

The Murphy Family of Bourg Louis, Quebec

The following compilation is what I have on the Murphy Family:

.....

The Corcoran's

Thomas Corcoran moved to St. Raymond in 1821 to a farm lot no. 626 and 661 off highway 365 that used to be called the Front Range. Thomas was born in Ireland about 1787, and married Mary Baron (c/b Byrne or Birleman as census difficult to read) whose birthdate is between 1792 and 1801. The census's indicated she was born between 1797 and 1801, but she is shown in the 1891 census as being 102, and she died in 1894, therefore putting her birth around 1792. They were married in 1807 (unconfirmed source) and came to Quebec sometime after the birth of Michael (b. abt 1820). They may have had other children that were left behind in Ireland, as they were married about 13 years before they had Michael. They had six more children while living in Bourg Louis: Ellen 1825, Nora 1830, Thomas Jr. 1831, Mary 1835, Bridget 1839, and Elizabeth 1843. Thomas Sr. died in 1844, and his widow Mary was living with the children and all were listed in the 1851 census except for Bridget (whom I cannot find in the census), and Michael who was married and living on another farm. I have not been able to find any dates of death for any of these children, so can it be assumed they all left the area?

Reviewing the Canada Census's for 1851, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911, I have not found any reference to Ellen and Elizabeth after the 1851 census. Nora appears up until the 1891 census but is not in the 1901 census.

Thomas Corcoran Jr, was married to Rose Gilchrist, and he was a lumberman. No logs less than 8 inches in diameter at the small end were accepted by the St Maurice Int. Co. between the years 1821-1900. The logging company was run by the co-seignior of Bourg Louis – Peter Langlois. Thomas Corcoran moved to Lowell, Massachusetts sometime after the 1891 census, never to return to Canada.

Mary married Moise Gingras and they lived at 'Trapsack' about nine miles east from Chute Panet (*approaching St. Raymond from the Front Range, if you turn to the right before crossing the Ste. Anne River, you will reach Trapsack. It is just a name, there is no village*). Later the family moved to Lewiston and Woodland, Maine.

Bridget married **Charles Murphy**, and lived on the 'Mountain' and the two of them were still living there according to the 1911 census – but none of their children were living there with them. It appears both Bridget and Charlie had previous marriages. Bridget was married to John Lasho, and they had a son 'Jack' who was born in 1859. They only had the one son. Charlie Murphy had married Jane Garner (1836-1865) on January 7, 1851 in Ste. Catherine. They had 7 children before Jane died, and all 7 children are living with Charlie and Bridget in the 1871 census, along with their first child, Thomas who was born in 1867. Charlie and Bridget had a total of six children.

The Mountain Route

The Mountain Route passed between the farms of the two McElrae brothers, Willie and Herbie, and taking this old route you crossed the Little Bear Creek, and began to climb a part of the mountain road where we passed the Henderson farm belonging to Emmit and Arlington.

The next farm was that of George Edgeley who had acquired it from the Livingstones. The neighbouring farm was that of Richie Morrow and later was owned by Mr. Hughes.

At the corner where the Mountain Range road turned, there was a school near the communication tower. We then arrive at the paternal house of the Henderson's. Vivian and her mother returned every year and spent the summer here.

Next it was the homes of Bill Darbyson, then Clifford and Florence Tomlinson, the Williamson's, the Penders, and then the Forsyths.

Further along lived Dave Smith and his son Ernie. On the other side of the road was George Edgeley. Charley Murphy's farm was next and across from that was the lot owned by the blacarry Larry Connolly with his son Ned and daughter Ellen. Old Ned could do anything for you: build you a house or dig you a well, shoe your horse or cure your sick cow. He was much in demand.

Next lived Bob Smith where he lived with his daughter Maria and son Wilbur, then the Smith's farm of Matthew, John, Big Bill, Mat, Martha and Charley. Finally you come to the Turners.

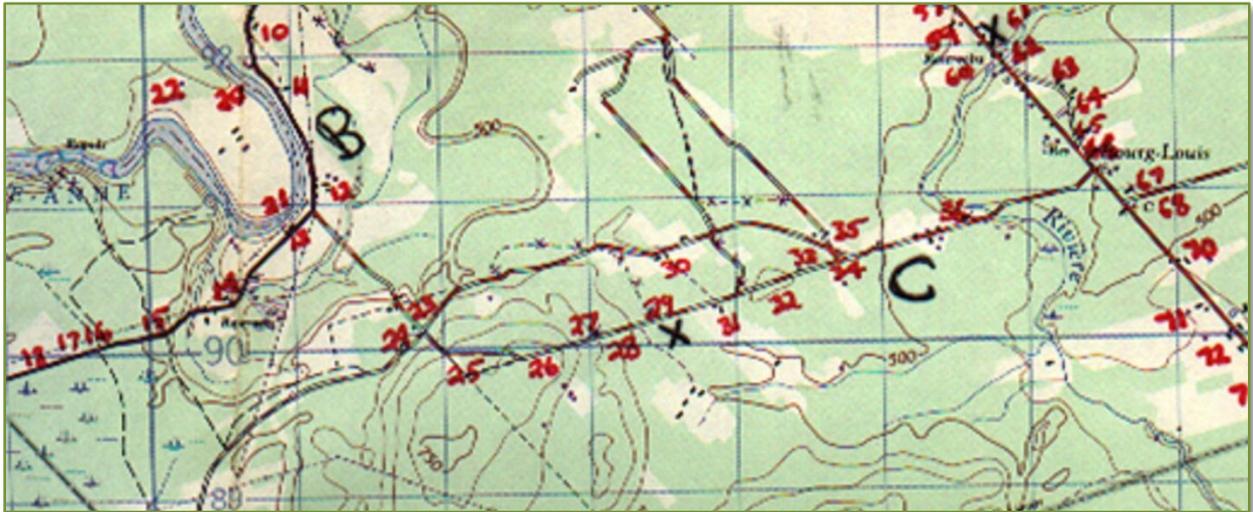
We have now reached the swampy land called Turner Swamp. At last we have come to the Grand Rang (route 365). The little English Church is just south of there.

Near the Anglican Church was Jack Gray. He had the oldest post office in the region. He served Bourg Louis, a part of the Grand Rang along with the Mountain Range. During this period the mail was delivered starting from Cap Sante then to St. Basile, Rang Ste. Madeleine and Bourg Louis which became St. Raymond.

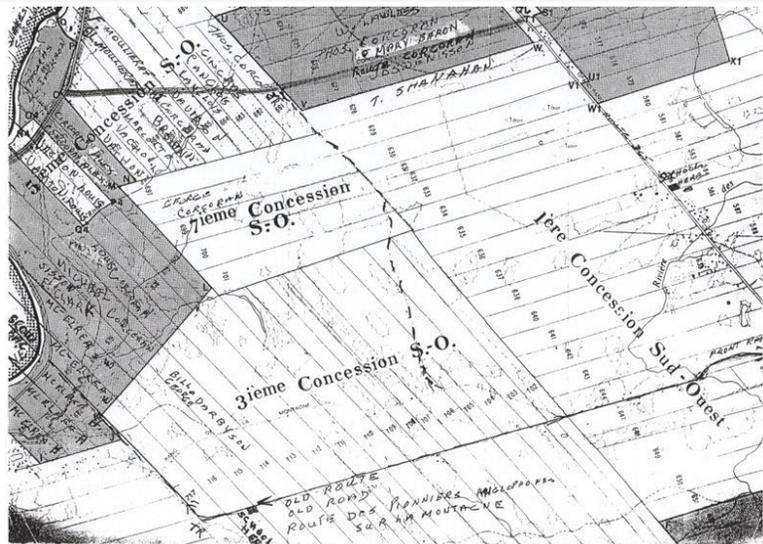
.....

The Mountain Road

Leaving the little English church at the SE corner of the Front Range and the Back Range Road, you turn left at the Mountain Road. Today it is a paved road that is used by the many people who have taken up residence in this area. Not that long ago, it was a dirt road. But fifty years ago, this road was barely passable by car. The original "range" road was a straight road from the Front Range to where **No.25** is on the map. There were 16 lots on each side of the road running northeast to southeast with a frontage of 3 arpents by 30 arpents deep, which were located between the numbers 25 to 35. The lots on the Front Range ran from southwest to northeast.



At the top is a Topographical map of the Mountain Road area (covering the lot numbers 23 to 36), circa 1975. The map at the right shows the lots and concession numbers.



Map No.	Family
23	John "Jack" Henderson
24	Williamsons
25	Morrows
26	Livingstons
27	Jim Henderson
28	Tomlinsons
29	Darbysons
30	Jacob Smith
31	George Edgeley
32	Charlie Murphy
33	David Smith
34	Larry Connelly
35	Robert Smith
36	Charley Turner

Farm **No.32** belonged to Charlie Murphy and he was located on what the locals called *Pender's Hill*.

I have not been able to locate the name Pender in the St. Raymond - Bourg Louis census's of 1851, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 nor 1911. I found in a census for Ste. Catherine de Fossambault, James Pender who was living with Moses Cullen in 1861 (census). He was catholic, aged 13, and a servant.

Charles 'Charlie' Murphy was born about 1829 in Quebec. He had two sisters; Elizabeth and Arminia, born in 1816 and 1825 respectively, in Ireland, so they immigrated sometime between 1825-1829. Charles married his first wife Jane Garner sometime before 1852 when the first of their seven children were born. Charlie married for the second time sometime between 1864-1867 to Bridget Corcoran and they had five children.

Charlie's first wife was a catholic, and Charlie had promised to bring up the children Catholic. She died in Bourg Louis. Charley subsequently converted to a Catholic. He had bought some land on the Mountain range, from his brother in law, Sandy Smith. Tom Corcoran, Bridget's brother, had also bought some on the mountain - perhaps that is how Bridget Corcoran met Charley Murphy. Charley had already become catholic, so marrying her was not an issue. I am not sure when Charlie and Bridget died, or where they were buried. Both he and Bridget were still listed in the 1911 census as being 83 and 73 years of age, along with their youngest son Peter and his wife Mary Anne Lawless.

