

Jean-Baptiste Cadotte's Neglected Second Family

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Topics

- Jean-Baptiste Cadotte, who he was and his accomplishments.
- His first family with the Ojibwa Athanasie, also known as *Equawaice*.
 - Jean-Baptiste Cadotte, *fil*s
 - Michel Cadotte, *le grand*
 - Marie-Renée Cadotte
- His second family with the Ojibwa named Catherine.
 - Augustin Cadotte
 - Charlotte Cadotte
 - Lt. Joseph Cadotte
 - Marie Cadotte

The Life and Accomplishments of Jean-Baptiste Cadotte

- Had Huron (Wyandotte) ancestry and Ojibwa wives.
- Early settler of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.
- Restrained his Ojibwa in-laws from joining Pontiac's Uprising.
- Befriended Alexander Henry and became his partner in the fur trade.
- Helped open the Lake Superior fur trade to the British.
- Was an interpreter and operative for the British Indian Department during the American Revolution.
- Was involved in the first serious attempt to mine copper in the Upper Peninsula.
- Employed many of his Cadotte relatives in the fur trade.
- He has an entry in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

Cadotte's First Wife: Athanasie

- His wife was Athanasie, also known as *Equawaice*, an Ojibwa of the Catfish clan and relative of *Madjeckewiss*, one of the leaders who captured Fort Michilimackinac in 1763.
- Jean-Baptiste and Athanasie were wed at Ste. Anne, Fort Michilimackinac, in 1756 and their children were baptized there.
- Athanasie helped save the life of Alexander Henry.
- Her contacts among her Ojibwa relatives and her knowledge of their ways would have helped Jean-Baptiste in the fur trade.
- Athanasie would accompany his children to Montréal where they were educated.
- She died in Montréal in 1776.

Cadotte's Children with Athanasie

- Two children died in childhood: Charlotte and Joseph-Marie.
- Marie-Renée Cadotte resided in Montréal with her mother and brothers, she handled her father's business affairs there and died in 1786.
- Jean-Baptiste Cadotte, *fils*, opened up the Minnesota and Wisconsin fur trade for the North West Company (NWC), was made a partner of the NWC, but was removed for intemperance, served in the British Indian Department.
- Michel Cadotte, *le grand*, established a trading post at La Pointe on Madeline Island, Wisconsin, and ran a successful fur trade business for many decades.

Neglected Second Family

- Although historians and genealogists have reported on Cadotte's first wife and family, they have been unaware of Cadotte's second family or simply neglected to mention it.
- The first family is well documented in part because they appear in the Ste. Anne, Fort Michilimackinac, parish register.
- The second family is harder to document because they were not baptized as children at Ste. Anne.
- Also, Cadotte married his first wife in the Catholic church, but his second wife only in the fashion of the land.
- Three of his children from the second family were baptized as adults in L'Assomption, Québec, far from Michilimackinac and Sault Ste. Marie.

Cadotte's Second Wife: Catherine

- Jean-Baptiste Cadotte married Catherine in the fashion of the land after 1776.
- Her Ojibwa name is not known.
- She was related to Chief Broken Tooth of the Sandy Lake band of Ojibwa.
- Like Athanasie, Catherine's Ojibwa connections and knowledge would have been of value to Jean-Baptiste's fur trade activities.
- After the death of Jean-Baptiste Cadotte in 1800, she was with a voyageur named Louis Ducharme *dit Nez Rouge*.
- She shows up in L'Assomption to have her daughter, Thérèse Ducharme, baptized at the age of 15 on 29 May 1819; this is the first and last mention of Catherine.



Broken Tooth or *Breche* (*Katwabidi* or *Katwabeda*), of the Loon Clan, chief of the Sandy Lake band in Minnesota, the relative of Catherine.

Cadotte's Children with Catherine

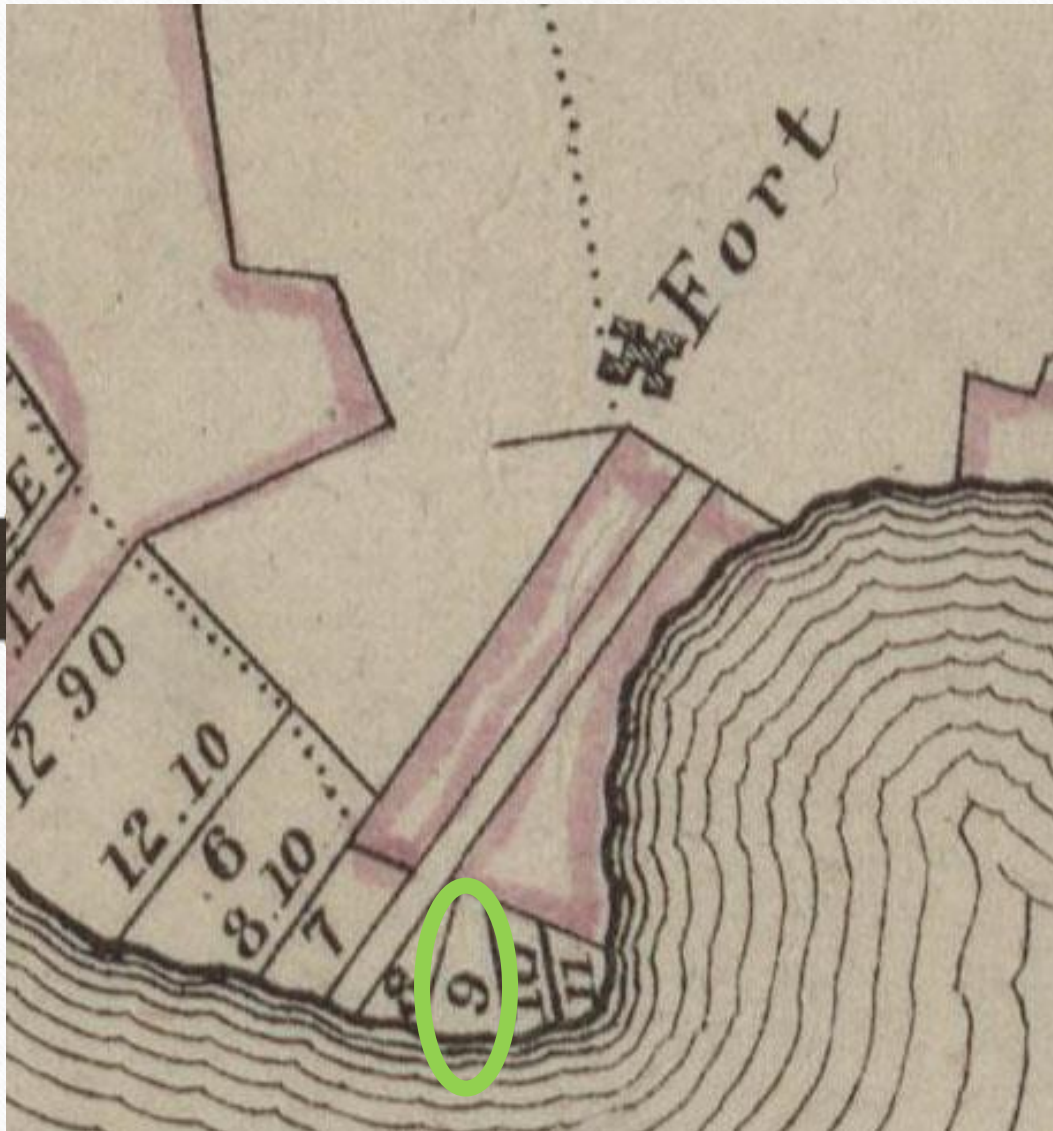
- They are difficult to trace so it is understandable why scholars have neglected them.
- None of his children with Catherine were baptized at Ste. Anne's.
- None of Catherine's children received formal educations in Montréal, though Joseph was literate.
- Records about them were found in the parish register of L'Assomption, Québec, in public land claims, and in testimony taken for a land dispute case that went to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- There are few recorded points of contact between the children of the first and second marriages.
- The children identified so far are: Augustin, Charlotte, Joseph, and Marie.

United States vs. Repentigny et al.

- This Supreme Court case involved the heirs of Capt. Louis Legardeur de Repentigny.
- Repentigny had hired Jean-Baptiste Cadotte to work at the fort he built at Sault Ste. Marie.
- The testimony of Cadotte relatives for this court case was crucial in identifying children from Cadotte's second family.
- In particular, the testimony of Joseph / Joachim La Rivière, the husband of Marie Cadotte, was decisive in verifying information found in the L'Assomption parish register and elsewhere.
- The late David A. Armour, former Administrator for the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, had kindly pointed out this testimony to me.

Augustin Cadotte (b. after 1776 – d. ca. 1825)

- He is among the most difficult Cadottes to pin down.
- Ten contemporary Augustin Cadottes were identified that had to be reviewed and sorted in order to distinguish the one who was the son of Jean-Baptiste Cadotte.
- Michel Cadotte, *le grand*, his half-brother, paid off some of his debts; Probate Records of Augustin Cadotte's estate, 1826.
- In 1823 he filed a claim for land on Mackinac Island; *American State Papers: Public Lands*.
- He is not mentioned often in any records, but it appears he lived on Mackinac Island for most of his adult life doing odd jobs; he was illiterate.
- His wife was Madeline, an Ojibwa.



Augustin Cadotte filed a private claim to lot 9 on Mackinac Island in August 1823.

This lot was surveyed in 1828, after his death.

This lot would be near where Cadotte Ave. starts at Market St., on Biddle Point.

I suspect Cadotte Ave. was not named for his father, Jean-Baptiste Cadotte, but for Augustin Cadotte.

We even have a photograph of the houses Augustin Cadotte or his children had erected on the property.



Cadotte Homes made of logs and sided with bark at Biddle Point, Mackinac Island.

Charlotte Cadotte (b. ca. 1778 – d. 1851)

- Married in the fashion of the land around 1797 to Séraphin Truillier dit Lacombe, a fur trader and clerk for the XY Company at Rainy Lake, on the border of Ontario and Minnesota.
- They moved to L'Assomption, Québec, with their children in 1805 when the XY Company merged with the NWC—she danced all night before departing. *There were three young children in the canoe, image that trip!*
- L'Assomption is over 640 miles from Sault Ste. Marie, but there were Cadotte and Lacombe relatives in the area.
- At L'Assomption Charlotte was baptized as an adult, age 26, on 23 December 1805.
- She married Séraphin in the Catholic church on the same day.
- Their children were also baptized at L'Assomption.
- She later remarried Jean-Baptiste Pelletier on 17 January 1820.
- She never returned to Lake Superior, dying at L'Assomption in 1851, but her son Séraphin Lacombe did go back.

S raphin Lacombe, *fils*

- Returned to La Pointe before 1826 and worked for the American Fur Company (AFC).
- He probably also worked for his Uncle Michel Cadotte, *le grand*.
- He filed a half-breed claim under the terms of the 1837 Treaty with the Chippewa in which he claimed to be related to Chief Broken Tooth or *Breche (Katwabidi)*.
- His tombstone at La Pointe reads: “Born 13 Mar 1803 Died 31 Dec 1840[.] This stone is erected to his memory by his friends as a mark of respect and esteem.”

Lt. Joseph Cadotte (b. ca. 1788 – d. ca. 1835)

- Has an entry in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* that was written by Bruce M. White, but the exact relationship to Jean-Baptiste Cadotte was not known at the time.
- Baptized at L'Assomption on 30 March 1807 at the age of 19.
- In 1823 he was a witness for the land claims of Janette (Piquette), the widow of his half-brother, Jean-Baptiste Cadotte, *filis*; *American State Papers, Public Lands*.
- Joseph was very active in the fur trade and the War of 1812.

War of 1812

- Promoted from interpreter to lieutenant in the Indian Department at Fort Mackinac, October 1814.
- He probably was present at the capture of Fort Mackinac in July 1812
- He was definitely present at the Battle of Mackinac Island on 4 August 1814, as well as participated in the capture of the *USS Tigress* and *USS Scorpion* in September 1814.
- He went on half-pay in June 1816.
- His military career is found documented in the C Series and his Upper Canada Land Petition found at Library and Archives Canada as well as his court martial.



Uniform of the Indian Department during the War of 1812. As a lieutenant in the Indian Department, Joseph Cadotte perhaps wore such a uniform.

Court Martial of Lt. Cadotte

- Accused by the Americans of paying for scalps after the end of the war.
- A court martial was held by the British at Fort Drummond in 1815, he was found not guilty.
- “In closing the evidence upon this case, the Court feel it to be a duty incumbent upon them to bear testimony to the zeal & good conduct of Lt. Cadotte, being fully convinced, that all his actions emanated from a thorough conviction that the war was still in progress, the Court conceive him to be highly deserving of the thanks which he received from his commanding officer upon that occasion.”

Fur Trade and Red River Settlement

- After 1816 he was an employee of the NWC and eventually worked for the AFC.
- Active in the fur trade in Manitoba, Ontario, and Minnesota.
- Took part in *Métis* disturbances along the Red River.
- Was implicated in the murder of Owen Keveny, an employee of Lord Selkirk.
- Married to Angelie Constons, a *Métisse*, and had several children by her.
- Returned to Sault Ste. Marie where he likely died between 6 September 1835 and 24 September 1836.

Achille Cadotte

- Achille Cadotte (b. ca. 1814 – d. 1867) was Joseph Cadotte's son.
- Like his father, he was rather adventurous:
 - A ship's captain; he hauled the *Algonquin*, across land in the winter of 1839-1840 to overcome the rapids on the St. Mary's River.
 - He was involved in identifying iron deposits to mine near Marquette.
 - A Civil War veteran who served in the 4th Minn. Regt. and then the 17th Wisc. Regt.
 - Buried on Mackinac Island, Ste. Anne's Cemetery, with a Grand Army of the Republic marker, with a tombstone that reads "Archile Cadotte Veteran 1861-1865."

Marie Cadotte (b. ca. 1791 – d. before 1851)

- Around 1809, she was the country wife of the NWC fur trader John Warren Dease and had two daughters with him.
- She eventually moved to L'Assomption where her sister Charlotte was residing.
- She was baptized at the age of 29 on 2 October 1820 at L'Assomption.
- There she married Joseph / Joachim La Rivière at L'Assomption on 19 November 1822.
- She disappears from the records, but was deceased before the 1851 Canadian census.

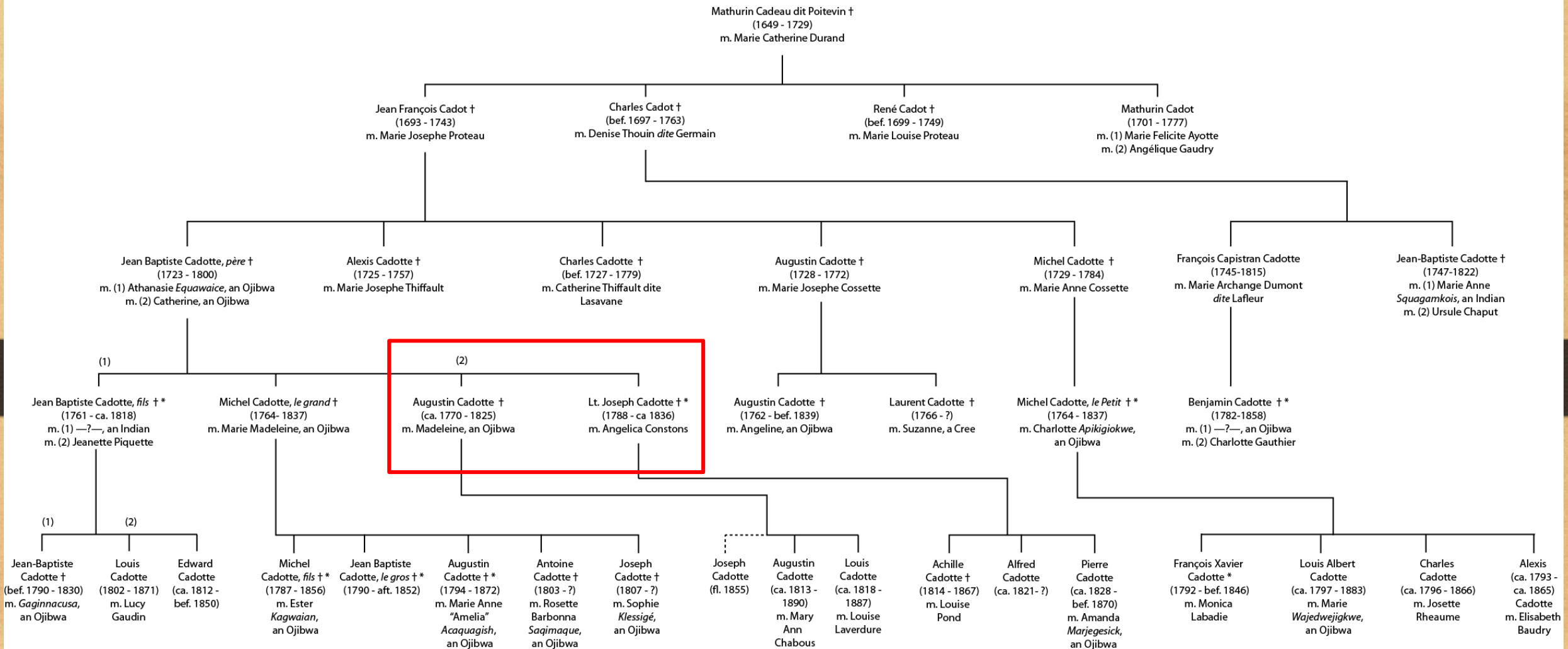
Untangling Cadottes

- Jean-Baptiste Cadotte's children from both his first and second families left descendants in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Québec.
- It is a challenge to untangle all the Cadottes because so many relatives of Jean-Baptiste Cadotte were also active in the fur trade including his uncles, brothers, nephews, and cousins.
- Often contemporary Cadottes share the same given names, worked in the same areas, and settled near each other.
- Patience is required to sort them out, do not jump to conclusions.
- The research of Theresa Schenck and Heather Armstrong are important for understanding the Cadottes; I cite them often in my articles.

Cadotte Website

- You can visit my website to learn more about the Cadottes.
- The address is <http://habitant.org/cadotte>
- All my Cadotte articles to date are posted at this website.
- Also I include some family tables and papers that have not been published.
- Lastly, I posted this presentation to my website.

Chart 2: Some Cadotte Men Active in the Fur Trade and the War of 1812



† Active in the fur trade.

* Served in the British Indian Department or as a volunteer during the War of 1812.

Notes: This genealogical table only shows the Cadottes found to be involved in the fur trade or the War of 1812. There are many more Cadottes not displayed on this table including the other children of the men listed here. Furthermore, none of the Cadotte women are listed, many of whom were married to men involved in the fur trade or the war, for example, men with the surnames Corbin, Dease, Dufault, Ermatinger, Keith, Roussain, Truillier dit Lacombe, and Warren. This table can be used to help sort out all the Cadottes operating in the Great Lakes area and further west.