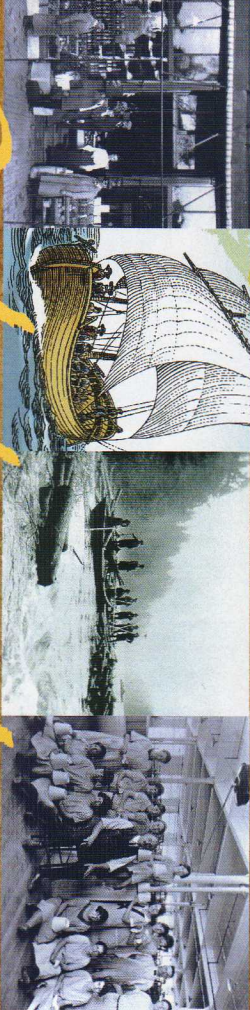


Bowdoin



Celebrating

Maine's Franco-American Heritage

A Symposium Hosted by Bowdoin College

November 13-15, 2006





The Tondreau Family

November 13, 2006

Panel Discussion

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

“Tactics and Success in Franco Upward Economic Mobility”

Introduction

Roy Partridge, *Visiting Assistant Professor and Special Assistant to the President for Multicultural Affairs*, Bowdoin College

Moderator

Severin Beliveau, *President of the American Association of the Forum Francophone des Affaires*, and Maine Attorney

Panel

Norman Boulet, *former president, Boulet Lumber Company*

Robert W. Daigle, *president and CEO, Camden National Corporation*

Lucien Gosselin, *president, Lewiston/Auburn Economic Growth Council*

Bert Martin, *former president, Fraser Paper Ltd.*



Cercle Cremazie

November 14, 2006

Panel Discussion

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

“Celebrating the Political and Legal Dimensions of the Franco-American Experience”

Moderator

Chris Potholm, *DeAlva Stanwood Alexander Professor of Government*, Bowdoin College

Panel

Congressman Mike Michaud, *U.S. Representative (Maine’s 2nd District)*

Lisa Marraché, *physician and Maine State Representative*

John Martin, *Maine State Senator and former Speaker of the House*

Paul Jacques, *Assistant Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*



St. John River lumbermen

November 15, 2006

Film and Panel Discussion

3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

Film

Reveil: Waking Up French

Panel Discussion

“Cultural and Artistic
Dimensions of the Franco-
American Experience”

Moderator

Juliana L'Heureux, Executive Director
of CHANS Home Health Care

Panel

Rita Dube, Franco-American Heritage
Center, Lewiston

Françoise Paradis, Ed.D., author of
Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie by Henry
Wadsworth Longfellow

Yvon Labbé, Founder of the Franco
American Studies Program at
Maine–Orono

Hanétha Vété-Congolo, Assistant
Professor of Romance Languages,
Bowdoin College



PRESENTED BY THE
STATE STREET TRUST
COMPANY
BOSTON

CHAPTER V
PIERRE BAUDOUIN AND HIS NEW ENGLAND
DESCENDANTS

The ancestor of the Bowdoin family who came to New England was Pierre Baudouin, as the name was then spelled, who left his practice as a physician and his "handsome estate in the neighborhood of La Rochelle, France, which in 1685 yielded the considerable income of seven hundred louis d'or per annum," according to the statement of his great-grandson. Of course he was obliged to forfeit his valuable property when he set sail, almost penniless, about 1685 for Dublin, Ireland, and then for our shores with his wife and four children. The Baudouin family was one of the most ancient and important in La Rochelle and claims its origin from Baldwin, who was King of Jerusalem in 1143, or even further back to Baldwin, Count of Flanders in the year 862. The family descent was through Pierre Baudouin "*écuyer, seigneur de la Laigne*" who married the daughter of Jean Bureau, Mayor of La Rochelle in 1448. Louis XIV, in signing the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, not only lost to his country an important family but, as one writer expressed it, "provided a name for a Protestant College to be established across the water a full century later" — that college being Bowdoin, in Brunswick, Maine.

The first mention of the name of Pierre Baudouin in America was his petition in the summer of 1687 to Governor Andros seeking a

grant of lands on Casco Bay, in the Province of Maine, then part of Massachusetts. Before this request was granted, however, he obtained possession of some property in Falmouth (now Portland) on the corner of Spring and Emery Streets, on the highroad towards Vaughan's Bridge, which was to be the original dwelling place of the Bowdoin family in America. Here this family of French refugees lived for about two and a half years; fortunately, they decided to move to Boston on the 16th of May, 1690, only twenty-four hours before the Indians attacked the settlers at Falmouth. Pierre and his family had, therefore, twice escaped massacres, once in France and again in New England.

Pierre Baudouin lived in Boston until his death in September, 1706. He became a prominent member of the French Protestant Church on School Street, described later. Upon the death of Pierre Baudouin his eldest son, James, who was born in La Rochelle, France, was now obliged to support his mother, younger brother and two sisters in a strange land. This new head of the family changed his name to the simpler form of Bowdoin, as many other French émigrés changed their names in order that they might be easier to spell and pronounce. The younger brother, John, came to Boston and then went to Virginia to live. James Bowdoin rose to the first rank among the merchants of Boston, was chosen a member of the Colonial Council and, when he died in 1747, left the largest estate ever willed by any resident of Massachusetts, said to be between fifty and a hundred thousand pounds.

James's younger son, one of two sons, with the same name — James, was born in Boston on the 7th of August, 1726, and was graduated from Harvard in 1745. When he was twenty-one years of age his father died, leaving him an independent property. He became a great and



Portrait of a painting in the Bonaparte Museum of Paris. Artist, Bonaventura Collier. Donor, Maine.
JAMES BOWDOIN, ELDEST SON OF THE HUGUENOT REFUGEE PIERRE BAUDOUIN

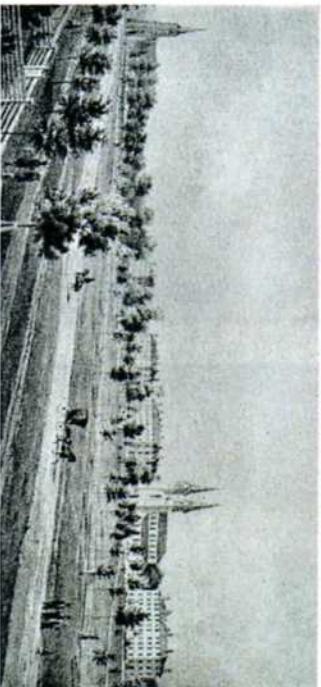
The father, Pierre, with his wife and four children, of whom James was one, came to Falmouth, now Portland, in Maine, from La Rochelle, France, in 1685. James was obliged to support his mother, younger brother and sisters when only seventeen years of age. He changed the spelling of his last name to Bowdoin. This portrait was painted in Boston in 1747 by Joseph Badger.



From an old woodcut in the collection of the State Street Trust Company
Kindness of Gerald C. Wilder

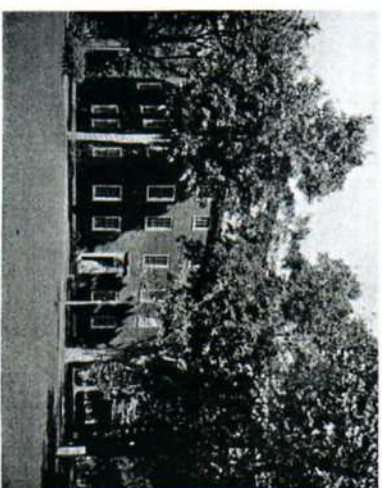
BOWDOIN COLLEGE, BRUNSWICK, MAINE, IN 1821
Named for James Bowdoin, Governor of Massachusetts. His son, also named James, was the real patron of the institution, presenting it with money, books and works of art. Longfellow and Hawthorne were graduates. Massachusetts Hall is shown at the extreme left. This building has since been remodelled. The College was incorporated in 1794.

lifelong friend of Benjamin Franklin. In 1753, 1754 and 1755 he was one of the four Boston representatives in the Provincial Legislature of Massachusetts and a member of the Council from 1757 to 1774, serving the State with honour and wisdom at this important time in its history. He lived on the corner of Beacon and Bowdoin Streets. There was a long flight of stone steps approaching his house, and it is related that after one of his dinner parties ice had formed over them to such an extent that it was dangerous for his guests upon departing. As Gleener Artulis narrates: "His friends had probably done justice to the generous wines of their host, a circumstance which tended to increase the difficulty. At last they all concluded to sit down on the upper step, and so hitch along from step to step in a perfectly safe though it must be confessed in a somewhat ungraceful manner." Bowdoin would have attended the first Continental Congress at Philadelphia, but his health prevented his doing so and Hancock was chosen in his stead. In 1776 he was elected chairman of a committee to arrange for the first official reading of the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence from the balcony of the Old State House in Boston. In 1785 still greater honours awaited him, for when Hancock resigned his position as Governor, Bowdoin was chosen in his place, and elected by the people just a hundred years after his ancestor's exile from France. When the Massachusetts Convention met in the year 1788 both he and his son were delegates, much to the delight of the father. In 1789 he had the pleasure of receiving in his home General Washington on his visit to Boston as the first President of the United States. Governor Bowdoin's death came in 1790, after a painful illness.



From an old painting in the collection of the State Street Trust Company
ANOTHER VIEW OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE, BRUNSWICK, MAINE, 1855

Governor Bowdoin's only son was also called James, and was the third and last of his name. He graduated from Harvard in 1771, then studied at Oxford, and travelled some time in England. When Washington entered Boston in the spring of 1776, James crossed with him in the same boat and took the General to dine with his grandfather Erving, where the greatest delicacy at that time consisted, it is said, of a piece of salted beef. Bowdoin followed in the line of his ancestors, becoming a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1788, serving in the State Senate and in the Governor's Council. In 1805 he was appointed Minister to Spain and later was made Associate Minister to the Court of France. He died on October 11, 1811, in the Mansion



From a photograph

Kindness of Dr. Harry S. Perrin

RECENT VIEW OF MASSACHUSETTS HALL, BOWDOIN COLLEGE, BRUNSWICK, MAINE

Built in 1798 as a "House for the use of the College." It is the oldest of the Bowdoin buildings and was named for Massachusetts when Maine formed a part of our State. This hall is of three stories and formerly had a cupola.

House on Nau-
shon Island, Buz-
zards Bay, where
he had spent the
summers of 1810
and 1811. Nau-
shon had been in
possession of the
Bowdoin family
since 1730. The
last James Bow-
doin left no chil-
dren, although
there are Bow-
doin descendants
among the Win-
throp family of
Boston, as Gov-
ernor Thomas L.
Winthrop mar-
ried Elizabeth
Temple, grand-
daughter of Gov-
ernor Bowdoin.



Photograph of a painting in the Bowdoin Museum of Fine Arts, Brunswick College, Brunswick, Maine.

JAMES BOWDOIN, GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS IN 1785 AND 1786, FOR WHOM BOWDOIN COLLEGE IN BRUNSWICK, MAINE, WAS NAMED.

He was the grandson of Pierre, the first French refugee of the name Bowdoin to come to New England, and was one of the most prominent and richest merchants of Boston. He was a member of the Legislature and of the Council and served as Chairman of a Committee to arrange for the first reading in Boston of the Declaration of Independence. General Washington visited him when he came to Boston in 1789 as the first President of the United States. This portrait was painted by the well-known Robert Feke, in 1748.



Photograph of a painting in the Bowdoin Museum of Fine Arts, Brunswick College, Brunswick, Maine.

HON. JAMES BOWDOIN, SON OF GOVERNOR JAMES BOWDOIN, DIPLOMAT, ART COLLECTOR AND BENEFACTOR OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE, BRUNSWICK, MAINE.

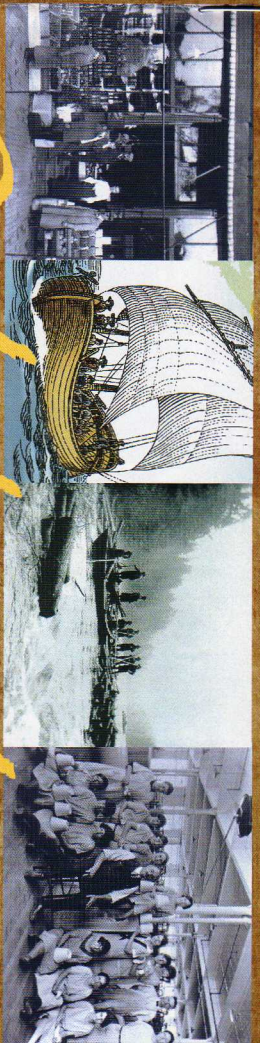
He was the last of his line to bear the name Bowdoin, as he died without children. The family has always been held in high esteem. The Winthrop's of Boston are related to him. He served as Minister to Spain and also as Associate Minister to France. His summer residence was on the Island of Nausahon, in Buzzards Bay, now the property of some of the Forbes family. He died in 1811. This portrait, as well as that of his wife Sarah, was painted by Gilbert Stuart.

Yet New England has a lasting reminder of this fine old family in Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. The College was incorporated in 1794, while Samuel Adams was Governor, and was named in honour of Governor Bowdoin, although it was his son James who became its real patron. This last Bowdoin presented the institution with seven thousand acres of land and a considerable sum of money, together with a valuable library collected in Europe, a collection of seventy old paintings and one hundred and forty-two drawings by old masters, also a cabinet of minerals. The College was nearly named for Governor Winthrop, who was at that time a great power in Boston politics.

The first building erected at Bowdoin College is known as Massachusetts Hall, and is shown in an illustration. Among those who have studied at Bowdoin are Franklin Pierce, Class of 1824, a President of the United States; Longfellow, and Nathaniel Hawthorne—

both of the Class of 1825. Bowdoin's grandnephew and heir, James Winthrop Bowdoin, graduated from this college also, in the Class of 1814. Robert C. Winthrop declared that the "name of Bowdoin is intrinsically worthy to be held in perpetual remembrance." Hon. Charles Francis Adams, former Secretary of the Navy, and since July, 1936, Chairman of the Board of the State Street Trust Company, was awarded an honorary degree of LL.D. by Bowdoin College in 1937.

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Sponsored by the Bowdoin College Multicultural Affairs Program and the Departments of Government and Romance Languages.

Archival photographs courtesy of the Pejepscot Historical Society, *Portrait of James Bowdoin* / courtesy of Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Bequest of Mrs. Sarah Bowdoin Dearborn, Lumbermen photo courtesy of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Design by Mahan Graphics, Bath, ME.

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