

Plains of Abraham

The Story of Martintown, A Pioneer Village by R.C.M Grant, (c) 1974 is a collection of anecdotes and facts. He seems to support this claim:

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Chapter 25, The French People in Martintown ... There are no Martins living in Martintown now, but several Martintown families are related to the Martins. They are descended from Captain Allan McMartin of Letterfinay in Scotland. He was one of the earliest Jacobite exiles. Having to leave Scotland after the Great Civil War in Cromwell's time, he escaped to France, where he settled down and married a French girl.

Their children dropped the Mac and were known as Martins. One son, Abraham, became a pilot in the French navy. He finally emigrated to Canada and was given a grant of land outside the town of Quebec. Ever since this has been known as the Plains of Abraham. It was on this that the battle was fought which brought Canada under the British Crown and in 1914 the famous Valcartier Camp was on it.

Abraham was Canada's first bona fide farmer. He and his wife had seven sons who all married Indian girls. From them are descended the present host of Martins on this continent.

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There are some that claim that Abraham's parents were Jean Galeran MARTIN and Isabelle COTE and that Antoine MARTIN who married Denise SEVESTRE on June 18 1646 was his brother --- this also has not been proven.

Here's a collection of writings on Abraham Martin

Abraham Martin was one of the 3 first land owners in New France. The other two were Louis Hebert and Guillaume Couillard. Abraham was a Royal ship's pilot. He was also Greffe of "La Coustre" on December 27, 1647.

Abraham Martin, nicknamed "L'Ecosais", was born in 1589, and emigrated to the new world at the age of 31, arriving at Tadoussac on August 30, 1620 aboard the vessel "Le Sallemande". He was accompanied by his wife. Nothing is known of his wife, who died shortly after their arrival. Sometime later he married Marguerite Langlois.

It is said that his father was devoted to the cause of Mary, Queen of Scots, and that he was involved in the plot to free her from the English. The plot failed, and he fled to France.

Shortly after he arrived, he received a grant of land that would be made famous a century later when the British forces under General Wolfe and the French defenders under General Montcalm met in battle on what is now known as "Les Plaines d'Abraham" (the plains of Abraham).

Abraham was a royal ship's pilot in the Québec area. He was also one of the first three property owners in Québec, the other two being Louis Hébert and Guillaume Couillard.

Abraham Martin died at Québec on September 8, 1664. His widow was remarried five months later on February 17, 1665, to René Branche, but died ten months later on December 17, 1665.

>From Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol I:

Abraham Martin (dit l'Écossais or Maître Abraham), pilot, was born in 1589 in France and died in Québec on September 8, 1664. Martin arrived in New France with his wife, Marguerite Langlois, her sister Françoise and brother-in-law Pierre Desportes (the parents of Hélène Desportes) about 1620. Martin may have been of Scottish descent or he might have used the sobriquet if he had been enrolled in military service or had been a member of an illegal organization: such names were used to avoid detection by officials looking for deserted soldiers or in case the records of an illegal organization were seized. It is also possible that he acquired the name because he had made several voyages to Scotland as a young man. There is some question as to whether Martin was really an official pilot or not, although he was referred to as "king's pilot" in his own day. However, he did fish well down into the Gulf of St Lawrence.

It is presumed that the Plains (or Heights) of Abraham are named after Martin. It is picturesquely said that the "Cote d'Abraham" was the path that Martin used to descend to the St Charles River to water his animals.

His property amounted to 32 acres in all, 12 received from the Compagnie de la Nouvelle France in 1635 and 20 as a gift from Sieur Adrien Du Chesne, ships surgeon to Pierre Legardeur de Repentigny in 1645. This land was sold by the Martin family to the Ursulines in 1667. It is possible that this is the same Martin who was employed by Jean de Biencourt and Du Gua de Monts as navigator on the coast of Acadia, although he would have been very young at that time. When David Kirke captured Québec in 1629 and left his brother Lewis as governor until 1632, Martin and his family stayed on. In his later years, Martin fell in the estimation of his fellow citizens when he was accused of improper conduct with regard to a young girl in Québec. He was imprisoned for this on February 15, 1649.

As far as can be found from the records, Abraham Martin and Marguerite Langlois had nine or ten children. Anne Martin born in France and married November 17, 1635 to Jean Coté, was probably not Abraham's daughter.

Eustache, baptized October 24, 1621 and the godson of Eustache Boulle, was the first child born in Canada. Marguerite, born January 4, 1624 and married May 22, 1638 to Etienne Racine, had many descendants including the two bishops Racine. Hélène, born June 21, 1627, was god-daughter of explorer Samuel de Champlain. She married first Claude Etienne and then Médard Chouart Des Groseilliers. Charles Amador, born March 7, 1648, the godson of Charles de Saint

Etienne de La Tour, was the second Canadian born priest. It is possible that Brother Dominique Scot, spoken of in the Jesuit Relations as having gone to the Huron Country as a young man, was also a son. It is also possible that a young man who is mentioned as having been in the Huron country at the same time (1634-35) was Eustache Martin.

Other Entries:

Abraham Martin came to Tadoussac from France on 30 Aug 1620 with his daughter Anne. His first wife, Anne's mother, died before 1620 and her name is as yet unknown. Abraham settled near Québec in 1634 and part of his farm became known as the Plains of Abraham (Plaines d'Abraham) where Generals Wolfe and Montcalm fought. Abraham was a Master Pilot and was appointed Royal Guide by Greffe de Le Coustre on 27 Dec 1647. From Abraham's marriage to Marguerite Langlois a daughter was born (Marie Martin) and she married Jean Cloutier, son of Zacherie Cloutier and grandson of Denis Cloutier.

Abraham Martin dit L'Ecosais married Marguerite Langlois.

Abraham first came to Québec in 1614. He arrived in New France 30 Aug 1620 on the sailing vessel "Le Sallemade" at Tadoussac with his first wife and a possible daughter or niece, Anne. Abraham's wife died and he married Marguerite Langlois according to Reginald Olivier. However, Henry B.M. Best in a biography of Abraham Martin in Volume I of "Dictionary of Canadian Biography", page 495 states "Martin arrived in New France with his wife Marguerite Langlois, her sister Françoise and brother-in-law Pierre Desports about 1620." Morison, in his book, Samuel De Champlain, " page 179, mentions Champlain's wife Hélène lacked women to talk to other than neighbors, who were Madame Hébert and the Langois girls. One of the latter was married to Pierre Desports, a baker, and the other was the wife of Abraham Martin, a workman. Hélène Champlain was godmother to Desports' daughter born in 1620. ". It would appear that possibly Martin, his first wife, and child came over in 1620. His wife died and he left his daughter with friends and returned to France, married Marguerite and returned again, as mentioned above. Otherwise, he would have had to marry Marguerite in New France after her arrival. In Martin's biography, Best also points out that Anne Martin, born in France and married 17 November to Jean Coté, probably was not Abraham's daughter. Reginald Olivier's work would support the theory that Abraham did come over with his first wife and daughter Anne. His resources could be checked out to verify this.

Samuel de Champlain in his will left Abraham Martin's daughter Marguerite 600 livres; his goddaughter Marguerite Racine 300 livres; Hélène Champlain's goddaughter, daughter of Pierre Desports and Françoise Langlois, born 1620 300 livres and Abraham Martin 600 livres to clear land. Now one sees why the story passed down in the family that the Martins were related to Champlain. No blood relationship existed.

Abraham received a land concession and the area is now known as the Plains of Abraham, where the Battle of Québec was fought. He was also known as the "King's Pilot" but the reason for this is uncertain. Their first child was baptized 24 Oct 1621. Abraham was born in 1589 in France and died 08 September 1664 at Québec, Q.P., Canada. Marguerite, a widow, married 17 February 1665 at Québec, Q.P., Canada to René Branche. She died and was buried 17 December 1665 at Québec City exactly ten months later.

MARTIN, ABRAHAM (1589-1664), nicknamed "L'Ecosais" (The Scot), was born in 1589 in Scotland. He came to Canada in 1614, and for many years was an engagé (employee) of the Company of One Hundred Associates, who granted him the lands on the heights of Québec, afterwards known as the Plains of Abraham. He was one of the few French settlers who remained in Québec after its surrender to the English in 1628. In 1647 he is mentioned as a "royal pilot."

He died in Québec on 8 Sep 1664. He married in 1613, before coming to Canada, Marguerite Langlois, by whom he had numerous children.

Source: The Macmillan Dictionary of Canadian Biography" by W. Stewart Wallace

Another Martin has found a place in history because of his name that was given to a celebrated plain. We're speaking of Abraham Martin known as l'Ecosais. He had a progeny of nine children. One of them, Eustache, was the first born white in Canada. Meanwhile, his daughters assured his decadency as none of his sons had children.

Since Abraham had no sons to carry on the name, others took on the task. In effect, many Martins came here to New France after him, found spouses and had sons that assured the perpetuation of the Martin name throughout the Americas.

Source: Le Centre de généalogie francophone d'Amérique

The early registers for Notre-Dame de Québec burned in 1640. The registers were later reconstituted, but identification of origins and the parents of the spouses was not included. For that reason, this information is missing for a number of early settlers, except when this information appears in other records that have survived.

Anne Martin's father was assumed to be Abraham Martin by Tanguay. The error was corrected long ago, but some individuals persist in quoting Tanguay even though there is no documentary proof. Very simply, the parents and origins of Anne Martin and her husband, Jean Coté, are unknown at this time.

As for the other assumption that 1) Abraham Martin m: abt 1588 Dundee, Scotland to: Sarah Auchinleck. it appeared in an article several years ago and did not pretend to be indisputable. It was yet another leap in judgment. It, too, remains unproven. Certainly, an Abraham Martin was married to a woman named Sarah Auchinleck, but . . . there is no proof he was any connection to the Abraham Martin who settled in Québec.

See Albert-H. Ledoux, "Abraham Martin, Français ou Écossais?" Mémoires de la société généalogique Canadienne-Française, July-August-September, 1976, Vol. XXVII--No. 3, pp. 162-164.

Ledoux concludes his article by saying that what he discusses is simply circumstantial evidence, however intriguing it may be.