



Pierre Henri Coutu (1862) Marie Catherine Lagimodiere (1862)

Pierre Henri Coutu was born in Berthier, Quebec on November 27th, 1836. In 1861 he came to Winnipeg and got employment at Mrs. Campbell's butcher shop. On July 22nd, 1862 he married Marie Catherine Lagimodiere. In 1864 he bought the business and operated it till 1872. It was situated where the Winnipeg City Hall is today.

After he sold out he took up homesteading at Lorette, Manitoba. He was one of the first councillors for the municipality of Tache. In 1884 he moved his family and stock north to St. Laurent where there was an abundance of pasture and hay land on the east side of Lake Manitoba. There he started a dairy farm and bought extra milk from the local farmers, processed it into cheese and hauled it to market in Winnipeg weekly with a team of oxen.

Marie Catherine died and was buried in Neche, North Dakota in 1893. Pierre Henri passed away in 1910 in St. Laurent, Manitoba.

Most of their descendants settled in the surrounding area and had a prosperous living, farming and ranching in the summer and fishing on Lake Manitoba during the winter season.

Their son Alexandre built the first hotel in St. Laurent and operated it till his retirement. Victor moved to New Westminster, B.C. at an early age and worked in the lumber mills and later farmed in Fort St. John, B.C.

Elzear spent a few years at Neche, North Dakota and later farmed in Spalding, Saskatchewan where he retired.

Paul Albert took up homesteading in Brossseau, Alberta in 1905. He retired in St. Paul, Alberta. As you can see by the list below Pierre Henri and Marie Catherine have over 1200 descendants who can be found in almost any part of Canada today.

GOUTU

Cottu de la Valtrie was born at St. Clou d'Amienne, France in 1619. He married Marguerite Patou at St. Clou d'Amienne, France in 1648.

Their son Francois Cottu was born at St. Clou d'Amienne, France in 1651. He married Louise Lesierge, daughter of Pierre Lesierge in 1691 at Berthier, Quebec.

Their son Daniel Cottu was born in 1718 at Berthier, Quebec. He married Francoise Fleury in 1738 at Berthier. He died on January 21st, 1790. Francoise died on July 15th, 1798 and was buried at Berthier, Quebec. (Note change of surname after he came to Canada).

Their son Daniel Cottu was born at Berthier, Quebec on December 23rd, 1767. He married Marie Louise Massicotte at Berthier, Quebec on May 25th, 1792.

Their son Daniel Cottu Jr. was born at Berthier, Quebec. He married Adelaide Bernard, daughter of Charles Bernard and Genevieve Morisson on May 17th, 1833 at Berthier, Quebec.

Their son Pierre Henri Coutu married Marie Catherine Lagimodiere, daughter of Romain Lagimodiere (above). They had 20 children. See list below:

LAGIMODIERE

Noel Lecompte de la Virmaudiere was born at Normandie, France in 1635. He married Francoise Letellier in 1659. He died on February 19th, 1703.

Their son Samuel was born at St. Lo Normandie, France in 1667. He married Jeanne Jeremie at St. Nicolas, Quebec on July 22nd, 1705. He had immigrated to Canada in 1688. He died at St. Nicolas, Quebec on June 30th, 1715.

Their son Joseph Lagimodiere was born on May 21st, 1707 at St. Nicolas. He married Madeleine Jacque at Charlebourg, Quebec on February 20th, 1730. He died on August 24th, 1756 at St. Antoine, Quebec. (Note change of surname).

Their son Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere was born on June 13th, 1740. He married Josephette Jarret Beauregard at St. Antoine sur la Richelieu, Quebec. She died on November 13th, 1788. He died on August 17th, 1821 at Maskinonge, Quebec.

Their son Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere Jr. was born on December 26th, 1778 at Three Rivers, Quebec. He married Marie Ann Gaboury on April 21st, 1806. He died on September 7th, 1855. Marie Ann died on December 14th, 1875 at St. Boniface, Manitoba at the ripe old age of 95.

Their son Romain was born on January 11th, 1818 at St. Boniface, Manitoba. He married Marie Vaudry in 1841. He died on March 14th, 1905.

After Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere married Marie Ann Gaboury in Quebec they left on the most adventurous honeymoon in Canadian history. They traveled thousands of miles by canoe to Fort Pembina in southern Manitoba. There on January 6th, 1807 in a small hut Marie Ann gave birth to Riene the first white child born in Western Canada. In May, 1807 they traveled to Fort Edmonton where they spent the winter. The following year on a hunting trip southeast of the fort she gave birth to the first white baby boy born in Alberta. They named him Jean Baptiste Jr. Two years later on a trip to southern Alberta, Josette was born, the first white girl born in Alberta.

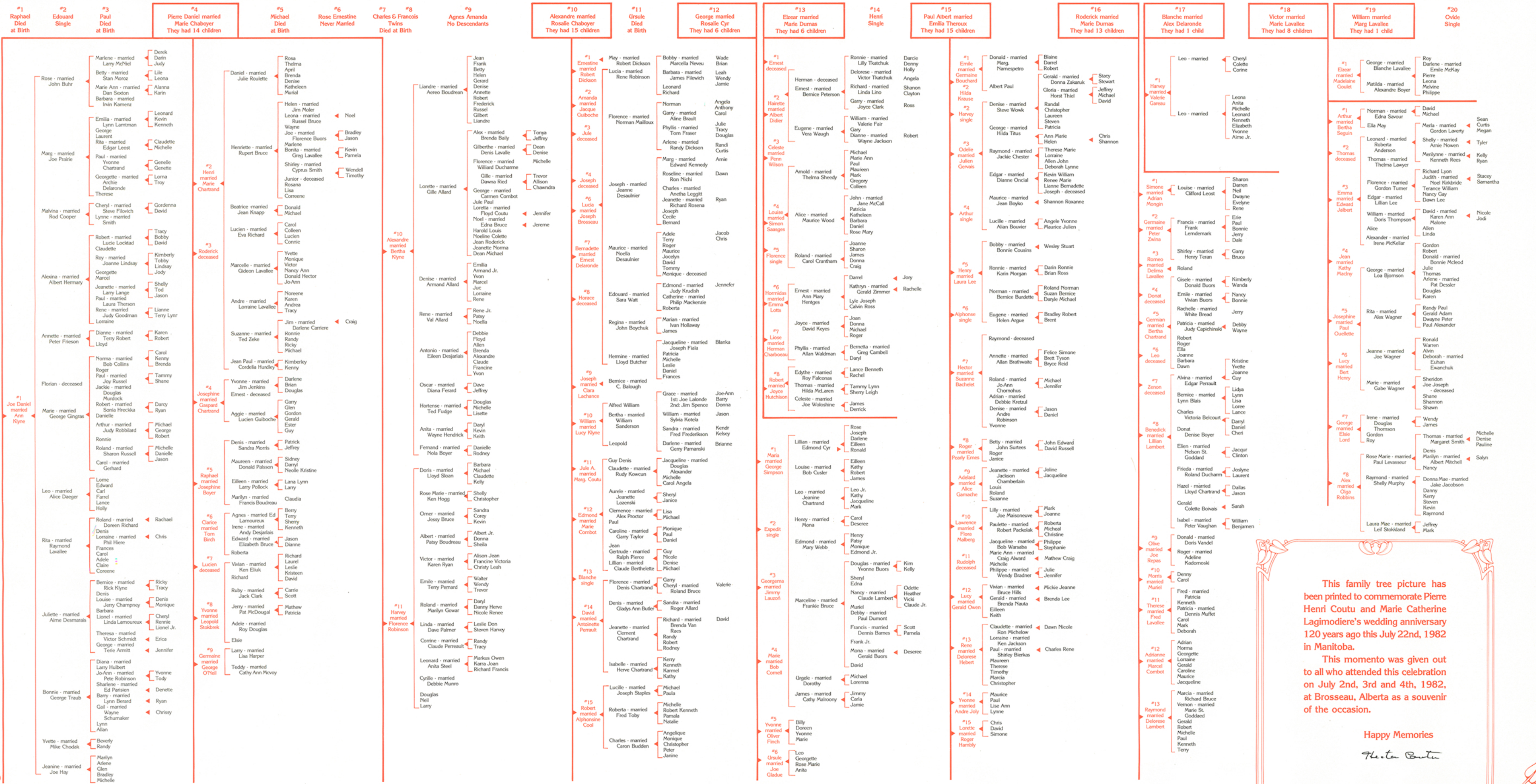
In the spring of 1811 they returned to Manitoba. A few days after their arrival their 4th child Benjamin was born. Their 5th child Pauline was born in 1813. In 1818 their 6th child Romain was born. In 1841 he married Marie Vaudry. Their daughter Marie Catherine married Pierre Henri Coutu. (See list below). Marie Ann's 7th child Julie was born on August 26th, 1820 and married Louis Riel Sr. They had a son Louis Jr. who was executed in Regina for the part he played in defending the Metis cause in the west.

Marie Ann gave birth to her 8th and last child Joseph in 1825. Despite her hard life she saved all her children and brought them in this world all by herself without the help of a doctor or midwife. She brought up her family to be honest men and women, the roots of our civilization in the west. Jean Baptiste spent his life as a trapper, hunter, voyageur and as a farmer on land donated to him by Lord Selkirk as part payment for his historical 1800 mile walk from Winnipeg to Montreal to deliver secret letters in the winter of 1817-18. He was the first to legally own land in the west.

For more information on this history making couple, read the book "Lagimodiere and their descendants" by Hector Coutu.



Jean Baptiste and Marie Ann, the first white woman in Western Canada, being greeted by the Indians on their arrival at Fort William in 1806.



This family tree picture has been printed to commemorate Pierre Henri Coutu and Marie Catherine Lagimodiere's wedding anniversary 120 years ago this July 22nd, 1982 in Manitoba.

This momento was given out to all who attended this celebration on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1982, at Brossseau, Alberta as a souvenir of the occasion.

Happy Memories

Hector Coutu