

Symbolic wedding gifts . . .
A young man engaged to marry a girl might prove his skill as a woodworker by making a cradle. She in turn might weave shawls and decorate her linens with embroidered flowers symbolizing a long and fruitful life.

September 1617

The first marriage in Canada took place at Québec between Stephen Jonquest and Anne Hébert, with Father Le Caron officiating. L. Newman, *An Historical Almanac of Canada*

September 19, 1654

Marguerite Sedilot aged eleven years and five months, the youngest bride in Canadian records, was married to Jean Aubuchon, of Trois-Rivières, Québec. The ceremony was not validated until her twelfth birthday. L. Newman, *An Historical Almanac of Canada*

"Baptism under French rule was a church service and a family celebration at the same time. A newborn child had to be baptised on the actual day it was born according to a strict rule of the Bishop. Baptism was an event for the whole parish. [The parish was the small local district served by one church with its priest.] All the family's relatives and friends joined the parade to the church. The family celebration was held afterwards in the home. A real banquet was offered to the invited guests. . . . Those were the days when children were welcomed into the home, even if there were already twelve or fourteen around the family table. How times have changed!"

P. G. Roy, "Nos coutumes et nos traditions françaises," dans les *Cahier des Dix*, quoted in M. D. Ferland, *Coutumes Populaires du Canada Français*, pp. 27-28

- Marguerite Bourassa's Dowry**
When Marguerite Bourassa, a habitant's daughter, married Joseph Girard, she brought with her the following dowry:
- seersucker cloth
 - a hat
 - a pair of shoes
 - a night-cap
 - 2 calico dresses
 - 4 prs. gloves
 - 3 skirts
 - 3 coats
 - 2 cloth suits
 - a calico suit
 - a corset
 - 2 prs. French shoes
 - 5 tablecloths
 - 6 prs. woolen stockings and socks
 - 4 prs. cotten stockings
 - 6 muslin handkerchiefs
 - 6 yellow and blue handkerchiefs
 - a fan
 - 2 hair ribbons
 - a linen shirt
 - a fur-lined calico coat
 - a muslin mantle
 - 2 scarf-pins
 - 3 pearl necklaces
 - a pot-au-feu (iron kettle)

"The wedding banquet was always composed of pieces of fresh bacon and mutton cooked in the oven or boiled, the only two ways of cooking meat. Sometimes, but rarely, they also cooked poultry.

Once the dinner (which lasted an hour and a half) was over, the best man put on his gloves and went to take the groom by the hand. The maid of honour took the bride's. They led them to the middle of the room, where a fiddler played while they danced a minuet. When they were finished, four other couples also danced, in a room which was often no bigger than ten feet square. . . .

The . . . dancing lasted till the sun went down, at which time they went back to the table and ate with as much appetite as at dinner." N. G. Boisseau, "Le mariage des habitants de la campagne d'autrefois," in *Mémoires Inédits de N. G. Boisseau*, quoted in M. D. Ferland, *Coutumes Populaires du Canada Français*, p. 53



Canadian Wedding - J. Duncan

"Once supper was over, the dancing started again. . . . It normally continued until midnight when the bride and groom quietly disappeared and the guests did the same a little later.

Very early next day the guests came back to join the bride and groom, and all left the bride's home to go to the groom's, where they spent the day in a similar sequence of meals, dances and ceremonies to those of the day before. With some rich people this continued for two or three days. They ate and drank enough during these days to last them a year." N. G. Boisseau, "Le mariage des habitants de la campagne d'autrefois," in *Mémoires Inédits de N. G. Boisseau*, quoted in M. D. Ferland, *Coutumes Populaires du Canada Français*, p. 53

Old Québec Families

THE GRENIER FAMILY

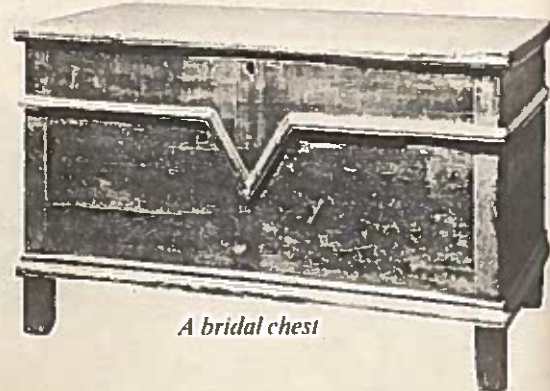
Settled at Beauport, Québec County, in 1666

1. Charles Grenier, of Saint-Gemme, Normandy, married in 1666 to Marie-Louise Vézina
2. Charles Grenier married in 1691 to Angélique Maheu
3. Pierre Grenier married in 1714 to Marie-Madeleine Tessier
4. Pierre Grenier (1) married in 1744 to Angélique Vachon
(2) married in 1750 to M.-Madeleine Ringuet
5. Joseph Grenier (1) married in 1762 to Geneviève Garneau
(2) married in 1773 to Marie Beaugie
6. Joseph Grenier married in 1810 to Angélique Rainville
7. Jean-Thomas Grenier married in 1843 to Julie Bureau
8. Théophile Grenier married in 1882 to Elizabeth Chalifour

Le Comité du "Livre-Souvenir" des Fêtes Jubilaires, *Les Fêtes du Troisième Centenaire de Québec 1608-1908*, p. 567



A. Laliberté



A bridal chest

A book was published in Québec in 1908 to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city. In it were listed all families who had lived on the same piece of land for two centuries or more. There were 264 families on the list. One of them was the Grenier family.