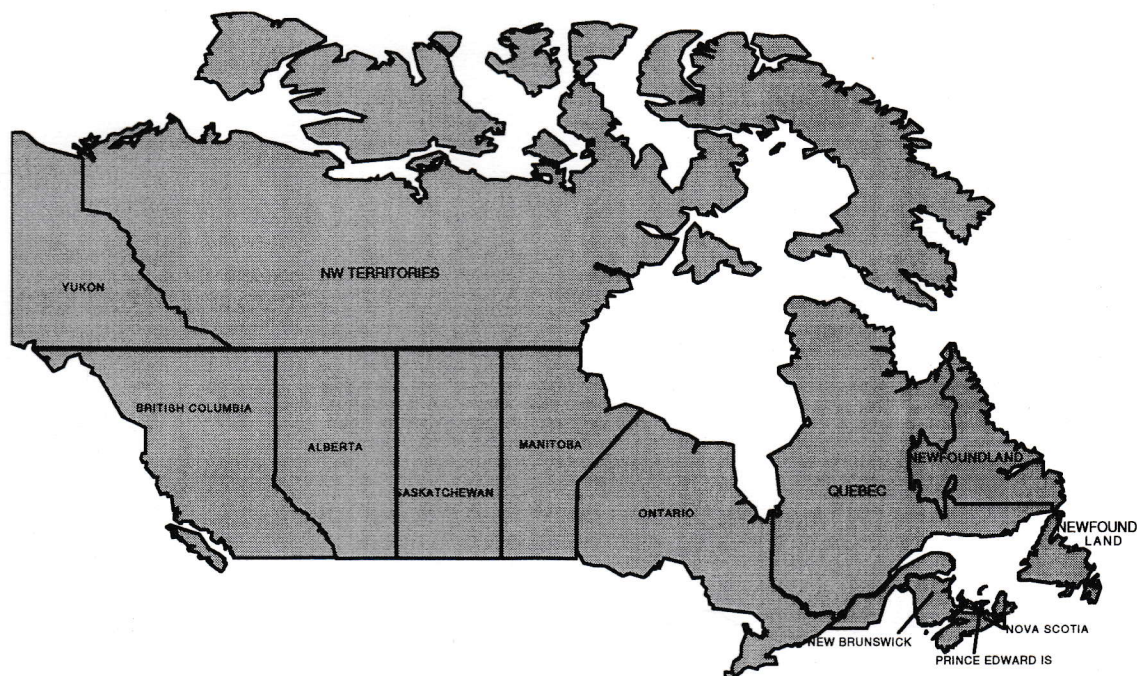

CHAPTER EIGHT

PIERRE BÉLANGER

2 March 1759 - 17 March 1834

La Rive Sud or Lower Canada

The towns on the south side of the river were referred to as "de la Riviere Sud". The region was also often referred to as Lower Canada. For example, there is a St Pierre on the Isle of Orleans and a St Pierre on the south side of the river, in the county of Montmagny. One is referred to as St Pierre, I.O. (for Isle of Orleans) and the other is called St Pierre de la Riviere Sud (St Pierre of the river south) or St Pierre du Sud (St Pierre of the south).



LIVING ON THE SOUTH SIDE

The Belanger family is now really entrenched on the south side of the river St Lawrence. Its ties to the north are there but the family is now heading east and will never return to its ancestral lands.

Pierre was the 9th and last child of Ignace and Marie Genevieve Gagne. He was born on 2 March 1759 at St Pierre de la Riviere du Sud in Montmagny County in the Province of Quebec. Pierre was baptised on the same day he was born. Growing up in a family of five girls and four boys along the river St Lawrence was an adventure in itself. The farmland there is flat and stretches for miles in a southerly direction. The river rises and settles with the ocean tides but almost never floods the farming land. Deep ditches were dug into the ground to bring river water into the fields in several rows which stretched along the planted rows of crops for irrigation. The water was not put onto the crops directly as it contained too much salt. The water was allowed to settle into the trenches and wet the soil on both sides so that the crops got their water through osmosis. By the time Pierre grew up, French Canada was under English rule but the English allowed the French to operate a self determining government and most of the French population really saw no differences.

The information available from archives and research material for the period 1760 to about 1900 certainly does not fill volumes. For the most part, information is only available from church records and these include little else besides birth, baptism, marriage and death information. The activities of the people themselves is not recorded where it might easily be found.

2 NOVEMBER 1805

Pierre appeared before a notary public named Simon Fraser at St Jean Port Joli on 2 November 1805. Also present were Charles Gagnon, a farmer from St Jean, and his wife, Marie Elizabeth Dupont. Pierre and the others were before the notary to finalize and record a purchase and sales agreement for some land that Pierre was buying from Charles Gagnon and his wife. The recorded document goes into great detail, and legalese of the period, about who was there and why. In summary, however, Charles Gagnon and his wife, Marie Elizabeth Dupont, were selling a piece of land in St Jean (this was most probably St Jean Port Joli) containing two and a half arpents of frontage by ten arpents in depth to Pierre who was a resident of St Roch. There were no buildings on the land but Pierre was to get anything else that he found there. Pierre had inspected the land and was satisfied with what he was getting and the Gagnons were willingly conveying all title to the land and whatever improvements may be found on it. This clause was usually included so that the sellers could not later claim that they had cleared the land and made it more valuable. They also promised to never lay claim to any portion of the land as long as Pierre paid as had been arranged. This particular piece of land was situated in the "first row"¹ and was bordered in the front by the tenant farmers, along the rear by the buyer (Pierre), on the southeast by the tenant farm of Jean Baptiste Michaud and on the northeast by land of Francois Bois. The piece of land was further described as being land the Gagnons received by a transfer from the previous owner, Joseph Boucher. Pierre promised to pay the Gagnons and their heirs the sum of 4,000 livres of which 3,000 was paid immediately as a down payment and the remaining 1,000 was due sometime during the month of June following. The document was signed by Francois Verreau (merchant and witness), Raphael Fournier (witness), Marie Elizabeth Dupont and Simon Fraser (notary) who witnessed the promise made between Pierre Belanger and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gagnon. There is no indication as to why Pierre and Charles did not sign the document or even make their mark on it.

¹The French word RANG, which means ROW, was often used to describe land which was arranged in rows leading to the river. In today's use this has become synonymous with the word "street".

26 JUNE 1806

We find Pierre Belanger again appearing before the notary Simon Fraser on 26 June 1806. This appearance, with witnesses, is to complete the previous purchase and sales agreement made between Pierre and Charles Gagnon and his wife. Charles Gagnon is now listed as a resident of St Patrice in the Seigneurie of Riviere du Loup. Charles attests that he has received, from Pierre Belanger, farmer from St Roch, the sum of one thousand livres which satisfied the debt owed for the land purchased the prior November. Charles promises, in front of the notary and witnesses, that this sum satisfies the balance of the agreement and that he quits all rights to the property. This document is signed in the afternoon of 26 June 1806 in the presence of Louis Fournier and Joseph Boucher of St Jean. The document further states that since Louis Fournier and Charles Gagnon are unable to write, they made their mark on the paper after the document was read aloud to them. The only signatures were those of Joseph Boucher and notary Simon Fraser. Again, Pierre does not sign nor make his mark.

FAMILY OF MARIE MARTHE TALBOT

France had been trying to restrain the fur trade even to the point of selling licenses to the "coureurs de bois". Many resented this as they felt that hunting and trapping was a right not to be abused or restricted by France. When English rule came, the English were very interested in the fur trade and the French were allowed to explore and expand westward without interference from France. The French had been promised, by the English, that if they remained peaceful and did not create any discontent, they would not be disturbed and could be free to practise their religion and do their trapping. The French of New France quickly became loyal to England and remained loyal even through the American Revolution. The influx of new settlers from England firmly established the English speaking settlements of Nova Scotia.

The Indian threat was not something of the past in Pierre's day. Indians still posed a constant threat even during days which appeared peaceful. Pontiac, chief of the Ottawas, was probably the most fierce Indian leader of all time. He systematically eliminated all settlements and garrisons west of Niagara except Detroit. Alexander Henry tells, in his book, about one specific incident in 1763. The Indians planned a game of lacrosse for the fourth of June, the king's birthday. Since it was a holiday, the gates of Fort Michilimackinac were open. During the game, the ball was thrown toward the fort and the Indians swarmed through the open gates. Within minutes every soldier and English trader within reach was killed.

PIERRE'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS

1. Francois married Marie Louise Morissette on 12 June 1786 at St Michel, Bellechasse, Quebec. Francois and Marie Louise Morissette had three children.
2. Archange married Joseph Bacquet Lamontagne on 4 February 1806 at St Michel, Bellechasse, Quebec
3. Francois married Marie Betil on 7 August 1810 at St Michel, Bellechasse, Quebec
4. Guillaume married Marie Rosalie Blais on 9 February 1819 at St Pierre du Sud, Montmagny, Quebec. He also married Elisabeth Ahern on 25 February 1840 at St

Charles, Bellechasse, Quebec. Guillaume and Elisabeth Ahern had no known children.

5. Marie Reine married Pierre Belanger on 17 October 1786 at St Pierre de Montmagny, Quebec. Pierre, Marie's husband, had been christened on 25 July 1762 in L'Islet and was probably born within days of the christening. Pierre's family was descended from Francois and Marie Guyon and not related to the Nicolas line. Pierre's family had lived in Montmagny county for the last two generations but came from L'Islet county before that.

Marie Reine Belanger and Pierre Belanger had 7 children.

- 1➤ Charlotte married Jean Antoine Ouellet on 3 August 1807 at St Jean Port Joli.
- 2➤ Pierre married Constance Bouchard on 15 October 1811 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 3➤ Jean Baptiste married Angelique Blanchet on 31 January 1815 at St Jean Port Joli.
- 4➤ Pierre married Marie Victoire Fortin on 25 November 1823 at L'Islet.
- 5➤ Germain married Monique Leclerc on 11 November 1834 at St Jean Port Joli.
- 6➤ Marie Regine Delina married Reine St Pierre on 27 January 1818 at St Jean Port Joli.
- 7➤ Francoise married Jean Baptiste Soucy on 20 October 1818 at St Jean Port Joli.

6. Ignace the 2nd, named after his father, was born 27 September 1747 at Berthier sur Mer and baptized the same day. He married Angelique Ouellet on 2 October 1774 in St Anne de la Pocatiere, Kamouraska. Angelique Ouellet was born and christened in 1754. Ignace and Angelique had no known children.

Ignace also married Catherine Soulard on 27 October 1777 in St Roch des Aulnaies. Catherine Soulard was born and christened in 1734. She died before 21 September 1802. Ignace Belanger 2nd and Catherine Soulard had no known children.

Ignace also married Marie Louise Gauvin on 21 September 1802 in St Louis, Kamouraska, PQ. Ignace Belanger 2nd and Marie Louise Gauvin had no known children.

7. Marie Marguerite was born 25 November 1749 at St Pierre du Sud (often referred to as St Pierre de la Riviere Sud) and married Isaac Langlois on 11 January 1773. She later married Joseph Pelletier on 27 August 1810.
8. Marie Genevieve was born 20 October 1751 at St Pierre du Sud and married Francois Vaillancourt (1770) and Louis Marie Picard on 11 January 1773 at St Pierre du Sud. You may notice the date of Genevieve's second marriage is the same as her sister Marguerite's first marriage.
9. Marie Francoise was born 29 April 1753 at St Pierre du Sud and married Augustin Morin on 17 September 1779 at St Pierre du Sud.

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10. Jean Baptiste was born 25 March 1755 at St Pierre du Sud and married Marie Reine Boulet on 8 October 1785 at St Francois du Sud.
 11. Marie Anne was born 18 March 1757 at St Pierre du Sud and married Alexis Morin on 3 August 1784 at St Francois du Sud.
 12. Pierre was born 2 March 1759 at St Pierre du Sud and married Marie Marthe Talbot dit Gervais on 18 June 1781 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He died 17 March 1834 at St Roch des Aulnaies.

ST ROCH DES AULNAIES

St Roch des Aulnaies was founded about 1627, at the same time as the Company of One Hundred Associates was formed. Unfortunately, the land where St Roch is located had been taken by the English, being out of the protection of the fort at Quebec and not returned to French rule again until 1632. Nicolas Juchereau of Saint Denis was granted the Seigneurie des Aulnaies by the "Compagnie des Habitants", which was similar to the Company of One Hundred Associates, in the fall of 1645.

The granting of this seigneurie was certainly a family affair. Jean Juchereau came from France. He was born about 31 March 1592 at St Aubin de Tourouvre and died on 7 February 1672 in Beauport. Now, Jean had a brother named Noel who had been a member of the original Company of One Hundred Associates and held an important post in the government of New France. He had been involved in the administration of New France since 1632, was licensed to practise law, a member of the Royal Council and was a clerk in the Company of Habitants. The Juchereau family married into the Giffard family and there was nobody closer to nobility than that. Jean's son, also named Jean, married Marie Francoise Giffard, daughter of Robert Giffard on 21 November 1645 at Quebec. His brother, Nicolas, married Marie Therese Giffard, daughter of Robert Giffard. Since Giffard had access to most all land donations, it was a foregone conclusion that Noel Juchereau would be granted a seigneurie. This one was called the Seigneurie des Aulnaies and was located in the heart of St Roch. The seigneurial manor and mill is still located there in 1996 and open to the public for visits. It is about a mile east of the town center and the church at St Roch.

The church, as it exists in 1995, has been rebuilt. Almost directly across the street from the church is the Belanger house. It looks much like the house in Beauport did before the exterior was coated with white adobe type mortar. It is a stone house and is lived in. The exact age of this house and which Belanger built it is not known to this author. The church was not established at St Roch until after 1681. Much of the religious activity was conducted by traveling missionaries from the other parishes. It was not until 1750 that a resident priest came to St Roch, M. Charles Gareault. The residents had gathered material to build the first chapel in 1721.

The Peace of Paris, signed in 1763, formally brought the war to an end when Pierre was just 4 years old. France only retained the two small islands of St Pierre and Miquelon in the Gulf of St Lawrence. Britain and Spain divided the continent between them with the Mississippi River as the boundary line. The English rule did not cause French families to relocate, however. They had fought and died to protect their lands and they decided to continue living on the land that had nurtured their families. Although France no longer had any holdings in New France, its peoples remained and lived under English rule. Pierre was born to a world known as British North America.

When Pierre grew up he met Marie Marthe Talbot dit Gervais from St Roch des Aulnaies. St Roch is a town located just east of St Jean Port Joli and west of Riviere Ouelle. It is quite a distance

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from St Vallier, Berthier sur Mer and St Michel when thought of in the mode of travel for the period. However, roads had begun to be built in the regions and travel depended less on the riverway. This is apparent from the distances children moved from the family home.

Pierre and Marthe Gervais dit Talbot had 11 children.

- 1➤ Jeremie married Adelaide Deschenes 10 August 1819 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 2➤ Firmin was born and christened in 1785 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He married Louise Ouellette on 4 November 1817 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 3➤ Pierre was born and christened in 1785 at St Roch des Aulnaies and died there in 1859. He married Ursule Morin on 21 February 1848 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 4➤ Jean Baptiste was born and christened in 1788 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He married Lucie Caron on 22 April 1823 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He was married to Theotiste Pelletier on 19 October 1830 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 5➤ Francois was born and christened in 1788 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He married Angelique Marier on 24 January 1814 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 6➤ Joseph Marie was born on 4 April 1797 and christened on 5 April 1797 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He died on 22 November 1884 at St Alexandre, Quebec and was buried there on 24 November 1884. He married Baselisse Dufour 12 June 1820 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 7➤ Celestin was born and christened in 1800 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He married Charlotte Dionne on 20 February 1827 at St Anne de la Pocatiere, Kamouraska, Quebec. He later married Anastasie Morin 16 January 1844 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 8➤ Julie was born and christened in 1803 at St Roch des Aulnaies. She married Michel Morin on 30 June 1819 at St Roch des Aulnaies. Julie Belanger and Michel Morin had no known children.
- 9➤ Constance was born and christened in 1805 at St Roch des Aulnaies. She married Jean Baptiste Langlois on 18 February 1822 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 10➤ Alexis was born 18 January 1808 at St Roch des Aulnaies. He died on 7 September 1868 in Sandy Point, Newfoundland and was buried on 29 September 1868 at St Roch des Aulnaies.
- 11➤ Joseph Belanger. A quick search through the original handwritten records of the Parish of St Roch, with the help of the local parish priest on July 19, 1995, reveals no mention of a Joseph (except for Joseph Marie) as a child of Pierre and Marthe Gervais.

Family Group Record

Page 1

Husband Pierre Belanger		
Birth	2 Mar 1759	St Pierre de la Riviere du Sud, Montmagny, Que
Chr	2 Mar 1759	St Pierre de la Riviere du Sud, Montmagny, Que
Death	17 Mar 1834	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Burial	19 Mar 1834	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Marriage	18 Jun 1781	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Father	Ignace Belanger (b 8 Feb 1723)	
Mother	M Genevieve Gagne	
Wife Marthe Talbot-Gervais		
Chr	1764	
Birth	10 Sep 1764	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Father	Pierre Talbot-Gervais	
Mother	M Marthe Pelletier (b 6 Jun 1745)	
Children		
M	Jeremie Belanger	
Spouse	Adelaide Miville dit Deschenes (m 10 Aug 1819)	
M	Firmin Belanger	
Birth	1785	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	1785	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Spouse	Louise Ouellette (m 4 Nov 1817)	
M	Pierre Belanger	
Birth	1785	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	1785	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Death	1859	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Burial	1859	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Spouse	Ursule Morin (m 21 Feb 1848)	
M	Jean Baptiste Belanger	
Birth	1788	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	1788	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Spouse	Lucie Caron (m 22 Apr 1823)	
Spouse	Theotiste Pelletier (m 19 Oct 1830)	
M	Francois Belanger	
Birth	1788	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	1788	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Residence	23 Jan 1855	L'Isle Verte when Zephirin married Benonie (Beremie) St Pierre
Spouse	Angelique Marier (m 24 Jan 1814)	
M	Joseph Marie Belanger	
Birth	4 Apr 1797	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	5 Apr 1797	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Residence	22 Jul 1862	St Alexandre at the marriage of Damase to Georgianna Pelletier.
Death	22 Nov 1884	St Alexandre, Kamouraska, Que
Burial	24 Nov 1884	St Alexandre, Kamouraska, Que
Spouse	Baselisse Dufour (m 12 Jun 1820)	
M	Celestin Belanger	
Birth	1800	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	1800	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Residence	10 Jan 1871	St Alexandre when Celestin married Philomene Ouellet
Spouse	Charlotte Dionne (m 26 Feb 1827)	
Spouse	Anastasie Morin (m 16 Jan 1844)	
F	Julie Belanger	
Birth	1803	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	1803	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Spouse	Michel Morin (m 30 Jun 1819)	
F	Constance Belanger	
Birth	1805	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Chr	1805	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Spouse	Jean Baptiste Langlois dit Serrien (m 18 Feb 1822)	
M	Alexis Belanger	
Birth	18 Jan 1808	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que
Death	7 Sep 1868	Sandy Point, Newfoundland
Burial	29 Sep 1868	St Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, Que

Family Group Record

Page 2

Husband Pierre Belanger	
Wife Marthe Talbot-Gervais	
Children	
11 M	Joseph Belanger
Birth	SEENOTES
Prepared 25 Oct 1997 by: Jim Belanger 32 Plain Road Hollis, NH 03049 603 465-2301	
Comments:	

Chr³: NO NOTE

CHILD NOTES: Julie Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE

Chr³: NO NOTE

General: The original parish records at St Roch des Aulnaies has the spelling of Judie as Judie but some other sources list her as Julie.

CHILD NOTES: Constance Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE

Chr³: NO NOTE

CHILD NOTES: Alexis Belanger

Death: Died at age 60 yrs, 8 mos.

General: Alexis was ordained a Catholic Priest in Beauce 19 Sept 1835 and served as Vicar at Baie-du-Febvre. In 1836 he was sent to Ste. Marie de Beauce. In 1839 he was named a missionary to Isles de la Madeleine. In 1847, Missionary at Baie St. Georges on L'Islet de Terre-Neuve; in 1855, Grand-Vicar of the diocese of Terre-Neuve. Died at the age of 60 yrs, 8 mos. He was the founder of the "Bourse Belanger" at the College Ste. Anne. History records Alexis as the youngest of 16 children but research indicates this may not be accurate.

CHILD NOTES: Joseph Belanger

Birth: A quick search through the original handwritten records of the Parish of St Roch, with the help of the local parish priest on July 19, 1995, reveals no mention of a Joseph (except for Joseph Marie) as a child of Pierre and Marthe Gervais.

SOURCES

1. Source 8: Talbot's Genealogie des familles originaries des comptes de Montmagny, L'Islet, Bellechasse. Eloi-Gerard Talbot. Chateau Richer Que: Source 8.
2. Original burial records of the parish of St Roch des Aulnaies.
3. The original hand written records of the Parish of St Roch des Aulnaies were shown to Jim Belanger on July 19, 1995 by the local parish priest.
4. Source 15: Carbonneau's Tableau Genealogique des Mariages du Diocese de Rimouski. ACGS Library, Manchester NH: Source 15.
5. Source 21: Mariages du Madawaska des Paroisses de La Vallee Suberiere, de La Riviere Saint Jean au Nouveau Brunswick at ACGS Manchester NH Source 21.
6. Les mariages de St Jean Port Joli, L'Islet.
7. The original hand written records of the parish of St Alexandre were seen and read by Jim Belanger on July 19, 1995.

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FAMILY NOTES

Marriage¹: NO NOTE

HUSBAND NOTES: Pierre Belanger

Death²: NO NOTE

Burial²: NO NOTE

General: A record of the life of Alexis states that he was the youngest of 16 children of Pierre. Only 11 children are known at the time of this research so either the 16 is an error or there are 5 other children missing. The original baptismal records of the Parish of St Roch des Aulnaies shows only 9 children baptised there. There is no record of a Joseph or Jeremie. The original parish burial notes indicate that Pierre was a farmer.

WIFE NOTES: Marthe Talbot-Gervais

General³: Drouin lists her as Marie Marthe Gervais. The original records of the Parish of St Roch des Aulnaies, as seen by Jim Belanger on July 19, 1995, lists the wife of Pierre Belanger as Marie Marthe Gervais.

In the marriage records of Kamouraska County, Marie Marthe is listed as Martine Talbot.

CHILD NOTES: Jeremie Belanger

General^{1,4}: ACTION: Source 15 (Carbonneau's Rimouski Marriages) lists Jeremie Belanger married to Adelaide Deschenes (page 100, reference number 94) with one child (Caroline) who married Edouard Pelletier on Jan 8, 1850. The dates are close enough and since the only child listed is a daughter, I assumed these parents were correct.

CHILD NOTES: Firmin Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE

Chr³: NO NOTE

General⁵: NO NOTE

CHILD NOTES: Pierre Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE

Chr³: NO NOTE

Death²: NO NOTE

Burial²: NO NOTE

CHILD NOTES: Jean Baptiste Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE

Chr³: NO NOTE

General⁶: NO NOTE

CHILD NOTES: Francois Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE

Chr³: NO NOTE

General: QUESTION: Source 8 (Talbot) lists a Francois Belanger married to Angelique Marier with two children (Joseph and Jean Baptiste) who married 25 years after their parents. Then in source 15 (Carbonneau's marriages of Rimouski) we find the same named couple (with no marriage date to confirm they are the same) under his reference number 55 (Francois). Here he lists 7 children but the marriage dates are at least 39 years after their parents, if indeed they are the same parents. I have included these children (Pierre, M. Adele, Zephirin, Odilon, Philomene, Jules and Magloire) as children of the same couple but this may be in error.

Drouin series lists Francois as Joseph Francois

CHILD NOTES: Joseph Marie Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE

Chr³: NO NOTE

Death⁷: NO NOTE

Burial⁷: NO NOTE

General⁵: NO NOTE

CHILD NOTES: Celestin Belanger

Birth³: NO NOTE