Irish Catholic Churches in Drummond, Richmond, Sherbrooke and Stanstead Counties, Quebec

The Churches

Eastern Townships Catholic Missions - Missions des Cantons de l’Est – 1826-1846 - Father Stephen Blyth - Father John Falvey - Father James Hughes - Father Terence Kieran - Father John McMahon - Father James Moore - Father Charles Morrison - Father Patrick Phelan. All of these priests were born in Ireland with the exception of Fr. Morrison, all served the Eastern Townships from 1826 to 1846, and all served the Irish and Scottish communities from Stanstead County to Huntingdon County. These priests baptized children, married couples, blessed the remains at cemeteries and gave people guidance people throughout the Townships.

Unfortunately, most of the records from 1826 to 1833 did not survive. What did survive is an index of marriages, baptisms and burials, kept at the BAnQ in Montreal, covering the period 1826 to 1846. Another book covers in part some the same missions. A microfilm called "Missions des Cantons de l’Est" covers some of the baptisms, marriages and burials from 1838 to 1846.

It appears that some of these baptisms, marriages and burials from 1826 to 1831 for the towns of Sherrington, Hinchinbrook, Beauharnois, Ormstown, Jamestown (NY), Williamstown (NY), Hemmingford, Babyville (Huntingdon) and Chateauguay were inserted into the church records of the parish of Saint Patrick in Hinchinbrook, Huntingdon County.

Drummond County

Prior to 1805, the area now known as Drummond County was owned by William Grant. After 1805, the territory was purchased by John Richardson, future Governor of Lower Canada and founder of the Bank of Montreal. In 1814, the colonization process began with the allocation of lands to officers and soldiers of the British Imperial Army. The county and main city was named in honor of Sir Gordon Drummond, Governor General of Canada. In 1815, about 100 families resided in the area. The first Catholic Church of the region was established in 1815 in Drummondville. In 1818, Father J. Rainbault became the first missionary to travel through out the Eastern Townships from his home church of Saint Frédéric. He presided over the first Mass as a missionary in 1818 in a private home in Richmond.

https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_diocese_nicolet.html

Drummondville – Saint Frédéric - Organized in 1815, the first Irish marriage was performed a year later. The parish records of this church contains some of the earliest Irish marriages and baptisms of the county of Drummond. The parish recently changed its name to Saint-François de Sales, but parish registers at various repositories are listed as St-Frederic.

http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/drummondville.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_drummondville_saint_frederic.html

L’Avenir – Saint-Peter of Durham (Saint-Pierre-Apôtre-de-Durham) - Parish organized in 1820 within an Irish town. The parish was first referred to as Saint Peter’s of Durham. The church records only began in 1850. Prior to that date, one must verify the church records of the parish Saint Jean Baptiste Cathedral at Nicolet (from 1716) and of Saint Frédéric Parish at Drummondville from 1815. Missionaries visited the county from about 1818, perhaps earlier, from Drummondville and prior to that date, from Nicolet.

http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/770.html
Durham Village - Holy Cross of Durham (Sainte-Croix-de-Durham) - Organized in 1842. An Irish church at the foundation of the district of Durham. It appears that the parish registers (church registers) of Holy Cross of Durham (Sainte-Croix-de-Durham) might have been mixed with those of the parish records of one of the Protestant churches in the area, either the Baptist Church of Durham (1859-1873), the Congregational Church of Durham (1842-1919), the Methodist Church of Durham (1879-1925) or Durham Trinity Anglican Church (1862-1885).

South Durham – Saint Fulgence de Durham - Organized in 1863; a year later, the first known Irish marriage was blessed.

Kinsey – Saint Félix of Kinsey - Organized in 1842, the first known Irish marriage took place in 1865.

Wickham West – Saint John the Evangelist (Saint-Jean-l'Évangéliste) - Organized in 1864; the first known Irish marriage was performed the following year. The village might have been referred to at one time as St-Pierre-de-Wickham.

Grantham Village – Saint-Germain-de-Grantham - Organized in 1856; in 1866 the first known Irish marriage was performed in the parish.

Grantham Township – Saint Eugène-de-Grantham - Organized in 1878, two years later, the first known Irish marriage ceremony was performed.

Kingsey Falls – Sainte-Aimé-de-Kingsey-Falls - Organized in 1875, only in 1890 was an Irish marriage blessed within this parish.

Wendover – Saint Cyrille-de-Wendover - Organized in 1865, the first known Irish marriage took place 30 years later.

Grantham Township – Saint Majorique-de-Grantham – Organized in 1900, Irish families resided within
Richmond County

Richmond County is considered by many historians as being the home of the Irish in the Eastern Townships. The St. Patrick’s Society in Richmond is the oldest Irish Society in Quebec outside of Montréal. In 2002, in honor of the area’s many Irish and Celtic settlers, the St. Pat’s Society of Richmond unveiled a splendid granite Celtic Cross in downtown Richmond.

http://www.richmondcountyhistoricalsociety.com/society.htm
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_diocese_sherbrooke.html

Richmond – Sainte Bibiane - Organized in 1851; Irish families were present in the region from 1800 onward.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1636.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_richmond_sainte_bibiane.html

Windsor - Saint Georges & Saint Urbain - Organized in 1863. Irish were present in the region prior to 1863.
http://www.st-georges-de-windsor.org/
http://histoire-du-quebec.ca/st-georges-windsor
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_saint_georges_de_windsor.html

Danville - Saint Ann (Sainte-Anne) - First organized from 1845 to 1865 as a mission of the Diocese of Sherbrooke. When the parish was organized in 1866, Irish families were already present.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1595.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_danville.html

Bromptonville - Saint Praxède - Organized in 1872. About the same time period, Irish families were present.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1586.html

Windsor Mills – Saint Philip (Saint-Philippe) - Organized in 1873, Irish were present in the region prior to 1873.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1699.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_windsor_saint_philippe.html

Stoke – Saint Philémon - Organized in 1875, Irish families were present within the region around the 1870s.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1691.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_stoke.html

Asbestos – Saint Aimé-de-Shipton - Organized in 1847, Irish families were present in the region prior to 1847. For parish registers from 1848 to 1896, see Sherbrooke under Greffe de Sherbrooke Catholic Parish Registers (1816-1872). See also Sainte-Anne-de-Danville for parish registers from 1866 to 1897.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1570.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_asbestos_saint_aime.html

Kingsbury - Saint Malachie-de-Melbourne - Organized in 1914, from 1915, Irish families were present in the region.
Sherbrooke County
The County of Sherbrooke was first settled by American, British and Scottish immigrants as early as 1798. Farming and the wood cutting industry were ways of life for most of the area’s early immigrants. The Irish presence in the region became a factor in the 1830’s. The first Catholic Church in Sherbrooke County was organized in 1834 – see:
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_diocese_sherbrooke.html

Sherbrooke – Saint Columban & Saint Michael’s Cathedral & Saint-Patrick – The Irish Churches
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_michel.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_colomban.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_patrick.html

Sherbrooke – Saint Columban – Parish registers of 1816-1872 under Greffe de Sherbrooke. The latter address early Catholic registers of Sherbrooke, including Irish families.
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_colomban.html

Lennoxville – Saint Anthony - Saint-Antoine - Organized in 1878; Irish families were present in the region prior to that time.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1614.html
http://www.interment.net/data/canada/qc/sherbrooke/antoine/index.htm
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_antoine_de_padoue.html

Sherbrooke - Saint Patrick – Referred to from 1889 onward as the Irish parish of Sherbrooke.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1686.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_patrick.html

Orford – Saint-Paul – St-Élie d’Orford - Organized in 1887; Irish families were present in the region prior to 1887.
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-%C3%89lie-d%27Orford
https://wwwstpaulsherbrooke.com/st--lie-d-orford
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1652.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_elie.html

Rock Forest – Saint Roch - Organized in 1892; from about 1887, Irish families were present in the region, perhaps earlier.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1639.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sherbrooke_saint_roch.html

Ascot Corner – Saint Stanislas-de-Kostka - Organized in 1894; the Irish were present in the region a few years prior to 1894.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1574.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_ascot_corner.html

Stanstead County
People from Derby Line in Orleans County, Vermont and the town of Stanstead, Quebec have shared the border since the American Revolution. People of these two countries have inter-married. Sometimes
family members were married in one country, had their children baptized in the other and were buried on both sides of the border. Members of the British, Scottish, American, Irish and French communities of this region can all attest to having family members on both side of the border. The area was also known as a crossing point for families who decided to establish a permanent residence in the U.S.A.. Such was the case for thousands of Irish families in the 1800’s and early 1900’s. The first Catholic Church was organized in the county in 1848. http://www.tomifobia.com/genealogy/lepitre.html *** http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=C&SS=61 https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_diocese_sherbrooke.html https://www.stanstead.ca/en/tourism/history-and-heritage/ https://www.stanstead.ca/en/

Stanstead - Sacred Heart (Sacré-Coeur) - Organized in 1838, Irish families were present in the region from about 1848 onward.

Magog – Saint Patrick - Organized in 1861, an Irish parish.

Coaticook – Saint Edmond – Organized in 1868, Irish families were present in the region within said time period

Stanhope - Boundary Line (Barnston) - Saint Susan of Boundary Line - (Sainte-Suzanne-de-Boundary Line) - Organized in 1875, Irish families were present in the region by this time.

North Hatley – Saint Elizabeth - Organized in 1908, Irish families were present in the region from about 1871 onward.

Barford - Saint Hermenegilde - Organized in 1856, from about 1874, Irish families were present in the region.

Hatley - Katevale - Saint Catherine of Hatley (Katevale) - Sainte-Catherine de Katevale (Hatley) - Organized in 1872, from about 1881, Irish families were present in the region

Kingscroft - Barnston West - Saint Wilfrid - Organized in 1903
http://www.originis.ca/paroisse_barnston_ouest.html

Dixville - Saint Matthew (Saint-Mathieu) - Organized in 1915, Irish families were present in the region from about the same time period.
Rock Island - **Notre Dame** - Organized in 1916. A few years earlier the Irish were present in the region.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1641.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanstead,_Quebec
http://www.patrimoine-culturel.gouv.qc.ca/rpcq/detail.do?methode=consulter&id=158432&type=bien

Fitch Bay - **Saint Éphrem** - Organized in 1922, a few years earlier, Irish families were present in the region.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1603.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_stanstead_saint_ephrem.html

Beebe Plain - **Saint Theresa** (Sainte-Thérèse) - Organized in 1925, Irish families were present in the region prior to 1925.
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/beebe.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_stanstead_sainte_therese_de_lenfant_jesus.html

Ayers’s Cliff – **Saint Barthelemy** - Organized in 1946, Irish families were present before 1946
http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1577.html
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_ayers_cliff.html

**The cemeteries**

Drummond County – 49 cemeteries

Richmond County – 41 cemeteries

Sherbrooke County – 40 cemeteries

Arthabaska – Modern-day region – 56 cemeteries
http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=M&SS=4

Drummond – Modern-day region – 56 cemeteries

Le Val-Saint-François – Modern-day region – 41 cemeteries

Les Sources – Modern-day region – 21 cemeteries

Sherbrooke – Modern-day region – 29 cemeteries
Authors
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A.C. Buchanan – Emigration Agent Quebec City – 1800s
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First Report from the Select Committee on Emigration of 1826.
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The Irish in Quebec:
An Introduction to the Historiography, Followed by An Annotated Bibliography on the Irish in Quebec
http://gail25.tripod.com/que3.htm

Diane Lauzon Rioux
Le Courant  Automne 2014 | 16  East-Hereford History East Hereford 1800-1926
http://societehistoirecoaticook.ca/fr/le_courant/articles/east_hereford_history

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http://gail25.tripod.com/que.htm

Gladys Mullins
English-Speaking Priests who Evangelized The Eastern Townships
http://www.cchahistory.ca/journal/CCHA1939-40/Mullins.html

Marianna O’Gallagher
The Irish in Quebec
Eyewitness: Grosse Isle, 1847 Paperback – 1995
Grosse Île: Gateway to Canada, 1832-1937 Paperback – 1984
http://gail25.tripod.com/que2.htm
https://www.amazon.com/Grosse-I%CC%82le-Gateway-Canada-1832-1937/dp/0969080530/ref=pd_sim_14_1?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=0969080530&pd_rd_r=112c4b55-0d9e-11e9-8d13-d5ed4d8cec35&pd_rd_w=eoQfn&pd_rd_wg=xIcEWH&pf_rd_p=18bb0b78-4200-49b9-ac91-f141d61a1780&pf_rd_r=4G2NGJ6GKXV86FBWTRSB&psc=1&refRID=4G2NGJ6GKXV86FBWTRSB

T.J. Walsh  
Pioneer English Catholics in the Eastern Townships  
http://www.cchahistory.ca/journal/CCHA1939-40/Walsh.html

Repositories

BAnQ Sherbrooke – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec  
225, rue Frontenac, bureau 401  
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1H 1K1  
Téléphone : 819 820-3010 ou 1 800 363-9028, option 4 puis option 6  
Fax : 819 820-3146  
Email : archives.sherbrooke@banq.qc.ca

BAnQ Québec – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec  
http://www.banq.qc.ca/archives/entrez_archives/centres_archives/  
Pavillon Louis-Jacques-Casault  
Campus de l'Université Laval  
1055, avenue du Séminaire  
Québec (Québec) G1V 5C8  
Phone: 418 643-8904 ou 1 800 363-9028, option 4 then option 2  
Fax: 418 646-4254  
Email:  
Textual archives: archives.quebec@banq.qc.ca  
Iconographic, audiovisual, cartographic and architectural archives: icono.caq@banq.qc.ca

BAnQ Vieux-Montréal (Old Montreal)  
535 Avenue Viger E, Montréal, QC H2L 2P3  
Tel: 1 800-363-9028  
Tel : 514-873-1100  
http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/

BAnQ across the province  
http://www.banq.qc.ca/a_propos_banq/informations_pratiques/

LAC – Library Archives Canada – Land Petitions of Lower Canada – 1764-1841  

ETRC – Eastern Townships Resource Centre
http://www.etrc.ca/journal/

Irish Heritage Quebec
http://www.irishheritagequebec.net/genealogy/
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http://societehistoirecoaticook.ca/fr/le_courant/articles/east_hereford_history

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http://search.ancestry.ca/search/db.aspx?dbid=61062

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https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1471015

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https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/

Find my Past
https://www.findmypast.com/

Quebec Family History Society
https://qfhs.ca/

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