

Alarie Lebel (3rd Great-Grandfather of Charles Sieracki)

Alarie Lebel, born January 15, 1801, in Saint-Jean- Port-Joli, L'Islet, Quebec, married Genevieve Dutaut dit Tourville on October 2, 1830 in St.-Edouard de Gentilly, Nicolet, where she was born on November 25, 1805. Alarie and Genevieve had four children: Ovide, Joseph, Phelonise, and Adeline. Their daughter Phelonise, born February 10, 1835, married Prudent Vient on July 4, 1854 in the Church of St. Edouard, Nicolet, Quebec, and they were soon the parents of my great-grandfather Charles Vient Cummings.

Alarie Lebel, my 3rd great-grandfather, worked as a farmer, and at age 60, he was living in the household of Prudent and Phelonise Vient in Nicolet, Quebec. Charles was two years old at the time.

John Vanek, also a descendant of Alarie Lebel, provides interesting details about the migration of the Lebel family. (John does genealogy research for families and hosts a fascinating web page, genealogicresearch.com, with details of his family in a historical context.) In a post of June 23, 2017, John gave the following details.

“The story of the LaBelle (American spelling) migration to Minneapolis is long and complicated. . . . a case of serial migration that lasted at least thirty years, from 1848 to 1878, and included three generations of migrants. The patriarchs were two brothers, Pierre (b: 1799) and Alarie Lebel (b: 1801). . . . The migration started from a single spot—their family farms near Gentilly, Quebec—but it ended in towns across the northern United States. Descendants of Pierre and Alarie helped construct the final stretches of the transcontinental railroad in Wyoming, logged and sawed timber in northern Wisconsin, ran a saloon and grocery store in Bay City, Michigan, and became laborers and carpenters in Minneapolis, among many other things. One descendent named George LaBelle ran the largest automobile-based transportation company in the Twin Cities in the mid 1920s and in 1928 was a founding partner in the Allied Van Lines cooperative.

Patriarch Alarie Lebel was already an old man—a 65-year-old widower—when he first came to the United States in 1866. It appears he was cared for in turn by his various children. He settled first with the family of his son Uldorique (Roderick) in Brown County, Wisconsin. That’s where some of Alarie’s nieces and nephews (Pierre’s children) had settled in the late 1840s. By 1880, ol’ man “Alarie” had moved to Bay City, Michigan, where his daughter Adeline and her husband Patrick Pelletier ran a grocery store. Only in 1881, when Alarie was 80 years old, does he **show up in the Minneapolis city directory** for the first time. By 1881, Minneapolis made the most sense for Alarie to be cared for by his children. In the preceding decade, his children Ovid, Noah, Philonese, Olive, and Roderick had all moved to the city.”

Most of the LaBelles -- including Alarie LaBelle -- who died in Minneapolis were buried in St. Anthony’s Cemetery, located on the 2700 block of Central Avenue, two-and-a-half miles north of the St. Anthony Falls riverfront.