

Comparative Analysis of Nicolas Carpenter of Vermont & New Hampshire and Nicholas Carpentier of Cap-Santé, Québec

As there is no single document that proves Nicolas Carpenter of the U.S. is the same person as Nicholas Carpentier of Cap-Santé, Québec, this proof summary will show that they are one and the same person.

Note: Text that appears in [square brackets] are Debbie's own explanation and are **not** part of the translated or transcribed text.

Nicholas Carpenter details from the book: <i>Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire</i>	Nicholas Carpentier details from church, marriage and death records from Cap Santé, Québec parish, his birthplace
<p>"Born January 30, 1794 in Marseilles, France. (1)</p> <p>Nothing is known of his parents, but it is probably that his father was of English or English stock. The name has always been spelled in its present form, as far as known, which would indicate that it is not of French origin. (1)</p> <p>At an early age Nicolas Carpenter was placed with a brother in the bakery (2) on a man-of-war (3), to learn the trade. The brother was drowned (4), and Nicholas left the ship on its arrival in the harbor of Quebec, making his way at once into the rural district on the southern border of the Province of Quebec. He was employed by farmers in Stanstead (Quebec) (5), and later [just across the border] in Derby, Vermont...."</p>	<p>Born 6 June 1789, parish of Ste-Famille, Cap-Santé, Québec. (1)</p> <p>Married 27 Oct 1812 to Catherine Lepage in Notre-Dame-de-Quebec, Quebec City.</p> <p>His parents were Nicholas Carpentier, a farmer, and Ursule Marcotte.</p> <p>Nicholas and Catherine Lepage had 5 children together.</p> <p>At the time of the birth of their last 3 children in Quebec City, Nicholas's occupation was "boulanger", meaning "baker". (2)</p> <p>At the baptism of their last child, son Jean born in Quebec City on 7 March 1822, it is noted that Nicholas was "feu", meaning deceased. There is no burial record for him in Quebec City. His wife Catherine never remarried.</p> <p>His brother Joseph was born 15 Oct 1792 and drowned aged 15, was found and buried in his home parish or Cap Santé on 27 July 1827 (4). On Joseph's burial record, the priest wrote that Joseph was "about 15 years old".</p>

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A) *Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of A Commonwealth and the Founding of A Nation*

This book focuses on New Hampshire families and their roles in state and national history.

Edited by Stearns, Ezra Scollay; Whitcher, William Frederick; Parker, Edward Everett.

Published in 1908 by Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago

Availability: https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalfami04stea_0/genealogicalfami04stea_0_djvu.txt

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

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Montreal railroad, Consolidated Cotton Duck Corporation and Hanover Fire Insurance Company of New York.

At the decease of Hon. Aretas Blood, late of Manchester, who died intestate November 24, 1897, the care, management and disposition of his estate devolved upon Mr. Carpenter and Dr. L. Melville French, both sons-in-law of the deceased. To this settlement, exceedingly difficult because of the variety and widely separated location of business interests, Mr. Carpenter gave unwearyed effort and devoted attention. The result fully justifies the opinion universally formed that no one could have exercised better judgment, business sagacity or more tactful and successful administration than did Mr. Carpenter. He is a regular attendant at the Franklin Street Congregational Church, and is president of its Society. Mr. Carpenter has never aspired to political preferment. Acting with the Democratic party he accepted in 1894 an appointment as one of the board of police commissioners, and this duty he discharged with considerate and faithful attention. He is interested in good government and progress, and is ever ready to promote the welfare of his home town.

On the twelfth of September, 1872, Mr. Carpenter was united in marriage with Eleonora R. Blood, daughter of the late Aretas Blood. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter have a son and a daughter, Aretas Blood and Mary Elizabeth. Aretas B. married Alice Burnham, daughter of United States Senator Henry E. Burnham, of Manchester, and is treasurer of the Amoskeag Paper Mill. Mr. and Mrs. Aretas B. Carpenter have two daughters, Elizabeth and Eleonora. Mary Elizabeth is the wife of Charles Bartlett Manning of Manchester.

(Second Family.)

This line in Manchester is not CARPENTER connected by any known records with others of the name or Carpenter in New Hampshire.

Nicholas Carpenter was born January 30, 1794, in Marseilles, France. Nothing is known of his parents, but it is probable that his father was English or of English stock. The name has always been spelled in its present form, as far as known, which would indicate that it is not of French origin. At an early age Nicholas Carpenter was placed with a brother in the bakery on a man-of-war, to learn the trade. The brother was drowned, and Nicholas left the ship on its arrival in the harbor of Quebec, making his way at once into the rural district on the southern border of the Province of Quebec. He was employed by farmers in Stanstead, and later in Derby, Vermont, and continued in that occupation all of his active life. For a period of twenty-two years he had charge of the large farms of Hon. Pontus Baxter of Derby, who was a member of Congress at the time of his death. Mr. Carpenter purchased land and became a large landowner in Troy and Westmore, Vermont. He lived in the latter town January 5, 1878, near the close of his eighty-fourth year. He was an extensive raiser of all kinds of farm stock, a successful farmer, and reared a large family. The maple trees which he set out are a monument to his forethought and kindness of heart. His wife, Hannah Libby, daughter of Joshua and Hannah (Grant) Libby, was of English descent. She died at the age of ninety-one years. She was a member of the Advent Church which her husband supported. Mr. Car-

penter was a Whig and one of the first to give support to the Republican party. He served as highway commissioner and a member of the school board, and did all in his power to advance the welfare of the community in which he lived. His nine sons and nine daughters included two pairs of twins, one pair of whom died unmarried. 1. **Joshua**, the eldest, was a resident of Hatley, Province of Quebec, where he died. 2. **Isaac** was a resident of Derby, and died in Boston from an operation for cancer. 3. **Sarah** married (first) John Gates, (second) Thomas Henry, and resides in South Hadley, Massachusetts. 4. **Julia** is the widow of Peter Rash and lives in Barton, Vermont. 5. **Charles** is a resident of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. 6 and 7. **John** and **James** were twins; the former died in Lowell, Massachusetts, and the latter in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. 8. **Louis** lives at Concord, Vermont. 9. **Edward L.**, see forward, 10 and 11. **Harriet** and **Lucy**, died unmarried. 12. **Maria Jeanette** became the wife of James Matthews, and died in Westmore. 13. **Jedediah** died of illness contracted while a soldier in the Civil war. 14. **Leslie M.** is a resident of Smithfield, Rhode Island. 15 and 16. **Jane** and a boy, unnamed, died in infancy.

Edward Lathrop Carpenter, seventh son and ninth child of Nicholas and Hannah (Libby) Carpenter, was born December 24, 1838, in the town of Holland, adjoining Derby, where his parents then resided, and attended the public schools of Derby Line until he was sixteen years of age. He assisted his father in the labors of the farm until 1858, when he went to Lowell and found employment in a cotton mill, becoming familiar with the operation of spinning in all its details. Upon the outbreak of the civil war he returned to his native place and endeavored to enlist in a company recruited in Derby, but it was full before his arrival. The following summer was spent in Canada, where he drove a peddler's wagon through the country. On December 22, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Eighth Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into the United States service in the following February. Proceeding to New Orleans, this regiment became a part of the force under General Benjamin F. Butler and saw much severe service along the lower Mississippi. Mr. Carpenter participated in almost continuous fighting for several months, and was severely wounded at the battle of Port Hudson. He was discharged at Brattleboro in the spring of 1863, and was ill during the succeeding summer, as a result of malarial surroundings in Louisiana. In the spring of 1864 Mr. Carpenter came to Manchester and secured a situation with the Stark Corporation and was in charge of a weaving room fifteen years. Desiring to engage in farming, he went to Westmore and purchased land, which he tilled four years. Because of his wife's ill health he sold out and returned to Manchester and again entered the mills, continuing until the fall of 1903. He then settled upon land which he had purchased in 1887, in the town of Manchester, and is engaged in farming. In January, 1905, his house was burned, and he immediately rebuilt a handsome and pleasant country home. He is now enjoying in quiet contentment the fruits of many years of industrious application, and is respected by his contemporaries. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has been many years a member of Mechanics Lodge, No. 13, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Manchester. He is a Universalist in religious faith,

Extracts

“This line of Carpenters from Manchester is not known to be connected with other Carpenter families in New Hampshire.”

“Nicolas Carpenter was born January 30 1794 in Marseilles, France.”

“Nothing is known of his parents, but it is probable that his father was English or English stock. The name has always been spelled in its present form, as far as known, which would indicate that it is not of French origin.”

“At an early age Nicolas Carpenter was placed with a brother in the bakery on a man-of-war, to learn the trade. The brother was drowned, and Nicholas left the ship on its arrival in the harbor of Quebec, making his way at once into the rural district on the southern border of the Province of Quebec. He was employed by farmers in Stanstead, and later in Derby, Vermont....”

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Analysis and comparison of the information and records found for the Quebec and the U.S. Nicholas:

(1) BORN JANUARY 30, 1794 IN MARSEILLES, FRANCE OR IN QUÉBEC:

- There is no primary document to confirm that Nicolas Carpenter of Vermont/New Hampshire was born in France and on 30 Jan 1794
- The only documents found that indicate France was his birthplace 3 secondary documents that are not contemporary to his lifetime, and it is not known who provided the information:
 - The 1889 death record for his son Isaac
 - The 1908 New Hampshire book
 - The 1911 death record for his daughter Hannah
- Nicholas Carpentier of Québec was born 6 June 1789 in the parish of Ste-Famille, Cap-Santé.
- Nicolas Carpenter: U.S. and Canadian censuses on where he was born:
 - 1824 March, Derby, Vermont, U.S.A. extraction of marriage record of Nicholas Carpenter, birthplace Stanstead, Quebec and Hannah Libby, no birthplace mentioned
 - 1850 U.S. Census: born about 1795 in Canada East [meaning Quebec]
 - 1861 Canadian Census: born about 1795 Lower Canada [meaning Quebec]
 - 1870 U.S. Census: Born about 1793 in Canada
 - 1851 marriage record for Isaac Carpenter, his own place of birth is Derby, Vermont
 - 1889 death record for Isaac Carpenter (his own birthplace is Canada), son of Nicolas, place of birth France, and of Hannah, place of birth Canada
 - U.S. Find a grave: Nicholas Carpenter, 1 Jun 1792, birthplace Quebec, Canada, death place Westmore, Orleans County, Vermont, U.S.
 - 1911 death record of Hannah Carpenter Rash, daughter of Nicholas Carpenter, birthplace France, and of Hannah Libby, birthplace Barnston, Quebec

Summary: All the records created in his lifetime claim he was born in Canada, the birthplace of Quebec on his headstone was presumably given by his wife Hannah, who was contemporary with his lifetime.

(2) A BAKER:

There are 3 references to Nicholas being a baker, “*boulanger*” in French, at the baptism of his last 3 children.

(3) “A MAN-OF-WAR”:

There were British Naval man-of-war ships in Quebec in 1807 when Joseph, the brother of Nicolas died. Following the Seven Years' War 1763, Quebec was a British colony.

By 1807, the British were actively enforcing maritime rights, including the impressment of sailors. Quebec City had over 2,000 British regulars around this time, making it a key naval and military post.

During wartime, the British Royal Navy relied on impressment—forcing men into service when volunteers ran short. Armed press gangs carried it out, earning a reputation as a feared and violent presence.

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In Lower Canada, impressment caused deep resentment. Although French Canadians were technically exempt, press gangs often seized men first and asked questions later. Violence, intimidation, and abuse were common, especially in Quebec City, fueling long-standing hostility between civilians and naval authorities.

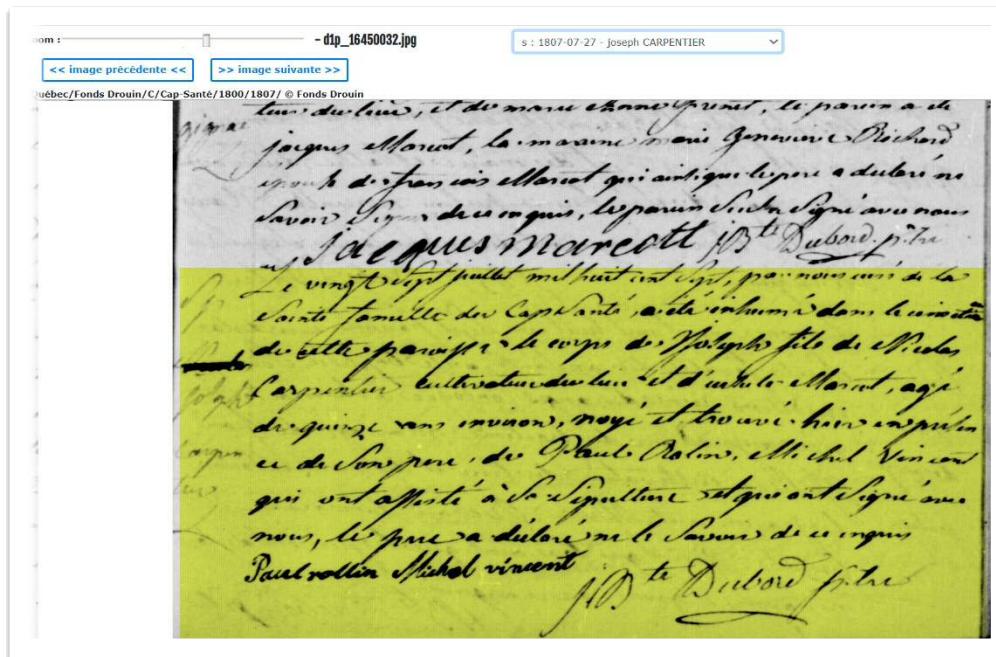
Unlike in Britain, impressment in the colonies was loosely organized and depended on individual officers. Most pressing occurred on the water, with guard boats and warships intercepting vessels, since shore-based presses were dangerous. Still, press gangs did operate on land, particularly during desperate “hot presses,” ignoring legal protections and sweeping up residents alongside sailors.

In Quebec City, press-gangs became a regular and resented presence in the lower town. Public anger peaked in September 1807 when a press gang shot and killed Simon Latresse, a young francophone sailor from Montreal during a roundup—an especially bitter injustice, as he was a French-Canadian and legally exempt from impressment.¹

Could Nicholas Carpentier have been pressed into service on a British war ship? Yes, it is possible, but it is not likely since the British were very wary of pressing French-Canadians as the British was preparing for the War of 1812. They didn’t want the French-Canadians to take sides with the Americans in that war. Understandably Nicholas would have been fearful of being pressed, and he would have been aware of the press gangs, especially after what happened in his hometown to the sailor Simon Latresse.

(4) BROTHER JOSEPH WAS DROWNED:

The burial record of his brother Joseph who drowned 26 July 1807:



¹ [The Canadian Historical Review](#)

Volume 91, Number 2, June 2010, University of Toronto Press, Northern Exposure-Resistance to Naval Impressment in British North America, 1775-1815 by Keith Mercier

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Translation of Joseph Carpentier's burial record:

Sep Joseph Carpentier Note: "Sep" is short for sépulture which means burial	The twenty seventh of July one thousand eight hundred and seven, by us, priest of the Sainte Family of Cap Santé, have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of Joseph son of Nicolas Carpentier farmer here and of Ursule Marcot, aged about fifteen years, drowned and found yesterday in the presence of his father, by Paul Rollin, Michel Vincent who attended his burial and signed with us, the father stated that he did not know how to sign this inquiry. [signatures of] Paul Rollin Michel Vincent [signature of "prêtre" meaning priest] J. B ^{te} Dubord prêtre
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Circumstances of his brother Joseph's death by drowning on 26 July and burial on July 27, 1827, found in a historical document, Histoire du Cap-Santé depuis le fondation de cette paroisse jusqu'à 1830, published in 1899, Québec City:

https://archive.org/stream/histoiredcapsan00gatiuoft/histoiredcapsan00gatiuoft_djvu.txt

Histoire du Cap-Santé depuis le fondation de cette paroisse jusqu'à 1830
(History of Cap-Santé from the founding of this parish until 1830)

Ayant oublié de rapporter en son lieu la mort d'un jeune homme de la paroisse, du nom de Joseph Carpentier, qui périt dans les eaux comme les cinq individus dont nous venons de parler, nous en faisons ici mention. Ce jeune homme se noya le jour même de la fête de sainte Anne, entre la messe et les vêpres, en se baignant auprès de l'Eglise, au lieu nommé " le Petit Cap. " Son corps fut immédiatement trouvé, et il fut inhumé le lendemain, 27 juillet 1807.

"Having forgotten to report the death of a young man from the parish named Joseph Carpentier, who perished in the waters like the five individuals we have just mentioned, we make mention of it here. This young man drowned on the very day of the feast of Saint Anne, between Mass and Vespers, while bathing near the church, at a place called "le Petit Cap." His body was immediately found, and he was buried the next day, July 27, 1807." (Translated by Debbie Dee)

(5) EMPLOYED BY FARMERS IN STANSTEAD (QUEBEC) AND LATER IN DERBY, VERMONT

Nicholas spent time on both sides of the border from early 1824, possibly earlier:

- 1824 March, Derby, Vermont, U.S. marriage record of Nicholas Carpenter, *birthplace Stanstead, Quebec* and Hannah Libby, no birthplace mentioned [she was born in Stanstead]
- 1850 U.S. Census, Vermont.: born about 1795 in Canada East [meaning Quebec]
- 1861 Canadian Census, Stanstead, Quebec: born about 1795 Lower Canada [meaning Quebec]
- 1870 U.S. Census Vermont: born about 1793 in Canada

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This proof argument evaluates the identity, life events, until the disappearance of Nicholas Carpentier using a chronological analysis of original parish records and negative evidence.

Analysis

The timeline demonstrates continuous documentary presence of Nicholas Carpentier from his marriage in 1812 through the baptism of his fourth child in November 1819. Parish records explicitly identify him as present at multiple baptisms and at a family marriage, establishing residence and community integration during this period.

The conception of a fifth child in approximately June 1821 provides biological evidence that Nicholas was alive at that time. After this point, extensive searches revealed no further appearances in baptisms, marriages, or burials associated with either his family or his wife Catherine Lepage, creating a defined window of unexplained absence.

At the baptism of the fifth child on 7 March 1822, Nicholas is described as 'deceased.' No burial record accompanies this declaration, indicating a presumption of death rather than a documented interment. Such language is consistent with prolonged absence, death outside the parish, or disappearance.

The subsequent marriage of a man of the same name to Hannah Libby in Derby, Orleans County, Vermont, on 7 March 1824 introduces a conflict requiring resolution. [add Canadian census here, Stanstead, QC, just across the border with Nicholas and Hannah]. The timing places this marriage exactly two years after the declaration of death on the baptism in Canada, raising the possibility of misidentification, assumed death, or cross-border migration.

Exhibit 1. Chronological Timeline of Evidence

Table-Style Timeline: Nicholas Carpentier (1812-1824)
Green = Present | Gray = Not stated | Red = Declared deceased

	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824
Marriage to Catherine Lepage	27 Oct												
Conception 1st child		19 Mar											
Birth 1st child			18 Dec (Not stated)										
Conception 2nd child				21 Mar									
Birth 2nd child					20 Dec (Present)								
Conception 3rd child						20 Nov							
Birth 3rd child							21 Aug (Present)						
Conception 4th child								23 Feb					
Sister-in-law marriage									19 Oct (Present)				
Birth 4th child									24 Nov (Present)				
Conception 5th child										6 Jun			
No records found											After Jun (Not stated)		
Birth 5th child											7 Mar (Declared deceased)		
Marriage to Hannah Libby (VT)												7 Mar	

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Conclusion

Based on the assembled evidence, Nicholas Carpentier was alive until at least June 1821 and disappeared between that date and March 1822. The declaration of death reflects a presumption rather than direct proof. The Vermont marriage record of Nicolas Carpenter and Hannah Libby represents either the same individual re-emerging under circumstances of assumed death or another man of the same name. If Nicholas had been pressed into service on a man-of-war ship, it would have been a British one and it would have been before his marriage to Catherine.

Based on historical patterns, it is highly unlikely that any significant number of French-Canadian Quebecers moved to Stanstead, Quebec, before 1822. The area was primarily settled by Loyalist New Englanders starting in the 1790s, making it a predominantly Anglophone region during that period. While French Canadians resided in the St. Lawrence Valley, they did not move into the Eastern Townships, including Stanstead, in large numbers until later in the 19th century.²

In 1821, a French-Canadian from Cap-Santé looking for work would likely move to **Upstate New York** or **Northern Vermont**, specifically along the Champlain-Hudson corridor. While the mass migration of French Canadians to industrial New England cities (like Lowell or Manchester) peaked later, in the 1820s, they were already moving south to find work in lumbering, farming, and early trade.

Top Potential Destinations in 1821:

- **Upstate New York (Clinton and Franklin Counties):** Areas near Plattsburgh were popular due to their proximity to the border and opportunities in the lumber industry and as farmhands.
- **Northern Vermont:** Many workers found employment in the agricultural sector, in lumber camps, or in brickyards.
- **Detroit and Southeast Michigan:** Early in the 19th century, a steady stream of migrants from the St. Lawrence valley moved to the Midwest, establishing agricultural communities, particularly in Monroe County, Michigan.

Context for 1821 Migration:

- **Push Factors:** By the 1820s, rural residents of the St. Lawrence Valley faced economic pressures from population growth and shrinking farmland.
- **Nature of Work:** At this time, migrants often found work as laborers in clearing land, logging, or as agricultural hands, rather than the industrial textile mills that defined later waves.
- **Transportation:** The opening of new trade routes and canals, along with the proximity to the Champlain Valley, made New York and New England accessible.³

² Source: [Stanstead's Heritage at a Glance](#).

³ Source: [French-Canadian Americans](#)

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I am continuing to look for Nicholas in Canadian and American records after June 1821:

I checked these records on Ancestry for the North American and England sets and had negative results for all:

- [Draft, Enlistment and Service](#) 3
- [Casualties](#) 2
- [Soldier, Veteran & Prisoner Rolls & Lists](#) 194
- [Pensions](#) 30
- [Histories](#) 3

Interesting Fact:

Nicolas and Hannah had 2 sets of twins:

- Julia and Sarah born 1828
- John and James born 1834

Nicholas and Ursule Marcotte had 1 set of twins:

- Louis and Jean-Baptiste born 1795