

INTRODUCTION

In addition to the 125 French-Canadian Pioneer Families that settled in or near Somerset, Wisconsin, we have listed a few others that married into these families. We have not listed all the families of other nationalities in the area because we do not have any information on them and could not trace their ancestors.

We have traced most of these French-Canadian Families ancestors back into Canada for 5 generations or about 100 years, and this can be found on the "Ancestor Charts". These families can now be traced back for another 100 years, back to France, with books from Canada.

Included is most of Rosalie Parnell's book published in 1952 to show the history of Somerset. We have also included parts of two other books: History of the St Croix Valley by A.B. Easton, published in 1909 and History of Northern Wisconsin by Western Historical Company of Chicago, Illinois, published in 1881.

The Catholic church at Somerset was first called "St Vincent de Paul" and the name was changed to "St Anne". For simplicity reasons and also because the records are at St Anne, we only use St Anne as the place of birth, marriage and burials.

Part I also contains miscellaneous information about the life and people in Canada. Some of our Canadian ancestors were soldiers and some were "King's Daughters". Some information about them has been included.

Part II list the families of the 1st and 2nd generation of the Somerset Settlers. When the family was small and there was room on the page, their children and grandchildren were listed. For lack of space, many people living today are not included. It is the records of the older people that we want to preserve. The records of the early settlers are sometimes hard to find. Included with these families and the most important part of this book are the "Ancestor Charts" showing the Canadian connection, their ancestors in Canada and where they came from. Only the 1st chart is included because of lack of space.

On some family pages it will say "for children, see family page". Some of these are not in this book but in their Family Book.

Codes Used: n born
b baptised, sometimes born
m married
d died
s buried
cn notary's contract
ca about
S Somerset, Wisconsin

*Rosalie Parnell, deceased, page 667

Cora Belisle

Bayport, MN

Earl Belisle

Minneapolis, MN

1981

Revised April 1984

Revised September 1985

" November 1990

*Granddaughter of Thomas Parnell,
one of the first settlers at
Somerset