
Alphonse Auger

Charlotte Michaud

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Sept. 12, 1979

To Mr. Arthur Provancher,

I understand you are a descendant of Alphonse Auger, first French-Canadian businessman in Lewiston, about whom I plan to write an article to be published in the Saturday magazine of the Lewiston Evening Journal. Though retired and now living in Massachusetts, I still write occasionally for that magazine.

I have considerable material about your great-grandfather, obtained through copies of facts collected by Donald Auger of New York, and from a 1915 publication of a book entitled: Franco-Americans, in which Alphonse Auger is mentioned.

I also have a few photos, but I need many more, because the Journal likes to have them to use with the story. The photos can not be in color, but printed in black and white. It's wise to write on the back of the photo what it represents; if there are persons on it, identify them by full name as they appear on the picture: left to right. Also, very important, on back of each photo write name and address of person to whom photo needs to be returned. No harm will come to the photos, but the Journal will need to have them for at least three weeks. After that, they will be returned in good order to the owner.

Photos I have are of the Auger monument in SS. Peter and Paul cemetery, also of the monument that clearly shows the name of Marine DesMarais, wife of Louis E. Auger, your grandparents. From notes I have, you are the son of Theodora Auger who married a Provancher, but I don't have your father's first name--would also appreciate photos of both of them, and dates of your father's death--I have that of your mother.

Is Alfred Provancher who lives at 203 Pine St. your brother? and are there any other surviving Auger descendants living in Lewiston or Auburn? If so, I'd like their names and addresses.

I also have a so-called Zerox copy of two sons of Henri Leon Auger who served as St. Jean Baptiste parades in Lewiston. Names given me are Alfred who did that in 1892, but a question mark follows that date, as if writer was not too sure. The other was listed as Henri Leon Jr. and he served in 1897. In the genealogy notes, the boy is listed as Leon H.--which is correct?

I know that a painting of one of these boys is at the Centre d'Heritage in Lewiston and was donated by either you or your brother. The Zerox photos I have shows one boy standing (Alfred) and Leon H. or Henri Leon Jr. seated. The one of Alfred is clearer and might possibly be photographed. If not, could a photo be taken of the painting the Centre has? Do you know name of artist who made the painting of this boy? It might appear on it. Also, is the painting in oil or crayon? None of these photos that I request for this article would need to leave Lewiston. Just tell me what you have, and when time comes they are needed, I'd merely tell you to whom to deliver them to the Journal on Park St.

Another photo I have shows a room with fire in the fireplace made of brick and granite, walls of the room are of wood, there is quebec banner over a door, and parlor-type furnishing in the room. Nothing indicates whose room it is--wonder if it's of a cottage at Taylor Pond which is mentioned in the family notes I have written by Donald Auger of N.Y. If it is, would you tell me exactly where that cottage was at Taylor Pond? is it still owned by the family? If not, by whom?

If nothing else is available within the family, could a snapshot be taken by you of the building where the first Auger store was located on Lincoln St.--notes I have says it was the fourth building (brick block) from the Grand Trunk station. In 1873, Alphonse Auger built a 4-story brick block across the street from the grocery. Five years later, he was selling the store to his brother: Jean-Pierre Auger, and was buying a lot on Chestnut St. from a Mr. David Alphonse Auger built another 4-story block with large double store where he sold groceries and footwear. After nine years, he sold to H.E. Pelletier, and

thereafter Alphonse devoted himself to real estate and erecting his own buildings, including two fine modern residences on Second St. and two on Third St. in New Auburn. He also built a large block at 89 Lincoln St. that contained eight tenements. Photos of some of these--specially of those where he had his grocery stores would be very useful; also the home he must have occupied in New Auburn.

There is mention of his son, Albert Auger, whom I knew as a music teacher in Auburn many years. He lived and taught in his own home--would that be one his father had built?

Also, in the genealogy notes of the N.Y. Auger there is mention of a daughter Marie (daughter of Alphonse) who died in 1893; a daughter, Albertine, who became a nun under the name of Mother Mary John Joseph--as the book on Franco-Americans states--but the Auger genealogy also mentions a Sister St. Cecilia, ~~Mxxxx~~ and a Mother Mary Good Counsel. That seems to me as if Sister St. Cecilia was her name adopted when she became a nun, and that she belonged to the religious order identified as Mother Mary Good Counsel--which, in French, we call "Soeurs Marie du Bon Conseil". What bothers me is that the Auger genealogy mentions two daughters only: Marie and Albertine--yet, it looks as if there was a third--this Sister St. Cecilia. Yet, the book published in 1915 mentions a daughter who is a nun and another in convent in Canada--as a student, it would seem.

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This is much to ask of you, but perhaps your brother and other survivors related to this early Auger businessman can help?

Adelard Janelle of Lewiston supplied me with much information--including the genealogy notes from the N.Y. Auger which belong to the Centre d'Heritage on Ash St., Lewiston. Recently, Mr. Janelle's wife had a heart attack and had to be hospitalized. Furthermore, he approaches 90 years of age, and there's much I ask of you--specially photos, that he couldn't possibly obtain for me. At the Centre d'Heritage, Mrs. Joanne Lapointe knows me well, and I'm sure will help all she can, too.

First thing, will you let me know if you can help in any way? Of uppermost importance: would be a photo of Alphonse Auger. The book on Franco-Americans have some photos of the men they mention, but there's none of your great-grandfather.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Cordially,

(Miss) Charlotte Michaud

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