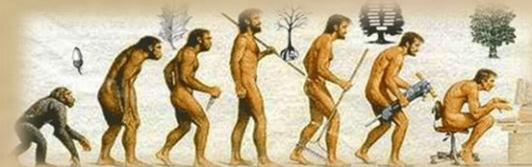
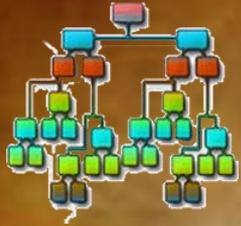


Tall Tales, Fake News, and Family History



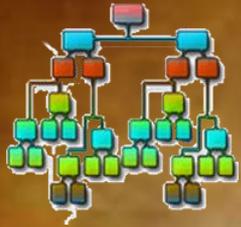
Bob Alford May 1, 2017





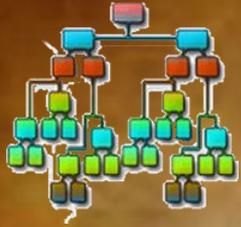
“It is reported...”

- Many genealogies claim he had 33 children (he had 23)
- His second wife was a native woman, probably the daughter of Chief Pontiac (can't be proven, but probably true)
- Many genealogies claim she was a slave named Marie Mannon (false)
- Some claim he bought her as a “sex slave” (Why do we always think the worst of the French?) (false)
- Claim is that Antoine and Marie-Mannon had seventeen children
- Many conclude that the children were all illegitimate.



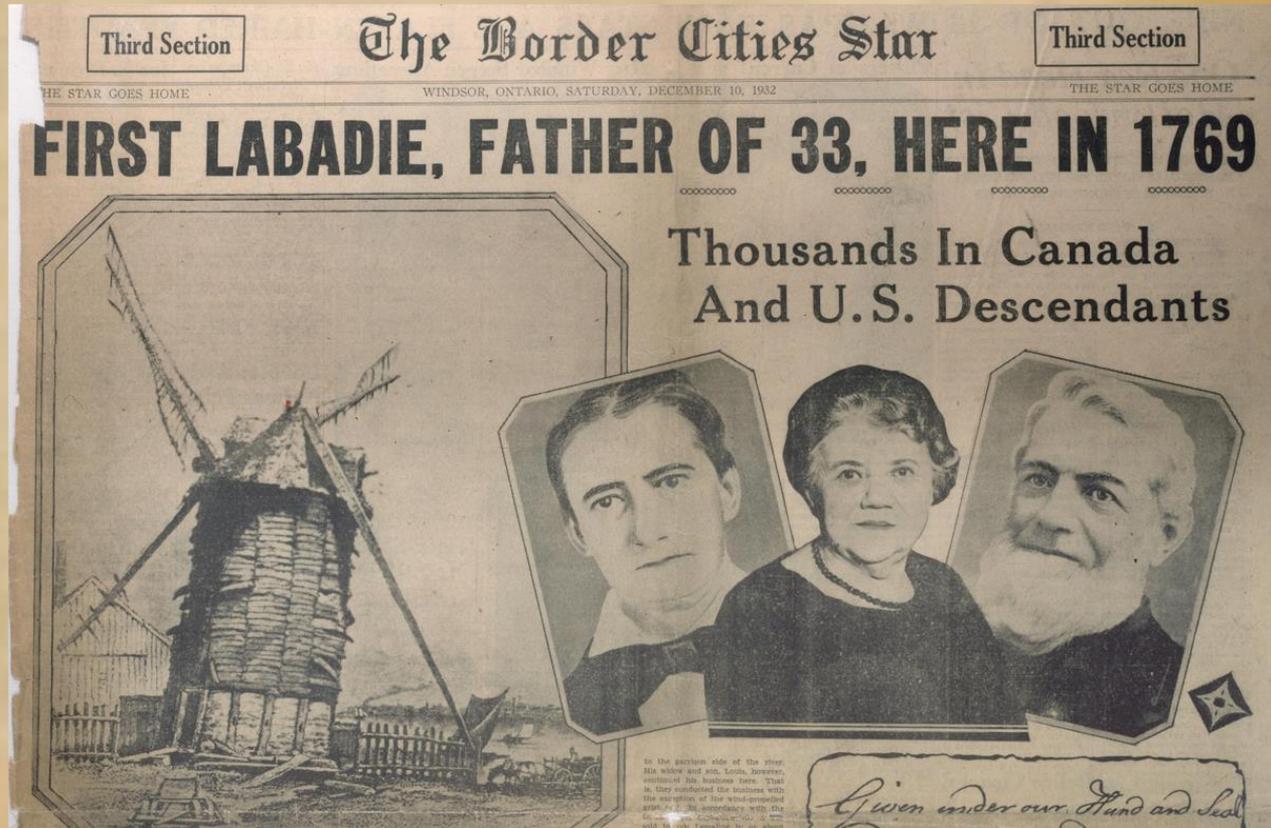
The Source(s)

- The oldest claim I can find of 33 children is in a book published by the Essex Historical Society in 1913, *Papers and Addresses, Volume 1*.
- There is a section titled” *The Labadie Family In The County of Essex*, with the subtitle: *Notes read by A. Philippe E. Panet before the Essex Historical Society in the Windsor Public Library on March 16th, 1905*.
- On page 45 it says: “From the information contained in my notes, it appears that Antoine Louis Descompte dit Labadie raised a family of thirty-three children.” The author goes on to rave about how amazing this is, but gives no sources for this information.
- In other parts of the article historical documents are quoted and sources cited, but not concerning the thirty-three children.

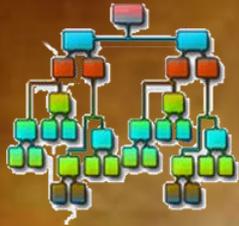


Front Page News!

On December 10, 1932 the Border Cities Star published a front page article:



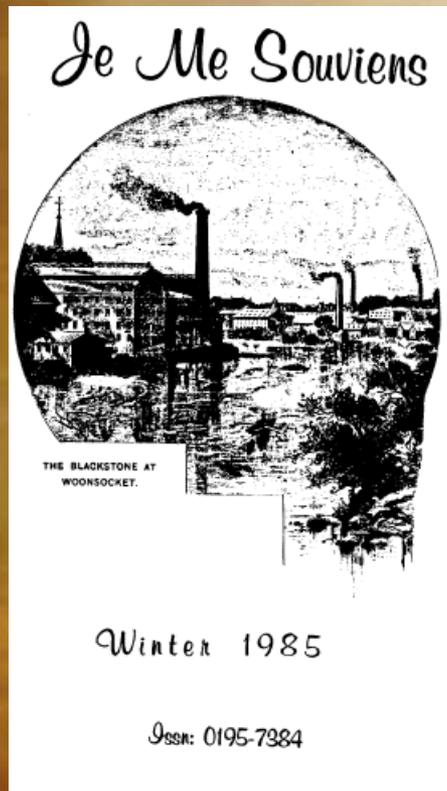
You can find many copies of this on Ancestry, cited as a source



American French Genealogical Society



- In 1985 Volume VIII, No. 2 of the Society's publication *Le Me Souviens* (meaning Remember Me) contains an article on Antoine Louis Descomps dit Labadie claiming thirty-three children.




 American-French Genealogical Society
 P.O. Box 2113
 Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

Officers *****

Lucille Rock, *President* (401) 769-8079
 463 South Main St., Woonsocket, RI 02895

Paul Delisle, *Vice-President/Membership*
 552 South Main St., Woonsocket, RI 02895
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 8 Don Ave., North Providence, RI 02904

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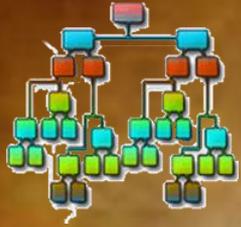
Directors *****

Leon Asselin
 Roger Beaudry
 Lea Berard
 Janice Burkhart [Librarian]
 Rev. Dennis Boudreau [Editor - *Je Me Souviens*]
 Rachel Gaudet
 Henry Paradis
 Gilles Rock
 Jeanne Theberge [Publicity]

Vol. VIII, No. 2 - Winter 1985 (c) 1985-A.F.G.S.
 ISSN. 0195-7384

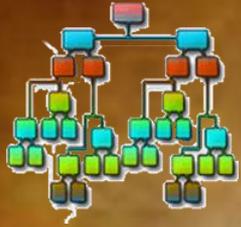
This article quotes heavily from the *Border Cities Star* article, but gives no other sources.





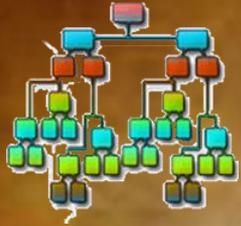
That Proves It, Right?

- A Book
- A Newspaper Article
- The American French Genealogical Society
- Must be True!



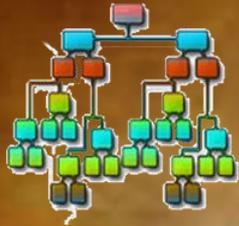
But Something Smells Fishy

- Marie and Antoine's oldest child was born in 1769 (we have the baptismal record), but Antoine didn't buy Mannon until October 10, 1775 (we have the receipt). Marie's fourth child (Pierre) was born that year. How can Marie and Mannon be the same person?
- We have baptismal records for eight children of Antoine and Marie, the last one dated December 31, 1783. Marie died in February of 1784. How could she have given birth to seventeen children?
- Antoine was thirty years old when his first child was born. He was thirty-nine when Marie's first child (Antoine's sixth) was born. He was fifty-four when he married his third wife, Charlotte Barthe, with whom he had ten children. That doesn't add up to thirty-three.



The Truth

- His second wife was a native, probably an Ottawa, probably Pontiac's daughter.
- They were married by a native Chief, probably Pontiac, in 1768.
- We don't know her native name, but Antoine had her baptized as Marie in the Catholic Church in July of 1683.
- Antoine and Marie had eight children.
 - Joseph born April 1769
 - Antoine born April 1771
 - Angélique born June 23, 1773
 - Pierre born 1775
 - Teresa born 1777
 - Cecilia born 1780
 - Marie born October 25, 1782
 - Charlotte born December 31, 1783, buried March 26, 1784.
- Antoine purchased a female native slave (Mannon) on October 10, 1775.
- After Marie died, Mannon raised Marie's children.



But What About...

Third Section **The Border Cities Star** Third Section

THE STAR GOES HOME WINDSOR, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1932 THE STAR GOES HOME

FIRST LABADIE, FATHER OF 33, HERE IN 1769

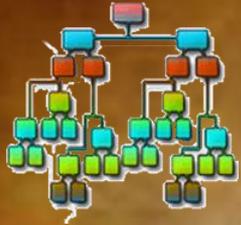
Thousands In Canada
And U.S. Descendants

Fake News!



to the eastern side of the river. His widow and son, Louis, however, continued his business here. That is, they conducted the business with the exception of the wind-powered grist, etc. In accordance with the law...

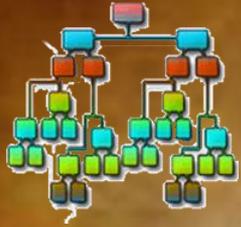
Given under our Hand and Seal



How it happens

- Researcher #1: “I can’t find any evidence concerning this, but my best guess is”
- Researcher #2: “It has been hypothesized that” (reference researcher #1)
- Researcher #3: “Many Genealogists report that” (no reference given)
- Researcher #4: “It has been shown that” (no reference given)
- Researcher #5: “It has been proven that” (reference researcher #4)

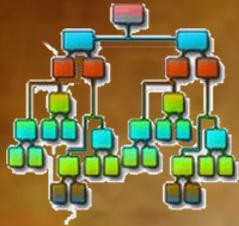
At each telling the story gets embellished (just a little)



Why?



- Lack of real information
- Lack of understanding about sources
- Desire to tell an interesting story



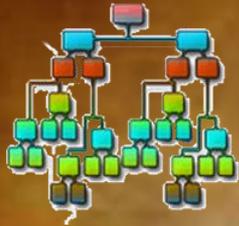
DNA Proof

- We wanted to prove that Ed was really descended from a native, so we decided to do a DNA test.
- If Marie (Antoine's second wife) was really he ancestor he should show 1/64 Native American.
- We expected the rest to be French since his father was born in French Canada and spoke French, all of his ancestors that we have traced are French Canadian, and the family has always been proud of their French Heritage.

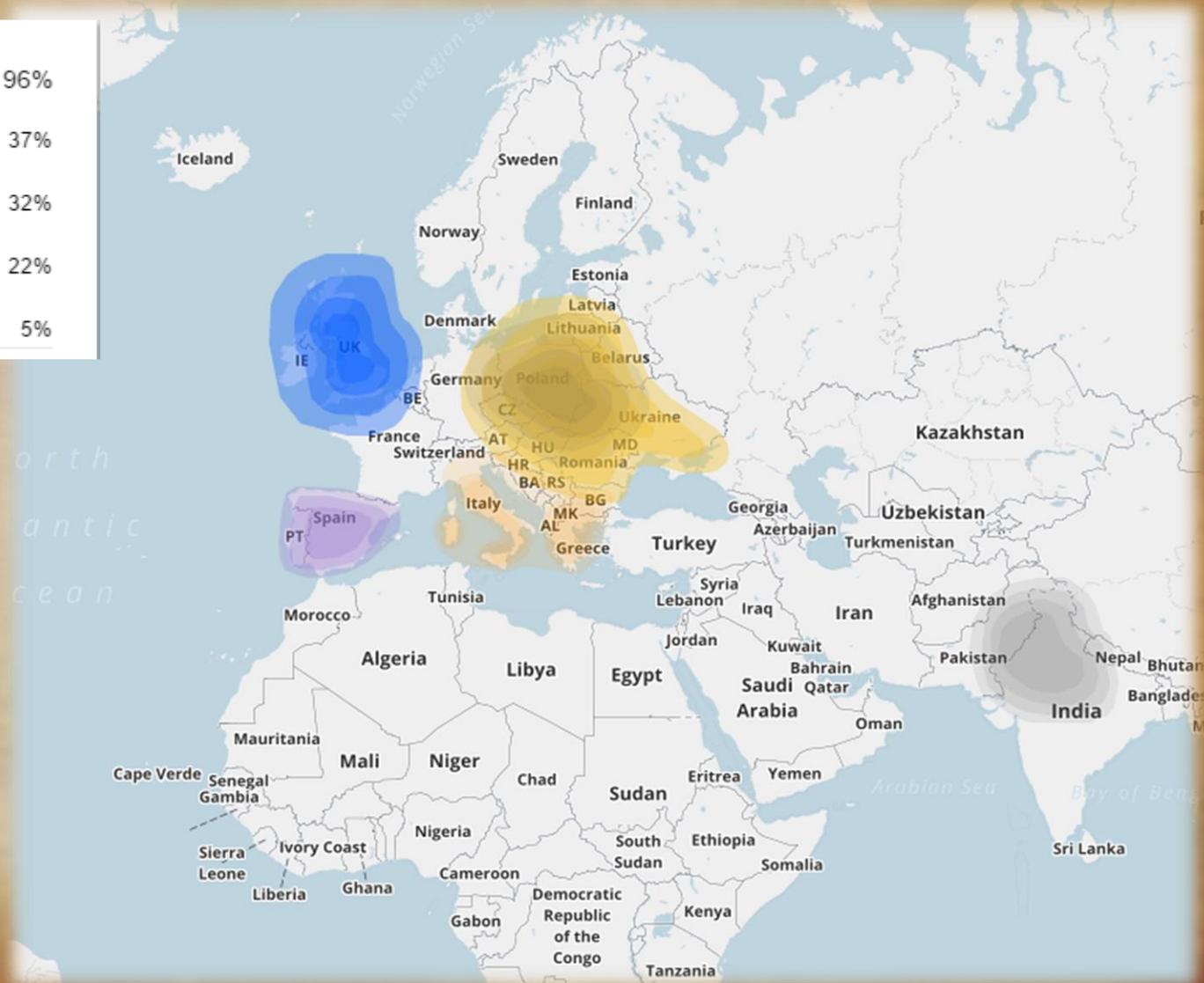
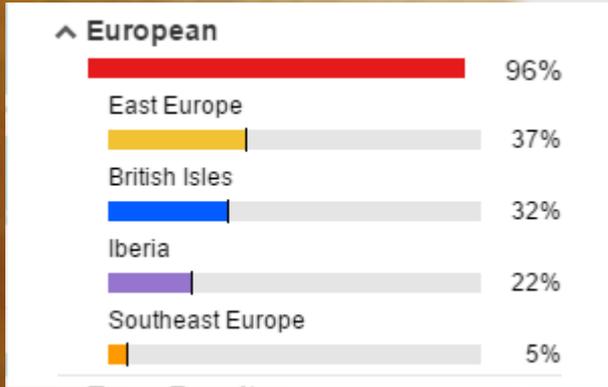


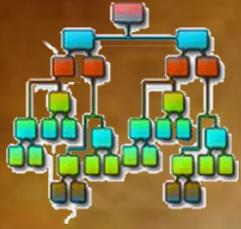
European	96%
British Isles	32%
East Europe	37%
Finland	0%
Scandinavia	0%
Southeast Europe	5%
Iberia	22%

%



Ethnic Map – European 96%





How can this be?



- The answer lies in the history of La Rochelle in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- But that's a story for another day.

Beware!

Tall Tales and Fake News
In Family History