

Joshua Gibbs Family, Immigrant Years in Lower Canada

Introduction

Shortly after the publication of UP TO RAWDON in 2013, I established a website (<https://uptorawdon.com>) to feature material that I had reluctantly removed, for editing considerations, from the two volumes. This new platform would become a necessary complement to the books because it allowed me to not only publish documents that other genealogists and researchers could find useful, but very importantly to curate a gateway for selling my books. The site included a **text updates** page where new and corrected information about individuals in the book would be published. The scope of the site grew steadily and a gallery of **photo updates** was added, with each image linked to the individual's page in the books. The site further permitted me to republish articles pertaining to folks of the old Township, such as one about the men who had served the Union side in the American Civil War. Those stories, *From Union Jack to Union Blue*¹ came on line in January 2020. I improved and modernized UP TO RAWDON in 2019 to be more attractive and easier to access.

The focus of UP TO RAWDON is the families who settled there before 1850 and is coloured by my own English speaking, Protestant, Rawdon family lines but included some early Francophone settlers and several families of the Irish Catholic community who were of great interest. The sheer volume of settlement in the township limited what I could fit in and resulted in the arbitrary omission of many Irish Catholics. I have, since publication, added to the website data and photos generously shared by descendants of Catholics – Roach, Quinn, Lane, Monahan, Rowan and Skelly – to enhance the several Catholic families featured in the original texts of Parts One and Two.

Finding the Gibbs Family

The profile of **Orimill Gibbs**, in *From Union Jack to Union Blue*, benefited greatly by access to information, not previously available, when I reviewed the original series of Civil War articles. Orimill Gibbs, aged four, and an infant sister, named **Dorothy Gibbs**, were both baptized Catholics, in the absence of Protestant clergy in 1818 and 1819, near the d'Ailleboust Seigneurie where they were born. I had known the parents were American because when the sister of their father (also Dorothy), married an Irish-Catholic at Saint Jacques in 1817, her parents and their places of origin were named by the priest in the registration. This intrigued and challenged me to find more about the mysterious Protestant Americans who lived surrounded by Catholic Canadiens.

Thus, began my attempt to unravel the story of **Joshua Gibbs**, the grandfather of Orimill.² Joshua was born 15 November 1759 in Greenwich, MA and died 21 January 1840. I have named his spouse **Anne Clark** from the dubious record of their daughter Dorothy's marriage at St-Jacques to Patrick Molloy. At this time, her three daughters by him were baptized and legitimized as explained on page 265 of *UP TO RAWDON, Part One*. In many trees, Mrs. Joshua Gibbs is named Anna / Hannah Crowell or Haskell. She was born 25 February 25 1770 in Vermont and died 7 March 1840. The Gibbs both died at Clarion County, Pennsylvania and are buried there at Concord Presbyterian Cemetery. It would appear that one child

¹ <https://uptorawdon.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/From-Union-Jack-to-Union-Blue.pdf>

² Sources include <http://bit.ly/UYru50> and the Freeman family tree at Ancestry.com posted by Meg50313

returned to the USA and settled in that area. The known Gibbs children are named (as found in on line research) and listed at the end of part two of this article.

The d’Ailleboust Seigneurie and other areas between Sorel and Rawdon received a scattering of American settlers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. I wrote *The American Heritage of Rawdon, Québec* in Part Two of *UP TO RAWDON* and more about Americans in the chapter on the Reade family who lived at St-Félix de Ramsay and at Rawdon. I also published data on the Protestants there, many of American heritage, with a link to the cemetery www.uptorawdon.com/felix. They were entrepreneurs and farmers, some Loyalists, but all anxious to share in the opportunities opening in the former French colony.

Joshua Gibbs seeks a home in Canada

Joshua Gibbs was definitely not a Loyalist. During the American Revolution, he belonged to *the First New Hampshire Regiment*, Northern Continental Army ³ that had fought at Trois-Rivières and later this regiment helped to defend the area around Lake Champlain. The knowledge of Lower Canada that Joshua gained then may explain his decision to move north. He arrived as an immigrant in **1792**, according to records at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) quoted in *Declarations of Aliens, Lower Canada, 1794-1811* quoted in *Across the Border* (Ancestry.com). He settled first at Dunn’s Patent — *Seigneurie St-Armand* — which had been purchased 1786-1789 by the Hon. Thomas Dunn, a member of the Legislative Council (1764) and a judge (1775). Parts south of the 45th parallel were ceded to the United States of America in 1783. ⁴ It lay along the Missisquoi River toward Lake Champlain. The Gibbs family resided there for many years, while Joshua attempted to get a crown grant for his growing family.

The Gibbs were in the company of the Loyalist families, who years earlier had received twenty days notice to leave New York and New England as “persons who have joined the enemy”, many were the wives of men in active service, their goods and chattels seized and sold to pay for their removal. They were transported under flag of truce from “concentration points” across Lake Champlain and then on British vessels to Saint Johns (St-Jean sur Richelieu). It was a confusing time for distressed families, pleading to be recompensed for their loyalty and to be given land in British Canada. G. H. Montgomery (endnote 4) outlined the situation of the backlog of claimants in the decade before Gibbs arrived.

One wonders how the Gibbs supported themselves at Dunn’s Patent. Philipsburg, a town on Missisquoi Bay was named for Thomas Dunn’s agent, Philip Ruitter, a son of the Loyalist Lieutenant John Ruitter, also an agent for Dunn. The Ruitter family came from Pittstown, Albany County, New York in 1777. Dunn did not act as a Seigneur but sold land for cash. Perhaps Gibbs was tenant on a farm owned by one of the earlier Loyalists or employed as a labourer. In 1815, Surveyor Bouchette reported “many of the inhabitants are employed in trade and mercantile pursuits besides artizans [sic].” There were lime kilns and brickyards and a foundry and from Philip Ruitter’s accounts we see there were tailors, shoemakers and followers of other trades. There were 187 two hundred acre lots and the village was a “handsome place containing about sixty houses”. Its situation near the border also made it a centre for smuggling and illegal trade before and during the War of 1812.

³ Ibid <http://bit.ly/UYru50>

⁴ From *Missisquoi Bay, Philipsburg, Quebec*, by George Hugh Montgomery, Granby Printing and Publishing, 1950 and Dunn biography, page 16.

Joshua Gibbs, 13 April **1792**, was one of the hundreds named on a petition for land near Lake Memphremagog.⁵ Some may have been Loyalists but many, no doubt, were like Gibbs, Americans seeking land for their families. Perhaps the failure of this, and his other petitions, was related to his not being an entitled refugee claimant.

Joshua Gibbs of St. Armand [sic] and others petitioned in a 11 October **1794** memorial from Isaac Ogden and associates for land in the Township of Roxton that was then vacant. Joshua Gibbs was number fifteen of 55 names that included an Isaac and a David Gibbs.⁶ (Isaac Gibbs was a widower when he married at St-Armand in 1815, his sons Abraham and Hiram lived near Farnham in 1833; he is reported in some Ancestry public trees as Joshua's brother. Both Isaac and Joshua later had sons named David; it is possible that David was a near relative.)

Joshua Gibbs of St. Armand, on 20 April **1795**, took the oath [to the Crown] and subscribed to the declaration before Commissioners at Mississkonie [sic Missisquoi] Bay asking to settle at Durham [sic Dunham] in Bolton Township.⁷ Having no success with these and perhaps other attempts to find locations, many of the Gibbs family moved **circa 1808** to Seigneur Pierre-Louis Panet's *Seigneurie d'Ailleboust* at Ste-Mélanie. The assumption that Joshua and Anne Gibbs lived at Ste-Mélanie is based on the claim that *d'Ailleboust* is the birthplace of his three youngest children (named at the end of Part Two of this article) and that sons Horris [sic] and Orimill were recorded resident there in 1825.

23 March **1811**: The first evidence of the Gibbs at *d'Ailleboust* was the marriage of Orimill Gibbs of Taillebout [sic],” farmer, 23 years and Hannah Vanhossen “spinster of Terrebonne, aged 17 years” recorded at St. Gabriel Street Presbyterian Church, Montreal and signed by Orrimill [sic] Gibbs, John Van Husson and Horris Gibbs. And, in **1817**, the previously mentioned marriage of Dorothy Gibbs.

Crown land files record transactions for Orimill and **Horace Gibbs** [sic] on Rawdon First and Second Ranges in 1824 and 1826 and Notarial transactions in 1824 – 1827.⁸ There is a record of sale at *d'Ailleboust* in **1822**.⁹ These may justify Crown Agent Griffith's opinion that the Gibbs were speculators as much as settlers at Rawdon and Kildare.

⁵ <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-lower-canada-1764-1841/Pages/search.aspx>
NAC C-2560, Volume: 175, Page: 84887-84888

⁶ <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-lower-canada-1764-1841/Pages/search.aspx>
NAC C-2551, Volume: 151, Page 74078

⁷ <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-lower-canada-1764-1841/Pages/search.aspx>
NAC C-2566, Volume: 194, Page 92515

⁸ Notary F. X. Cadet, Joliette, Item #726
http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/notaires/affichage.html?serie=06M_CN605S12&a=a_c

⁹ Notary Rolland-Daiminault # 1798, # 1799
http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/notaires/affichage.html?serie=06M_CN605S39&a=p_r

10 September 1824 the authorization by Agent Beauchamp Colclough of **Joshua Gibbs** to occupy Village of Kildare Lot 10, 5th range, a one-acre front and 2.5 acres deep and subject to usual conditions to clear and build. These duties were certified as performed 10 October 1825.¹⁰

June – September 1825 Census:¹¹ side by side on same page:

Mad. V. l'Hon'ble P. L. Panet, 6 in household, single woman over 45 (veuve)

This is Madame Panet née Marie-Anne Cerré – born 1764 Kaskaskias (Illinois),

And died 1828, Ste-Elizabeth

Orremill [sic] Gibbs, family of 7 including spouse

Horris [sic Horace] Gibbs, family of 8 including spouse

John Hewson [sic Van Hussen] a man over 60, not married and head of household of 6

1826 some members of Gibbs family gain permission to settle at Kildare (*UP TO RAWDON* Page 263).

1827 two marriages, by banns, at Christ Church, Rawdon witnessed by Horace Gibbs, a “friend to the contracted parties”; he was possibly the father of the brides. Previous address for Horace was Lot 7 of Second Range (endnote 10).

Sarah Gibbs of Lot 7, Eighth Range, Kildare married William Clondillon [sic Clandinning] of Lot 9 Kildare on 9 March.

Susannah Sullivan born 28 July **1828** baptized St. James, Berthier

William Clandinning witnessed the 21 September **1830** marriage of Samuel Smiley of Rawdon and Catherine Dixon of Kildare, recorded at St. James, Berthier.

Esther Gibbs of Lot 7 Eighth Range, Kildare married John Sullivan of the Seigneury of Denbibeau [sic d'Ailleboust?] on 28 October 1827.¹²

Esther Sullivan baptized, aged four days, 17 March **1832**, St. James Church, Louiseville.¹³

¹⁰ <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-lower-canada-1764-1841/Pages/search.aspx>
NAC C-2528, Volume: 92, Pages 45670 and 45671.

¹¹ Identified in the database as Ste-Elizabeth [sic Elisabeth] de Warwick. There are about twenty English settlers' names on pages 1533 – 1542 and all are identifiable as residents at de Ramsay, St-Felix and d'Ailleboust. The designation perhaps should include Ste-Mélanie where Panet built a house in 1811.

Warwick District, north of the St. Lawrence, included Berthier, Brandon, Lac Maskinongé, Lavaltrie, Lanoraie, St-Cuthbert, St-Paul, Ste-Elisabeth and other places. Ste-Elizabeth de Warwick is a town in Arthabaska County, then known as Buckinghamshire District (south of the St. Lawrence), but did not exist in 1825.

¹² I believe that the John Sullivan, born 1782 at St. Johns (St-Jean-sur-Richelieu), son of John Sullivan a storekeeper there and baptized in Roman Catholic Church who was received into the Protestant Episcopal Church at Rivière du Loup 21 December 1821 sponsored by Timothy Hibbard, Charles Dunn, William Hogg may be the husband of Esther Gibbs.

¹³ My excerpts from Louiseville are at: <https://uptorawdon.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/24-St-Felix-and-area-Catalogue-of-Protestant-Families.pdf.pdf>

Events for St. James Episcopal congregations of Rivière du Loup are recorded at Louiseville and Berthier. Events were possibly in homes or various churches. Endnote 1 names communities included in these registers.

Berthier: http://bibnum2.banq.gc.ca/bna/ecivil/affichage.html?serie=06M_CE605S41&a=st.

Esther Sullivan was also baptized in the Catholic Church Trois-Rivières on 1 July, 1847.

Mary E. Sullivan, of Boston, MA, born Canada, c. **1834**, aged 66, married at Manchester, NH to widower Benjamin D. Atwood of Grand Isle, VT, 16 March 1900 in Methodist Episcopal Church (Ancestry.com).

1831 Census – Horace Gibbs was reported at Township of Kildare Village (part of Ste-Elisabeth Census) and head of a family of four); his address was Kildare, Lot 7 of Eighth Range in March and October **1827**; when he signed Christ Church register at marriages of his presumed daughters (above).

- **Joshua Gibbs** who received a village grant at Kildare in 1824 is not accounted on the 1831 Census.

- **Orimill Gibbs** single man, headed a family of five, one of two Anglican families enumerated in the Seigneurie d’Ailleboust part of Ste-Elisabeth Census. ¹⁴

John Van Hussen and family

John Van Hussen had been a witness at the marriage of Orimill Gibbs to **Hannah Van Hoosen** [sic] in **1811**, at Saint Gabriel Street Presbyterian Church, Montreal and I believe his daughter. The men were literate and signed the register. In a miscellaneous undated file, marked *trouvé à Terrebonne* (that I estimate was created **1811 / 1812**) John and his family are enumerated ¹⁵ – John Van Houssen [sic] 64, Elenor 47 and children – Elizabeth 15, Joshua 14 ¹⁶, Henry & Dotty 12, Peggy 11, Dolly 7, John 5, James 2. (The document included the David Manchester family whose ages are confirmed by baptismal registrations and accurately date the document; see page 511 of *UP TO RAWDON*.)

Hannah Van Hoosen, wife of Orimill Gibbs, was 17 and from Terrebonne when she married 23 March 1811 and I believe an older daughter of this couple.

¹⁴ The Turner family at d’Ailleboust is distinct from the extensive Robert Turner family at Ste-Ursule / Crête de Coq and not connected to John and H. L Turner of Rawdon.

Robert Turner is the non-Francophone neighbour of Orimill on the 1831 census, his name barely legible. He received a ticket of location at Kildare in 1824 and was granted Lot One of 8th Range in 1835. The residents are an older married couple and a single young man and woman; they match what Robert Turner and his wife Hannah, of the seigneurie of d’Ailleboust whose children were baptised and registered at St. James, Berthier 11 July 1830, with witnesses: the father, Horris and Orimill Gibbs. **Joel Lewis Turner** was born 24 June 1809 and **Harriet Turner** was born 16 November 1810. In 1831, she was also recorded in 1831 as an “institutrice” at de Ramsay and later married **Joseph B. Twiss** (see UP TO RAWDON, p. 943-945.) She and Mr. Twiss witnessed the burial of Robert Turner, aged 88, who died August 3, 1862 and was buried August 5 at St. John’s Kildare. I have not been able to connect Robert Turner to John and H. L Turner of Rawdon.

¹⁵ LAC Microfilm C2554 p. 77974-5, <http://data2.archives.ca/e/e349/e008724076.jpg>

¹⁶ Joshua married 4 October 1819 at Christ Church, Sorel to Belinda Hunter both of d’Ailleboust both signed their names clearly. Witnessed by James Read (of St. Felix), Anna Read (probably his mother, Mrs. Henry Read) and James Walker (Scottish teacher at Terrebonne and Rawdon, see UP TO RAWDON p.122, last paragraph).

Children of Joshua and Belinda in register of St. James Anglican, Berthier – Anna, c. 1823, received into the church aged five, 19 March 1828 and Jonah John born 18 January 1826 and baptised 15 September 1826. The 1860 Michigan census suggests two more sons Orimill and Joshua junior but unable to prove this.

Another older daughter **Catherine Van Hussen** was wife of Charles Boileau, baker of Terrebonne. Their son, Pierre Nicholas (Peter Boileau) was born 5 December 1814 and baptized at Église St-Louis de France, Terrebonne.¹⁷ He was a witness to marriage of David Gibbs 1833.

Burial recorded at Christ Church, Montreal for **Ellenor Vanhussen** [sic] wife of John Vanhussen [sic], a private in the Royal Artillery 23 March 1814. John appears to be a widower on the 1825 census. I believe this is John and Ellenor of Terrebonne.

20 November **1827**, John Vanhussen [sic] by notarial *démission d'une terre* [sic] ceded a lot to Horris Gibbs.¹⁸ John may have died on or about this date and by the age recorded for him in 1811, he was about eighty.

29 January **1833**: Orrimill [sic] Gibbs “of the Seigneury of d’Ailleboust widower and Sarah Boileau of the same place spinster were married by banns” by the Rev. Amos Ausley, missionary (register of St. James Anglican at Berthier). In the presence of “Horace [sic] Gibbs, brother of the bridegroom” and “James Read, a friend to the parties” who was at times a merchant and farmer at St-Felix, and with signatures by Hiram E. Gibbs, Horris Gibbs and James Read. Orimill was active in the church community and was a sponsor at baptism of James Read’s son 17 March **1832**.

I am unable to determine if Sarah was related to his first wife’s sister Catherine Van Hussen Boileau.

15 December **1833** marriages by the Rev. Amos Ausley, missionary in the register of St. James Anglican at Berthier, this corrects page 264 of UP TO RAWDON.)

Horace [sic] Gibbs and Sarah Smith, of Kildare, were married in the presence of Orrimill [sic] Gibbs junior and Dorothea Caroline Gibbs identified as “nephews” of the bridegroom. In 1836, the principals here were in Upper Canada.

Hiram¹⁹ Ebenezer Gibbs, yeoman of Kildare and Ann Smith, of the Seigneury of d’Ailleboust, were married in the presence of Orrimill Gibbs “brother of the bridegroom” and Harriet Turner (endnote 3).

David Gibbs, yeoman, of the Seigneury of d’Ailleboust and Amelia Smith, of the same place were married by banns in the presence of Peter Boileau “cousin” of the bridegroom and Elizabeth Hooker a friend of the parties.²⁰

¹⁷ Daughters baptized at Terrebonne: Elisabeth c. 1808, (married Henry Michaud at Ste-Elisabeth, 1826, witnessed by H [illegible] Gibbs), Marie Charlotte 1810 and Adelaide 1812.

¹⁸ Endnote 8 – Item #726 Notary F. X. Cadet, Joliette

¹⁹ Is Hiram the same as the Henry Gibbs who had village lot 4 of 5th range in the 1826 report of Crown Agent Thomas Griffith: LAC Microfilm C2547, Vol. 140 p. 68830. I have found no other record of Henry Gibbs.

²⁰ David could be the younger son of Joshua but to be a cousin of Peter infers his mother was a Van Housen; perhaps, he is a previously unknown son of Orrimill Gibbs and Hannah Van Housen.

Elizabeth Hooker married John Smith of de Ramsay, 20 December 1836. I cannot identify this Smith family. The Jean Smith *horloger* family at Berthier was French speaking and Roman Catholic.

On December 12 **1836** Orrwill [sic] and Horace [sic] Gibbs witnessed the marriage of Orimill's daughter Caroline Gibbs of Yarmouth Township, Elgin County Ontario to Nathan Choate of Dorchester, North Dorchester Township, Middlesex County by C. Vanderdon, minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church., by banns.²¹ Perhaps. this was a stop on their journey to Michigan.

1860 Avon, Oakland Co., Michigan census: Orimill Gibbs, junior, a farmer is recorded as were Oramiel [sic] Vanhousen [sic], 35, a married inn keeper, and Joshua Vanhousen [sic], 30, a farmer, both born in Canada. This suggests a strong connection between the two families, see endnote 5.

Children of Joshua Gibbs and Anne Clark: other trees posted for Joshua have variations of these names Those in bold have a documented connection to Lower Canada. Asterisk* marks those said to be born at Dunn's Patent. no birth registrations in Drouin. See Endnote 2.

1786, 13 October **Orimill Gibbs** at Hebron, Washington Co., NY.

1788 **Horris Gibbs** a widower with children under 14 at Kildare in 1831, aka Horace.

1790 **Dorothy Gibbs** married Patrick Molloy 1811; died at Montreal 23 November 1822, aged 32

1792 Suzanna Gibbs

1794 Jemima Gibbs *

1796 **Hiram Ebenezer Gibbs** * ²²

1798 Miron Gibbs *

1800 Milton Gibbs*

1802 Joshiea Gibbs *

1805 Maryon Gibbs*

1809 **David Gibbs** – presumed born at d'Ailleboust / Panet's Seigneury. Or is marriage of David Gibbs that of a nephew to this David Gibbs.

1810 **Lavinia Gibbs** – presumed born at d'Ailleboust / Panet's Seigneury; died 5 September 1890. She is buried Concord Cemetery in Pennsylvania.

1812 **Solomon Gibbs** – presumed born at d'Ailleboust / Panet's Seigneury, died 1900 at Allerton, Wayne County, Iowa.

²¹ History of the County of Middlesex, Canada, W. A. & C. L. Goodspeed Publishers, 1889. London, ON or see the registration at <https://tinyurl.com/sa4acug> She was baptized Dorothy Caroline Gibbs at St-Jacques in 1818, as mentioned above.

²² Endnote 8 – Item #726 Notary F. X. Cadet, Joliette; second name on his marriage registration.