

David Grishman

I reached out to my aunt, Michele Lehmann, who has researched much of my family history on my mother's side. My heritage is French and French Canadian on my mother's side. The original LaPointe was not actually LaPointe, but was Audet. Nicholas Audet relocated from France to Canada (Quebec) and married what was known as a "Daughter of the King". Since Canadian settlements in the mid 17th century were almost all men, King Louis XIV sent French women with clothes and 50 livres to Canada to establish settlements and marry settlers in modern day Quebec. Since Nicholas Audet arrived in Canada in 1665, I am the 13th generation of Audet/LaPointe to live in North America.



The Audet, later LaPointe family, lived in Canada for approximately 200 years before relocating to Chicago in 1887 and working in the family printing business. The LaPointe family arrived in New Orleans, my hometown, in 1922, and continued working as printers. It is most interesting the LaPointe family's line of work, especially since I would become involved with several publishing companies and businesses one hundred years later.

My great grandmother, Haydee Druilhet LaPointe, descended from a most interesting French family, the Druilhet family. A direct descendant, Chenet Druilhet, was with Bienville on his expedition to found the "Crescent City" of New Orleans in 1718. Another direct descendant, Etienne Reine, fought with Bernardo de Galvez, a governor of Louisiana who supported the colonists and their French allies during the American Revolution. Without the efforts of Spaniard Bernardo de Galvez, his men, and their military expertise, who frustrated British supply lines on the Gulf Coast while capturing forts at Mobile and Pensacola, there may not be a United States as we know it today.

Photo: My great-grandparents, Alfred Harry LaPointe and Haydee Druilhet LaPointe at my grandparents' wedding in 1951. Haydee was the namesake for my mother, Haidee LaPointe.