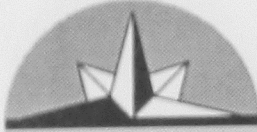


crossing from Ile Saint-Jean the transport was frequently buffeted by heavy seas and as a result the register had become wet, and unfortunately several pages within the 1750 section had gotten torn and mouldy or rotten. Those appearing before the notaries remembered that the baptism was in October, who the officiating priest was, and who the witnesses and godparents had been. This was good enough to produce a baptismal extract, even though the date in October was unknown. Ironically, it turns out that the baptism probably never had been recorded in the register of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord. The officiating priest was based at Port-LaJoye and it was in the register of Port-LaJoye where he chose to record it. The record of the baptism, which occurred on October 5, is quite intact to this day!

Knowledge of who the priests were on Île Saint-Jean during the French regime and where and when they served, has been developed over the past 100 years or so without the benefit of information from

the register of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord. Indeed it has been the register of Port LaJoye which has been the main source of information. The compilation by D.C. Harvey is quite accurate in relation to the priests serving Port-LaJoye, but is somewhat less accurate regarding the other four parishes, including Saint-Pierre-du-Nord, for which only the period after 1752 is addressed.⁶ By taking into account the information provided by the register of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord, a greatly expanded and more accurate picture for that parish can be developed (Table 1).

Similarly, by using information from both parish registers, as well as certain other data, it is possible to present a more accurate and comprehensive compilation showing the service of priests at each of the three smaller parishes (Table 1). It is unfortunate that the registers of Saint-Louis-du-Nord-Est, Pointe-Prime and Malpec have not survived, for like the register of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord, they, too, could no doubt shed light on local history during the French regime.



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⁶ See D.C. Harvey, *The French Régime on Prince Edward Island* (New Haven, 1926), pp. 240-243. Harvey's compilations are echoed in Henri Blanchard's two books, *Histoire des Acadiens de l'Île du Prince-Edouard* (1927), pp. 75-76 and *The Acadians of Prince Edward Island* (1964), pp. 53-55. However, in the case of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord, Harvey's errors have been compounded in Blanchard's second book.