

**Warren Perrin soil sample from Thibodeau village, Nova Scotia**

**MCC-00415**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by  
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Fort Kent, Maine**

**Title:** Warren Perrin soil sample from Thibodeau village, Nova Scotia

**Creator/Collector:** Perrin, Warren

**Collection number:** MCC-00415

Shelf List number: AX-415

**Dates:** 2004

**Extent:** folder (.05 cu. ft)

**Provenance:** Material was acquired from Attorney Warren Perrin on August 19, 2014.

**Language:** Not applicable.

**Conservation notes:** Soil sample is in a small plastic container measuring 2.5 in. x 2.5 in. x 1.5 in. high. This container has been wrapped in tissue and placed in an archival box.

**Access restrictions:** None.

**Physical restrictions:** Container is not to be open by patron.

**Technical restrictions:** None.

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**Citation:** Warren Perrin soil sample from Thibodeau village, Nova Scotia, MCC-00415, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Separated materials:** Not applicable.

**Related materials:** Not applicable.

**Location of originals:** Not applicable.

**Location of copies:** Not applicable.

**Published in:** Not applicable.

**Biographical information:** **Warren A. Perrin** was born on March 11, 1947 in Vermillion Parish, Louisiana, the son of Henry Lolly and Ella Mae Broussard Perrin. He graduated from Louisiana State University Law School in 1972, married Mary Lenny Broussard and had 3 children. Perrin founded the firm of Perrin, Landry, deLaunay, Dartez and Ouellet with offices in Lafayette, Erath, Maurice and Houma. In 1990, Perrin and his good friend, Weldon Granger,

established the non-profit Acadian Heritage & Culture Foundation, Inc., owner of the Acadian Museum of Erath.

For 15 years Perrin spearheaded a campaign to compel Queen Elizabeth II of England to acknowledge and apologize for the Acadians' expulsion from Nova Scotia. In January 1990, Perrin presented a Petition on behalf of the Acadian people to the British government and Crown seeking apology for the deportation and this successfully resulted in a Royal Proclamation being signed on December 9, 2003 and decreeing July 28<sup>th</sup> as the annual Day of Commemoration of the Acadian Deportation.

Perrin received many awards, to name a few: Cultural Achievement award; Beausoleil award; Cajun of the Year award; Ecole de Droit award by the Univ. of Moncton; 1990 Newsmaker of the Year; 2006 Award of Merit, American Ass. of State and Local History; Cajun French Music Association "Heritage Award".

In 1993, he represented the United States at the World Human Rights Conference in Normandy, France; he founded the Human Rights Conference held in conjunction with Festival International de Louisiane; in 1994, Gov. Edwards named Perrin to serve as President of CODOFIL, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, re-appointed in 1996 and 2004; featured speaker at the 1994 Congrès Mondial Acadien in Moncton, New Brunswick; he was instrumental in having Louisiana host the Congrès Mondial Acadien in Louisiana in 1999; represented the United States at the World Francophone Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Mr. Perrin has been the subject of articles appearing in leading publications and has published numerous professional articles in legal publications. He has been and adjunct professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Mr. Perrin has worked tirelessly to promote the Francophone culture. He is a leading cultural activist and has helped to reinvigorate the Cajun pride movement through his Petition for an Apology, the establishment of the Acadian Museum and his many ongoing CODOFIL activities.<sup>1</sup>

**Biographical information:** Dick Thibodeau was born March 11, 1934 to Edouard Calixte Thibodeau and Eva Dupuis in Biddeford, Maine. Dick was raised as an only child since a brother died at birth. He was brought up on a farm in Buxton, Maine until the age of 10 when the family moved to Saco. He graduated from Thornton Academy in Saco in 1952 and at age 19, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served for 4 years. Dick met his wife, Therese Bruneau from Sherbrooke, Quebec, on January 1, 1954 in Biddeford, Maine and they married August 21, 1954. They had their 1<sup>st</sup> child, Suzan, when Dick was stationed in Japan. Upon discharged from the Air Force, they came back to Saco for a few months but work was scarce so they moved to Marlborough, Massachusetts where they lived for 35 years. A son, Alan, born in 1958 and sadly passed away in 2010. Another son, Michael was born in 1962.

When the children were growing up, they often went water skiing, snowmobiling, and camping and Dick Thibodeau always had an interest in genealogy and family history. He retired from the Commonwealth Gas in Massachusetts in 1989 at the age of 55. Him and his wife, Therese,

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<sup>1</sup> "Warren Perrin Biography." The Acadian Museum in Erath, Louisiana. Web. 30 Oct. 2014. <<http://acadianmuseum.com/biography.html>>.

moved to Maine where they built their dream home in Dayton, near Biddeford. They sold their house after a few years and bought a motor home, a car, and a motor cycle and traveled and lived full time in their motor home for 3 years. Now, at the age of 80, he likes to fly toy helicopters and does research on the internet. They live between Kennebunk, Maine and Naples, Florida.

***Historical note:***

It started when Dick Thibodeau, a native of Saco, ME and 1952 graduate of Thornton Academy, began to delve into his family's genealogy. He was 39 years old at the time, living and working in Massachusetts when he traced his family's roots to the 1755 Acadian expulsion. In 1982, Mr. Thibodeau, a Franco-American, ventured to learn about the Thibodeau genealogy and this eventually evolved into an archeology project on land once owned by victims of the 1755 deportation of Acadians from Nova Scotia.

Thibodeau was determined to uncover as much as he could about his ancestors. His research finally led him and his wife Therese to find the location where his family's North American legacy began, in Poplar Grove, Nova Scotia, on a parcel of land called Willow Brook Farm. Although Willow Brook Farm is the name of the land today, a faded old map dated 1756, identifies "Thibodeau Village" as being the land's former name.

Colonial era wars between France and Great Britain resulted in the 1755, forced deportation of the original Thibodeau owners. This event was a devastating and brutal deportation of all Acadian farmers who tried to remain neutral during the conflagrations. Nevertheless, Acadians were forced to leave in a tragic episode known as Le Grand Derangement. It was a terrible situation, immortalized by the Portland, Maine writer Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his poem "Evangeline".

Acadian land was ultimately offered to "Planters", the selective New England farmers who were loyal to Great Britain. Thibodeau's farm was ultimately settled by Arnold Shaw, who was a successful farmer in Rhode Island until 1760, when he was convinced, by the British, to relocate to Nova Scotia. Since then, seven generations of the Shaw family have owned and farmed on the property. Then, in 1985, Thibodeau's research put him in personal contact with the Shaw family. They were very gracious about his visit to their property, when he first stopped by to stand on the ground his ancestors once owned, he says.

Sara Beanlands, a niece of the current property owners, and an archeologist, took an interest in bringing the Thibodeau ancestors together for an archeology dig on the property, once labeled Thibodeau Village. Although Beanlands revered the hard work of her Shaw family in sustaining the Willow Brook Farm, she felt compelled to record the Acadian history of the land. She subsequently arranged for university archeologists with cooperation from Parks Canada and other experts to excavate for artifacts on the suspected site of one of the Acadian dwellings. The excavation unearthed artifacts like cooking and farm utensils, smoking pipes and household items traced to 1749, when the land was occupied by the Thibodeau family. Furthermore, historic research documented that Thibodeau Village was founded in 1690, by Pierre Thibodeau, who was the eldest son of Pierre Thibodeau, Sr., who came to Acadie in 1654, from France.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> L'Heureux, Juliana. "French Acadian Thibodeau Family – Archeology and Genealogy." *Portland Press Herald*.

Moreover, on July 22, 2013, the Archaeological Land Trust of Nova Scotia (ALTNS) and the Shaw Family of Poplar Grove, once the site of Thibodeau Village, in Nova Scotia, signed an agreement to protect a portion of the pre-expulsion Acadian site where Thibodeau's French ancestors once lived.

***Scope and content:*** This collection consists of one small plastic container filled with soil from Thibodeau village of Poplar Grove, Nova Scotia, today's Willow Brook Farm (Shaw farm).

***Inventory:*** 1 small plastic container.