

Chamblain or Champlain?

Volant de Champlain is a great name but it's not real! Volant de Champlain, in reality comes from Volant de Chamblain. Their first Canadian ancestor was named Francois Volant de Chamblain. He was originally from Saint Germain en Laye, near Paris. On June 10, 1749, he married Claire Jolliet, daughter of Jean Jolliet de Mingan and Marie Mars. The following were parties mentioned in their acte de mariage: Francois Volant, son of Claude Volant and demoiselle Jeanne Haudebour, his mother and father, bourgeois, from Saint Germain en Laye, diocese of Paris; for the first part and demoiselle Claire Jolliet de Mingan, daughter of Jean Jolliet de Mingan and demoiselle Marie Mars Volant, her mother and father, for the other part. Present at the marriage Joseph Fleury de la Gorgendiere, Pierre Francois de Rigaud de Vaudreuil, chevalier de Saint-Louis, King's lieutenant; Joseph Chavigny de la Tesserie, negotiator; Louis Parant, negotiator; Jean Tache, negotiator; demoiselle Marie-Anne Jolliet Mingan, spouse of said Tache; etc., etc. Francois Volant signed with a very sure hand, "Volant de Chamblain".

Jean Volant de Chamblain, born of this marriage, married Therese Desrosiers, and settled in Rimouski. On October 29, 1781, Paul Lepage de Mole, gave his seigneurie at Pointe-au-Pere to Jean Volant de Chamblain. It is the latter who, little by little, changed his name to Champlain from that of Chamblain. Why? It would be hard to say. Generally, it's thought that it was because of the pleasing sound. This had to be the case for Mr. de Chamblain. People started to call him Champlain because of the resemblance of his name to that of the founder of Quebec and so he started to use it too. He adopted the name that was given to him. All the de Champlains in the Rimouski area descend from Jean Volant de Chamblain or de Champlain.