The Cassini Map of France
Can be found at our website at OTHER INTERNET RESOURCES and the FRANCE section
John Fisher #2

Cesar-François Cassini de Thury
Born: 17 June 1714 in Thury, near Clermont, Oise, France
Died: 4 Sept 1784 in Paris, France

After tracing your family line back to France, and seeing some small town name; have you wondered how to find out very easily where it is, and what the area may have looked like at the time they emigrated? The Cassini map of France makes it very easy and very interesting.

The Carte de France was published by four generations of the Cassini family from 1750 to 1815. It consists of 182 sheets at the same scale, allowing the sheets to be joined together to form a physical map of about 39 feet high by 38 feet wide. It is rich both in historical cultural information and exquisite graphic art. The map was the first national survey completed systematically, relying on the latest science of its time. Read about the illustrious Cassini Family at this link:
http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Biographies/Cassini_de_Thury.html

Go to the Cassini Map Website at GeoGarage: http://demo.geogarage.com/cassini/
You will immediately see that the 182 Cassini maps of France directly overlay today's map of France. At the lower left hand corner you will see a Google Search box. Enter the name of the town, city or ville you are searching for, and click on the search button. Try entering Brouage, where Samuel de Champlain was born. When you hit SEARCH you will immediately be transported to the fort shaped town situated on the Channel of Brouage on the old Cassini map. At the upper left are the Plus + and Minus - signs that enable you to zoom in and out. Zoom in to see the town more clearly and then zoom out to see exactly where you are in France as a whole. Make sure you are in the correct part of France since many towns have the same names.

And now for the best part, see where you are on the latest road map of France or the Satellite view. Click on either the MAP or SATELLITE boxes in the upper right hand corner of the map. Below these two items is a box that says FRANCE 1750. Initially the slider will be all the way to the right. Put your cursor on the slider and drag it to the left about half way. This will increase the transparency of the Cassini map and you will see more of the France Map or the satellite photo. Move the slider all the way to the left and the Cassini map is gone. Try varying levels of transparency and put your cursor on the map and you will see that you can drag the map around very easily. Clicking on the MORE RESULTS in the lower left hand corner appears to show the current boundaries of the town. Enjoy the tour.