

From Cottreau Historical background

Jean Marie Cottreau (1), nicknamed,,Gros- (Big) Jean Cottreau came to Wedgeport about twenty years after Michel Boudreau (around 1793). He was born in 1771 (2) at Saint-Pair, near Granville, Normandy, France, and was the son of Charles Cottreau and Jeanne Beuf.

While still a young man (3), he came to Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon to fish. It was at the time, in 1793, that England became an ally of Belgium, which had been invaded by France. Jean Marie Cottreau, along with several of his compatriots, was taken prisoner at sea and brought to Halifax. He escaped during the night with a number of other prisoners, and went to the Sambro region , where he stole a canoe, or small boat, and from cove to cove made his way to the south of the province where, he had been told, there were people who spoke French. According to tradition, he was accompanied by Antoine Richard, of whom more will be written.

At Pubnico,' they met Benoni d'Entremont who was loading his schooner to deliver goods in Halifax. Having heard from Benoni that there was in Tuskent Wedge a man called Pierre Hinard, who came from the same part of France, they moved along toward Tuskent Wedge, after leaving the ,temporarily- stolen canoe to be returned to its rightful owner.

The warm welcome that he received from Pierre Hinard ended up with Jean Marie Cottreau marrying Pierre's daughter, Marie, on 8 July 1795, their marriage blessed by Father Sigogne on 30 September 1799. The young couple stayed at the home of Pierre Hinard, of whom more will be written later. The property was handed down from father to son in the Cottreau family.

Jean Marie Cottreau and Marie Hinard had eleven children.