

Ancestors of Pierre Francois Coquigne

by

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Introduction

Thanks to the internet, we have been able to access parish records from the Archives in France which help us to fill in the story of our Coquigne family before they came to America. I have collected this new information in this document and summarized the family of Pierre Francois Coquigne and the three previous generations of his ancestors in France. I have labeled Pierre Francois Coquigne as the First Generation (to America).

Note that the work of further identifying details about the family of Pierre's wife, Cecile Huvier, is ongoing, and I will issue an update to this article when more information is available.

The descendants of Pierre F. and Cecile are recorded in a 15-page report which I can send you as a PDF document. Also all of the Coquigne family tree is currently posted for private viewing only on the website ancestry.com. There you will find various pictures that have been passed down, mostly for the later generations in America, although we do have two pictures of our original pioneers. Please contact me at genealogist@gmail.com if you would like me to send you a Descendant Report or if you want access to our online family tree.

I also have an online blog where news about research I'm doing on the Coquigne family can be found. Go to <http://coquigne-quest.blogspot.com>.

It's fun to be learning more about our French ancestors. Perhaps we shall one day find some living relations elsewhere in the world!

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Coquigne's in France

First, let's see where the Coquigne family lived in France. They lived in Jouarre, which is a commune (roughly equivalent to a township) in the Seine-et-Marne department in the Île-de-France region in north-central France. Jouarre is also the location of the Jouarre Abbey, a community of monks and nuns under the rule of an abbess who in 1225 was granted immunity from interference by the bishop of Meaux, answering only to the pope.

Here is a map where Jouarre is shown with the label "A".



Just to the west of the town of Jouarre, was a village called Courcelle (or sometimes spelled Courcelles), which you will not find on any map today. But here is an old hand-drawn (and water-colored) map that shows where Courcelle was in relation to Jouarre. Look on the left side of the following map where Courcelle is found inside a highlighted circle (added by me).



Our newly extended family history now takes us back to the early 1700's. The history of France is quite long and rich, but here is a very brief history of what was going on in France in the 1700's.

The famous Louis XIV died in 1715, and his five-year-old great grandson reigned as Louis XV until he died in 1774. However during nearly all that time, Europe was at war, including France. France was also supporting any efforts in America to defeat Britain, finally signing an alliance with the Americans in 1778 which was key to American independence. This was also the time of the French Enlightenment period.

From 1789-1815, the French Revolution was in full swing. By 1789, feudalism was abolished and France began the process of removing the authority of the Catholic Church as the country's largest landowner to levy taxes on crops. As the Revolution continued, the royal family was captured and Louis XVI was executed by guillotine in 1793 (our Pierre F. Coquigne was born in 1796). What then followed was the Reign of Terror when 18,000 people were killed as anti-revolutionaries.

It was during this same time that Napoleon rose to power. By 1804, Napoleon was crowned Emporor, and he proceeded with his attempts to conquer as much of Europe as possible. Wide-scale war predominated, and finally in 1814 Napoleon was defeated and exiled. At that point, the monarchy was restored, although it was not absolute - Louis XVIII issued a Constitution which preserved many of the liberties won during the Revolution. But the right to vote was restricted only to the wealthiest of men, and working class people quickly rose up again. The "July Revolution" which occurred 26-29 July 1830 saw students and working people pouring into the streets of Paris in protest. The new monarchy tried to respond with a stronger and stronger hand.

This then, would be just about the time when the family of Pierre Francois Coquigne left for America. I have not yet found any immigration records, nor so far any trace of them having lived in New York state for over 10 years before migrating to Michigan. As always, research is ongoing.

Coquigne's to America

The following account was handed down to us, and at this point, I'm not sure we can say who wrote it - I wish we knew. The story told here, however, is a precious accounting of our ancestors' early days in this country.

The Coquigne family came to this country about 1832. First settling in New York State where they at first kept a fruit store. When John B. Coquigne was only a small boy, he rode a horse on old Erie Canal, getting up as early as 4:00 in the morning. After he got a little larger, he worked in salt works, did not have much time for education. His brother, Peter, not having good health, was educated in French and also English.

Later the family became interested in farming, and came under observation of a Mr. Baldwin, who owned a large tract of timber land in Michigan. The family started for Michigan in 1844. All traveling by rail except John B. and Peter A., Jr., driving two yokes of oxen through. They had to cross the river just below Niagara Falls, near Lewistown where at present is one of the oldest suspension bridges. While crossing, one of the oxen slipped off of the boat, and swam across the river. The others waited in Detroit for them, which was two weeks. Then they came to Mundy Township; where the land was covered with dense forest, not buildings, no clearing, no nothing only brave hearts and willing hands. They cleared this land and put the greater portion of it under cultivation, and then in disappointment, the farm was sold for mortgage. They had their crops and were paid off each taking a share. John B. and Peter clearing 160 acres of land on section 18 in the town of Mundy.

Eliza Root was born March 6, 1837, near Argentine. She was only 12 years old when her mother died. After that she kept house for her father and brother, also went where father found work. She stayed and worked at a hotel near Fenton run by people by the name of Francisco, which were distant relatives of hers. She was exceptionally beautiful, and very bright, lovable girl, to know her was to love her.

Eliza Root was married to John B. Coquigne after a brief courtship, July 4, 1853 at midnight by Justice Guideon Watrous of Whigville, about one-half mile from the hotel where they were attending a party. To this happy union the following children were born.

Helen C. - May 24, 1854

Louise - September 1, 1855; died October 31, 1916

Emily - April 30, 1857; died October 5, 1900

Eugene Peter - March 12, 1859

Harriet - born 1861; died April 26, 1868 at age 7 years, 2 months

Charles H. - Born 1863; Died August 30, 1864, age 11 months

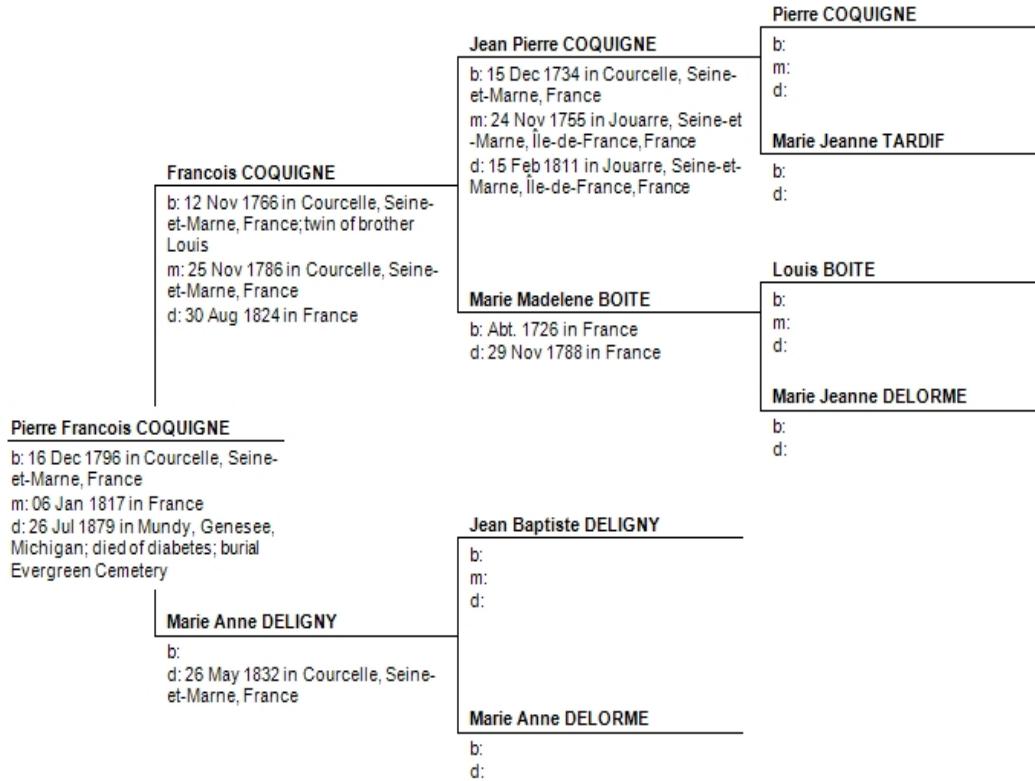
Johnnie and Julie - Born October 3, 1869; Julia died March 1, 1872 at age 3 years

Amelia - Born May 5, 1873

We must not think that their lives were easy even after a romantic marriage. At those times, their clothes were home spun, pin wool for yarn, knit stockings, and lived in a log house. But for all of that, they found some time for pleasure. They lived happily through all of those hardships and mastered the situation at all times.

John B. and Eliza Root lived happily together for 55 years.

**Pedigree Chart for
Pierre Francois COQUIGNE**



First Generation

Pierre Francois COQUIGNE



Pierre Francois COQUIGNE was born on 16 Dec 1796 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France as the fourth child of Francois COQUIGNE and Marie Anne DELIGNY. He had three siblings, namely: Francois, Charles Francois, and Marie Anne. He died of diabetes on 26 Jul 1879 in Mundy, Genesee, Michigan, and he is buried at Evergreen Cemetery. When he was 20, Pierre F. married Cecile HUVIER, daughter of Pierre HUVIER and Marie Anne BOUQUET, on 06 Jan 1817 in Courcelle, France. At the time of his marriage, he was a weaver (tisserand).

Pierre Francois COQUIGNE immigrated to New York in 1832. He later moved to Mundy Township, Genesee, Michigan in 1844. There Pierre (known in America as "Peter") and Cecile lived for the rest of their lives.

Pierre Francois COQUIGNE and Cecile HUVIER had the following children:

1. Baby Coquigne was born in 1817 in France. He or she died on 04 Nov 1817 in France.
2. Louisa Constance Coquigne was born on 04 Aug 1819 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, Ile-de-France, France. She died on 05 Apr 1905 in Mundy, Genesee, Michigan. She married Francois Larobardiere in 1838 in Oswego, New York, USA.
3. Pierre "Peter" Armand Coquigne was born on 29 Mar 1821 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. He died on 06 Nov 1896 in Mundy, Genesee, Michigan (burial Evergreen Cemetery, Grand Blanc, Michigan).
4. John Baptiste COQUIGNE was born on 12 Jan 1827 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, Ile-de-France, France. He died on 21 Nov 1914 in Mundy, Genesee, Michigan. He married Eliza Jane ROOT on 04 Jul 1853 in Michigan, USA (married by Justice Gideon Waterous of Whigville).

Second Generation

Francois COQUIGNE



Francois COQUIGNE was born on 12 Nov 1766 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. He was the eighth child of Jean Pierre COQUIGNE and Marie Madelene BOITE, and the twin of brother Louis. He had eight siblings, namely: Marie Madeleine, Marie Jeanne, Jean Pierre, Marie Anne, Marie Marguerite, Jean Pierre, Louis, and Marie Jeanne. He died on 30 Aug 1824 in France. When he was 20, Francois married Marie Anne DELIGNY, daughter of Jean Baptiste DELIGNY and Marie Anne DELORME, on 25 Nov 1786 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. Francois was a wine-maker (vigneron).

Francois COQUIGNE and Marie Anne DELIGNY had the following known children:

1. Francois Coquigne was born on 12 Feb 1790 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
2. Charles Francois Coquigne was born on 12 Feb 1793 in Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France, France. He married Marie Henrietta Huvier on 15 Dec 1812 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
3. Marie Anne Coquigne was born on 21 Sep 1795 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
4. Pierre Francois COQUIGNE was born on 16 Dec 1796 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. He died on 26 Jul 1879 in Mundy, Genesee, Michigan (died of diabetes; burial Evergreen Cemetery). He married Cecile HUVIER on 06 Jan 1817 in France.

Third Generation

Jean Pierre COQUIGNE

Jean Pierre COQUIGNE was born on 15 Dec 1734 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France as the first child of Pierre COQUIGNE and Marie Jeanne TARDIF. He likely had several siblings, but so far I have only found reference to one brother, Jean. Jean Pierre died on 15 Feb 1811 in Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France, France. When he was 20, Jean Pierre married Marie Madelene BOITE, daughter of Louis BOITE and Marie Jeanne DELORME, on 24 Nov 1755 in Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France, France. Jean Pierre was a wine-maker (vigneron).

Jean Pierre COQUIGNE and Marie Madelene BOITE had the following children:

1. Marie Madeleine Coquigne was born on 07 Sep 1756 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. She married Pierre Francois Huvier on 01 Jun 1778 in Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France, France.
2. Marie Jeanne Coquigne was born on 26 Apr 1758 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
3. Jean Pierre Coquigne was born on 26 Oct 1759 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. He married Marie Anne Huvier on 11 Jan 1779 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
4. Marie Anne Coquigne was born on 27 Aug 1761 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
5. Marie Marguerite Coquigne was born on 15 Nov 1763 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. She married Jacques Coquigne on 20 Feb 1786 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
6. Jean Pierre Coquigne was born on 07 Apr 1765 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. He married Marie Jeanne Bouquet on 10 Jan 1785 in Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France, France.
7. Louis Coquigne was born on 12 Nov 1766 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France (twin of brother Francois). He died on 12 Oct 1794 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France. He married Marie Madeline Salon on 07 Sep 1794 in Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France, France.
8. Francois COQUIGNE was born on 12 Nov 1766 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France (twin of brother Louis). He died on 30 Aug 1824 in France. He married Marie Anne DELIGNY on 25 Nov 1786 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.
9. Marie Jeanne Coquigne was born on 19 Jul 1769 in Courcelle, Seine-et-Marne, France.