

## **Bio of Remi Belleperche (1858-1939)**

Remi Belleperche was the first of a long line of French Canadians in our ancestry to leave Canada. Every one of his ancestors that have been traced were in Canada before 1700, many before 1650. They include:

- Denis Belleperche, who was married in Quebec in 1682 to Catherine Guyon whose parents were married there in 1645.
- Rene Ouellet, who was born in Paris in 1635 and married in Quebec in 1666.
- Gilles Lauzon married in Montreal in 1656.
- Louis Hebert, who is considered to be the first settler of the new world, coming the first time in 1604 and later settling in Quebec with his wife and children in 1607.

The French Canadians avoided marrying English, so our ancestors retained their pure French heritage until the late 19th century with the birth of Jennie Belleperche.

The Belleperches came to Quebec sometime after 1651 and by 1727 had moved to the Detroit area (Ontario, Canada). They tended to move up the St Lawrence, in fact, a tour guide in Quebec made a joke about how they kept moving upstream "until they came to Duluth".

Remi came to Duluth in 1885, having been loaned his inheritance of \$1000 for which he paid his father \$70 interest per year until his death in 1897. Remi is first listed in the Duluth City Directory in 1886 as a musician or music teacher and then after 1890 as a cigar salesman. In 1900 he was a "collector" and in 1910 a "dealer in real estate".

Pierre's will: "As I hold my son Remi Belleperche's promissory note for \$1000 and he pays me as interest thereon yearly the sum of seventy dollars, if I die before the 1st day of September 1898 from and after the said 1st day of September 1898, I give and bequeath to him the total amount and principal of that note. In the meantime, from the date of my death he shall pay yearly the interest to my residue legatee."

It is interesting that, in May 1887, Remi sold land to Henry Gruesen, several weeks after Anthony and Jenny were born. Was this a precursor to their marriage 26 years later?

Remi was a Mason and died during the week that the Minnesota Masons were holding their annual convention in Duluth.