

In Search of Cousins: Bibeau

During a meeting of the Family Heritage Group, Al Dahlquist talked about his recent publication, The Early Families of Hugo. Anyone seriously interested in the history of Hugo should read this book. Being early families of Hugo, my grandmother's family and their relatives are all presented in the book.

I had been trying to identify the farms in the Hugo area that were owned by relatives to show that Hugo was a community of inter-related families. One of the farms was owned by a Bibeau family. Since I am descended from Francois Bibeau, born about 1632 in France, I thought it possible that this Bibeau in Hugo is a cousin. In the course of the discussion, Al mentioned that his mother was a Bibeau. This turned out to be an "Aha!" moment because Al subsequently explained to me that this Bibeau that owned the farm was a cousin of mine, as is Al himself.

Al has been doing genealogical research for years and he has in-depth information on the Bibeau family. The history of the François Bibeau family parallels the history of the Francois Peloquin family. Both men left the same region of France to settle in New France, and as might be expected, members of the Peloquin family intermarried with members of the Bibeau family. It is worth mining the details of the Bibeau family because it provides context to understand the history of the Peloquin family.

Al reports that the number of descendants of François Bibeau who were born with the Bibeau name totals at least 7,000 and perhaps even 10,000. The number of cousins increases geometrically when you consider the intermarriages of these immense families. As demonstrated in the following chart, the Bibeau family members descended from François Bibeau are all distant cousins with the descendants of Josette Bibeau and Prisque Felix Peloquin, thus making Al Dahlquist and me distant cousins.

François Bibeau m. Louise Esnard

Pierre Bibeau	Nicolas Bibeau
m. Marie Renee Madeleine Parenteau	m. Marguerite Pelletier
François Xavier Bibeau	Joseph Bibeau
m. Marie Agathe Chapdelaine/Lariviere	m. Anne Boisel
Antoine Francois Bibeau	Joseph Bibeau
m. Marguerite Gagniere	m. Marie Ann Desrosiers Dutremble
Jean Baptiste Bibeau	Josette Bibeau
m. Therese Laroche	m. Prisque Felix Peloquin
Charles Baptiste Bibeau	Calix Mathen Peloquin
m Marie Jeanne Vadnais	m. Marie Millette
Francois Charles Louis Bibeau	Calix Peloquin

m. Marie Alexina Pariseau	m. Hedwige Peloquin
Lillian Emily Bibeau	Marie Peloquin
m. Harold Olaf Dahlquist	m. Alfred Cummings
Al Dahlquist	Irene Cummings
	m. Ervin Sieracki
	Charles Sieracki

I am also descended from François Bibeau through the line of my great-grandmother, Catherine Belland Cummings, whose mother was a Bibeau. Thus, I am a cousin of Al Dahlquist both through the ancestry of my grandfather's family and my grandmother's family.

François Bibeau m. Louise Esnard	
Pierre Bibeau	Nicolas Bibeau
m. Marie Renée Madeleine Parenteau	m. Marguerite Pelletier
François Xavier Bibeau	Joseph Bibeau
m. Marie Agathe Chapdelaine/Lariviere	m. Anne Boisel
Antoine François Bibeau	Joseph Bibeau
m. Marguerite Gagniere	m. Marie Ann Desrosiers Dutremble
Jean Baptiste Bibeau	Louis Bibeau
m. Therese Laroche	m. Marie Lucie Rabouin
Charles Baptiste Bibeau	Lucie Bibeau
m. Marie Jeanne Vadnais	m. Pierre Belland
Francois Charles Louis Bibeau	Catherine Belland
m. Marie Alexina Pariseau	m. C.V. Cummings
Lillian Emily Bibeau	Alfred Cummings
m. Harold Olaf Dahlquist	m. Marie Peloquin
Al Dahlquist	Irene Cummings
	m. Ervin Sieracki
	Charles Sieracki

Al told me that most of my Bibeau early ancestors in Minnesota stayed in the Ramsey County, Washington County, Anoka County, and Hennepin County area. Al's ancestors that descend from Joseph Bibeau and Therese Laroche are down in Winona. However, one line ended up at Mendota, another at Wabasha and Trempealeau, Wisconsin.

The interconnection of the Bibeau and Peloquin families provides an insight into our heritage of French-Canadian communities that were composed of inter-related families. The number of French immigrants who colonized New France from whom millions of French Canadians are descended is relatively small. So, whenever you meet a fellow descendant, the chances are good that you are distant cousins or members of your family are distant cousins. My Aunt Jesse Peloquin Peltier noted that her mother, Edwige Peloquin, married her father, Calix Peloquin, but that her mother was from a different Peloquin family. Further genealogical research showed that this is not exactly true. Yes, her parents were not first or second cousins, but they were indeed both descended from François Peloquin many generations earlier.