

E. A. Boadway & Co.

Organ Maintenance
Case pipe decorating a specialty

Telephone (603) 542-8142

Box 863, Claremont, N.H., 03743

August 12, 1983

Dear Mr. Rhoades:

Your very welcome letter was waiting for me on this trip to the house in Maine, and I'm replying now, without my best typewriter or any family papers at hand for several days. Because I do not know of many of the Boadway descendants who care much about genealogy, you deserve a reply as soon as possible!

Well, we are distant cousins. Francis and Mary Ann were my great-great grandparents, and for many years we lived in East Broughton, Beauce County, where the nearest big town was Ste. Marie. My great grandfather was Joseph (1844-1910), who served in the Union Army, married Laura Ann Rose of Greene, Me., and lived in the Bradley, Brewer, Charleston area. His farmhouse in Charleston is still there, and they are buried behind the Baptist Church there. They had four sons, one of whom died quite young, and the others all eventually moved to California, where they became quite well-to-do. Harry, my grandfather, was the third son, born in Bradley in 1875, and he married Etta Hilton (1877-1953) of Anson. Of their three children, Edgar A. Sr. (1901-1982) was my father, a mining engineer. Of their*two sons, my brother Raymond, who lives in Northfield, Vt., is keeping the family name going, for he has a son, Edward. Of course, we have a good deal more in the way of details to bring your page on Joseph's descendants up-to-date, and I'll write it all out for you some time. No, we are not related very closely to the Alvah Smith Boadway you mentioned. In fact, I've never heard of him.

Years ago, I did some research on the family, but apparently never got as far back as you have! The constant changing of names and the inefficiency of town clerks certainly doesn't help. Francis, whose obituary I have somewhere, couldn't read or write, according to the 1860 census, but that is still a common problem in Beauce County! His English-born wife, it is said, taught languages until she became blind, which may be why she didn't teach her husband! At any rate, we are told that she operated a small candy store in Orono for years. Their house near the railroad tracks at the end of Mill Street is gone, but their marble tombstones have been cleaned and exist in good condition. Somewhere, I have a nice 8x10" photograph of the stones, but any pictures of the ancestors themselves burned in 1908. Their church was replaced with another building in this century, and I never found much in the records at St. Joseph's, Old Town, which was the parish in charge of the mission in Orono for many years. Francois Xavier and his wife were Catholics, but apparently some of the children were not!

I have very little data on the rest of their children, except what could be found in the Orono cemetery, and in the Penobscot County Court House, where there are a lot of deeds, wills, etc. So, what you have gathered is far more complete than what I have, and

*I should say his here.

I need to get in touch with the Pasadena, Calif. relatives again! I do have the names of a few living descendants of Frank Budway, another of Francis' children, but they may be dead by now. As you have discovered, French Canadians had lots of children, though the cost of living has now cut that down somewhat!

Yes indeed, I would be happy to have copies of what you have found so far, especially the information relating to Canada and France, and I'd be pleased to pay for Xerox copying. Any photographs of our common ancestor? I assume you've been to Portland and read the immigration records. It's too bad that a nice French name ended up being spelled so many ways, but I suppose that they got tired of hearing the English-speaking people in Maine botching it!

I'm interested in all the Boadway information, and certainly would be happy to attend a reunion, or help you arrange one. I'll be able to send you more when I get to the attic in Claremont, and perhaps I can stop in Sanford some day. I passed through the town twice last week to attend an organ recital in Alfred, and it's no trouble to get over to see you.

With many thanks and best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Boadways". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Edgar A. Boadway, Jr.

E. A. Boadway

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19 August 1983

Dear Mr. Rhoades:

My thanks for your last letter and all the carefully-written genealogy! I do appreciate the time you are spending on the project. I notice a great many familiar names and places, and though I've met very few Boadways other than those in my great-grandfather Joseph's tribe, I have been in most of the places.

Their area in Quebec, which is spelled Bellechasse (perhaps connected with "good hunting" rather than Bellechaise, which may refer to a pretty chair!) is flat, farming country, and when I lived up there, it was all dirt roads with few signs. I used to head home to East Broughton and simply follow the sun's setting! My father was a mining engineer and managed a large asbestos mine in that town, now closed, but he found enough ore to keep large new mines going in Tring for at least another seventy years. However, asbestos has become a "dirty" name these days! We never took the name Beaudoin back, but were always told that's how it was spelled until the 1850's. I have never seen an original document with that spelling, but if that's how it's listed in church records, I need no further proof. Many French names down here have been corrupted to make things easier for ignorant New Englanders years ago--Thibault becomes Tebo, etc. We were aware of the New Brunswick connections, but I think it's a little too late to be of real Acadian interest. I recall that the family was proud of that English blood! The Boadways were never a very sentimental, visiting, card-sending crowd, so connections with all of those other children of F. X. were few by the beginning of this century, I'm sure. The French Canadians always had many children, as you have discovered, and the farms up there were not large--industry hardly exists even today. So, the oldest son being obligated by tradition to take over the farm and keep the parents with him until they died, meant that all the other children had to go elsewhere unless the farm was large enough to subdivide. So, you see that Francis moved a good deal, even as far down as Montreal, and he likely worked for others all his life. He was a mill worker in Orono, and his children kept up the tradition of moving about!

I'm enclosing a little ad I placed in a church anniversary booklet in Orono a few years ago, which gives the birth and death years. The dates will appear in the pile in the attic when I get up there. I'm on an annual concert tour this month, so time in the house is scarce!

As I skim through my line in your last letter, I'll add a few details: If you get a good map of the Province, you'll find nearly all the Beaudoin territory a little south and east of Quebec

city. Joseph was born on the river, in Saint-Vallier (I'll put in the proper spellings, and you should use hyphens). His four sons are all dead, and my great-uncle Leslie and his wife Bertha had most of the enthusiasm and souvenirs! The daughter born in 1900 is still in Pasadena. Uncle Walter was a Lafayette Escadrille pilot in World War I, and Leslie's furniture and decorating business provided the first floats for the first great Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena. So, think of the Boadways when you see a bowl game this fall! Harry E. more than worked at a fruit ranch-- he owned a big one, and it was used for making movies. In the 1920's he owned with a partner half of what is now the Lake Tahoe resort area, and just try to buy a piece of property there now! He was also adding a lot of rooms to his hotel in El Centro when he died during the Depression. Those Californians grabbed every opportunity! Etta's dates are 1877-1953; her father Cephas! dates are 1850-1924, and Flora Atkinson's dates are 1852-1917. They ran decent hotels in Madison and Guilford after selling the Anson farm. Uncle Leon died suddenly and my grandmother never got over it; his wife Doris Richards, now 83 or so, lives in Bangor; his only son Harold died two years ago in Providence after getting the verdict on cancer. He came to see us and never said a word about that verdict. Harold's wife and daughter are both dead, so that line is gone. The boy you have listed as "4-23-1907" is my father Edgar A. Boadway, Sr., born in Madison, 4-23-1901, and you could list his wife: Sammie T. Graham, b. Shamrock, La., 16 Feb. 1904, whom he married in New York City, Jan. 21, 1930. She lives in Dover-Foxcroft, Me., where my father died on Nov. 30, 1982. Two sons (who are thus "red fives" on your sheets) are Edgar A. Boadway, Jr., born in Boston, Mass., Jan. 14, 1936, and Raymond Hensel Boadway, born in Toronto, Ontario, Sept. 8, 1937. I'll send you his line later. I don't know much about my great-uncle Odber (and what an odd name!), but he lived a good long time and worked in the furniture business with Leslie. Of course furniture wasn't the only thing--real estate!

We ought to go to Quebec some time. If you don't hear much from the curés of churches up there, I'll draft a letter in French, unless you're already using that language.

I don't know of any other Boadways who moved back to Canada, and there is a Mrs. Boadway in Dover-Foxcroft who just may be related by marriage to the Alvah you list. Her husband died a few years ago, but I could get his name and her address.

Enough for now. There may be a few slight errors in the dates above, so don't carve any of them in stone! At the age of 47, my memory is fading!

Sincerely,



E. A. Boadway

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Editor of Publications, The Boston Organ Club

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22 August 1983

Dear Mr. Rhoades:

I am getting started in the attic, and I'll put miscellaneous Boadway items in this letter as I find them. First, a brief obituary:

Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, page 3, Tuesday, May 10, 1887:

Orono Items

The funeral of Mr. Francis Budway of Orono, who died the latter part of last week, aged eighty-four years, was held at St. Mary's Catholic church, Monday forenoon. There was a very large attendance of relatives and friends.

That was surely submitted by young Frank, who got his preferred spelling into the paper, but the family must have protested, for the tombstones in Riverside Cemetery, Route 16, Orono have a better version:

†
IHS

FRANCIS
BOARDWAY

Died May 6, 1887
AE. 80 yrs. & 4 mos.

†
IHS

MARY ANN
Wife of
Francis Boardway

DIED
Mar. 22, 1884
AE, 66 yrs. 4 mos.

Apparently Francis was not 84, but 80, so the Bangor paper is in error. I recall finding no old records in the Town Clerk's office at Orono. Both stones have some religious sentiments at the bottom, but I don't have them handy.

The varieties of spelling are going to mean that surnames should be included in all entires. For instance, how did your mother's family spell it? Of all the children of Francis and Mary Ann, I think only Phillip used the name "Beaudoin," but perhaps not by the time he died. I also recall that he, at least, stayed a Roman Catholic for a long time, if not until he died.

I see that in the 1860 census, Francis is listed as a "common laborer," so indeed, he probably inherited nothing from his parents.

We ought to lay a wreath at Mary Ann's grave next spring, and perhaps plan for a celebration to mark the centennial of Francis' death. He must have had courage--moving a large family to a foreign country, where Catholics were still disliked!

Well, I end this note earlier than I thought, but I won't forget to examine all these scraps of paper soon.

Sincerely,



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19 September 1983

Dear Roland:

Many thanks for your last letter and the genealogical tables! They are just about the nicest items I've received in the mail in a long time. I've spent an hour examining them, and they confirm tales I've heard about connections in northern France.

I can't find Bracquemont on the map in the library here, but that's not to say it no longer exists in Normandy. However, that part of France was pretty well ruined in two world wars, so getting details may be hard. I can't find my good map of France either. In all my travels in France, I never got to Ré, but had I known of our origins back then, I'd have gone! It's a farming island off the west coast, in the Bay of Biscay, not far from La Rochelle. The old province of Aunis is now just a region, and St.-Martin-de-Ré is a town of less than 3,000, where the main business now seems to be the prison! It certainly is a nice part of France, and the island is geared for tourists--the Beaudoins went from one large island to another!

If you like, I could write en Français to the parish priest there to see if the 17th c. records exist, though the originals may now be in diocesan headquarters, and if there is a person in town whom I could pay to search in them. Perhaps Beaudoins are still in the area... Let me know if that's OK with you, and I'll send copies and translations of any correspondence.

The immigration records must be somewhere, and I have never seen them--the people at the state archives in Augusta said they are in Portland. Naturalization and citizenship papers must be in Washington... Where have you obtained all the wonderful data on the sheets you sent to me?

Gratefully,

