

Family
Ferdinando Scalabrini
and
Domithilde Racicot



1871

Descendants of Jacques Racicot dit Léveillé

«Jacques Racicot originated from St-Jean, Château-Gontier,
Angers, Anjou (Mayenne), France»

Michel Racicot

Geneviève Alard

N'est pas venu au Canada

Mariés en France

Jacques Racicot dit Léveillé

Marie-Jeanne Faye-Labbé

Bedeau, tisserand

enfant naturel

Mariés le 6 mai 1715 à Québec, QC

François Racicot

Marie-Magdeleine Hostin

Mariés le 21 septembre 1761 à Rivière-des-Prairies, QC

Isidore Racicot

Catherine Racine

Mariés le 10 septembre 1792 à Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, QC

Hubert-Urbain Racicot

Céleste

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Mariés le 30 septembre 1823 à Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-Rouville, QC

Israël Racicot

Estelle-Esther Rousseau

Mariés le 23 mai 1853 à Sainte-Croix, Dunham, QC

Ferdinando Scalabrini

Domithilde Racicot

Mariés le 7 janvier 1871 à Sainte-Croix, Dunham, QC

Joseph Scalabrini

Alfred Scalabrini

Ferdinand Scalabrini

Marie-Estelle Scalabrini

Cyrille Scalabrini

Aurore Scalabrini

Jean-Baptiste Scalabrini

Pierre Scalabrini

Benoît Scalabrini

Octave Scalabrini

Josaphat Scalabrini

Wilfrid Scalabrini

Descendants of Ferdinando Scalabrini

Giuseppe Scalabrini and Maria Pagani

1. Ferdinando Scalabrini

Naissance: 20 juin 1842 à Somatié, Lombardie, Italie

Mariage: Domithilde Racicot, le 7 janvier 1871 à Dunham, QC

Décès: 19 janvier 1916 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Joseph Scalabrini

Naissance: 15 juillet 1871 à Dunham, QC

Mariage: Emma-Elmire Pagani, le 1896 à Newport, VT, USA

Décès: 23 avril 1963 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Alfred Scalabrini

Naissance: 8 juin 1873 à Sainte-Croix, Dunham, QC

Mariage: Alphonsine Masson, le 16 septembre 1901 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 19 juillet 1958 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Ferdinand Scalabrini, Naissance: 17 décembre 1874 à East Farnham, QC

Décès: 6 juillet 1948 à Saint-Jean-l'Évangéliste, Coaticook, QC

2. Marie-Estelle Scalabrini

Naissance: 1 juillet 1877 à Dunham, QC

Mariage: Nectaire Rousseau, le 5 septembre 1898 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton,

Décès: 8 août 1952 à Saint-Jean-l'Évangéliste, Coaticook, QC

2. Cyrille Scalabrini

Naissance: 5 juin 1880 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Mariage: Rosa Gardner, le 16 octobre 1905 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 3 avril 1946 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Aurore Scalabrini: Naissance: 16 décembre 1882 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 29 septembre 1891 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Jean-Baptiste Scalabrini

Naissance: 10 septembre 1884 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Mariage: Arsélia Jalbert, le 28 juin 1915 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 5 septembre 1956 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Pierre Scalabrini

Naissance: 13 novembre 1886 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Mariage: Alma Talbot dit Gervais le 7 octobre 1912 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton,

Décès: 31 juillet 1964 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Benoît Scalabrini: Naissance: 21 mars 1890 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 18 août 1891 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Octave Scalabrini: Naissance: 18 avril 1892 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 25 mai 1892 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

2. Josaphat Scalabrini

Naissance: 3 avril 1893 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Mariage: Marie-Rose Raymond, le 6 juillet 1914 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 30 mai 1980 à Coaticook, QC

2. Wilfrid Scalabrini: Naissance: 23 novembre 1895 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Décès: 9 octobre 1909 à Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, QC

Ferdinando

Ferdinando Scalabrini and Domithilde Racicot

The story of Ferdinando was put together from recollections and comments gathered from our elders during the last forty-five years. The prime sources of information, most often used were his son Josaphat, his grandchildren; Léo, Edwidge, Sylvio, Édesse, Flore-Édith, Rose-Éva, Hervé, Gilberte and my grandfather, Léon Branchaud. Some of these people have known him personally, while others have related comments heard from their parents.

The information collected from the Central and National Library of Montreal, allowed us to look into the census, the religious and civil deeds and certificates that gave us valuable data. The 1881 census of Sainte-Edwidge, showed that Ferdinando was of Italian origin, a Roman Catholic and a farmer. His family consisted of five children. The 1891 census added that his father and mother were Italians and that both his wife, Domithilde and he could read and write. The 1901 census told us that Ferdinando arrived in Canada in 1867, the year of the Confederation, and that he was naturalised a Canadian in 1887, twenty years later. He then declared that he could speak French, English, as well as his mother tongue, Italian.



Ferdinando

Ferdinando was born on June 20, 1842 in Somatié, Lombardie, Italy son of Joseph Scalabrini and Marie

Pagani. He left Italy around 1859 and spent the first seven years of his journey in the Marseilles region, France, which explained his heavy southern French accent (Marseillais). When he left Italy, he left behind a brother and a sister. Once Ferdinando was settled, his brother wrote to him to find out if there was a possibility to set up a good bakery in the region and if it was worth his while to travel to the United States with his family. His brother had a son named Jean-Baptiste. In the end, he never came to America. For many years, Ferdinando regularly wrote to his sister and sent her money to support herself until she married.



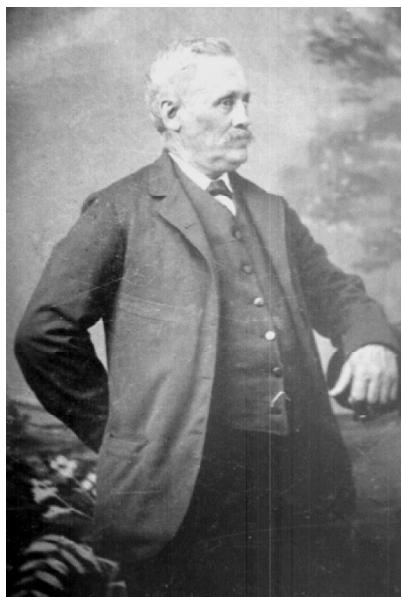
Domithilde

Ferdinando arrived in America with two cousins, John Pagani and one named, Pascal. They arrived by boat at the New York harbour. Ferdinando and his cousins left New York City and went to work in Newport, Vermont. John Pagani stayed in America, while the other cousin, Pascal went back to Italy having too much difficulty adapting to the American way of life. John Pagani bought a farm in Vermont and settled there with his wife, Sophia Dussault. We can still find

his descendants in the Newport region. The name Pagani was changed to Poginy. Léo Scalabrini on his numerous trips, while working in this region, has met some of his descendants. Ferdinando and John had sworn to remain good friends and to always keep in touch. John and his wife Sophia had many daughters while Ferdinando and Domithilde had mostly sons. They organised a few get togethers in order for their children to know each other. Ferdinando's eldest son, Joseph, married John's daughter,

Emma Pagani.

Around 1867, Ferdinando went to the Montreal area where a large community of Italians could be found. As there was not much work in large cities, such as Montreal, it was suggested that he move to the Eastern Townships where there were many farms to be cultivated. On his way to the Townships, he worked in Dunham, as a farmhand for farmers of the region. This is where he met his future wife, Domithilde Racicot.



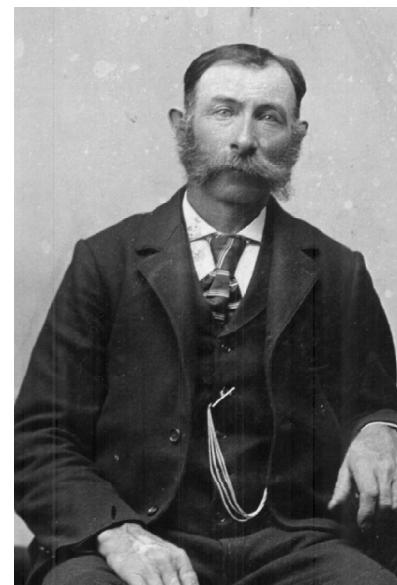
Ferdinando

Ferdinando married Domithilde on January 7, 1871 in the Sainte-Croix parish in Dunham. Domithilde, daughter of Israël Racicot and Estelle Rousseau, was born on April 17, 1853. After their marriage, they lived in Dunham for a few years in an old stone house that Ferdinando rented from his father-in-law. A picture of that house can be found in Flore-Édith, Rose-Éva and Hervé's house. On the baptismal certificates of his first and second children, who were born in July 1871 and June 1873, it was noted that he was a farmer in Dunham, whereas, at Ferdinand's christening in December 1874, Ferdinando declared himself a farmer, residing in East-Farnham.

When they left the Dunham region, to settle in Sainte-Edwidge, they bought a fifty-acre farm, which belonged to Mr. Masson. At that time, they already had four children, Joseph, born in 1871, Alfred in 1873, Ferdinand in 1874 and Marie-Estelle in 1877. In Sainte-Edwidge, eight more children followed Cyrille in 1880, Aurore in 1882, Jean-Baptiste in 1884, Pierre in 1886, Benoit in 1890, Octave in 1892, Josaphat in 1893 and Wilfrid in 1895.

They bought an additional one hundred-acre of land on which they built a house where their descendants are still living today. Mr. Lemieux had built the house and the construction was completed when Jean-Baptiste was six years old, i.e. around 1890. Today, this same house is more than one hundred years old. At Domithilde's request, the house was left to Jean-Baptiste, who was handicapped with polio, and not to the eldest of the family.

The record showed that contrary to immigrants from other nationalities, Ferdinando's family not only integrated itself into the local population but also deeply rooted itself into the community and increased in numbers where other nationalities would decline and even disappear from the parish. Based on various census, following their arrival in Sainte-Edwidge, the following statistics on individuals of Italian origins were found: in 1881, six, in 1891, ten, in 1901, eleven, in 1911, thirteen and in 1921, thirty-one. Already, on the 1901 census questionnaire, we noticed that for questions regarding nationality and mother tongue, Ferdinando answered Italian and then had it crossed out.



Cousin John Pagani

Many members of the Scalabrini family were involved in the administration of the parish. In fact, Ferdinando was churchwarden from 1896 to 1898. His sons and son-in-law followed his steps and were also involved: Joseph 1928-1930, Nectaire Rousseau 1931-1933, Alfred 1934-1936, Cyrille 1940-1942,

Ferdinando

Pierre 1948-1950 and Josaphat 1964-1966. Consequently, the catholic community of Sainte-Edwidge, between 1928 and 1950, nearly always had a representative from the Ferdinando Scalabrini family

All of Ferdinando's descendants succeeded very well in their respective endeavours. To illustrate this, I will limit myself to his children: Joseph, Alfred, Marie-Estelle, Cyrille, Jean-Baptiste and Josaphat were all prosperous and enterprising farmers. Pierre, on the other hand, was the owner of an important general store in the parish for over thirty years and was also postmaster. Alfred, after selling his farm, became the village blacksmith. Josaphat, who was a part-time farmer, was involved for a long time in public works and in the Scalabrini Company, which still exists today. For many years, Josaphat was also in the organisational committee of the Liberal party for the county.

The mere fact that our grandparents married spouses with strong characters confirms their success and demonstrates that they were proud individuals who did not do things halfway. The difficult route that Ferdinando followed from his migration into France at a young age, the crossing into America and the measures that he took to move into Canadian soil to settle and have a family. Finally, the fact that he established his roots in a place away from his peers showed, without any doubts, that he was determined, proud and most likely a lofty individual. For example, the house which is built in 1890 remains very nice even today, the comments from his grandchildren about the inside of the house and the furniture and finally his refined, elegant and imposing tombstone.

Their granddaughter, Édesse, was fortunate to know and spent time with her Scalabrini grandparents. Édesse was eleven when her grandmother died. She visited frequently as her grandmother Domithilde loved children and regularly would send one of her sons to get Alfred's children: Édesse, Joséphat and Edwidge or Joseph's children; Zéphir and Marie-Anna to keep her company. Édesse was delighted to

spend time with her grandmother. Grandma Domithilde had long hair that she combed into a bun. She loved to have Édesse comb her hair and, to Édesse's pleasure said to everyone that only Édesse could do her hair so beautifully.

Their granddaughter, Edwidge, remembered growing up surrounded with lots of attention from her grandparents Scalabrini as well as her uncles Ferdinand and Jean-Baptiste. She regularly visited her grandmother Domithilde who was very gentle with children. She was, however, puzzled by her grandfather who spoke a funny language and whose accent and vocabulary were different. She recalled

Ferdinando having a fiery character. On one of her visits, he was busy replacing a window when the glass slid off his hands and broke on the floor. The story goes like this: Ferdinando got upset and started stomping on the broken glass. He kept repeating with his southern French accent "I will break you, I



*Back: Joseph, a friend
Front: a friend, Marie-Estelle and Alfred*



John Pagan's family

will break you..." At that, Edwidge started laughing and her grandmother told her, "Don't laugh, your grandfather is very temperamental you know", meaning that he was sharp. She was also quite impressed by the inside of their house which was more luxurious than a farmhouse of that era, with its furniture made of precious woods, Turkish carpets and lace curtains. When the new babies, her brothers and sisters, were about to be born, the children would go and stay at grandmother Domithilde's until the baby was born. Their grandmother, Domithilde was very patient with them and they also enjoyed playing with uncles Ferdinand and Jean-Baptiste. Every month of May, their grandmother would ask her sons to build a mini shrine where the statue of Virgin Mary

was placed and Joseph and Alfred's children would take turns saying the rosary along with the uncles and the grandparents.



The ancestral house

the springtime, when the river had flooded Cyrille's farm, he had gone as a good neighbour with his father to sympathise and offer his services to Cyrille. On arrival, Ferdinando was already there and was over taken by the extent of the disaster and shouted to the visitors "Are you happy now, are you happy now..." I think that this incident shows that Ferdinando had a temperamental character.

Domithilde died on November 25, 1913 in Sainte-Edwidge. After Domithilde's death, Ferdinando lived with his son Jean-Baptiste for a few years and when Jean-Baptiste married Arsélia Jalbert on June 28, 1915, Ferdinando would have gone to live with his daughter, Marie Estelle. Ferdinando passed away on January 19, 1916 in Sainte-Edwidge.

Réal Scalabrinî

Note

In doing my research on the date of birth of Domithilde Racicot, it was noticed that she was born on April 17, 1853 while her parents Israël Racicot and Estelle Rousseau were married only on the following 23rd of May. The circumstances of her christening could not be uncovered, the "acte de baptême" dated May 25th, 1853, two days after her parents' marriage, not being completed. The document was reproduced on the next page for your information, by Réal Scalabrinî.

Marriage certificate of Israël Racicot and beginnig of the baptism certificate of
Damithilde

Mr. 6
Israël
Racicot
A.
Esther
Rousseau

B 43
Israël

Le vingt-trois Mai Mil. 1853 à Cinqante trois. Apres
la publication d'un bann de mariage entre Eubert Racicot
jeune mineur et Eubert Racicot cultivateur et de Céleste Ménard
de la Mission de son parti; et Esther Rousseau jeune mineure
de François Rousseau cultivateur et de Marie Lussier aussi
de la Mission de son parti. Mr. Richard Fitzgerald son
comptable et son fils mariage (And the dispensation de deux
autres banns a une accordé en faveur de l'union a Mons
Dominique (Monsieur le Comte de St-Hyacinthe) Nous
priez l'undersigned avons reçus leur Mutual Consentement
de mariage et leur avons donné la bénédiction nuptiale
en présence de Eubert Racicot pere de l'épouse
François Rousseau pere de l'épouse et François Côté qui
avons que l'épouse n'a pas signé. W. Fitzgerald
Le vingt-trois Mai Mil. 1853 à Cinqante trois. Mons
Dominique avons baptisé.

Transcription and translation

This twenty-third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, after the publication of marriage banns between Israël Racicot minor son of Eubert Racicot farmer and of Céleste Ménard of this mission as first party; and Esther Rousseau minor daughter of François Rousseau labourer and of Marie Lussier also of this mission as second party. No impediments to the said marriage having been discovered (And the dispensation of two other banns having been granted in accordance with power given to us by Monsignor the Bishop of St-Hyacinthe) We, the undersigned priest, have received their mutual consent of marriage and we have given them the Nuptial Benediction in the presence of Eubert Racicot father of the groom and of François Rousseau father of the bride and François Côté who like the bride and groom could not sign.

W. Fitzgerald, prêtre

Damithilde Racicot baptism

This twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, We, the undersigned priest, have baptised...

Marriage certificate

Le sept Janvier mil neuf cent soixante
 et un Scalbrini orge après la publication de trois banns
 à l'église demande faite au prieur de nos messes
 paroissiales entre Ferdinand Scalbrini
 journalier de cette paroisse, fils moyen de
 Joseph Scalbrini de Somatié, Italie en Europe
 et de Marie Pagani d'une part et Domithilde
 Racicot minor fille mineure de Israël
 Racicot cultivateur et de Estelle Rousseau
 de cette paroisse d'autre part. Aucun
 obstacle n'a été découvert, nous ayant
 le sacrement que nous devons des
 parents nous leur mutual consentement
 de mariage et leur avons donné la bénédiction
 nuptiale en présence de Cyril Rousseau
 frère du prieur et assénégeon, de Marie Anne
 Lacroix amie de l'épouse qui a signé de la
 part du prieur de l'épouse qui a signé
 est de Célestin Thomas journalier et les
 parties qui n'ont pas signé

Mary A. Lacroix
 Israël Racicot Matilda Racicot
 Ferdinand Scalbrini

Transcription and translation

This seventh day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, after the publication of three banns of marriage read at the sermon of our parish masses between Ferdinand Scalbrini labourer of this parish, son of legal age of Joseph Scalbrini of Somatié, Italy in Europe and of Marie Pagani as first party and Domithilde Racicot minor daughter of Israël Racicot farmer and of Estelle Rousseau of this parish as second party. No impediment having been discovered, We, the undersigned parish priest have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the Nuptial Benediction in the presence of Cyril Rousseau brother of the bride who could not sign, of Marie Anne Lacroix friend of the bride who has signed, of Israël Racicot father of the bride who has signed and of Célestin Thomas who could not and the parties that have signed.

Mary A. Lacroix Israël Racicot Ferdinand Scalbrini Matilda Racicot
 JB Millette, prêtre

Ferdinando

Burial certificate

A. / le vingt-un Janvier deux mous cent seize Nous
scalabrini prêtre sous signe avons inhume dans le
cimetière de l'île le corps de Ferdinand Scal-
abrini, né en Lombardie, Italie, veuf de Do-
mithilde Racicot, décédé avant-hier, à l'â-
ge de soixante-quatorze ans. Les témoins
ont été Fred, Jean-Baptiste, Pierre Scalabrini
ses fils, sous signe. L'écriture faites.

Alfred Scalabrini

J.Bte Scalabrini

Pierre Scalabrini

W. Morache, prêtre

Transcription and translation

This twenty-first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen, We, the undersigned parish priest have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of Ferdinand Scalabrini born in Lombardy, Italy, widower of Domithilde Racicot, deceased the day before yesterday at the age of seventy-four years. Witnesses were the undersigned Fred, Jean-Baptiste, Pierre Scalabrini his sons. Foregoing read.

Alfred Scalabrini J.Bte Scalabrini Pierre Scalabrini W. Morache, prêtre

Burial certificate

2. 19
Ferme
Racicot

Le min, 19, dans le mois de novembre de l'an présent, l'âge
d'une petite personne, nommée Domithilde
Racicot, veuve de Ferdinand Scalabrin, et de laquelle
l'écriture de la mort a été faite le 25 novembre
dans la ville de Lyon, à l'âge de
soixante ans et sept mois, épouse de Fer-
dinand Scalabrin de cette paroisse. Les
témoins ont été Ferdinand Scalabrin, et sa
fille, Cyrille, Pierre, Josaphat Scalabrin, son
singe. Lecture faite.

Ferdinand Scalabrin
Cyrille Scalabrin
Pierre Scalabrin
Josaphat Scalabrin

W. Morache, prêtre

Transcription and translation

This twenty-eighth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, We, the undersigned parish priest have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of Domithilde Racicot deceased on the twenty-fifth of the current month at the age of sixty years and seven months, wife of Ferdinand Scalabrin of this parish. The witnesses were the undersigned Ferdinand Scalabrin, and his sons, Cyrille, Pierre, Josaphat Scalabrin. Foregoing read.

Ferdinand Scalabrin Cyrille Scalabrin Pierre Scalabrin Josaphat Scalabrin
W. Morache, prêtre