

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..

<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=C&SS=19>
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>

https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_lavenir.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).

<http://histoire-du-quebec.ca/durham-sud>

http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/ecivil/affichage.html?serie=04T_CE403S19

http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/ecivil/affichage.html?serie=04T_CE403S21

http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/ecivil/affichage.html?serie=04T_CE403S20

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/768.html>

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

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/768.html>

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

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/797.html>

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

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.

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/836.html>

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

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/800.html>

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

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/795.html>

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

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/769.html>

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

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/790.html>

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

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

this parish as of 1902.

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

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>

<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=C&SS=53>

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.

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

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:

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=C&SS=59>

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

Sherbrooke – **Saint Columban & Saint Michael's Cathedral & Saint-Patrick** – The Irish Churches

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Michel_Basilica-Cathedral

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://www.stpaulsherbrooke.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.

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1690.html>
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_stanstead_sacre_coeur_de_jesus.html

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1619.html>
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_magog_saint_patrice.html

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1590.html>
https://www.originis.ca/paroisse_coaticook_saint_edmond.html

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.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanhope,_Quebec
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norton%E2%80%93Stanhope_Border_Crossing
http://societehistoirecoaticook.ca/en/le_courant/articles/10_11

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1629.html>
http://www.originis.ca/paroisse_north_hatley.html

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1660.html>
http://www.originis.ca/paroisse_saint_hermenegilde.html

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

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1646.html>
http://www.originis.ca/paroisse_sainte_catherine_de_hatley.html

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.

<http://www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1598.html>
http://www.originis.ca/paroisse_dixville.html

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> -
[.XC6TkFxKjIU](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
<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=C&SS=19>

Richmond County – 41 cemeteries
<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=C&SS=53>

Sherbrooke County – 40 cemeteries
<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=C&SS=59>

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
<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=M&SS=12>

Le Val-Saint-François – Modern-day region – 41 cemeteries
<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=M&SS=85>

Les Sources – Modern-day region – 21 cemeteries
<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=M&SS=97>

Sherbrooke – Modern-day region – 29 cemeteries
<http://www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres/ListerCims.asp?MP=F3&TY=M&SS=66>

Authors

A. W. Patrick Buchanan

A.C. Buchanan – Emigration Agent Quebec City – 1800s

[A.C. Buchanan, Emigration Agent in Montreal, 1800s](#)

Annual Report on Emigration for 1850”

First Report from the Select Committee on Emigration of 1826.

<http://www.ourlibrary.ca/phpbb2/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=56>

John Donahue

[Growing Up Irish in Quebec](#)

https://www.jstor.org/stable/25513072?seq=1 - page_scan_tab_contents

Robert John Grace

[The Irish in Mid-nineteenth-century Canada and the Case of Quebec: Immigration and Settlement in a Catholic City](#)

[The Irish in Quebec:](#)

[An Introduction to the Historiography, Followed by An Annotated Bibliography on the Irish in Quebec](#)

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/s4/f2/dsk1/tape9/PQDD_0016/NQ39355.pdf

<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

J.I. Little

[Missionary Priests in Quebec's Eastern Townships: The Years of Hardship and Discontent, 1825-1853.](#)

http://www.etc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/JETS_28_Spring_2006.pdf

<https://hssh.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/hssh/article/viewFile/40265/36450>

<http://www.cchahistory.ca/journal/CCHA1978/Little.html>

D. Aidan McQuillan

[Beaurivage: The Development of an Irish Ethnic Identity in Rural Quebec: 1820-1860](#)

<http://gail25.tripod.com/que4.htm>

<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.ca/Eyewitness-Grosse-Isle-Marianna-OGallagher/dp/096908059X>

https://www.amazon.com/Grosse-l%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=xIEWH&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

http://www.banq.qc.ca/archives/entrez_archives/centres_archives/ca_estrie.html

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/

http://www.banq.qc.ca/archives/entrez_archives/centres_archives/index.html?language_id=1

Pavillon Louis-Jacques-Casault

Campus de l'Université Laval

1055, avenue du Séminaire

Québec (Québec) G1V 5C8

Phone: 418 643-8904 or 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

<https://www.mtl.org/en/what-to-do/heritage-and-architecture/centre-d-archives-de-montreal-bibliotheque-et-archives>

<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

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-lower-canada-1764-1841/Pages/land-petitions-lower-canada-volumes.aspx>

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-lower-canada-1764-1841/Pages/land-petitions-lower-canada.aspx>

ETRC – Eastern Townships Resource Centre

<http://www.etric.ca/journal/>

http://www.etric.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/JETS_28_Spring_2006.pdf

Irish Heritage Quebec

<http://www.irishheritagequebec.net/genealogy/>

<http://www.irishheritagequebec.net/>

Société d'histoire de Coaticook

http://societehistoirecoaticook.ca/fr/le_courant/articles/east_hereford_history

Ancestry.com

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

<https://cms.ancestrycdn.com/media/dam/acom/PDF/Content/quebec-notarial-us.pdf>

FamilySearch.org

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

Genealogy Quebec

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

Find my Past

<https://www.findmypast.com/>

Quebec Family History Society

<https://qfhs.ca/>

Researched and compiled by Jacques Gagné

gagne.jacques@sympatico.ca

2019-01-04