# Joseph Barnaby (Barnabe) (dit Martin) To the Pacific Northwest in 1838 By Chalk Courchane

He was born about 1806 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (His birthdate is not actually known, but variously given as 1806, the 1880 US Census of Washington Territory, Spokane County states his age as 75 years.) He was the son of Francois Martin dit Barnabe and Francoise Dagneau.

The following Joseph Martin in the Hudson's Bay Company Census, Red River Settlements could very well be our Joseph Barnabe. The records were transcribed by Gail Morin:

1829 at Red River Settlement

#\_, lot\_, Joseph Martin, age 28, Roman Catholic, Canada, 1 married man, 1 woman, 2 cows, 1 calf, 2 acres. (E.5/3 page 9).

According to Gail Morin this Joseph Martin dit Barnabe married Angelique Plante in 1829. But no marriage record has surfaced.

#### 1831 at Red River Settlement

Joseph Martin, age 31, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 ox, 1 cow, 2 pigs, 1 1/2 acres. (E.5/5 page 12)

#### 1832 at Red River Settlement

#260 Joseph Martin, age 32, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 2 sons (-16), 4 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 barn, 1 ox, 1 cow, 1 calf, 3 pigs, 1 harrow, 2 1/2 acres. (E.5/6 page 11)

## 1833 at Red River Settlement

Joseph Martin, age 33, Canada, Canada, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 5 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 2 oxen, 1 cow, 1 calf, 1 canoe, 3 acres (E.5/7 page 11)

## 1835 at Red River Settlement

#319, Joseph Martin, age 34, Canada, Catholic, 1 married man, 1 married woman, 3 sons (-16), 1 daughter (-15), 6 total inhabitants, 1 house, 1 stable, 1 mare, 1 pig, 1 cart (E. 5/8 page 13)

From "Lost in Canada, Vol.7, #4, Nov. 1981, p.124, article entitled "Trading Post Managers and Employees: 1830-1831", excerpted from S.D. Historical Collections; Vol. 9, 1918, by Charles E. Delard. On the American Fur Company posts under the year 1831 it has: "..at the Huncpapas (this post was on Grand River at present Bullhead substation) listed among the employees: Joseph Bernabai, voyageur." This would be in the Dakota Territory. This would put him in the Red River area, where he met the Catholic priests Blanchet and Demers.

Alberta Murray wrote in her book, These My Children, that Joseph Barnaby came to Oregon in 1838 with the Fathers Francois N. Blanchet and Modeste DeMers.

From Black Robes and Indians on the Last Frontier, Sister Maria Ilma Raufer, Bruce Pub. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, page 44:

"The Catholic missionaries for the west embarked in one of the Hudson's Bay brigade canoes on July 26, 1838, at Norway House. ... The Hudson's Bay brigade was transferred to a horse caravan for the last nine days of traveling from Jasper House to Boat Encampment, which they reached on October 13 in the evening.

"Sunday, October 14, 1838, was a day of great significance for the "Old Oregon Country", on that day the first Holy Mass was said, at the Big Bend of the Columbia River. This year only two bateaux were waiting for the brigade, when four were needed. The brigade was therefore split into two parties. One third of the travelers was left behind and it was decided that a boat would be sent from the next place. The missionaries arrived safely on the sixteenth at the House of the Lakes, which was under construction at the time. The boat was unloaded and sent back. It returned on the twenty-fourth half wrecked; of the twenty-six persons who had been in the boat, twelve had been drowned. An Indian express was sent to Colville to get more boats and to spread the news, while one boat was sent to The Dalles of the Dead to recover the bodies; only those of three children were found.

"This enforced stay of eighteen days as (Nov. 3, 1838) the House of the Lakes brought the Catholic missionaries for the first time in contact with the Lake tribe. They found these Indians of "mild, peaceable character and well-disposed to receive the works of salvation." From here they went on down to Oregon stopping at the H.B.C. posts along the way."

Joseph Barnabe settled near the Catholic missionaries, and was to marry soon after his arrival.

From Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest by Harriet Duncan Munnick, p. 2, marriage entry #2:

"This 12 November, 1839, in view of the dispensation of one ban granted by us Missionary, and the publication of two others, between Joseph Barnabe, domiciled at this place, legitimate son of Francois Barnabe and Francoise Dagneau, of Montreal, in Canada, on one part, and Isabelle Boucher, domiciled in this place, natural daughter of the late Jean Baptiste Boucher and of Josephte of Colville on the other part, nor having discovered any impediment, we priest undersigned Missionary of the Columbia, have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in presence of Andree Picard and of Hyacinthe Laviguer, witnesses, before whom the said spouses have recognized as their legitimate child Adelaide, aged 1 year. The witnesses as well as the spouses have not known how to sign. F.N. Blanchet, priest, V.G."

According to the date of their marriage, the age of Adelaide, and the arrival date of the missionaries in Oregon, in November, 1838, he and his new wife must have become romantically involved almost as soon as he arrived in the country.

Joseph had a wife before he married Elizabeth Boucher, her name was Marie Su-me-chay. They had a son name Joseph, and more often called Mos-too, who was born about 1836. If Mos-too's

birth date is exact, that would mean that he was born before his father came west. His mother is reported as a Spokane Indian. This calls for some answers to the following questions: Is Joseph "Mos-too" Barnaby's birth date correct? Did Joseph Barnaby come with the Catholics in 1838, or earlier? Did he bring his son with him, or was he born in Oregon? Did Joseph Barnabe come west, return to Red River, and then accompany the missionaries back to Oregon? Did Joseph Barnabe have relations with two women at the same time?

Elizabeth Boucher (Isabelle) was born in about 1821 at the Foot of the Lakes in British Columbia, Canada and she died in 1860 at their home near Spokane, Washington. She is absent on the 1860 Oregon Census that was enumerated on July 15<sup>th</sup> of that year, so she must of died before the 15<sup>th</sup>. Her parents were voyageur Jean Baptiste Boucher and Josephte Kanhopitsa.

From the Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Harriet Duncan Munnick: "This 12 November, 1839, we priest undersigned have baptized Isabelle, aged 18 years, natural daughter of the late Jean Baptiste Boucher, and of Josephte, infidel Indian woman. Godfather Andre Picard, Godmother Marie Okanogan, who have not known how to sign. F.N.Blanchet, priest,V.G."

She was present when her father, Jean Baptiste Boucher, died in June of 1824 somewhere in Idaho, while on a Hudson's Bay Company Snake Country expedition trapping beaver. Isabelle (Elizabeth), her sister, Josephte, and her brother, Jean Baptiste were all taken under the care of Joachim Hubert when he married their mother, Josephte Kanhopitsa Boucher.

1842.—Francis Xavier Matthieu, from Terrebonne, Canada; arrived that autumn. In spring of the year came the following French Canadians: Gedereau Senecalle, Thomas Moison, Pierre Gauthier, Augustin Remon, Joseph Matte, and Francis Berthier.

From "Joseph Gervais, A Familiar Mystery Man", Thomas Vaughan & Martin Winch, Oregon Historical Quarterly, December 1965, Vol. LXVI, #4, p. 352:

"On February 2, 1843, the first Wolf Meeting was held at the Oregon Institute (organized the previous January under Jason Lee). The meeting was called as an informal gathering to discuss the control of predatory animals,

sharply on the increase, with the prolonged dissolution of Young's estate" (Ewing Young was an old settler who died without a will, and probate of his goods was often discussed at these meetings). "Here a committee of French

Canadians and Americans was appointed and assigned the task of assembling the settlers at a larger meeting to be held on March 6. Gervais served on this committee, along with Lucier, Gray, Alanson Beers, W.H. Wilson, and Joseph Barnaby. They decided to hold the meeting at Gervais' house. He, Lucier, and Barnaby distributed most of the notices written out by LeBreton, the clerk elected at the earlier organizational meeting on February 18, 1841. Babcock presided, since the 1841 officers were to serve until July 5, 1843. Extracts from the reminiscences of one participant (Gray) and of one settler of 1846 (J.Quinn Thorton) illuminate the role of the French Canadians, especially Gervais. Gray states that Gervais, Lucier, and Barnaby (described as a French Canadian Rocky Mountain hunter) "were the most intelligent inflence with the Canadian

French settlers, and generally favored American settlement and enterprise... The Wolf Meeting and what was to be done, was the subject of general interest."

Thornton describes the three French settlers as:

"capable of wielding a large influence over that class of population with which they naturally stood in close relationship, and that influence it was known they would exert on the side of American enterprise and a Provisional Government, and upon these three was developed the duty of giving notices for a second Wolf Meeting at the house of Mr. Gervais on the first Monday in March 1843."

Joseph Barnaby is shown as a witness in church work many times throughout the 1840s.

The 1844 Tax Book, Willamette Valley, Oregon Territory shows:

Joseph Barnaby with horses valued at \$240.00, cattle valued at \$300.00, and hogs at \$108.00, with a total valuation of \$648.00 and he paid a tax of \$1.31.

A list has been taken from the books of Matthieu, who for a number of years was in mercantile business at The Butte, or Butteville, and no doubt gives a considerable, if not complete list of Canadians living on French Prairie. It is as follows: Xavier Laderoute, Antoine Bonafante, Andre La Chapelle, Pierre Papin, Louis B. Vandalle, Jean B. Du Charme, Fabien Maloine, Luc Pagnon, Etienne Gregoire, Amable Arcouette, Pierre De Lord, Louis A. Vandalle, John Sanders, Pierre Pariseau, Charles Rondeau, David Donpierre, Andre Du Bois, Pierre Depot, Moyse Lor, Pierre Le Course, Joseph Bernabe, Baptiste Deguire, Adolphe Chamberlaine, Jean Gingras, Alexis Aubichon, Jean Servans, Michelle Laferte, Jean B. Dalcourse, Louis Osant, Jean B. Aubichon, Antoine Felix, Michel La Framboise, Joseph Gervais, Jean B. Panpin, Olivier Brisbois, Thomas Roa, Louis Boivers, Andre Langtain, Etienne Lucier, Alexis La Pratte, Pierre Belaque.

History of Oregon: the growth of an American state, Volume 3 by Horace Sumner Lyman "Barnabe was one of the delegates from Champoeg County in 1846 to prepare a pre-territorial memorial to Congress.

Oregon Census of 1845 He was listed as Joseph Barnabe in Champoeg County. No township listed. Page 006 (Database: OR 1841-1849 Census Index) (Ancestry.com)

1850 Oregon Territory, Census, Marion Co. Joseph Barnabe age 38 farmer He said he was from Missouri. Dwelling & Family #71--value of real estate owned \$2,000.00 can not read or write
Individual Summary Sheet
Name: Joseph Barnabe (Barnaby)
Birthdate: about 1806
Place: Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Father: Francois Martin dit Barnabe
Mother: Francoise Dagneau Joseph Barnabe was living near St. Louis Mission, in southern part of French Prairie, Marion County, Oregon in 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1854.

From St. Francis Regis Mission, Meyers Falls, WA., Baptismal Records 1867-1887 page 80, no. 67:

"Marie - Die 13th Aprilis baptizavi infantulum Mariam"..father Francis Barnabi, mother Marianna. Godmother Magdelena. I don't know what this is?

Harriet Duncan Munnick in her book, Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Vol 1, p. A-5 says:

"Joseph Barnabe settled on a claim near Broadacres in 1850, becoming a naturalized citizen the following year, as was necessary to hold his claim after the Donation Land Law was passed in 1850. He married Isabelle Boucher

(sometimes called Elizabeth as the two names were often used interchangeably in the records) at St. Paul in 1839"....

He moved from the Willamette Valley to Wasco County, Oregon, to Washington, and to Idaho in the vicinity of Newman Lake.

From KETTLE RIVER COUNTRY, "Early Days Along The Kettle River", Ruth Lakin, Statesman-Examiner, Inc., Colville, WA, 1976, p.40: In 1860 he lived at The Dalles, Oregon.

1860 Oregon Census: Joseph Barnaby-Wasco Co.-Walla Walla Precinct-15 July 1860 - (P-229-#3347 & # 1977) reads as follows:

Barnaby, Joseph -age- 46--born in Canada

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St. Ignatius Mission Baptisms, p.108: Maxime Barnabe, bt. 15 Apr 1865, St. Ignatius born 1 Apr 1865, John Barnabe and Lizette.

"St. Paul's Mission" (not to be confused with the St. Paul's in Willamette Valley, Oregon) "was re-opened in 1863 for a few more years. Another mission was established in 1869 on the west side of the Columbia River about 15 miles downstream from St. Paul's Mission. This mission was located near the mouth of Barnaby Creek. The creek was named for Joseph Barnaby, retired Hudson's Bay employee." Note from Chalk: It should be mentioned that the Hudson's Bay Company Archives has no record of Joseph Barnabe being an employee of that company. And also that there was an Indian named Barnaby who had lived in the area and there could be confusion to which Barnaby the creek was named after.

From Early Birds, Rowland Bond, p.125:

"In 1868 or 1869 he lived in Rathdrum, later he moved to Newman Lake to live with the family of his daughter, Elizabeth Newman and her husband, William H. Newman."

"-----Joseph Barnaby lived in Rathdrum, where he owned a large tract of land, including the site where the present town of Rathdrum now stands. He was there when his daughter Christine was married on Sept. 2, 1868 to Stephen E. Liberty." Genealogy of Seagraves, Sampson and Kindred Lines, Faye S. Seagraves, 1983, p.79

From Inland Empire Genealogical Miscellany,Lee D. Patchen, 1968-Spokane, Genealogical Library, Spokane, Wa.-page 10:

"Barnaby (Barnabee) Family

The following data on the Barnaby family submitted by John Porter Graham, of Spokane.

Joseph Barnaby (or Barnabee) was from Quebec, and came in 1838 with the earliest Roman Catholic missionaries to Oregon, to Champoeg, and in the early 1860's to the Spokane valley where he settled, having a large tract of land, including the site where Rathdrum, Idaho is located. A sister of his married Joseph James Paine, said to be the earliest settler where Spokane now is. Joseph Barnaby had four daughters, who were educated by the Catholic Sisters at Walla Walla, Wash. They were French-English-Indian, and were (order of birth not certain)

1. Rose, who married Joseph Parr.

2. a daughter, who married William Newman.

3. Mary, born in Central Oregon 1862, d. 1894, married in the Spokane area to Daniel Courchaine who was from

Quebec, and who died 1896. Daniel and Mary (Barnaby) Courchaine had a son George born 25 April 1886 and who married in 1911 to Annie Young.

4. Christine, born Oregon, married Sept. 2, 1868 to Stephen E. Liberty, sometimes known as Steve Liberty......."

NOTE: There is in Saltese Cemetery, Spokane County, a grave stone inscribed: "In memory of Mary, Wife of Daniel Courchaine, Died Dec.14, 1894, Aged 37 Yrs 5 Mo's & 2 D'ys" (which indicates she was born 12 July, 1857."

In the 1870 US Census, Kootenai District, Nez Perce County, Idaho, Lewiston PO: Dwelling 11 Family 8

Barnaba, Joseph age:57 sex: M- color:W Occ:farmer value of real estate 300 and value of personal estate 300 birthplace: Mo. ", Frank age:28 M W farm laborer

- birthplace: Oregon
- , Elizabeth 13 F W at home

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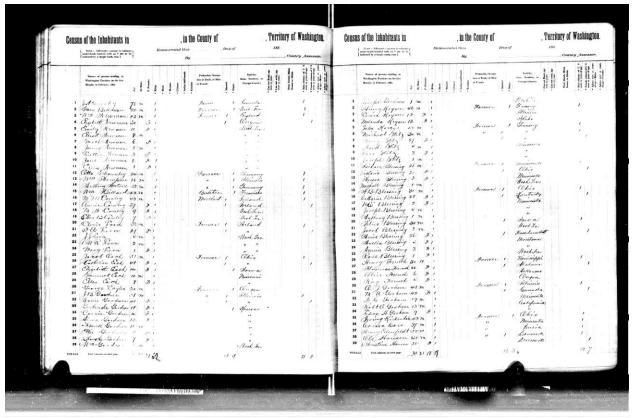
birthplace: Oregon

It also states that Frank and Elizabeth could not read or write.

Both Joseph and Frank are called US citizens.

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In the 1880 Washington Territory Census, Spokane County, he is shown as living with William H. Newman, and at the age of 76 years.



1885 Washington State Census (Ancestry.com)

## NOTE: Mrs. Barnaby

A number of references has been made of a woman identified only as "Mrs. Barnaby", but which of the Barnaby's she was married to has not been

From Firewater and Doctoring - Early Days by Miss Beaver, Mission Valley News, St. Ignatius, Montana:

"Alex De Mers' son, Louis (Louie) De Mers was born in 1883 in St. Ignatius. "An Indian lady, Mrs. Barnaby, assisted at the birth as there was no doctor in the Mission Valley."

From Notes About Early Spokane Settlers - George Courchaine (undated):

"Peter Barnaby owned a place south of Newman's four forty's run to Moab. His wife died many years ago. He came to live with us when I was about three years old------." (Note: The Peter Barnaby referred to is in fact Joseph Barnaby who was known as Peter by Daniel Courchaine's family.

Joseph Barnaby died sometime after 1885 probably at his daughter, Elizabeth Barnaby Newman's home at Newman Lake in Spokane County, Washington. He was buried at Greenacres, Saltese Cemetery, in Spokane County, Washington.

Joseph and Elizabeth Barnabe had about thirteen children:

1. Adelaide Barnaby (Dec. 1838) born near Fort Colvile. "Adelaide, eldest recorded child of Joseph Barnabe and Isabelle Boucher, married Joseph Roussin in 1855 at St. Louis (Oregon). Two months earlier the same register had entered birth of a daughter Felicite, "born 9 of the month (June) outside of marriage to George Herron, and Adelaide Barnabe of the parish of St. Paul." George Herron a cousin of sorts of Adelaide, was generally considered unreliable and something of a scamp. What became of Adelaide is not recorded, nor is the death of Adelaide. Her later life appears to have been spent in Idaho or Montana. Some confusion results to searchers of records between the above Adelaide, daughter of Joseph Barnabe, and Adelaide Marguerite (or Adeline), daughter of Francois Barnabe, who married Joseph Pin (sometimes written Parr) at Walla Walla in 1859." Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Munnick & Warner, page A-5:

# Her baptism at Ft. Colville, Washington reads:

"This 23 July, 1839 we priest undersigned have baptized Adelaide, aged 8 months, natural daughter of Joseph Barnabe, and of Isabelle Boucher. Godfather, Louis Provost who has not known how to sign. Mod. Demers, priest"

# M 7-page 80:

"The 20 September, 1855 after the publication of three banns of marriage made at the sermon of our parish masses of St. Louis three consecutive Sundays between Joseph Roussin of the parish of St. Louis of the Willamette, of-age son of Sieur Roussin domiciled on Lake Superior and of Marguerite Soville domiciled in Umpqua County, Oregon, on the one part; and Adelaide Barnabe, of-age daughter and legitimate of Joseph Barnabe and Isabelle Bouche of the same parish, formerly domiciled in the parish of St. Paul on the other part; no impediment being discovered, we undersigned priest of St. Louis have received their mutual consent to marriage and have given them the benediction in the presence of Louis Aussan, Antoine Gregoire, Damien Ledoux, and Marguerite Gagnon; the last two have signed with us.

Damien Ledoux Marguerite Gagnon B. Delorme, pr. V.G."

2. Francois Barnaby (Feb. 4, 1841-) born in Marion County, Oregon.

"This 26 February, 1841, we priest undersigned have baptized Francois born the 4th of this month, of the legitimate marriage of Joseph Barnabe, farmer of this place and of Isabelle Boucher. Godfather Francois Bernier, Godmother Marguerite, wife of Lavigueur who have not known how to sign. F.N. Blanchet, priest." Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Munnick & Warner

3. Leon "Leo" Barnaby (abt 1842-Jun 30, 1867). He was born in Oregon and died at St. Mary's Mission in the Bitterroot Valley in Montana.

4. Francois Xavier Barnabe (Mar.4, 1843-June 1, 1843). He was born and died in Marion County, Oregon.

"This 12 March, 1843 we priest undersigned have baptized Francois Xavier born the 4th of this month of the marriage of Joseph Barnabe, farmer, and of Elizabeth Boucher of this parish. Godfather Francois Xavier Laderoute. Godmother Victoire M'Malen who have not known how to sign. Ant. Langlois, priest."

His death is recorded as:

"This 2 June, 1843 we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of Xavier, legitimate son of Joseph Barnabe, farmer of this place, and of Isabelle Boucher, deceased yesterday, aged 3 months. Present Xavier Laderoute and Joseph Barnabe. F.N.Blanchet, priest". Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Munnick & Warner

5. Gideon Barnaby (March 4, 1843-March 12, 1843) Born and died in St. Louis Mission, Marion County, Oregon.

"This 12 March, 1843 we priest undersigned have baptized Gedeon born the 4th of this month of the marriage of Joseph Barnabe and Elizabeth Boucher of this parish. Godfather Augustin Rochon. Godmother Julie Gervais who have not known how to sign. A. Langlois, priest." Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, Munnick & Warner. Researcher Jan Heathman has Gideon and Peter (Child # 12) as same person.

6. Marcelline Barnaby (1846-) Born in Oregon Territory. Researcher Jan Heathman thinks she is same person as Therese -child #7.

7. Therese Barnaby (February 13, 1847-February 21, 1847) Born and died in St. Louis Mission, Marion County, Oregon.

8. Julienne Barnaby (November 30, 1848-). Born in St. Louis Mission, Marion County, Oregon.

9. Christine Barnaby (1851-1920) She was born in St. Louis Mission, Marion County, Oregon. Christine Barnaby has been described as of fair complexion, with blue eyes, and very pretty. She and her sisters were well educated at Walla Walla by the Catholic sisters. She made trips to Boston and other eastern cites, once at least with her brother-in-law Joseph Edmond Liberty and his wife. She moved to St. Ignatius, MT after she separated from Stephen E. Liberty in 1890.

Catholic Church Records of the PNW: St. Louis Register, Vol. I, (1845-1868) compiled by Harriet Duncan Munnick, Binford & Mort, c. 1982, p.31 B.23, Christine Barnabe.

The 17 September, 1851, we undersigned have baptized Christine born the 14 of the month of the legitimate marriage of Joseph Barnabe and of Isabelle Bouche. Godfather, Baptiste Jodoin, godmother Elizabeth Hubert. B. Delorme

Ibid, p.A-1, Christine Barnabe, 1851-1920

Christine, said to have been a very beautiful girl, married Edward Liberty (Etienne Edouard LaLiberte), a Canadian who became well-known in various enterprises in the Colfax area of

Washington, and a friend of the Coeur d'Alene Indians. The two were the parents of nine children.

From her obituary in The Daily Missoulian, Thursday, February 19, 1920, page 3:

"Two Die At St. Ignatius Following 'Flu' Attack

St. Ignatius - Feb.18.--Special.--Two deaths occurred at St. Ignatius as a result of pneumonia following influenza. Mrs. Christine Liberty, an Indian, died at the home of her son, Lee Liberty. She was 70 years of age. Mrs. Liberty was a resident of Tekoa, Washington, but has been visiting here with her son for the past six months. She will be buried at DeSmet, Idaho." (Eugene Felsman Obituary Collection)

10. John (Jean) Barnaby (May 14, 1853-May 19,1853) Born and died in St. Paul Mission, Marion County, Oregon. John Barnaby lived at Tobacco Plains, Montana in 1905.

11. Peter Barnaby (abt. 1847-) According to the Washington 1885 Census he was living in the Spokane area.

After a ten year hiatus they was another daughter born.

12. Mary Barnaby (July 12, 1857-December 14, 1894) She was born near The Dalles in Wasco County, Oregon and died at Greenacres, Spokane Co., Washington and is buried in the Saltese Cemetery there. She married Daniel Courchaine (1835-1897) on November 6, 1871 at Spokane Prairie, Washington Territory. Daniel Courchaine and David Charles "Chalk" Courchane are 4th cousins 2 times removed. Their common ancestors are Jean Baptiste Francois (dit Courchene) Foucault and Marie Marguerite Bergeron. And we are related four other ways.

From Exploring Spokane's Past: "Courchaine House, South Linke Road.

Daniel Courchaine, born in Winnipeg, came to the Spokane area in 1866 and bought this land from the Indians in 1867. He put up some log buildings in which he and his family lived until this house was finished in 1878. It took a year for him to haul the lumber from Walla Walla, the closest sawmill. The outside of the house has changed little. To the east of the house is a stone shed with two-foot walls which probably was built before the house. Other buildings on this farm included a tool shed, bunk house, grainery, two horse barns, chicken house and the well-known outhouse. All that remains now in addition to the house is the big barn built in 1889 and the little brick well or milk house (1880s) with a natural spring cooling system. (one-half mile south of 32nd Avenue on the east side of Linke Road is the white house with red trim)."

From The Ancestors of Thelma Courchaine Fitzgerald, SearchMasters (Kathie MacGregor) through materials supplied by Thelma C. Fitzgerald (Note from Chalk (2013)—Thelma is now 98 years old and she is Still going strong, anyway she was last Christmas, she calls me every Christmas season to wish me well):

Spokane Valley Herald - Wednesday- August 24, 1977 by Judy Cain Luck:

"It is obvious that someone cares a great deal about the white frame house nestled against the hillside among the trees. Its red trim and well-kept appearance offer a warm welcome to travelers along Linke Road in Greenacres.

As you start down the long gravel driveway, you realize that the house is more than just a comfortable home. A stone marker indicates that this is the house that Daniel Courchaine built -- 100 years ago this year. His son, George Courchaine, who was born and still lives in the house, erected the marker in 1967 as a memorial to his father and to the homesite he chose.

"I think my father was one of the greatest men I ever knew," he says of the French Canadian who set out for the West with Bill Newman and Steve Liberty, the namesakes of Newman and Liberty Lakes.

Mr. Courchaine, an alert and courtly man of 91 years, has the distinction of being the Valley's oldest living pioneer. Born in the house ... he celebrated its centennial with an open house for over 100 friends and relatives last Sunday. One granddaughter traveled from Maryland for the occasion.

Sitting in his shady yard, surrounded by his family, Mr. Courchaine appeared healthy and spry and charmingly interested in the comings and goings of his many visitors. His hearing is not so acute as it once was, but his mind is sharp and vision good. His pleasant smile suggests contentment with his life and large family which includes sons Miles, Leslie, and Robert Courchaine, all of the Valley, and daughters Mrs. Fred Parkinson (Eilene), Greenacres, and Mrs. Joe Fitzgerald (Thelma), Missoula, Montana. Another daughter, Anna Marie, was 11 years old when she died in 1931.

Helping him keep young in spirit are Mr.Courchaine's 19 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

The property at Greenacres has diminished from 640 acres when his father first purchased the land from the Coeur d'Alene tribe in 1867 to the 60 acres Mr. Courchaine now owns. Some of the land belongs to his children, but he has refused all offers to sell the house and its surrounding grounds. A farmer on the homestead all his life, Mr. Courchaine no longer supplies all the food for his table from his own crops and livestock. But he does tend a garden each year.

Up early in the morning, he cooks his own breakfast though his daughter drops in to prepare lunch and chat with her father. One month a year he might visit his other daughter in Missoula. Otherwise, Mr. Courchaine is happy at his own home, with occasional treks into Opportunity or Spokane for shopping, though he prefers not to go downtown because it's too busy. His first memory of Spokane is as a seven-year-old and he says that it was "quite a little town by that time."

Indian neighbors in the old days, there were fishing trips to the coast or hunting expeditions near the Canadian border. Mr.Courchaine raised hounds to hunt coyote and cougar, and neighboring Indians frequently stopped by the

homestead to offer huckleberries they had just picked in exchange for a dog. He never traded his favorite, Queenie, though the Indians would try to barter for her. Mr.Courchaine remembers that during his childhood Indian families

were scattered nearby in the relatively isolated area around Lake Saltese. Chief Saltese, on the other side of the lake, was a neighbor.

The Courchaine place was where the Indians liked to stop because it was widely known that a spring on the property had clean, cold water for themselves and their horses. The spring has never run dry in 100 years, and Mr. Courchaine still gets his water there.

The road in front of the house is one of the first trails through the country, known as the California or Mullan trail. The main road between Post Falls and Walla Walla, it was well traveled and on many nights wagons of Indians would camp along it across from the house. Mr. Courchaine says that his family always enjoyed friendly relations with the local tribes.

Builds House. It was in 1860 that Daniel Courchaine left Winnipeg, Manitoba, to establish a home in Green Bay, Wisconsin. But he wasn't satisfied with that locale and moved west to Spokane, Washington Territory, in 1866. Before his death in 1897, he and his Oregon bride were to have four daughters and three sons, including George.

After buying the land, Daniel Courchaine arranged to have lumber hauled here by wagon train from Walla Walla, where the country was more settled and there were sawmills to cut the wood. Many years later, his son built two sawmills on the property, but he says the enterprise didn't make much money, "just enough to buy a truck and make a down-payment on a car."

The house the elder Courchaine built was of such sturdy construction that, 100 years later, the original walls are still standing, and the doors and windows are the ones he put in the house. The main part of the house, including the four bedrooms and large sleeping porch, looks as it did in 1877. George Courchaine added a bathroom and two small rooms which would later be used for a kitchen and laundry room.

In addition to the main house, there is a cool, stone cellar and a milk house, where perishables were kept cold. Now that he has refrigerator, Mr. Courchaine doesn't use the small brick building.

Born Free. It is easy to understand the fondness Mr. Courchaine feels for the big white house in Greenacres. Not only was he born here, but so were three of his children, the product of his marriage to Anna Young of Post Falls, a former school teacher who died in 1970. The Courchaines were approaching their 60th anniversary.

The old adage says it takes a heap of living to make a house a home. In a century, the Courchaine homestead has been heaped with living, and the children remember a lot of activity including weekly dances that drew neighbors from far and wide.

The idea of leaving the Valley just never appealed to Mr. Courchaine. "I don't want to live any place else. I just don't care about moving, "he insists. "I always figured I was obligated to care

for it (the house) for as long as I live." And after living in the 100-year-old house for 91 years, it is understandable that George Courchaine feels there's no place like home. "



Both these photographs were taken by Chalk Courchane



Home of Daniel Courchaine and his son George Courchaine Reseacher and historian Eugene Felsman lists two more children:

Delina Barnaby Frank Barnaby married Mary Ann Seymour Coeur d'Alene Allot.118