623 Temple Street
Giguere, Joseph L, 146 Main Street
Giroux, Nelson E. m 37 Ticonic Street
Giroux's Barber Shop 113 1/2 Water Street

Huard's Barber Shop, 24 Water Street
Labbe, Harry H., 11 Brook Street
Laverdiere Adjutor, 42 Summer Street
Martel, Ernest O., 257 A Main Street
Mathieu, Omer, 183 Main Street
Nadeau, Erlon J., 5 Carrean Street
Ouellette's Barber Shop, 76 Temple Street
Poulin, Ulysses E., 162 Water Street
Poulin, William, 21 Ticonic Street
Rancourt's Barber Shop, 85 Water Street
Robichaud, Victor, 3 Main Street
Saucier, George, 39 Temple Street
Saint Armand's Barber Shop, 38 Temple Street

Beauty Parlors

Alice's Beauty shop, 34 Elm Street
Breard's Beauty Shop, 10 Silver Street
Caron's Beauty Parlor, 53 Main Street
Cote's Beauty Salon, 57 Silver Street
Dumont, Dorothy Normon Beauty Shop, 21 Maple Street
Giguere, Joseph L., 146 Main Street
Houle's, Juliette Beauty Shop, 6 Summer Street
Yvette and Louis, 18 Pleasant Street
Yvette's Beauty Shop, 28 Common Street

Billiards and Pocket Billiard

Bushey's Pool Room, 37 1/2 Ticonic Street
Poulin, Ulysses E., 162 Water Street
South End Pool Room, 87 Water Street

Blocks and Buildings

Picher Block, 88 Water Street
Pomerleau Block, 10 Main Street
Rancourt Block, 79 Water Street
Rancourt Building, 17 Silver Street

Carbonated Beverages

Elm City Bottling Co., 159 Water Street
Mayflower Beverage Co., 24 Oakland Road

Carpenters

Carey, Wilfred, 79 Grove Street
Loubier, Adelard, 68 Summer Street
Maheu Brothers, 34 Western Avenue
Morin, Arthur H., 8 1/2 Kelsey Street
Vigue, Philip J., 69 Grove Street

Cleaners and Dyers

Ferland's Tailors & Cleaners, 1 Foster Court
Grondin's Cleaners & Dyers, 7 1/2 Ticonic Street
Liberty Cleaners & Dyers, 17 Summer Street
Paradise Cleaners & Dyers, 13 Oak Street

Clothing Dealers [Women's and Misses']

Cardin's, 42 Main Street
Chi Rho Shoppe, 30 Common Street
Lashus, Jennie Mrs. 150 Main Street

Contractors [Building-General]

Bernier, Arthur J., 7 Elmwood Street
Carey, Alfred J., 114 Summer Street
Carey, Louis J., 104 Western Avenue
Carey, Peter, 9 Donald Street
Carey, Wilfred, 79 Grove Street
Cyr, Denico Co., Oakland Road
Cyr, Edgar & Co., 4 Heath Street
Gilbert, Romeo, 51 Ann Street
Lambert, Oakley C., 73 Yeaton Street
Lessard, John E., 40 Summer Street
Maheu Brothers, 34 Western Avenue
Marshall, Bedeon, 14 Ann Street
Paulette, Roger A., 49 Francis Street
Poulin, Charles F., 6 Gray Avenue

Rancourt, Francis C., 292 Main Street
Poulin, Lewis Adelard, 1 Poulin Place
Vigue, Philip P., 69 Grove Street
Violette, L.N. Co. Inc., 135 College Avenue

Dressmakers

Blanchard, Anita M., 17 Main Street
Tremblay, Irene M., 35 College Avenue

Druggists

Cyr's Waterville Drug Store, 35 Main Street
Daviau Pharmacy, 71 Water Street
Laverdiere's Drug Store, 177 Main Street
Red Cross Pharmacy, 1 Silver Street

Electrical Apparatus and Appliances

Drapeau's Electrical Appliances, 134 Main Street

Electrical Contractors

Butler, Edmond N., 5 Grove Street
Maheu, F. Neal, 19 Edgewood Avenue
Libby, Leo J., 88 College Avenue
Economy Electric Shop, 236 Water Street

Excavating

Pooler Brothers, 180 Water Street

Flooring

Campagner, David C., 27 Drummond Street
Grenier Flooring Co., 137 College Avenue

Florist

Flo's Greenhouses, 186 Silver Street
Yor Flower Shop, 10 Paris Street

Fuel and Range Oil

Michaud's, Donald R. Fuel Co., 18 Water Street

Funeral Directors-Funeral Homes

Emond, Napoleon J., 10 Elm Street

Veilleux, Gustave, 8 Elm Street

Furniture Dealer

Picher, Gedeon Co., 88 Water Street

Grading

Pooler Brothers, 188 Water Street

Grocers

Bouchard Bros. Grocery, 25 Summer Street

Breton's Market, 111 1/2 Western Avenue

Bushey's Variety Store, 15 1/2 Alden Street

Busque Market, 139 1/2 Western Avenue

Chick's Market, 8 Burleigh Street

Cote Cash Market, 35 Water Street

Cote's Groceries, 109 Water Street

Cote's Market, 10 Pine Street

Drouin's Market, Oakland Road

Gilbert, Frank Est., 5 Seavey Street

LeGendre, Arthur G., 164 College Avenue

Maheu, Ephrem, 159 Water Street

Omer's Market, 91 Water Street

Poissonier's Market, 57 1/2 Water Street

Pomerleau's, 2B Morrison Avenue

Pomerleau's Market, 2nd Rangeway

Pooler's Pine Tree Store, 26A Elm Street

Rancourt, Henry W., 81 Water Street

Summer Street Market, 48 Summer Street

Veilleux's Cash Market, 141-143 Water Street

Vigue, John B., 13 Sherwin Street

Heating and Ventilating Contractors

Fisher, James E., 82 North Street
Houle, Armand N., 14 Dalton Street

Hotels

Belvedere Hotel Inc., 43 Water Street
Crescent Hotel, 1 Main Street

Insurance

Hebert, J. E., Insurance Agency, 137 College Avenue
Marcou, Napoleon A., Insurance Agency, 179 Main Street

Interior Decorator

Bocquel, Auguste M., 173 Silver Street
Raymond

Jewelers

Bisson's Jewel Box, 183B Main Street
Picard Jewelry Store, 69 Water Street
Poliquise, Lionel J., 39 Main Street
Tardif Jewelers, 40 Main Street

Landscape Artist

Cote, David, 5 Clark Street

Linoleum Dealers

Grenier Flooring Co, 131 College Avenue
Kings Linoleum Center, 64 Temple Street

Meats and Provisions [Retail]

Baron's Market, 45 Water Street
Bolduc's Market, 35 Ticonic Street
Broadway Market, 172 College Avenue
Laverdiere's Red & White Market, 191 Water Street
Morissette's Market, Oakland Road
Pomerleau's, 2B Morrison Avenue
Rodrigue's Market, 31 Water Street

Vigue's Market, 18 1/2 Allen Street

Music Teachers

Caron, Irene I. [Piano], 47 Elm Street

Fortier, Leah [piano & violin] 20 School Street

Michaud, Alvin C., 69 Oakland Road

Musical Merchandise

Baraket, Joseph S., 21 Lockwood Street

Opticians and Optometrists

Dumont, Dolor B., 137 Main Street

Fortin, Fernand D., 50 Main Street

Painters and Decorators

Doyon, Cyril L., 34 Edgewood Avenue

Gamache, Lionel A., 22 Elm Street

Gurney, Walter, 5 Boutelle Avenue

Mercier, Leo P., 49 Water Street

Poulin, Eddie J., 146 Water Street

Roderick, Edward A., 221 Main Street

Roderick, Wilfrid J.A., 43 Silver Street

Soucier, Alfred, 21 Broad Street

Tardiff, John J., 93 Summer Street

York, Harold, J., 176 Water Street

Raymond, John, 70 Temple Street

Plumbers, Steam and Gas Fitters

Bushey, A.W. & Co., 23 Ash Street

Carey, A.W. & Co., 18 Silver Street

Fisher, James E., 82 North Street

Houle, Armand N., 14 Dalton Street

Picher, Gedeon co., 88 Water Street

Reny, Cyrile C. & Co., 45 King Street

Radio Sets, Repairing and Supplies

Drapeau's Electrical Appliances, 134-136 Main Street

Fortier Radio Shop, 83 College Avenue
Fortin's Radio Service, 1 S. Main Street
Huard's Radio Shop, 62A Temple Street

Real Estate

Bolduc, J. Eugene, 57 Water Street
Breard, Wallace Jr., 93 Main Street
Caron, Philip, 53 Main Street
Clukey Real Estate Co., 21 Western Avenue
Pooler, Stanley L. 146 College Avenue
Labbe, Harold A., 90 Main Street

Restaurants

Cote's Cafe, 113 Water Street
Crescent Hotel, 1 Main Street
Noel's Tap Room, 23 Silver Street
Roderick's Lunch, 76 Front Street
Zoe's Grill, 39 1/2 Water Street

Shoe Repairers

Loubier, John P., 79 Water Street
Vachon, Placide, 47 1/2 Water Street

Sign Painters

Tardiff, Eugene A., 85 Water Street

Stone Dealer

Gurney, Donald J., River Road

Tailor

Burgess, Harry B., 50 Main Street

Taxicab Service

Barney's Taxi, 18 Temple Street
Dave's Taxi, 73 Water Street
Gilbert's Taxi Service, 52 Temple Street

Giroux's Taxi, 228 Main Street
Roy's Taxi, 62B Temple Street
Vereran's Taxi, 105 Water Street

Theatre

Maine Theatre, 67 Water Street

Tourists Accomodations

Giroux, Josephat, 228 Main Street

Trucking and Teaming

Fleet Package Delivery, 28 High Street
Guay, Lionel L., 138 Water Street
Gurney, Donald J., River Road
Labelle, Alton S., Yeaton, R.D. 1
Labelle, Levi J., Yeaton Street
Languette, Arthur J., 57 Yeaton Street
Martin, Armand J., 109 College Avenue
Morissette, M.G. & Sons, 72 Elm Street
Pelotte, James, River Road
Roberge, Antonio, 20 Ticonic Street
Vashon, Frank, 11 Carrean Street

Upholsterers

Letourneau, Jules, 16 Gray Street
Poulin, Joseph E., 105 Water Street

Variety Stores

Giguere's Variety Store, 84 Water Street
Rancourt Variety, 94 College Avenue
Roy's Model Shop, 197A Main Street

Wood Dealers

Bolduc, J. Eugene, 57 Water Street
Rossignol, Antoine, 62 Oakland Road
Vigue, Emile, 11 Edgwood Street

v. Information gathered from the Waterville City Directory, 1950.
have brought it up to date.

Corrections

APPENDIX D

Bosses of French Canadian Ancestry in the Lockwood Duchess Today.vi

Wilfred Rancourt, Assistant Superintendent

Spinning Department

Herbert Maheu, Overseer
Rosaire Paradis, Second Hand
Sylvio Paradis, Second Hand
Adrien Paradis, Second Hand
William Chapais, Second Hand
Wilfred Rancourt Jr., Second Hand

Shop Department

Pierre Bilodeau, Second Hand

Carding Department

Thomas Michaud, Overseer
Arthur Jacques, Second Hand
Joseph Lachance, Second Hand
Edgar Letourneau, Second Hand

Cloth Room

Leo Gilbert, Second Hand

Slasher Department

Roland Violet, Second Hand

Yard

Daniel LaFleur, Overseer
Wilfred J. Rancourt, Second Hand

Weaving Department

Raymond Rancourt, Overseer
Ludger Bolduc, Second Hand

Edward Poulin, Second Hand
Albert Rancourt, Second Hand
Lucien Sirois, Second Hand
Albert Hallee, Second Hand
Adelard Paradis, Second Hand

vi. The information was given by Mr. Wilfred Rancourt, Assistant Superintendent at the Lockwood
Duchess Co., Waterville, Maine.

APPENDIX E

French Sounding Names Appearing on Payroll of Hollingsworth and Whitney, Weeks ending May 19, 1893,
year the plant was built.vii

Ambrose Denney [Dennis]
Edward Pooler [Poulin]
John Pooler Jr. [Poulin]
Joe Gilbore [Gilbert]
John Doucett [Doucette]
George Pooler [Poulin]
Joe Dechan [Deschenes]
Henry Nedo [Nadeau]
John Vigue [Veilleux]
S. Gaincy [Gagne]
John Giro [Giroux]
Chris Willette [Ouellette]
Joe Brosier [Brocher]
Syl Piper [Sylvain Poirier]
Vede Vallier [Vallere]
George Preo [Breard]
Charles Pooler [Poulin]
Frank Willett [Ouellette]
Paul Pooler [Poulin]
Joe Vallier [Balliere]
Marcelin Piper [Poirier]
Peter Yousse [Huard]
J. Lashus [Lachance]

A. Barney [Bernard]
L. Gainey [Gagne]
John Vigue [Veilleux]
Major Pooler [Marjorick Poulin]
Will Bushey [Boucher]
James Parent
Will Bushey [Boucher]
E Bushey [Boucher]
S. Morissette [Morissette]
L. Bourassa
Alex. Barney [Bernier]
Henri Barney [Bernier]
Geo. Marco [Marcou]
D.L. King [Roy]
E. Willette [Ouellette]
Fred Pooler [Poulin]
Paul Rosby
Fet. Willett {Ouellette]
E. Barney [Bernier]
Geo. Piper [Poirier]
Chas. Carineau
Gus. Carey
John Carey Sr.
John Carey Jr.
Jos. Carey
H. Pooler [Poulin]
John Pooler [Poulin]
M Ronco [Rancourt]
L. Moreau
F. Plante
Got. Pooler [Poulin]
B. Pooler [Poulin]

vii. Information gathered from the files of the Hollingsworth and Whitney
Pulp and Paper Mill. Assisted by Mr. Elmo Stevens.

APPENDIX F

French Canadians from Waterville who served in the Civil War or War of Rebellion. viii

John Blair, [Blais] Private, Co. G.
Wm. K. Barrett, Private Co. H
Daniel Butler [Breton], Private
Levi Bushey [Boucher Co. I
William Bushey [Boucher], Private, Co. C
Levi Cayouette, Private, Co. E
Joseph Cary, [Carey], Private, Co. A
Frank Dusty, [Dostie], Private, Co. I
Isaac Dubor [Dubord], Private, Co. A
Paulette Euarde, [Huard], Private, Co. A
Joseph Jero, [Giroux], Private
Moses King [Roy], Private
B.M. Libby, [Labbe], Private, Co. I
Alex. LaFontaine, Private, Co. H
Joseph Perry, [Pare], Private
James Perry, [Pare] Private, Co. G
Peter Pooler, [Poulin] Co. C
Joseph Pooler [Poulin], Private
Ephraim Pooler, [Poulin], Private, Co. E
Henry Pooler [Poulin], Private, Co. H
Joseph Pooler, [Poulin], Private, Co. E
Peter Roderick, Private
Joseph Ronco [Rancourt] Private, Co. K
Joseph Richards [Richard], Private Co. B
Abram Ronco [Rancourt], Private, Co. A
John Roderick, Private, Co. F
Joseph D. Simpson, [Sanssoucis/Bureau], Corporal Co. A
Martin Tallhouse [Toulouse], Private
John Bubier
Thomas Butler [Breton]
George Chase [Chase]
Charles H. Clukey [Cloutier]
Charles W. Derocher
Henry Derocher
James Dusty [Dostie]
Joseph Gerough [Giroux]

Paul Huard
John King [Roy]
Veidal Lachance
George Lashus [Lachance]
George Latlip [Latulippe]
Gott. Lubier [Loubier]
Joseph Marshall [Mercier]
Daniel E. Martin
Ezechiel Paige Jr. [Page]
Charles Perry [Pare]
David Perry [Pare]
Gott Pooler [Poulin]
George Pooler [Poulin]
Peter Preo [Preault]
Moses Ranco [Rancourt]
George Ranco [Rancourt]
Frank Ronco [Rancourt]
Lorenzo D. Roy
Levi Vigue [Veilleux]

viii. List gathered from General Isaac Bang's Military History of Waterville
Maine, pp. 16, 33.

Men of French Canadian Ancestry who participated in the
Spanish American War.ix

First Battalion Heavy Artillery

Barnaby, Alec.
Butler, Joe [Breton]
Cabana, Charles L.
Champagne, Mathias
Francoeur, Joseph
Greenwood, Arthur [Boisvert]
Latlip, Frank C. [Latulippe]
Lessor, Edward [Lessard]
Perry, Frank F. [Pare]
Pooler, David. B. [Poulin]
Pooler, Fred E. [Poulin]
Pooler, Harry [Poulin]
Soucier, Oneseme [Onezime]
Vigue, Joseph [Veilleux]
Volier, Joseph D. [Valliere]
Willette, Edward [Ouellette]

First Maine Infantry

Burgess, Fred E. [Bourque]
King, Joseph F. [Roy]
Pomerlow, Trefflin [Pomerleau]
Pooler, William J. [Poulin]

ix. Names gathered from General Isaac Bang's Military History of
Waterville, Maine, pp. 70-71

French soldiers from Waterville that served in the Philippine War.x

Burgess, [Bourque]
Butler, Melville [Breton]

Latlip, Fred [Latulippe]
Micue, John [Mathieu]
Micue, Joseph [Mathieu]
Pomerleau, Trefflie
Pooler, barney [Poulin]
Tallouse, Willie [Toulouse]

- x. Names gathered from General Isaac Bang's Military History of Waterville, Maine, p. 72.

Waterville Soldiers and Sailors of French Ancestry who served in
World War I.xi

Butler, Joseph H. [Breton]
Butler, Pearl G. [Breton]
Boulanger, Odina
Bernier, Edward
Bushey, James [Boucher]
Butler, Frank [Breton]
Butler, Perley [Breton]
Bourque, George
Bisson, Napoleon
Boulette, Treffe
Bourque, Albert
Cyr, Wilfred
Corriveau, Napoleon
Cormier, David
Carey, Henry
Carey, George
Carey, Arthur
Carey, Denis
Carey, Alfred Joseph
Chamberlain, Alfred
Carey, Eddie
Cyr, Hector
Clement, Albert
Castonguay, Arthur
Dulac, George
Dennis, Ambrose
Dutil, Ernest
Daviau, Arthur
Ducette, A.A.
Dostie, George
Giroux, Raymond
Gauthier, Edward H.
Giguere, Henry
Huard, Joseph
Joly, Cyril
King, Fred [Roy]
King, Walter [Roy]
King, Samuel [Roy]

King, Arthur [Roy]
Landry, Harold J.
Landry, Edward J.
Loubier, Philip
Lucier, Dustin S.
Lessor, Perley J. [Lessard]
Laroche, Andrew
Lessard, Lawrence
Labonte, Harold
Labrock, Fred
Lambert, Arthur
Laplante, Emile
Laplante, Anseline
Laplante, Philip
Lessard, Alfred
Lessard, Chester
Lapointe, Hector
Labrecque, Adeline
Lagueux, Val.F.
Lavoie, Archie
Labbe, Arthur
Lambert, Fred
Lebel, Ralph
Morissette, Ernest
Mathieu, Joseph
Mathieu, David
Mathieu, Joseph
Mercier, Harold
Moreau, Joseph
Nadeau, Edward
Page, Joseph
Pooler, Joseph F. [Poulin]
Pooler, Edward [Poulin]
Pooler, Frank, J. [Poulin]
Perry, Forest [Pare]
Pelletier, Henri
Pooler, Eddie [Poulin]
Provost, E.
Poirier, O.
Poulin, Leo J.
Proulx, Charles E.
Pooler, Eddie [Poulin]
Pooler, Ray H. [Poulin]

Pooler, Samuel [Poulin]
Quirion, Joseph
Roderick, Arthur
Roderick, Joseph A.
Roderick, Charles, E.
Ranco, John [Rancourt]
Reny, Arthur
Roux, Harry [Roulx]
Roy, Gideon
Roy, Edward
Rancourt, Raymond
Roy, Peter
Saucier, Robert
Saucier, Joseph
Savage, C. W.
Tardiff, Ralph M.
Thibeau, Henry
Tardiff, Eugene A.
Toulouse, Henry F.
Turcotte, R.F.
Tardiff, Edward
Vigue, Joseph [Veilleux]
Vigue, Lewis [Veilleux]
Vashon, Rosere
Vigue, Ernest [Veilleux]
Violette, Louis N.

- xi. List was taken from personal files of the Reverenc E.C. Whittemore.
Waterville Historical Society Museum, Silver Street, Waterville, Maine.

APPENDIX G

City Officials of French Canadian Ancestry since 1888,
year Waterville received its City Charter.xii

Mayors

1929 through 33, F. Harold Dubord
1951, Richard Dubord

Alderman

1891-92	Paul Marshall [Mercier]		Ward 6
1895	Abraham Reny	"	6
1895	Edward C. Lasselle	"	1
1896	Abraham Reny	"	7
1897	James C. Rancourt	"	7
1898-1901	Gedeon Picher	"	7
1902	Fred Boshan Jr.	"	7
1903	Fred Pooler	"	7
1904-05	Fred Boshan Jr.	"	7
1904-5-16-17-18			
	Arthur Daviau	"	6
1906	Aime Nedeau [Nadeau]	"	7
1906-07	Joseph E. Poulin	"	6
1907-19-20			
	Harry Belliveau	"	7
1908-09-10-11-17-18			
	Augustus Cary	"	7
1908-09-10			
	John L. Fortier	"	6
1912-12-14-15			
	Joseph Bourque, Jr.	"	7
1912-13	Joseph Beauchesne Jr.	"	7
1914-15	Edmund Cyr	"	7
1916	E.W. Lambert	"	7
1917	Henry Butler [Breton]	"	2
1918-19-20			
	George Simpson	"	4
1918-19-20			
	Fred H. Rose	"	5

1919-20-31-32	Fred E. Toulouse	"	6
1920	Robert Goudreau	"	1
1920-21	Eugene Butler [Breton]	"	2
1920	T.A. Fortier	"	3
1921-22	Roy L. Paage	"	5
1921-22-23	Arthur G. Picher	"	7
1921-22-23	Edgar E. Binette	"	6
1922	Ernest J. Marshall	"	3
1924-25	David P. Vigue [Veilleux]	"	1
1924-25	Peter E. Carey	"	7
1925	Arthur Bushey [Boucher]	"	2
1925	Albert E. Roy	"	6
1926	Gilbert Bourgoin	"	6
1926-27	J. Thomas Page Jr.	"	7
1928	Napoleon Loubier	"	7
1927-28	Joseph Michaud	"	6
1929-30-31	Ephrem Maheu	"	7
1931-32	Francis C. Rancourt	"	2
1932	Arthur Gamache	"	7
1933-34	James J. Butler	"	7
1934	Leo A. Daviau	Ward	6
1935	Lorando T. Tardiff	"	6
1935	Fred King [Roy]	"	7
1936	Fred Young [Dionne]	"	2
1936-37-38	Arthur J. Butler	"	6
1936	Holman Belliveau	"	7
1937-38	Bernard E. Rancourt	"	7
1939-40	Edmund Robichaud	"	6
1939-40-41	Joseph R. Poulin	"	7
1941	Joseph F. Bosse	"	6
1942	Warren F. Marcoux	"	5
1942-43	Arthur Baldic [Bolduc]	"	7
1943-44	Francis Gilbert	"	1
1943	Malcolm Fortier	"	6
1944	Horation Jolicoeur	"	6
1944	Edmund A. Morissette	"	7
1945	Augustus J. Carey	"	7

1945-46-47	Ernest Breton	"	6
1946-47-50-51	John L. Mathieu	"	6
1948-49-50-51	Arthur Butler	"	7
1948-49	Perley Castonguay	"	5

Councilmen

1889-90-93	Charles Bushey [Boucher]	"	6
1889-90-92	Paul Marshall [Mercier]	"	7
1889	M.L. Page	"	5
1891-92	Gedeon Picher	"	6
1893	Henry Dubord	"	7
1893-1906	Louis Marquis	"	1
1894	Andrew Dusty [Dostie]	"	6
1894	C. Edward Bolduc	"	7
1895-96-97	Joseph Darveau	"	2
1895-96	James C. Rancourt	"	7
1897	Philip C. Proulx	"	7
1897	J. Alfred Letourneau	"	7
1898-99	Gero. Vigue [Veilleux]	"	2
1898	John A. Vigue [Veilleux]	"	3
1899	Horace Clukey [Cloutier]	"	7
1899-1900	Octave Pelletier	"	7
1900-01	Henry Butler [Breton]	"	2
1900	Napoleon Loubier	"	7
1901	Joseph Boshan Jr.	"	7
1902	Moses Butler [Breton]	"	2
1902-03-04	William King [Roy]	"	7
1902	C.H. Libby [Labbe]	"	7
1903-04	Augustus Marshall	"	2
1903	Joseph P. Giroux	"	4
1903	Arthur Daviau	"	6
1904-05	Joseph E. Poulin	"	6
1904-05-06-07	Augustus Cary	"	7

1905	Joseph Butler [Breton]	"	2
1905	James Parent	"	7
1906	William R. Toulouse	"	4
1906-07	James Parent	"	6
1906-07	Thomas Lessor [Lessard]	"	7
1907	Charles H. Vigue	"	4
1908-09-10-11			
	Frank Langlois	"	6
1908-09	H.O. Fiset	"	7
1908-09	Gedeon Maheu	"	7
1910	Benjamin Pooler [Poulin]	"	7
1911	Fred J. Lachance	"	1
1911	Leonce A. Dumas	"	2
1911	Joseph Bourque	"	6
1911-13-16			
	Thomas Page	"	7
1911	George Tardif	"	7
1912-13	Adolphe Dutille	"	2
1912-13-14			
	Michel J. Morin	"	6
1912	James Lessard	"	7
1912	Jospeh Blais	"	7
1913-14	William P. Toulouse	Clerk	
1913	Armand Mathurin	"	4
1913	Edmund Cyr	"	7
1914-15	Andrew Ware [Roy]	"	1
1914-15	George Butler [Breton]	"	2
1914-16	Fred H. Rose	"	5
1914-15	Edward W. Lambert	"	7
1914	F. Harold Dubord	"	7
1914	F. Harold Dubord	Clerk	
1915	Charles Rodrigue	"	4
1915-16-17			
	C. E. Boldic [Bolduc]	"	5
1915-16-17-18-29-30			
	Fred Toulouse	"	6
1915-16	Charles F. Poulin	"	7
1916	Henry Butler [Breton]	"	2
1916	Wallace Roderick	"	2
1916	George Simpson[Sanssoucis/Bureau		4
1917-18	William Bourgoin	"	7
1917-18	Eugene Lachance	"	7
1918-19	Eugene Butler [Breton]	"	2

1918-19	T. A. Fortier	"	3	
1918	Peter Corron [Caron]	"	5	
1919	Alfred J. Pooler [Poulin]	"	1	
1919-20	Roy L. Page	"	5	
1919-20	Edgar Binette	"	6	
1919-20	Arthur G. Picher	"	7	
1919-20	Edward L. Rancourt	"	7	
1921	J.E. Fortier	"	1	
1921	Ernest J. Marshall	"	2	
1921	Joseph T. Boulette	"	6	
1921-22-23	Peter C. Carey	"	7	
1922-23	David Vigue	"	1	
1922-23	Ernest J. Breton	"	6	
1923-24	Arthur Bushey [Boucher]	"	2	
1923	George Pooler [Poulin]	"	4	
1923-24-25	Adolphe J. Poulin	"	4	
1923-24-25	J. Thomas Page Jr.	"	7	
1924-25-26	J. Auguste Marshall	"	2	
1924	O.J. Giguere	"	4	
1924-25	Vead Volier [Valliere]	"	5	
1924-25	James J. Butler [Breton]	"	6	
1924	Albert E. Roy	"	6	
1924-25	Gilbert Bourgoin	"	7	
1925-26	Joseph Michaud	"	7	
1926-27	George W. Perry [Pare]	"	4	
1926-27	Eugene Bolduc	"	6	
1926-27-28	George Maheu	"	7	
1926-27	Ferdinand Fortin	"	7	
1927	Alfred Butler [Breton]	"	2	
1927	Evariste Laplante	"	5	
1927-31	Ephrem Maheu	"	6	
1928	Raymond J. Reny	"	2	
1928-29	Ernest F. Poulin	"	7	
1929-30	Albert Genest	"	2	
1929-30	Rudolphe T. Turcotte	"	5	
1929-30	Edward Belliveau	"	7	
1930	Raoul Fecteau	"	6	
1930	Cyril C. Reny	"	7	
1931-32	Dominique Casavant	"	6	
1931	Arthur Gamache	"	7	
1932-33-34	Holman Belliveau	"	7	
1932-33	Arthur Butler [Breton]	"	6	
1933	Emile Butler [Breton]	"	6	

1933-34	Eugene Laverdiere Jr.	"	7	
1934-35	Frank Paquette	"	1	
1934	Lorando T. Tardif	"	"	6
1935	Charles Vigue [Veilleux]	"	1	
1935	J.O.E. Noel Jr.	"	6	
1935	Raymond A. Roy	"	"	6
1935	Emile Picher	"	7	
1935	Felix C. Landry	"	"	7
1936	Leo R. Veilleux	"	6	
1936	Charles Derocher	"	"	6
1936	Leonard Cabana	"	"	7
1936	Bernard E. Rancourt	"	7	
1937-38-39		"	"	6
	Ephrem Linteau			
1937-38	Joseph R. Poulin	"	"	7
1937 to 1949		"	7	
	F.Neal Maheu			
1939-40-41		"		
	Arthur Boldic [Bolduc]	"	7	
1940-41-42		"		
	Francis J. Gilbert	"	1	
1940-41	George Gamache	"	"	2
1940	Adelard J. Nadeau	"	"	4
1940-41	Warren F. Marcoux	"	"	5
1940-41	Leonel Rodrigue	"	"	6
1940	Edward W. Bernier	"	"	7
1941-42	J. Odilon Roy	"	6	
1941 to 1951		"		
	Omer Richard	"	7	
1942-43	Leonard W. Boucher	"	1	
1942	Malcolm Fortier	"	"	6
1942-43	Edmund A. Morissette	"	7	
1942 to 1945		"		
	Carl A. Landry	"	7	
1943	Horatio Jolicoeur	"	"	6
1943 to 1945		"		
	Omer Pellerin	"	6	
1944	Bernard Gilbert	"	2	
1944	Marcel Savarin	"	6	
1944-45	Norman Butler [Breton]	"	"	7
1945	Robert Drapeau	"	"	6
1946-47	Leavitt Pilon	"	2	
1946-47	Joseph P. Caron	"	"	4

1946	Harry J. Bernard	"	5
1946-47	Oliva Peter Cote	"	6
1946	Henry Moses	"	6
1946	Wardell A. Rancourt	"	7
1946	Leon R. Pilon	"	7
1947	Antonio Garrant	"	3
1947	Charles Clikey [Cloutier]	"	5
1947	Emileo P. Bulger	"	7
1948-49	Lucien J. Lacroix	"	2
1948-49	Fernand D. Fortin	"	6
1948-49	Romeo J. Roy	"	6
1948-49	Elmer Bizier	"	7
1950-51	Alfred Morin	"	5
1950-51	David Daviau	"	5
1950-51	Luke Lacombe	"	6
1950-51	Leo Charland	"	6
1950-51	David Cote	"	7

Board of Education

1898	Fred Pooler [Poulin]
1899-1900	Abraham Reny
1902-11 to 17-27-29	Harry Belliveau
1908-11	George A. Daviau
1912 to 1920	Alfred A. Mathieu
1918 to 1926	F. Harold Dubord
1921-22-23	James E. Poulin
1924 to 1929	Alice Morin
1930-35	Wallie J. Rancourt
1936 to 1941	Arthur L. Reny
1936 to 1941	Thomas Page Jr.
1939-40	Cyril M. Joly
1942 to 1947	Edmond J. Robichaud

1942 to 1947

Dominique Casabant

1948 to 1951

Jerome G. Daviau

1948 to 1951

Dr. James E. Poulin

Wardens

1889	Joseph Mathieu		Ward 6
1890	Gedeon Picher	"	6
1893-94	George Vigue [Veilleux]	"	1
1893	L. Albert Lashus[Lachance]	"	6
1895-97	Thomas Huard	"	2
1895-98-99	Edward Belliveau	"	7
1896	Frank H. Lessor [Lessard]	"	7
1897	Aime Nedeau	"	7
1900	Ernest J. Marshall [Mercier]	"	2
1900-04	Henry Mathieu	"	7
1901-03	George H. Grondin	"	1
1905	Frank Langlois	"	6
1905-07	Edward Begin	"	7
1906-26-27-30	Joseph T. Boulette	"	6
1907	Henry A. Marshall [Mericer]	"	6
1907	Fred Roderick	"	2
1908	Joseph Dusty [Dostie]	"	1
1913-15	Joseph Soucier	"	4
1913	Henry Bourque	"	6
1913	Gedeon Maheu	"	7
1914	Fred E. Toulouse	"	6
1914-15-17 to 1925	Thomas Page Jr.	"	7
1915-17	Arthur J. Marcoux	"	6
1916	Israel B. Clair	"	7
1918-19	Charles Vigue [Veilleux]	"	1
1919	Wallace C. Roderick	"	3
1919 to 1921	Ernest J. Breton	"	6
1921-22	Allie Vigue [Veilleux]	"	1
1922-23	James Butler [Breton]	"	6
1924-25	Rudolph H. Cote	"	1
1924 to 1926	Nelsis Gurnery [Gagne]	"	2
1924-26 to 1943	Alfred Butler [Breton]	"	6
1926 to 30	Otis H. Sinclair	"	1
1928	Eddie T. Lebrun	"	7
1929	Eugene A. Tardif	"	7
1931-32-43 to 1946	Napoleon Loubier	"	7
1933 to 1935	Wilbur Pooler [Poulin]	"	1

1933	Albert Genest	"	2	
1933	Raymond L. Giroux	"	"	4
1933 to 1935	William Ruel	"	7	
1936	Ralph Tardif	"	7	
1937-38	Maurice E. Nadeau	"	"	7
1939	Arthur B. Carey	"	"	7
1940-41	Charles B. Fecteau	"	1	
1940-41	Joseph E. Gallant	"	"	2
1940-41	Peter E. Carey	"	7	
1942	Lucien H. Fortin	"	"	7
1944	Herman E. Poulin	"	"	2
1944-45	Perley J. Butler [Breton]	"	5	
1944	Charles Derocher	"	"	6
1945	Edward E. Toulouse	"	3	
1947	Albert Poulin	"	7	
1948-49	Luke M. Lacombe	"	"	6
1948 to 1951	Harry Lebrun	"	7	
1940-51	Rudolphe Moreau	"	"	6

Ward Clerks

1889-92	George Grondin		Ward	1
1889	Gedeon Picher	"	6	
1889	Frank Lessor [Lessard]	"	"	7
1890-92	Jules Gamache	"	2	
1891-92	L. Albert Lashus [Lachance]	"	6	
1893	Israel B. Clair	"	3	1893
Napoleon Loubier	"	6	1893	Charles F.
Bashier	"	7	1894	William Bushey [Boucher]
1894	Christopher Coro [Caron]	"	6	
1895-96	Henry Butler [Breton]	"	2	
1896	Arthur J. Marcoux	"	"	7
1897	Edward Belliveau	"	"	7
1898	Fred Bushey [Boucher]	"	2	
1898-1904	Charles Z. Bazier	"	"	7
1899	Napoleon Marquis	"	"	2
1899	Charles Preo	"	6	
1900-01	Joseph Lashus [Lachance]	"	1	
1900-02	Charles Butler [Breton]	"	6	
1901	Ernest Marshall [Mercier]	"	2	
1902	Joseph Durette Jr.	"	2	

	1903-05-07	C. Alfred Bushey [Boucher]	"	1	
	1903-04-06	Fred J. Joler [Jolin]	"	2	
	1903-05	Charles Dusty [Dostie]	"	6	1905-
07-13-15-19-20					
		Joseph T. Tardif	"	7	
	1906	Henry Burke [Bourque]	"	6	
	1907-13 to 1923				
		Alfred Butler [Breton]	"	6	
	1908	Alfred Pelletier	"	6	1908
	William E. King [Roy]	" 7	1912		Dave C. Campagna
	" 2	1914			Charles W. Chase J. " 4
	1914	Frank A. Maheu	"	7	1915
	Albert Roderick		"	2	
	1916-17	Cyril Joly	"	2	1916
	Harry King [Roy]		"	7	1917
King [Roy]		" 7	1918		George H. Tardif
	" 7				
	1919	Alfred H. Butler [Breton]	"	2	1920-21
Michel J. Morin		" 6	1921 to 1925-28		Edward E. Carey
	" 7	1921-22			R.F. Raymond " 1
1924		Thurman J. Collins	"	1	1924-25
Ernest W. Dutil		" 6	1926-27		Sadie D. Robitaille
	" 7	1929 to 1931			Sadie Pelletier " 7
31		Arthur Butler [Breton]	"	6	1932 to 1940
	" 6	1932 to 1944			Mary Jane Picard " 7
	1936 to 1939	Iva B. Michaud	"	7	1937-38
John Burges Jr. [Bolduc]		" 3	1939		Roland Vigue [Veilleux]
	" 2	1941 to 1943			Eva M Breton " 6
1942-43		Herman E. Poulin	"	2	
1942		Helen Marcoux	"	5	
1943		Ursula Marcoux	"	5	
1944		Arthur St Peter [Pierre]	"	1	
1944		Jeannette Doiron	"	6	
1945 to 1947		Desneiges Soucier	"	6	
1945 to 1951		Mary Bouley	"	7	
1947		Anselme Desveaux	"	7	
1948 to 1951		Mabel Poirier	"	5	
1948-49		Leona D. Mathieu	"	6	
1950-51		Carmen Maheu	"	6	

Constables

1889-1892	Thomas Butler [Breton]		Ward	1
1890-95	Napoleon Roderick		"	2
1890	Charles Ronco [Rancourt]	"	7	
1891-92	Laurent Gauthier		"	6
1893	Augustus Marshall [Mercier]	"	1	
1893-94	George H. Simpson [Sanssoucis]"		3	
1893	Thomas Page		"	6
1893	Fred Libby [Labbe]	"	7	
1894	Charles Butler [Breton]	"	7	
1894	Joseph Libby [Labbe]	"	7	
1895	Nelson Langlois		"	3
1896	Charles Bushey [Boucher]	"	2	
1896	Daniel Libby [Labbe]	"	4	
1896	Frank Lessor [Lessard]		"	7
1897	Charles Dusty [Dostie]	"	7	
1898-99	George Simpson [Sansoucis]	"	2	
1898	John Pooler [Poulin]	"	7	
1899-1900	J. Alfred Letourneau	"	7	
1900-02	George Simpson[Sansoucis]	"	1	
1900	Anne Nadeau		"	2
1901	George Reny		"	1
1901	George Martin	"	6	
1901	Laurent Gauthier		"	7
1902-07	Philip C. Proulx		"	7
1903	Simeon Brilliard		"	1
1903	Joseph E. Poulin		"	6
1904	David Thibodeau		"	6
1905-08 to 24	George Simpson [Sansoucis]	"	6	
1906-07	Charles Rodrigue		"	4
1908-15	Fred Pooler [Poulin]	"	7	
1913	Gedeon Picher	"	7	
1914-15	Alfred F. Baldic [Bolduc]	"	2	
1914-18-24-25	Gedeon Maheu Jr.		"	7
1916	William Bushey [Boucher]	"	2	
1916	James T. Cote	"	7	
1917	Albert Poulin	"	7	
1918-27	Louis J. Rancourt		"	1
1919	A.F. Vigue [Veilleux]	"	1	
1920-21	Aquila Bushey [Boucher]		"	2
1921-22	James Coro [Caron]	"	1	
1922	John L. Mathieu		"	7
1922 to 24	Henry F. Roderick		"	2
1923-24-27-28	Desire Dallaire	"	6	

1923-31	Edward W. Lambert		"	7
1925-26	George Simpson [Sansoucis]	"	4	
1925-26	Charles Beauchesne	"	6	
1926	Wallace J. Breard		"	7
1928	Arthur F. Boulette	"	7	
1929	Arthur Butler [Breton]	"	6	
1929 to 32	William Ruel	"	7	
1930	Michael J. Morin		"	6
1931	Samuel S. Pooler [Poulin]	"	1	
1932	Dave C. Campagner		"	1
1932-36	Donat Michaud	"	6	
1933	Alfred Fortin	"	6	
1933-34	Edward LeBrien	"	7	
1934	Raymond Roy	"	6	
1935	George Simpson [Sansoucis]	"	6	
1935	Philip M. Giguere	"	7	
1936 to 39	F. Earl Butler [Breton]	"	2	
1936	Alex Vashon	"	7	
1937 to 39	Lionel J. Giguere	"	6	
1937 to 39	Rock Nadeau	"	7	
1940-42	Napoleon Bizier	"	1	
1940-43	Charles Butler [Breton]	"	6	
1940 to 46	J.F. Boulette	"	7	
1941	Joseph Doyon	"	2	
1942	Raymond Pooler [Poulin]	"	2	
1944	Alfred P. Butler [Breton]	"	6	
1945-46	Edward Morin	"	1	
1945 to 51	Elmer Cote	"	2	
1945 to 47	Simeon Martin	"	6	
1947 to 51	Anselme Desveaux	"	7	
1948-49	Noble Breton	"	6	
1950-51	Wallie J. Rancourt	"	5	
1950-51	Joseph Simpson [Sansoucis]	"	6	

City Clerks

1891-93-1901-03-04-06-07	Fred W. Clair
1916-17-19-20	J.A. Letourneau
1921	F. Harold Dubord
1934	Carl A. Dubord
1940 to 44	Jerome G. Daviau

City Treasurer

1922 to 45

F. Harold Dubord

1940 to 43

Edward H. Belliveau

1944

Carl A. Dubord