

**ANTONIN PROULX**

**DICTIONNAIRE GÉNÉALOGIQUE DES  
PROULX**

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**GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE  
PROULX**

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**The photo on the face of this cd-rom is that of the church of Distré (in the department of  
Maine-et-Loire, France) and was copied from the web site of VoyageenFrance.com**

## INTRODUCTION

The information included in this work is the result of my research work on the Proulx family done over the last fifteen years. It is a genealogical dictionary of this great family which groups together the descendants of the six settlers bearing the family name Prou or a variation of it. They came over from France in the 17<sup>th</sup> century or the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, they settled in this country and have descendants living nowadays in North America. Additional information is given in annexes.

Over the years, I published a few versions of my dictionary, the last one being in 1998 under the title of “ *Les Ancêtres Proulx* ”. The present work is a new, revised and more complete edition of this last version which included only marriages. The present one, the last one I will publish, includes, in addition to marriages, many data on births or baptisms and deaths and is presented in a more convenient format.

### **The dictionary proper**

According to old documents, twelve persons, ten men and two women, with the family name of Proulx ( with many variations in the spelling of the patronym) came to Nouvelle-France in the early days of the colony. Only six of them, including one who arrived in the early part of the nineteenth century, have descendants now living in North America. These six classified according to their date of arrival in this country are:

**Pierre Prou**, early 1640's

**Jean Prou(st)**, most likely in 1666

**Jean Prou**, early 1670's

**Jean-Baptiste Préaux**, before 1681

**Jacques Prou dit Le Poitevin**, early 1700's

**Louis-René Prou**, early 1800's

The list includes two persons by the same Christian name, Jean. To avoid confusion, I used for the first one, the one that could be called the Prou of Montmagny, the patronym PROU(ST) which was, in fact, as we will see later, the spelling of the family name used in his baptism certificate in France. The second one is simply referred to as Jean Prou.

The list of those who do not have descendants now living is given in an annex.

The dictionary is made up of six detailed reports showing the descendants, grouped by generations, of each of the six ancestors. Each report, including an index, has its own file and each one is identified by the title “descendants of ... “ To get access to a given report, one has simply to click on the name of the file.

These reports, also known as register or genealogical reports, were prepared with the Family Tree Maker genealogical software .The data have been saved in the PDF format (Portable Document Format) but have not been zipped. A special software, such as Adobe Acrobat Reader, is required to read them. Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded freely from the web site [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) Each report is followed by an index which includes the name of the Proulx person included in the report followed by the name of his (her) spouse and the date of their marriage .

It should be mentioned that I did include in the dictionary, as much as it was possible, the children of the Proulx women who, by tradition, bear their father’s name. However, I did not go further in that direction.

The English version of this work includes about 1700 pages of which about 1400 are devoted to the detailed reports on the descendants of the six “colons” ; additional information given in the five annexes makes up the other 300 pages.

### **Additional information**

There are five annexes :

- Annex 1- **Biographies** -a biography of each of the first settlers
- Annex 2 - **The other Proulx** - a note on the Proulx who came from France at the beginning of the colony but have no known descendants living nowadays in North America
- Annex 3 - **The unlinked** - a list of those who could not be linked to a family line
- Annex 4 - **Remarkable individuals** - biography of a few individuals who can be considered important.
- Annex 5 - **Notarized acts** - a list of the acts written by notaries during the French régime

## **The family name or patronym**

Today most people in Canada and, to a lesser extent, in the United States use the patronym Proulx, with an “l” and an “x”. This was not always the case. Most of the Proulx ancestors who came from France in the early period of the colony could not read or write and let the notaries or the priests decide how the family name should be written. This is, no doubt, the reason why it was written in so many ways.

A few years ago, the Montreal firm Archiv-Histo undertook to computerize all the notarized acts made since the beginning of the colony up to 1800. They produced a database called Parchemin. A review of this database for the period 1635 to 1755 - essentially the French régime - indicates that there were 1185 contracts written for the Proulx and that the notaries used nineteen ways of writing the patronym. The main forms used were Proux (561 contracts), Prou (415 contracts), Proult (99 contracts), Proust (42 contracts), Proulx (28 contracts). In the remaining 40 contracts, there were 14 other ways of writing the family name: Proue, Prouts, Prousts, Prous, Proults, Proul, Prouet, Prouest, Proues, Prouë, Proûe, Prouaux, Proaut, Proû. (For more detailed information on these contracts, please see Annex 5)

## **Data sources**

Most of the information included in this dictionary has been extracted from the various “répertoires” of marriages and, to a much lesser extent, of baptisms and deaths compiled from parish church records. Most of these records are from Quebec, but they are also from other Canadian and American parishes. These “répertoires” have been published by genealogical societies and by individuals and they are available for most of the Quebec parishes.

The genealogical dictionaries of Mgr. Tanguay, René Jetté, the Drouin Institute and other sources of lesser importance were also consulted. Information on births that took place before 1766 and marriages before 1800, in Quebec, has been obtained from, or verified with, the database prepared by the “Programme de recherche en démographie historique” de l’Université de Montréal, also known as PRDH, and published in their web site. A number of persons gave me information about their family and this information has been incorporated in my database. Death notices, as published in the daily newspapers, have also been used.

To the best of my knowledge, data contained in these reports is reliable. It is recommended, however, that researchers verify its accuracy with official documents.

## **About the author**

A descendant of Jean Prou(st) and Jacquette Fournier, the author is a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> generation of the descendants of the couple. He was born in Montmagny (Québec), the same locality or parish where all his ancestors, on the paternal side, were born and baptized with the exception, of course, of the first ancestor born in France in 1646.

After his studies at Laval university, he began working for the Canadian government where he spent his entire career working as a fisheries specialist. Since his retirement, he has been actively involved in genealogical research. He is the author of a few books on his family genealogy but his main contribution to the French Canadian genealogy is his dictionary of the extended Proulx family.

## **Conclusion**

This work is neither perfect nor complete; it certainly includes errors and much data is missing. It is my sincere hope, however, that in spite of these shortcomings the information presented in this dictionary will be of some benefit to those who are researching their family history. With this edition of the dictionary, I am putting an end to my research on the subject. I have spent a considerable amount of time and effort in this particular work over the last fifteen years or so but it was done with great pleasure.

Those who would like to have their own copy of this cd-rom are invited to get in touch with me. My e-mail address is as follows: **antopro@sympatico.ca**

**PS** - The reader has surely realized by now that English is not my mother tongue. I hope that he will, in spite of the shortcomings of the translation, get a good comprehension of the text.