

himself as a Récollet priest, "faisant les fonctions curiales de la paroisse de Malpec."

These entries indicate two things:

1. That Malpec was established as a separate parish on Île Saint-Jean sometime before mid-1745, not in the early 1750s, as has been popularly believed.
2. That Malpec had a priest, probably resident in the community, some years before Father Dosque settled there in 1753.

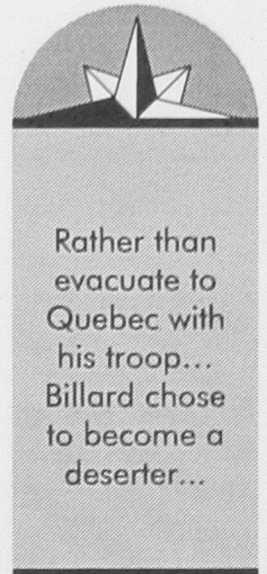
The marriage which Father Riou of Malpec performed at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord on August 15, 1745 united Simon Billard and Marie Charpentier. Though there is no hint of it in the register, there is an interesting story behind this marriage. Simon Billard was born in France and was a soldier in the garrison which in 1744 and 1745 was stationed at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord rather than at Port-LaJoye. He was also a gunsmith and had some skills as a blacksmith. While at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord he obviously fell in love with the local Acadian girl, Marie Charpentier. Rather than evacuate to Quebec with his troop, following the fall of Louisbourg to the British in the summer of 1745, Billard chose to become a deserter and 2 ½ weeks later wedding bells were ringing at the church of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord. A few years later when French administrative and military officials returned to the Island, Simon Billard as a deserter was in trouble. However, a petition by the local inhabitants, emphasizing the valuable services that Billard had performed as a

blacksmith, appears to have successfully extricated him.<sup>3</sup> He and Marie raised a family at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord and in late 1758 found themselves in France, among the deportees from Île Saint-Jean.

Several other entries of interest took place during the period when Britain and France were at war. On November 11, 1747 there is recorded an adult baptism of Dorothee, "négresse domestique" of Monsieur de la Borde. This is confirmation that there were blacks on the Island under the French regime, a fact we know from other documents. Jean Pierre Roma at Trois-Rivières had black slaves and a black "domestique" of Commandant Villejoux was deported with him from Port LaJoye in 1758.

After the war the first priest at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord was Charles de la Goudalie, who came here in 1751 at the age of 72, having had many years experience in Quebec and Acadia. The outpost of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord must have been a challenging assignment for a man of his age and he left within a couple of months. The next priest to practise at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord was Father Jacques Girard, who up until now has been associated only with the parish of Pointe-Prime. He came from the parish of Cobequid (now Truro), and was at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord for four months in the summer of 1752.

Girard was succeeded at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord by Father Jean Marc Perronnel whose first entry was on Christmas day in 1752. In an entry two weeks later he signed himself "curé missionnaire de St Louis du Nord Est et de St Pierre du Nord." The parish of Saint-Louis-du-



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<sup>3</sup> Archives Nationales (Paris), Archives des Colonies, Série C11C, Vol.8, pp. 191-192, "Inhabitants" [of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord] petition to Monsieur Benoit." The document is undated, but from its context can be determined to have been written in September or October 1748.