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**ACORN, HERBERT HUNT**, merchant, lumber manufacturer, mayor, and member of fishermen's loan board; b. ca. 10 August 1868 in Lower Montague, son of Charles Acorn and Caroline Sabine; m. 7 February 1894 Harriet Ann Sellar, and they had seven children, Harry (died early in life), Marjorie (died early in life), Dorothy (died early in life), Clarence, George, William A.\*, and Wanda; United; d. 6 December 1939 in Charlottetown.

Acorn, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 1935 general election for 1<sup>st</sup> Kings. He was re-elected in the general election of 1939 and died while a Member. From 1920 to 1921, Acorn was the Mayor of Souris. His son William represented 1<sup>st</sup> Kings from 1951 to 1959, and from 1965 until his death in 1966.

Acorn was educated at the local school in Lower Montague and later at the Charlottetown Business College. He began his working life in 1884 as an employee of Daniel Gordon\*, joining the Georgetown mercantile firm of Westaway and McDonald — Lewis Westaway\* and Malcolm McDonald\* were both politicians — two years later. In 1888 Acorn moved to Charlottetown and was employed by Prowse Brothers Limited, one of the larger mercantile enterprises in the province. This firm was owned by Lemuel Prowse\*, an MLA and MP. In 1896 Acorn opened a general store in Souris, which a fire destroyed a few years later. Acorn then built the successful Klondyke Lumber Mill, which he operated until his death.

His other involvements included serving as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Federal Salt Fish Board and, from at least 1936 to 1939, as a member of the Fishermen's Loan Board. While on this board, Acorn travelled the Island extensively, and was responsible for overseeing the construction of several buildings used to store fish or supplies. He also worked toward the diversification of the number of species of fish caught by Island fishermen. Acorn contributed to the busi-

ness life of his own community by serving as a board member and president of the Souris Board of Trade. Herbert Acorn, while still a resident of Souris, died 6 December 1939 at the Prince Edward Island Hospital.

Harriet Acorn, the daughter of Henry and Mary Sellar of Charlottetown, was born in 1870 and died in 1936.

#### References

CPG 1936, 1939, 1940; Townsend p. 138; *Beacon* no. 15 1993; *Guardian* 19 April 1938, 7 December 1939; *Patriot* 7 December 1939; PARO: Acc. 2323, Leard Files Reel #1; MNI-Cemetery Transcripts.

**ACORN, WILLIAM A.**, automobile dealer; b. 10 January 1915 in Souris, son of Herbert H. Acorn\* and Harriet Ann Sellar; m. 1938 Ann Selina MacIsaac of Hermanville, and they had five children, Shirley Ann (died 15 July 1947), Robert, Earl, Barbara, and Shirley; United; d. 25 May 1966 in Souris.

Acorn, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1951 for 1<sup>st</sup> Kings. He was re-elected in the general election of 1955 and in a by-election held 9 February 1965. Acorn was defeated in the general elections of 1959 and 1962. Acorn won the nomination for 1<sup>st</sup> Kings in the general election of 1966, but died during the campaign. The general election held 30 May had resulted in a tie. The vote in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings was deferred until 11 July 1966 and decided the overall election winner, the Liberals.

Acorn's father also served in the Legislative Assembly for 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, serving the district from 1935 until his death in 1939.

Acorn, a lifelong resident of Souris, operated a sub-agency for a Charlottetown automobile dealer. He was a member of the Eastern Kings Board of Trade and served as the vice-president of Souris Lions Club. William Acorn died of a heart attack on 25 May 1966 at his home.

Ann Acorn was born in 1915 and died in 1967. She was the daughter of Angus Dan MacIsaac and Flora MacIntyre of Hermanville.

#### References

CPG 1959; Elections PEI; *Beacon* no. 15 1993; *Guardian* 26 May 1966; PARO: Acc. 2323, Leard Files; MNI-Cemetery Transcripts.

**AGNEW, JOHN**, clerk, fish and meat packer, produce exporter, and fox breeder; b. 22 August ca. 1853 in Glasgow, Scotland, son of John Agnew and Jean McCulloch or McCullogh; m. 22 De-

cember 1882 Agnes St. Clair Ireland, and they had at least 10 children, Annie Florence, Alexander, William, John, George, Amy, Belle, Daisy Irene, Helen, and Effie Jean; Presbyterian; d. 26 October 1928 in Charlottetown.

Agnew, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1904 in 1<sup>st</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general election of 1908. Agnew was defeated in the general election of 1912. Appointed Speaker in 1909, Agnew held this position until the termination of the Liberal government of that period. In 1908 he moved a resolution to prohibit the use of automobiles on Island roads. Agnew was the first Mayor of Alberton, serving from 1913 to 1917. A strong proponent of temperance, he was appointed Chairman of the Prohibition Commission in June 1927.

Agnew lived in Scotland until about 1876, and attended the Free Church School in Glasgow. He first emigrated to Richibucto, New Brunswick, and lived there for one or two years. Agnew resided in Alberton from 1877 to 1916, when he moved to Charlottetown. Upon his move to Alberton from Richibucto, Agnew clerked for Robert Bell at his store and in his lobster factory. Soon he bought the factory, and later opened others at North Cape and Miminégash. Agnew had a meat cannery in Alberton, canned mackerel as well, and owned a shop where cans and boxes were made. He had schooners trading with the West Indies, and to support his shipping endeavours bought and exported produce. A fox breeder, Agnew was president of the Provincial S. B. Fox Co. Ltd., John Agnew Fur Farms Ltd., and the Prince Edward Island Black Fox Co. He had fox ranches in Ontario and British Columbia, as well as on the Island. In 1903 Agnew was elected as the first president of the Alberton and West Prince Board of Trade.

His social activities included membership in the Independent Order of Oddfellows and the Independent Order of Foresters. While in Alberton, Agnew was an elder and chairman of the Board of Trustees in the Presbyterian Church. Upon his move to Charlottetown, he was elected elder of St. James Presbyterian Church, where he taught bible class. John Agnew died 26 October 1928.

Agnes Agnew, the daughter of Capt. James Ireland, an Islander, and Ann McLeod, died in Orangeville, Ontario, 7 January 1938.

#### References

CPG 1910, 1912; *Canada's Smallest Province* p. 350; Green, pp. 13, 225; *Past and Present* p. 328; *Prominent Men* p. 410; *Guardian* July 1915 (Supplement), 27 October 1928; *Maple Leaf Magazine* December 1928 p. 374, February 1938 p. 34; *Patriot* 26 October 1928; PARO; MNI-Census 1881; Marriage Register.

**AITKEN, GEORGE BEAIRSTO**, farmer, justice of the peace, and railway valuator; b. ca. 20 May 1836 in Lower Montague, son of Johnson Aitken and Elizabeth Beairsto; m. ca. 14 February 1870 Jane D. Shaw, and they had six children, Ben Oswald (died at eight years on 25 July 1879), William Eldred (died at six years on 20 July 1879), George Russell, John Wallace, Henry Merrill, and Elizabeth Jane (Bessie); Presbyterian; d. ca. 18 February 1909 in Lower Montague.

Aitken, a Liberal, was elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 1893 general election for 4<sup>th</sup> Kings. He was defeated in the general elections of 1886 and 1897, and in the election for Legislative Council in 1890. During the time he represented 4<sup>th</sup> Kings, the government carried out repairs on the road leading to the ferry in Lower Montague, constructed a steel bridge in Montague, and repaired Aitken's Wharf in Lower Montague.

Aitken was born and educated in Lower Montague, where he lived all his life. During the construction of the Murray River Railway, Aitken was one of the valutors. He was an active worker in his church and community.

Aitken died ca. 18 February 1909 after a two-week battle with pneumonia. His brother James died 19 February 1909 while viewing the remains.

Jane Aitken, the daughter of Neil Shaw of Montague, died 5 March 1921.

#### References

CPG 1887, 1891, 1897; Fraser, pp. 52-53; *Examiner* 16 October 1881, 19 February 1909; *Guardian* 19 February 1909, 20 February 1909; *Islander* 18 March 1870; *Patriot* 18 February 1909; PARO; Baptism Record, RG 19 Vital Statistics, Series 3 Volume 7; Aitken Family File; MNI-Census 1881; Census 1901.

**ALLEN, LUCAS R.**, merchant, food plant manager, and corporate board member; b. 17 July 1878 in St. Nicholas, son of Benjamin C. Allen and Melvina Goodwin, both of New Brunswick; m. 16 June 1903 Winnifred Brace, and they had five children, Irene, Florence, Edith, Mildred, and Margaret; Methodist/United; d. 7 April 1964 in Summerside.

Allen, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1927 for 5<sup>th</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general elec-

tions of 1931 and 1935. He was appointed as a Minister without Portfolio in August 1935. Allen also served on the Summerside Town Council.

Allen received his primary education in St. Nicholas until he was 12. Later he attended school in Summerside. His introduction to the workplace began ca. 1893 as a delivery person for Brace, McKay and Company, which was owned by John A. Brace, later Allen's father-in-law. Allen worked there for many years and became manager of the grocery department. In 1901 he made an investment in the company when it became a joint stock company, and a year later was appointed to its board of directors. In 1926 Allen became president of Brace, McKay and Company, a position he held until 1939 when he became vice-president and took on reduced duties. He remained as vice-president until 1958. Allen had business interests beyond Brace, McKay and Company. During the Second World War Allen was secretary-treasurer and plant manager of Island Foods Incorporated, which manufactured dehydrated potatoes for the forces overseas. He served on the board of directors of Pure Canadian Black Fox Company, The Malpeque Oysters Limited, Royal Silver Black Fox Company, Island Terminals Incorporated, and Northumberland Ferries Limited.

Allen had a number of other involvements in the community. He served as a president of the Summerside Board of Trade and helped found the Associated Board of Trade of Prince Edward Island. He was active in the International Order of Foresters, Knights of Pythias, Y's Men's Club, the L.O.L., and King Hiram & Mt. Lebanon Lodges of the A.F. and A.M. in Summerside. Allen, a skilled hockey player and rifle shot, was also a member of the Summerside Golf Club, the Summerside Curling Club, and the Summerside Quoit Club. He served as trustee on the board of directors of the Falconwood Hospital, Prince County Hospital, the YMCA, and the People's Cemetery. In 1914 Allen was a member of the board of trustees of Summerside Methodist Church, and he acted as the secretary-treasurer of the Methodist Sunday school in Summerside for 13 years. In 1930 Allen was elected as an elder of Trinity United Church in Summerside. He was awarded the King's Jubilee Medal in 1935. Lucas Allen died 7 April 1964.

Winnifred Allen was the daughter of John A. Brace from Summerside and Margaret Howatt from Tryon.

#### References

CPG 1928; *Maritime Reference Book* 1926 pp. 63-64, 410; WWC 1936 II p. 3; *Guardian* 9 May 1938, 8 April 1964; *Journal-Pioneer* 8 April 1964; PARO; RG 19: Vital Statistics series 3; Marriage Records subseries 4; Marriage licenses.

**ANNEAR, THOMAS MONTAGUE**, farmer; b. 3 November 1872 in Lower Montague, son of John A. Annear and Hannah Poole; m. 16 December 1897 Mary Jane Beck of Murray Harbour, and they had seven children, Janet Eileen (died 30 August 1905 at six years and 10 months), Chessels, John A., Thomas Montague, Cameron, Inez Jean, and Agnes; United; d. 18 October 1947 in Lower Montague.

Annear, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1931 for 4<sup>th</sup> Kings. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1935 and 1939.

Annear was a farmer who owned a 270-acre farm where he raised pigs, cattle, and horses. Montague Annear died 18 October 1947 of a heart attack.

Mary Jane Annear, the daughter of Thomas Beck and Mary Hawkings, died in January 1946.

#### References

*Guardian* 28 January 1914, 20 October 1947; *Maritime Advocate and Busy East* vol. 33 no. 9 April 1943; *Patriot* 20 October 1947; PARO; RG 19 Vital Statistics series 3; Marriage records subseries 4.

**ARSENAULT, ADRIEN F.**, lawyer; b. 12 April 1889 in Egmont Bay, son of Etienne J. Arsenault and Philomene Pitre; m. first 27 October 1920 Bernice A. MacDonald, and they had two children, Leonce and Adrien; m. secondly 4 September 1935 Ellen MacNeill, and they had three children, Leonard, Helen, and John; Roman Catholic; d. 28 June 1941 in Summerside.

Arsenault, a Conservative, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in a by-election held 30 August 1922 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1923, 1927, and 1931. He was appointed to Executive Council from 1923 to 1927. From 1931 to 1935, Arsenault once again served on Executive Council as Minister without Portfolio. In addition to being an effective speaker, well-read, and fluent in both French and English, he also had a gift for humour and storytelling.

Arsenault received his primary education at the local school in St. Chrysostome. Later he attended St. Joseph's University in New Brunswick and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 1912. Arsenault studied law in the office of Albert C.

Saunders\* from December 1912 until 1916. Following his admission to the Bar, he worked with Neil McQuarrie and Aubin Arsenault\* in the firm of McQuarrie and Arsenault. When both McQuarrie and Aubin Arsenault were called to the bench, Arsenault took over the practice.

Arsenault had a busy life outside of politics and the law. He was a leader of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin, and was its first secretary-treasurer. Arsenault was a member of the golf and curling clubs in Summerside, a member of the Knights of Columbus, the C.M.B.A., and La Société L'Assomption, and was the leader of the male choir at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Summerside. Adrien Arsenault died 28 June 1941.

Bernice Arsenault was the daughter of John A. MacDonald\* of Indian River, who represented 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince in the House of Assembly and the Legislative Assembly, and Anne C. McKelvie. She died 4 September 1935. Ellen Arsenault was a native of Travellers Rest.

#### References

CPG 1883, 1923, 1924, 1928, 1933, 1936; *Acadiens* p. 84; Elections PEI; WWC 1934-1935 p. 1714; WWC 1943-1944 p. 686; *Patriot* 30 June 1941 p. 5; PARO: RG 6.1 Series 19 Bar Admittances.

**ARSENAULT, LL.D., M.A., HONOURABLE AUBIN EDMOND**, teacher, lawyer, and judge; b. 28 July 1870 in Abrams Village, son of Joseph Octave Arsenault\* and Gertrude Gaudet; m. firstly Anita, native of Ireland, marriage annulled; m. second 5 November 1907 Bertha Rose Gallant and they had 11 children, Iphigenie, Cyril, Catherine, Regis, Valerie, Marie, Laure-Jeanne, Patricia, Felice, Paula, and Lois; Roman Catholic; d. 27 April 1968 in Charlottetown.

Arsenault, a Conservative, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1908 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1912, 1915, and 1919. In January 1912 he was appointed to Executive Council as a Minister without Portfolio. Upon the resignation of Premier John A. Mathieson\* in 1917, Arsenault became Premier and Attorney-General. In the 1919 general election, the Conservatives were defeated, yet Arsenault remained Leader of the Opposition until his appointment to the Prince Edward Island Supreme Court in 1921. In 1906 Arsenault was elected to the Summerside town council, and, while councillor, helped launch a campaign for the advocacy of sewage and

water systems.

In September 1919, Premier Arsenault passed an Order-in-Council which enabled motor vehicles to use Island roads on all days of the week, subject only to the restrictions of the Motor Vehicle Act. Earlier in his political career, in 1909, Arsenault was one of only three Members to vote against a bill to prohibit automobiles from running on the streets and public highways.

Prohibition had begun in the province more than 20 years previous to Arsenault becoming premier. Though privately opposed to Prohibition, rather than advocate his own view regarding the consumption of alcohol, Arsenault amended Prohibition legislation to provide for a plebiscite to ascertain the will of Islanders in regard to the continuance of the Prohibition Act. He was defeated before the plebiscite could be held. The Conservative loss in the 1919 general election came about partly due, according to the *Canadian Annual Review*, to Arsenault's supposed favouritism toward fellow Roman Catholics and the negative feelings this generated in Protestants. In his memoirs, Arsenault indicated that the defeat was more likely due to his advocacy of a uniform education tax. According to Edward MacDonald's *If You're Stronghearted*, there was general discontent in the Island populace at the time, in part due to high inflation, and the Arsenault Administration became a victim of this popular dissatisfaction.

Arsenault's father, initially a Liberal and later a Conservative, was a Member of the House of Assembly from 1867 to 1895 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince, served on Executive Council, and was the first Island Acadian to be appointed to the Senate. One of Arsenault's brothers, Joseph Felix\*, represented 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince from 1897 to 1904, when he was defeated by Joseph F. H. Arsenault\*.

Arsenault received his education in Abrams Village. In 1885 he entered St. Dunstan's College and obtained a second class teaching license, going on to teach for two years at a country school and one year at St. Joseph's College. Subsequently Arsenault returned to St. Dunstan's College for one year, following which he articulated at the law firm of McLeod, Morson and McQuarrie – Neil McLeod\* and Walter Morson\* were also politicians – for four years, and was admitted to the Bar as an attorney. The next year he went to London, England, to articulate with the Honourable Charles Russell. When these studies were completed, Arsenault re-

turned to Charlottetown and started a law firm there in association with H. R. MacKenzie. After some months he moved to Summerside and continued in private practice for one year. He then entered into a partnership with Neil McQuarrie. He served as a director of the Canadian Bar Association. On 1 May 1921, Arsenault was named the successor to Justice Fitzgerald, Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, and he served on the bench for 25 years.

Outside of his legal and political careers, Arsenault had numerous interests. He was the first director of the Prince Edward Island Travel Bureau, a director of the Good Roads Association, a director and executive member of the Canadian Geographical Society, president of the Canadian Association of Tourist and Publicity Bureau, and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts in England. In the early 1920s, he accepted the position of president of the Prince Edward Island Tourist Association. On 16 February 1929, Arsenault prepared and presented a brief to Sir Henry Thornton of Canadian National Railway. He was part of a delegation sent by the Island Tourist Bureau and the Charlottetown Board of Trade. The brief urged Canadian National Railway to build a first-class hotel in Charlottetown. The company voted to assign \$1 million to the project.

Additionally, Arsenault was president of the Acadian National Society of the Maritime Provinces, and one of the founders of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin. He was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree from Laval University and St. Dunstan's University, and a Master of Arts degree from St. Joseph's University.

Arsenault was a trustee of the Lady Wood Fund, a trust fund to be used for the benefit of aboriginal peoples, for over 20 years, beginning in 1931. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and achieved the rank of 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knight. Aubin Arsenault died 27 April 1968. On 15 March 2001, the provincial government named Charlottetown's refurbished Nurses Residence, home of the Public Education Branch of the Department of Education, the Aubin Arsenault Building.

#### References

- Acadiens* pp. 84-85; Arsenault, Aubin; *CPG* 1910 p. 436; *DCB* XII 1891-1900 p. 39; MacDonald *Stronghearted* pp. 112, 138-39; *PPMP* p. 13; *WWC* 1943-1944 pp. 16, 916; *Guardian* 29 April 1968, 28 July 1973, 15 March 2001; *Journal-Pioneer* 23 and 27 September 2000; *Patriot* 30 June 1941; *PARO*: RG 6.1 Series 19: Bar Admittances 31.

**ARSENAULT, JOSEPH FÉLIX**, businessman and office holder; b. 16 October 1865 in Abrams Village, son of Joseph Octave Arsenault\* and Gertrude Gaudet; m. 26 September 1892 Gertrude Cormier, and they had 11 children, Alyre, Ermalie, Irene, Louise, Ulric, Jacqueline, Edouard, Alfreda, Auldine, and two unnamed children (died in infancy); Roman Catholic; d. 27 February 1947, in Summerside.

Arsenault, a Conservative, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1897 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general election of 1900. He was defeated in the general election of 1904 by Joseph F. H. Arsenault\*.

Arsenault's father was a Member of the House of Assembly and served on Executive Council, eventually becoming the first Island Acadian in the Senate. Aubin Edmond\*, one of Arsenault's brothers, was premier from 1917 to 1919.

"Joe-Félix," as he was known in his community, attended the local school in Abrams Village, St. Joseph's College in Memramcook, New Brunswick, and the Commercial College in Charlottetown. In 1897 he became a partner in his father's general store in Wellington. The firm, J. O. Arsenault and Sons, appears to have prospered in the 1890s. In 1899 it built a three-and-a-half-storey general store, one of the largest on the Island, and, for a time, Wellington's biggest attraction. In 1900 Arthur Rogers of Summerside joined the new firm, J. O. Arsenault, Son and Company. The partnership expanded into buying and selling livestock and agricultural produce, operating a brick kiln, and entered the lobster industry. It shipped lobster by sea and rail to off-Island markets. In December 1901, the business declared bankruptcy. In 1902 Arsenault organized a joint stock company in the same area, but, by 1903, H. S. Sharp Ltd. of Summerside acquired a controlling interest. Later that year, Herb Sharp sold J. O. Arsenault, Son and Company Limited to his son James. Arsenault maintained an association with his former business until 1905, when he left for the United States.

In Coleraine, Minnesota, Arsenault worked for the Oliver Mining Company. Except for two years spent managing a general store in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he lived in Coleraine until 1913. That year he moved to Quebec, and from there to Summerside in 1914. Arsenault relocated to Charlottetown in 1917 when he joined the Department of Internal Revenue. In 1922 he returned to Abrams Village to manage a general store, moving



back to Summerside in 1925 to manage a similar business. From 1930 to 1945, Arsenault served as Deputy Prothonotary and Clerk of the County Court.

Arsenault was an active member of the Société l'Assomption, and he was a member of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin and the Knights of Columbus in Summerside. Joe-Félix Arsenault died 27 February 1947.

Gertrude Arsenault of Sackville, New Brunswick, daughter of Vital Cormier and Celina Bourque, died 1 December 1940.

#### References

*Acadiens* p. 85; *CPG* 1899, 1901, 1908; *DCB* XII 1891-1900 pp. 39-41; *By the Old Mill Stream* pp. 142-47, 197; *Guardian* 1 March 1947; *Patriot* 27 February 1947.

**ARSENAULT, JOSEPH FÉLIX H.**, merchant, postmaster, lobster canner, and justice of the peace; b. 15 February 1866 in Urbainville, son of Hubert Arsenault and Sophie Arsenault; m. 24 November 1892 Emélie Bernard, and they had six children, none of which are known; Roman Catholic; d. 28 January 1946 in Charlottetown.

Arsenault, a Liberal, was elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1904 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince. Previously he had been defeated in the general election of 1900, and was defeated in the general election of 1908.

Arsenault received his education at the school in Egmont Bay, following which he moved to the United States, remaining there for a few years. Upon returning to the Island, Arsenault opened a successful general store and operated a lobster cannery. He also served as postmaster and Justice of the Peace. At this time he lived on Higgins' Road in Lot 13. J. F. H. Arsenault died in Charlottetown on 28 January 1946.

Emélie Arsenault was the daughter of Joseph Bernard and Lisette Gallant. She died in Charlottetown on 13 December 1935.

#### References

*Acadiens* p. 86; *CPG* 1901, 1905, 1909; *Elections PEI*; *Past and Present* pp. 608-609; *Guardian* 29 July 1983.

#### ARSENAULT, HONOURABLE

**JOSEPH OCTAVE**, farmer, teacher, and merchant; b. 5 August 1828 in Cascumpec, son of Meleme Arsenault and Bibienne Poirier; m. 15 April 1861 Gertrude Gaudet, and they had five sons and four daughters, including Joseph Felix\* and Aubin

Edmond\*; Roman Catholic; d. 14 December 1897 in Abrams Village.

Arsenault, initially a Liberal and later a Conservative, was first elected to the House of Assembly in the general election of 1867 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1870, 1872, 1873, 1876, 1879, 1882, 1886, and 1890. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1893. In August 1870 Arsenault broke with the Liberal Party to join the Conservatives under the leadership of James C. Pope\*. He did this in protest of the government's refusal to give Catholic schools the financial grants that Peter McIntyre, the Bishop of Charlottetown, had requested. Several other Catholic Liberals defected, the Liberal administration was ended, and a coalition government was formed. Arsenault remained a Conservative and was appointed to Executive Council by Premier Pope, where he served from 25 July 1873 to 4 September 1876. Later he was appointed to Executive Council by Premier W. W. Sullivan and Premier Neil McLeod and served between 11 March 1879 and 21 April 1891. On 18 February 1895, he became the first Island Acadian to be appointed to the Senate, where he served until his death.

Two of Arsenault's sons followed in his political footsteps. Joseph Félix\* was a successful candidate for the Conservatives in 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince in the general elections of 1897 and 1900, and Aubin Edmond\* was premier from 1917 to 1919.

A resident of Abrams Village, Arsenault was first educated in the local schools of Urbainville and Miscouche. Later he attended Central Academy in Charlottetown and achieved his first class teaching certificate. Around 1847, Arsenault began a teaching career that lasted 18 years. In 1865 Arsenault left teaching and opened a general store in Abrams Village, where he had taught for 12 years. In 1874 he expanded his business and opened a store in Wellington. This new store became his commercial base.

In the 1870s, Arsenault bought a fish plant. He first concentrated on processing mackerel, extending his interests into lobster in the 1880s. He built a plant at Cape Egmont and soon became one of the leading packers in the region. In an international competition held in Jamaica in 1891, he won the gold medal for his canned lobster. On 23 May 2001, Arsenault was inducted, posthumously, into the Junior Achievement Prince Ed-

ward Island Business Hall of Fame.

Arsenault did not lose his interest in education and French-language instruction once he entered the business and political worlds. In 1868, while serving as a Member of the House of Assembly, he obtained the Assembly's approval for a £5 bonus to be paid to any teacher competent to teach French. He also served as a member of the Board of Education from 1879 to 1891.

The advancement of the Acadian people was one of Arsenault's major concerns. He was on the committee that organized the first national convention of Acadians in 1881. At that convention, Arsenault was elected second vice-president of the colonization society. This body was set up to encourage Acadians to settle on unoccupied land in Quebec and New Brunswick so that they could enjoy a more prosperous life. Joseph Arsenault died 14 December 1897.

Gertrude Arsenault was the daughter of Felix Gaudet and Marine Poirier. She died in Summerside on 18 March 1919.

#### References

*Acadiens* p. 86; *DCB* XII 1891-1900 pp. 39-41; *Guardian* 24 May 2001; *Island Magazine* 33 1993.

**ARSENAULT, JOSEPH WILFRED**, school teacher, college professor, school supervisor, and president of Fishermen's Loan Board; b. 5 March 1906 in St. Raphael, son of Joseph H. Arsenault and Marie Pitre; m. 6 September 1950 Yvonne Gaudet, and they had one child, Jean-Paul; Roman Catholic; d. 19 April 1971 in Montreal.

Arsenault, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1947 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general election of 1951. In 1948 he was appointed as a Minister without Portfolio. On 12 February 1949, Arsenault was appointed Provincial Secretary, which he held until 1954, when he was again appointed Minister without Portfolio. He resigned his seat in 1954.

Arsenault, known as "Willie," received his primary education at St. Raphael School. Later he attended Queen Square School in Charlottetown, and in 1928 went to St. Dunstan's College. Arsenault was a public school teacher and Supervisor of Acadian schools in the province. He later taught French and physics at Prince of Wales College. Arsenault served as president of the Fishermen's Loan Board. In 1955 he moved to Montreal and

taught school. Wilfred Arsenault died 19 April 1971.

Arsenault's mother was a native of Hope River. Yvonne Arsenault was the daughter of Emanuel Gaudet of Miscouche and Mannie Cormier of Sackville, New Brunswick.

#### References

*Acadiens* pp. 86-87; *By the Old Mill Stream* pp.198-99, 370; *PEI Journal of the Leg. Assembly* 1953 p. 2, 1954, p. 2; *Maritime Advocate and Busy East* January 1950; *Patriot* 23 April 1971.

**ARSENAULT, PROSPER A.**, school teacher and vice-principal; b. 25 May 1894 in Howlan, son of Julitte Arsenault; Roman Catholic; d. 28 October 1987 in Woodstock.

Arsenault, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1955 for 1<sup>st</sup> Prince. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1962 and 1966. He was defeated in the general election of 1959. In 1958 Arsenault was appointed to Executive Council as a Minister without Portfolio, and in 1966 he became Speaker, serving in this position until 1970.

Arsenault received his education in Howlan from 1906 to 1914. From 1918 to 1920, and again from 1930 to 1932, he attended St. Dunstan's College. Arsenault taught school for many years, in the communities of Howlan, Bloomfield, Roxberry, Conway, Unionvale, and Inverness. Between 1941 and 1946, Arsenault was vice-principal of the largest Aboriginal school in Canada at LeBret, Saskatchewan. From 1946 to 1948, he took summer courses at St. Joseph's University in New Brunswick and received a teaching diploma. In 1949 Arsenault obtained a certificate of child psychology from the University of Ottawa. The following year, he received a first class teaching diploma from Prince of Wales College. Arsenault could speak French, English, Spanish, and Latin. Prosper Arsenault died 28 October 1987 in O'Leary.

#### References

*Acadiens* p. 87; *CPG* 1961 p. 701; *Guardian* 9 March 1970, 30 October 1987; *Journal-Pioneer* 17 November 1987; *PARO*: St. Anthony's Catholic Church Records; Leard Files.