

Joseph Laurent Barreyre - Dastigny
22 Oct 1696-16 Feb 1788
John Fisher #2 - April 2011

Joseph was the first and only Dastigny that emigrated from France and arrived in New France or Quebec in the early 1730's. Ernest Darsigny wrote 2 books about the Darsigny's. In the first which was written in 1980 he assumed that Joseph was from Bourdeau, Savoie in Eastern France; and in his second book which was published in 1990, Ernest assumed that Joseph came from Bordeaux, Gironde in Western France, which was the source of most immigrants to Quebec, and most of the Quebec reference books assumed Bordeaux also.

However, even in this book he referenced the fact that Joseph Laurent Dastigny's marriage contract said "in Savoie"; however in looking at the contract I did not find that. I believe that whomever did the translation added it in error. Ernest, who lived at St Damase, Quebec, near St Hyacinthe, and I wrote letters to each other many times during the years, always asking if either of us had found something definitely in this regard. In Vermont the surname eventually changed to Desany after many variations since they immigrated about 1839.

On 10 November 2010 I visited my daughter Beth in Eagle Mountain, Utah and I took one day to do some research at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City. My goals were to find Joseph's baptism record and his parents marriage record in Bordeaux, Gironde, France. Secondly, I would find as many of his brothers and sisters records and try to put together the family as I had done for the Poissants in Marennes, France a few years ago, when I found 63 records for the family. That was my dream, but it did not turn out that way. In genealogy you never know what you will run into during your searches, and no two searches are alike.

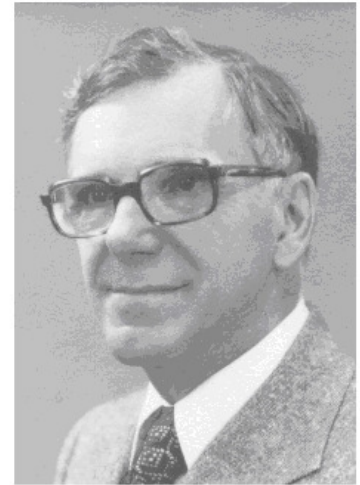
In the Latter Day Saints (LDS) library in Salt Lake City they had the microfilm records for 19 Catholic Churches in Bordeaux. In Joseph's marriage record or the marriage contract that was drawn up by the Notary, Lepailleur on 28 October 1736, it mentioned that he was from St Projet. St Projet was one of the churches that was filmed by the Mormons, so that was good news. However, in most of the 19 Bordeaux churches, there were no baptisms listed! But at the Cathedral of St Andre there were many, many baptisms and there was also an index for the period of 1688 to 1703. That was good luck also because some sources indicated that Joseph may have been born about 1699.

St Andre Cathedral, Bordeaux, France



I began scanning the baptism index and immediately noticed that something was unusual. Everyone was indexed by their First Name, not the Last Name which is normal. I have to assume that it was done because First Names were stabilized back then, but maybe the Last Names (Surnames) varied quite a bit. All of a sudden, this was a much larger task than I anticipated. Instead of just looking at Dastigny's for each year, I had to look at all the Index if I was to find Joseph Laurent and all his brothers and sisters. So, I settled into the search procedure. As I started in the 1688 index and went

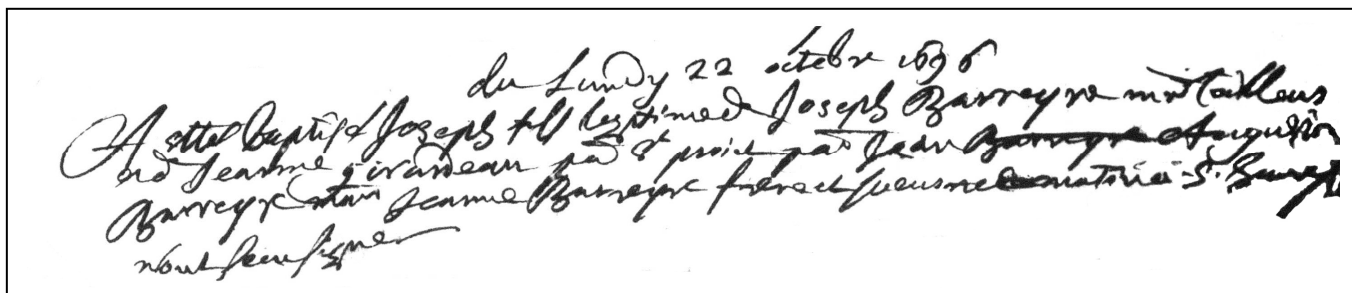
Ernest Darsigny



throughout all the given names for this 15 year index, I quickly noticed that it took a long time to get through some letters such as F for Francois, Francoise etc, and then J for Jean, Joseph etc; whereas some letters such as N had very few back then. It began to be a real drag going thru year after year of names on microfilm for almost 4 hours.

Since there was a dit name or double name involved (Dastigny dit Barrer with many different ways to spell Barrer), I decided to record all the Dastigny, Barriere, and Girardeau surnames. Girardeau was his mothers surname. I searched this huge index from 9am until 1pm and when I finished I had found 15 Barriere's (no Joseph); 10 Barreyre's (1 Joseph), and 12 Girardeau's but nothing that seemed even close to Dastigny. Now it was time to find those records. Naturally I tried Joseph Barreyre first since it was the closest match to Laurent Joseph. This Barreyre name with many variations had shown up many times in the Dastigny baptism records and no one knew if it was Barreyre, Barriere, Barrer, Barrey, or Barer. The index provided the Year and a page number, and these records were spread across 4 different microfilms for the 1688 to 1703 time period.

I found the 1696 microfilm and went to page 54 and found Joseph's baptism was the 9th baptism and at the bottom of the page. (Film 1692028)



A ette baptisé Joseph fils légitime de Joseph Barreyre m^{re} tailleur
et Jeanne Girardeau par et parrain par Jean Augustin Barreyre
Barreyre et par Jeanne Barreyre frere et soeur né ce
du Lundi 22 octobre 1696
n^o 9^e de la page

du Lundi 22 Octobre 1696

(At St Andre Cathedral, Bordeaux, France)

A ette baptized Joseph, fils legitime de Joseph Barreyre, m^{re} tailleur, et de Jeanne Girardeau
paroisse St Projet, parrain Jean Augustin Barreyre, marraine Jeanne Barreyre, frere et soeur, né ce
matin.

On Monday 22 October 1696

Has been baptized, Joseph, legitimate son of Joseph Barreyre, master tailor, and of Jeanne
Girardeau parish St Projet, godfather Jean Augustin Barreyre, godmother Jeanne Barreyre, brother and
sister, born this morning.

So the real surname of the Dastigny, Darsigny, Dassigni, Dorsiny, Dorsini, Desany (never with an apostrophe like D'astigny) etc family is Barreyre! When was it changed? In Joseph's marriage records he always stated that his father was Joseph Dastigny. Joseph signed several documents with a very nicely written 'Dastigny'. Did the family own a home or land named Dastigny? Note that there was only 1 Joseph Barreyre and no Joseph Laurent Dastigny in the 1688 to 1703 period of baptisms.

I continued my searching and found Jean Augustin Barreyre, the elder brother of Joseph who was also his godfather. (Film 1692027)

18^e Fev^r 1691
A été baptisé Jean Augustin fils légitime de Joseph
Barreyre m. tailleur & de Jeanne Girardeau par s^r St
Projet de la paroisse de St Jean Barres chevalier & de
mar. Catherine Barreyre nappée né ce matin après cinq
heures
Barreyre
Barres

Baptism of Jean Augustin Barreyre on 18 February 1691 at St Andre, Bordeaux
(Bap. # 1182)

Has been baptized, Jean Augustin, legitimate son of Joseph Barreyre, master clothing tailor, and of Jeanne Girardeau parish St Projet only sponsor was Monsieur Jean Barres, religious cleric, husband of Catherine Barreyre, born this morning after 5 o'clock.

Signed by Barreyre (I assume this is Joseph the father) and Barres in the document but the signature almost appears like Barreyre.

I also found 3 other Barreyre baptisms, however they appeared to be different families. It is possible however that were brothers or cousins of the elder Joseph Barreyre.

Of the 15 Barriere records, I only found 3 of the actual baptisms because even though they were indexed, the pages on the microfilm were not numbered and it was just impossible to find them. I also found 2 of the 12 Girardeau's but I have no idea if they are somehow related.

This was the result of 8 hours of research at the library. I did not see any other indexes for that timeframe, so in order to do further research it would require someone to go thru all 4 films, frame by frame, scanning 7 to 9 records on each page, which would be a huge task. Also, if I wanted to find the marriage of Joseph Barreyre and Jeanne Girardeau I would probably look at the St Projet parish first, but there is no index and the info states that there are also gaps in the records. Another big task. My hope would be that someday it will all be digitized, but the writing is so bad that they would have to be manually transcribed.

Found in the Pistard Database at the Montreal Archives of Quebec.

<http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/index.html>

What follows is a high level description of the document in English

Document: TL4, S1, D4498

Declaration of Madeleine Plumereau, widow of Michel Fily de Kerrigou, with the effect which she has of consenting to a financial arrangement with Dastigny under threat. November 5, 1736

Scope and Contents

This file of legal administration is composed at the appearance of Madeleine Plumereau before the clerk and the declaration to the effect that the named Dastigny, her boarder for at least four years has informed her that her daughter Marie-Anne Fily has been pregnant for three months and that he would be ready to marry her if the aforementioned lady yielded her share of the community to him which she had with her late husband. Not having consented to this proposal which would penalize the other heirs, she however states to have been in the obligation to accept another financial arrangement with him, under threat.

TIMELINE of the first Dastigny Family:

22 Oct 1696 – Joseph Barreyre born at St Projet, Bordeaux, France; bap: at St Andre Cathedral

15 Sep 1708 - Marie Anne Kerigou Fily born at Montreal

About 1732 – Joseph L. Dastigny begins boarding at the home of Michel & Madeleine Kerrigou de Fily

Aug 1736 – Marie Anne becomes pregnant

28 Oct 1736 – Marriage contract. The dowry mentioned for Marie Anne was 300 Livres.

- Age 37 – (Assumed to be born 1699)

5 Nov 1736 – The above Dastigny judicial document created and 300 Livres are mentioned again.

6 Nov 1736 - They were married at Notre Dame church in Montreal.

- Age 37 – (Assumed to be born 1699)

7 Apr 1737 – Daughter Marie Antoine Dastigny born and died on 24 Aug 1737.

3 Mar 1768 - Marie Anne Kerigou Fily died at Montreal at age 52

16 Feb 1788 – Joseph Dastigny-Barreyre dies at age 96 at St Charles using the name Gabriel

- Age 96 – (Assumed born 1692)

Marie Anne Kerigou Fily came from a family of French Nobility. (Lettres de Noblesse)

Her father was Michel Fily de Kerigou, born 5 Feb 1668 at Spezet, France, arrived at Quebec about 1698 and died on 13 Mar 1735 at Montreal.

Her mother was Marie Madeleine Plumereau, born 29 Dec 1705 of Julien & Jeanne Barbier

The Cathedral of St Andre was consecrated by Pope Urban II in 1096. The tower dates from the fifteenth century and its 50 meters high, dominates all Bordeaux. The church of St Projet was closed in 1791 (the year that Vermont became a State) and no longer exists. All that remains is Place St Projet.

I am happy that I found the actual baptism of Joseph Barreyre - Dastigny, and have established that he was definitely born in Bordeaux on the West Coast of France; and the document about his settlement with Marie Anne's mother; but I am also sad because Ernest Darsigny passed away on October 13, 2009. I would have enjoyed sharing these new finds with him.