

*Family*  
*Ferdinando Scalabrini*  
*and*  
*Domithilde Racicot*



*1871*

## *Descendants of Jacques Racicot dit Lèveillé*

*«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 Lèveillé

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

M é n a r d

*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 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.



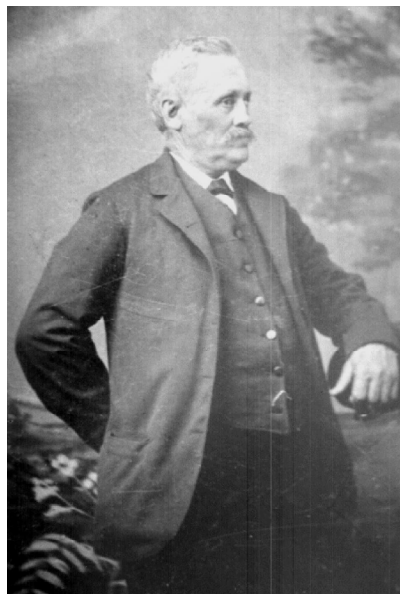
*Domithilde*

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.



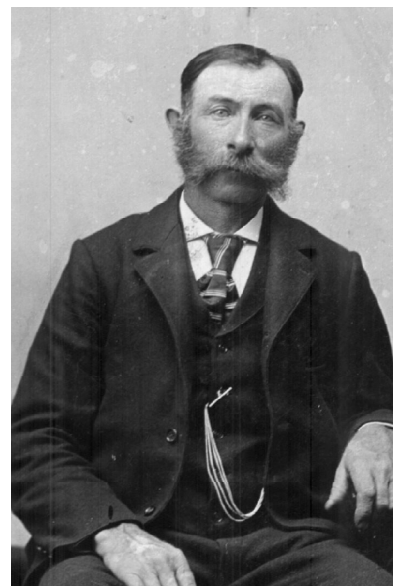
*Ferdinando*

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



*John Pagani's family*

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*

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

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*

Toward the end of the 50’s, R  al who lived with his grandparents Branchaud, in Coaticook would often asked his “p  p  re” L  on about Ferdinando. Since L  on had been Cyrille’s neighbour for a long time, he became for R  al a valuable source of information concerning his great grandfather Ferdinando. Although he said he did not know Ferdinando very well, he remembered particularly his strong accent and his temperamental character. He recalled once, in

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 Ars  lia 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.

R  al Scalabrini

## *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 Isra  l Racicot and Estelle Rousseau were married only on the following 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. The circumstances of her christening could not be uncovered, the “acte de bapt  me” dated May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1853, two days after her parents’ marriage, not being completed. The document was reproduced on the next page for your information, by R  al Scalabrini.

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

May 6  
 Israël  
 Racicot  
 A.  
 Esther  
 Rousseau

Ce vingt-trois Mai Mil. huit cent cinquante-trois. Après  
 la publication d'un ban de Mariage entre Israël Racicot  
 fils mineur de Eubert Racicot Cultivateur et de Céleste Ménéard  
 de cette Mission d'une part; et Esther Rousseau fille mineure  
 de François Rousseau Journalier et de Marie Lussier aussi  
 de cette Mission d'autre part. Me. Subant. nous n'ayant aucun  
 empêchement au dit Mariage (Qu. la dispense de deux  
 autres bans a été accordée en vertu de pouvoir à nous  
 donné par Monseigneur le Evêque de St. Hyacinthe) Nous  
 Prêtre soussigné avons reçu leur Mutuel Consentement  
 de Mariage et leur avons donné la bénédiction Nuptiale  
 en présence de Eubert Racicot père de l'époux  
 François Rousseau père de l'épouse et François Côté qui  
 ainsi que les époux n'ont pu signer.

B 43  
 W. Fitzgerald

Ce vingt-cinq Mai Mil. huit cent cinquante-trois. Nous  
 Prêtre soussigné avons baptisé.

Israël

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 Ménéard 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

Domithilde Racicot baptism

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



## Marriage certificate

N<sup>o</sup> 1 Le sept Janvier mil huit cent soixante  
 et sept après la publication de trois bans  
 de mariage faite au prône de nos messes  
 paroissiales entre Ferdinand Scalabrini  
 journalier de cette paroisse, fils unique de  
 Joseph Scalabrini de Somatié, Italie en Eu-  
 rope et de Marie Pagani d'une part et Domi-  
 thilde Racicot fille mineure de Israël  
 Racicot cultivateur et de Estelle Rousseau  
 de cette paroisse d'autre part, Aucunem-  
 ent n'ayant été découvert, nous après  
 la cure Louisique nous del'avis des  
 parents reçu leur mutual consentement  
 de mariage et leur avons donné la bénédic-  
 tion nuptiale en présence de Cyril Rousseau  
 frère del'épouse qui n'a pu signer, de Marie Anne  
 Lacroix amie del'épouse qui a signé de Is-  
 raël Racicot père del'épouse, qui a signé  
 et de Célestin Thomas qui n'a pu et des  
 parties qui ont signé  
 Mary A. Lacroix Israël Racicot Matilda Racicot  
 Ferdinando Scalabrini

## 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 Scalabrini labourer of this parish, son of legal age of Joseph Scalabrini 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 Ferdinando Scalabrini Matilda Racicot  
 JB Millette, prêtre

Ferdinando

*Burial certificate*

N. 1 Le vingt-un janvier dix-neuf-cent-seize Nous  
scalabrini prêtre sous signé avons inhumé dans le  
Ferdinand similitude du lieu le corps de Ferdinand Ma-  
labrini, 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, soussignés. Lecture faite.  
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

L. 19  
Novembre  
Domithilde

Le vingt huit. novembre die. ont été. treize  
Nous prêtre. soussigné, avons enterré dans  
le cimetière de cette paroisse le corps de Domithilde Raci-  
cot décédée le vingt cinq courant, à l'âge de  
soixante ans et sept mois, épouse de Fer-  
dinand Scalabrini de cette paroisse. Les  
témoins ont été Ferdinand Scalabrini, et ses  
fils. Cyrille, Pierre, Josaphat Scalabrini. sou-  
signés. Lecture faite.  
Ferdinand Scalabrini  
Cyrille Scalabrini  
Pierre Scalabrini  
Josaphat Scalabrini

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 Scalabrini of this parish. The witnesses were the undersigned Ferdinand Scalabrini, and his sons, Cyrille, Pierre, Josaphat Scalabrini. Foregoing read.

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