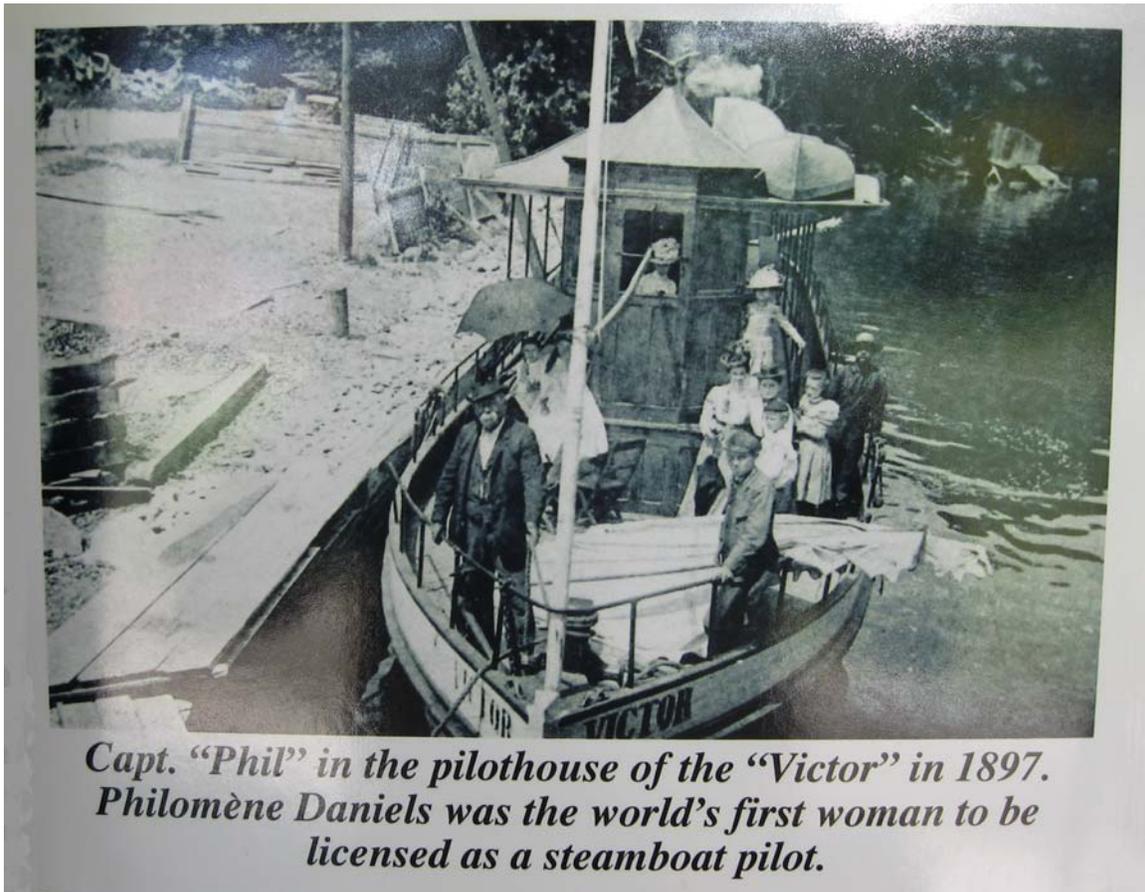


# **The First Licensed Female Steamboat Pilot and the Daniels Steamboat Family of Vergennes, Vermont**

**Captain Philomena (Ostiguy dit Domingue) Daniels  
Captain Philomena Ostiguy dit Domingue  
First Licensed Female Steamboat Pilot**



Philomena Ostiguy dit Domingue was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September in 1843 at St Mathias, Quebec. Her parents were Laurent Ostiguy dit Domingue and M. Theotiste (Adele) Vient who celebrated their marriage on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October in 1830 at Ste Marie de Monnoir, Quebec, which is in the Seigneurie of Monnoir. The Ostiguy family moved south to Vermont sometime in the 1850 to 1857 timeframe and the family appeared as Laurent (occupation blacksmith) and Marie AUSTIN in the 1860 Vermont Census with 6 children; Milania 27, Joseph 21, Philemen 17, Clara 13, Mary 11, and Rose age 8. Two years later, Philomena married Louis Daniels Jr in Vergennes, Vermont in 1862. Members of the Ostiguy family used the names Ostiguy, Austin or Domingue.

The Burlington Free Press and Times 5 May 1887

THE WOMAN PILOT

Mrs Daniels of the WATER LILY, the first woman pilot in the country

Mrs Daniels, wife of Captain Louis Daniels, of the WATER LILY which plys between Vergennes and Westport, this spring appeared before the inspectors and applied for a license as a pilot of a steam craft on Lake Champlain. After successfully passing a very rigid test before them, she was sent to Dr. Grinnell of this city to be examined for color blindness or any other defect of the vision. She passed a very successful examination, and has received her license as a pilot on the waters of Lake Champlain. **Mrs Daniels is undoubtedly the first woman to receive a pilots license in this country, if not in the world, no other case being known by the authorities.**

Mrs Daniels is a prepossessing woman of 42 years, and for the past 20 years has lived upon the water during the boating season. For the past 10 years she has been at the helm of the WATER LILY nearly all the time, both in calm and stormy weather and has never met with a mishap. During this time she has received many encomiums (expressions of high praise) from many passengers for the skill she has frequently displayed. The WATER LILY came down the Otter Creek to the lake Monday when the flats were covered with water, but without the slightest hesitation she kept in the narrow channel, although there were, seemingly, no marks to show where the course should be laid. As the captain himself expressed it, he couldn't stay forward, expecting every minute the boat would be aground.

From the preceding newspaper article we find that Philomena not only received her well deserved license, but that she was no novice, but was very experienced and skillful in piloting her steamboat, the WATER LILY, which was used primarily as an excursion boat on Lake Champlain.

## The Ostiguy dit Domingue Lineage

Philomena Ostiguy dit Domingue and Louis Henry Daniels Jr  
Wed 1862

Laurent Ostiguy dit Domingue and Marie Theotiste (Adele) Vient  
Wed 12 Oct 1830 at St Marie de Monnoir, Quebec

Jean Marie Ostiguy dit Domingue and Marie Charlotte Masse (Mace)  
Wed 18 July 1791 at St Mathias, Quebec

Dominique Ostel dit Domingue and Marguerite Parent  
Wed 7 Oct 1754 at La Conception, Quebec (Point Olivier)

Jean Ostel dit Domingue and Catherine Chausse/Cheneri  
From Arcangues, Besse Pyrennes, diocese of Bayonne, France

Philomena's first ancestor in Quebec was from the Basque region of France, the town of Arcangue. He was **Dominique Ostel** or Ostei or Hostel and was born about 1722. He married Marguerite Parent on 7 October 1754 at the parish of La Conception de Chambly, or Point Olivier, today named St Mathias; just as the British Army and Navy and the American Colonists were preparing the invasion of New France. During the spring of 1765, Dominique sowed eight acres of his eighty acre farm and he owned 2 oxen, 2 cows, 1 heifer, 1 horse and 2 hogs. He was Captain of the Militia and was prominent in the community, since in this office he not only held regular militia meetings but he was the representative of the governor for the publication of edicts and regulations and often had to act as judge or arbiter. Following is his death certificate:

**On December 21, 1795, the body of Dominique Ostigui, also known as Domingue, Captain of the militia, was buried under the first pew in the church of this parish. (St Mathias) The deceased, Marguerite Parents husband, passed away the nineteenth of this month, at the age of 73, after receiving the last rites. Present were: Jean-Baptiste Bertrand, Michel Gilbert, Louis Trudeau and others. PICARD priest.**

Only the most prominent people were buried in the church at that time! Arcangues is in the province of Labourd, in the Basque Country in southwest France and is southeast of Biarritz on the Bay of Biscay. It is on the northern-most part of Basques lands which extend into northern Spain for about 100 miles. I do not know if Dominiques parents were Basques or whether they spoke the Basque language which is very unique, as the Basque people themselves are unique. Philomena's ancestors stayed in the St Mathias, Marieville, and Chambly area for 3 generations before migrating to the United States just a few years before the Civil War began.