

## Just Meo DuLong: My Grandfather's Given Name

By John P. DuLong

You would think that an accomplished genealogist would know the given name of his paternal grandfather with confidence, but as a matter of fact I do not. My grandfather died in 1926 and I was born in 1954 so I could not ask him his name. My father, Joseph Leo DuLong, told me his father's name was Meo DuLong. However, Meo is not a common name among Franco-Americans. I assumed it must be a nickname. Early in my research I combined several clues and suggested that his real name was Emile Eldred DuLong. I see this copied now across the Internet, but with no explanation. This little essay will review all the instances where Meo's name is mentioned and will reconsider what is mostly likely his real given name.<sup>1</sup>

The easiest solution to this problem would be to find Meo's birth record, but no such record has ever been found at the Houghton County Courthouse. Nor has a baptism record been located. From his death certificate we know that he was born on 20 December 1871 in Calumet, Houghton Co., Michigan. He was of French-Canadian ancestry and his parents, Edward DuLong and Elise Mercier, were Catholic. Unfortunately, the parish of Sacred Heart in Calumet, which opened in 1868, does not hold his baptism record. The parish registers for St. Louis and Ste. Anne French Catholic churches in Calumet did not open until 1883 and 1901 respectively.<sup>2</sup>

Meo's name appears in many records and the following table lists those name variations I have located in original records:

| Date          | Place    | Name          | Event  |
|---------------|----------|---------------|--|
| 20 Dec. 1871  | Calumet  | Meo Dulong    | Birth information from his death certificate and Calumet & Hecla (C&H) mining company employment record.                     |
| 29 Sept. 1891 | Houghton | Milio Duling  | Marriage record from Houghton Co.  |
| 29 Sept. 1891 | Houghton | Milo Duling   | Marriage certificate from the state of Michigan.   |
| 29 Sept. 1891 | Houghton | Emilio Dulong | Marriage record from St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic church.  |
| 5 Nov. 1892   | Calumet  | Meo Dulong    | Baptism record of Henry M. [Eldred Henry] Dulong, St-Louis / Ste-Anne Catholic Church preserved at St. Paul Catholic Church. |
| 10 Mar. 1895  | Calumet  | Emil Dulong   | Baptism record of Joseph Edward Irvin [Irving Edward] Dulong, St-Louis / Ste-  |

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<sup>1</sup> Meo's brothers also used nicknames in America. Uncle Odilon, baptized 23 Mar. 1861, St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, as Joseph Roch Odilon, was called Zella, and Uncle Élisée, baptized 30 May 1859m St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, as Édouard Élisée, was known as Eli.

<sup>2</sup> The parish registers for the closed parishes of Ste. Anne and St. Louis can be found at St. Paul the Apostle, the former St. Joseph, which was a Slovene or Austrian Catholic parish in Calumet. I checked these records in person for Dulong and I had a search conducted for me in the Sacred Heart parish register.

| Date          | Place         | Name           | Event   |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---|
|               |               |                | Anne Catholic Church preserved at St. Paul Catholic Church.   |
| 9 Dec. 1896   | Calumet       | Emil Dulong    | Baptism record of Charles Aylmer [Charles Elmer] Dulong, St-Louis / Ste-Anne Catholic Church preserved at St. Paul Catholic Church.   |
| 13 Dec. 1897  | Calumet       | Mileo Dulong   | Baptism record of Joseph Arthur [Lloyd Elmer] Dulong, St-Louis / Ste-Anne Catholic Church preserved at St. Paul Catholic Church.  |
| 11 Sept. 1899 | Osceola Twp.  | Neo Dulong     | Probate of the Will and Estate of Edward Dulong, Meo's father, Houghton Co. Courthouse.   |
| 31 Mar. 1900  | Calumet       | Milio Dulong   | Baptism record of Marie Alvina Lucie [Lucille Alvina] Dulong, St-Louis / Ste-Anne Catholic Church preserved at St. Paul Catholic Church.  |
| 27 June 1900  | Franklin Twp. | Meo Dulong     | 1900 federal census.  |
| 9 Mar. 1902   | Calumet       | Milio Dulong   | Baptism record of Marie Evelyn [Genevieve Evelyn] Dulong, St-Louis / Ste-Anne Catholic Church preserved at St. Paul Catholic Church.  |
| 6 Mar. 1907   | Osceola       | Meo Dulong     | Obituaries of Elizabeth "Elise" (Mercier) Dulong, <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> and <i>Copper County Evening News</i> .   |
| 4 Oct. 1914   | Houghton      | William Dulong | His wife is referred to as Mrs. William Dulong in a newspaper clipping covering the Golden Wedding Anniversary of her parents Henry Bourbonnais and Stephonie Monette, <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> , p. 15. |
| 9 May 1910    | Osceola Twp.  | Mayo Dulong    | 1910 federal census.  |
| 1 Apr. 1911   | Osceola Twp.  | Meo E. Dulong  | Birth certificate of <del>Leo Ellsworth</del> Joseph Leo Dulong. <sup>3</sup>   |
| 6 Apr. 1911   | Dollar Bay    | Mayo Dulong    | Baptism of Joseph Leo Dulong.   |
| 11 Dec. 1911  | Osceola Twp.  | Meo Dulong     | Petition to have Meo Dulong declared insane. <sup>4</sup>   |

<sup>3</sup> I believe my father had Leo Ellsworth scratched out and his name Joseph Leo added to his birth certificate. He told me he never used Ellsworth.

<sup>4</sup> Meo was briefly jailed in 1911 and his wife, Julia Bourbonnais, attempted to have him declared insane. Her petition claimed that he "threatens to kill different members of the family and is unreasonably jealous of his wife." Although her attempt to have him committed failed, her accusation reflects what I heard from my father, Uncle

| Date         | Place              | Name              | Event  |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| 12 Dec. 1911 | Houghton           | Meo DuLong        | Entry in Houghton Co. Jail Record.   |
| Sept. 1912   | Hubbell            | Meo Dulong        | C&H employment record, 1912-1926.  |
| 1 June 1915  | Hubbell            | Meo               | C&H employment record for Lloyd E. Dulong.   |
| June 1915    | Calumet            | Meo Dulong        | List of C&H employees supporting James MacNaughton, CEO.   |
| 31 July 1918 | Brooklyn, New York | Meo Dulong        | U.S. Army Transport Service, Passenger List, entry for Irving Dulong.  |
| 6 Aug. 1919  | Brest, France      | Meo Dulong        | U.S. Army Transport Service, Passenger List, entry for Irving Dulong.  |
| 18 Nov. 1919 | Lake Linden        | Mio Dulong        | Marriage Record of Irving E. Dulong and Florida Cloutier.  |
| 24 Jan. 1920 | Hubbell            | Meor Dulong       | 1920 federal census.   |
| 11 Feb. 1920 | Houghton           | Meo Dulong        | Marriage record of Lucille A. Dulong and Ransom Cundy.   |
| 10 May 1921  | Calumet            | Meo Dulong        | Obituary of Elizabeth (DuLong) Beaudoin, his sister, <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> , p. 6.                                 |
| 17 Dec. 1921 | Hubbell            | Meo Du Long       | Marriage Record of Genevieve E. DuLong and Clyde Staats.   |
| 21 Apr. 1925 | Calumet            | Meo Dulong        | Marriage record of Priscilla Dulong and Harold P. Symons.  |
| 20 Jan. 1926 | Hubbell            | Meo               | C&H employment record for Harold DuLong.   |
| 30 Mar. 1926 | Hubbell            | Eldage Meo Dulong | Death certificate.   |
| 30 Mar. 1926 | Hubbell            | Mayo Dulong       | Death record from St. Cecilia Catholic church.   |
| 31 Mar. 1926 | Hubbell            | Meo DuLong        | Obituary, <i>Evening Copper Journal</i> , p. 7; <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> , p. 7.; and <i>Calumet News</i> , clipping. |
| 24 Aug. 1927 | Hubbell            | Meo Dulong        | Quincy Mining Co. employment record for Joseph Dulong.   |
| 11 Oct. 1927 | Hubbell            | Meo Dulong        | Marriage certificate of Cecilia Dulong and Lorenz A. Kerber.   |
| 2 Apr. 1932  | Hubbell            | Meo Dulong        | Marriage certificate of Joseph Dulong and Catherine Stanton.   |
| 21 Apr. 1942 | Torch Lake Twp.    | Meo Eldage Dulong | Delayed birth certificate of Cecilia Rose Dulong.  |
| 30 June 1942 | Calumet            | Meo Eldage DuLong | Delayed birth certificate of Eldred Henry DuLong.  |

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Irving, and Aunt Priscilla regarding Meo's temperament. He was "insanely jealous" of his wife and often cruel to his children. He is my grandfather, but certainly not a man I admire.

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Place</b>                                    | <b>Name</b> | <b>Event</b>   |
|---------------|---|-------------|--|
| 14 Sept. 1946 | Redford,<br>Wayne Co.,<br>Michigan              | Meo DuLong  | Marriage record of Hubert Lawrence DuLong to Georgia Milligan Ruiz.                            |
| 4 May 1950    | Calumet<br>Twp.                                 | Meo DuLong  | Delayed Birth Record of Genevieve DuLong.  |
| 18 July 1955  | Pontiac,<br>Oakland Co.,<br>Michigan            | Meo DuLong  | Death certificate of Julia C. (Bourbonnais) DuLong.  |
| 19 July 1955  | Hubbell   | Meo Dulong  | Obituary of Julia (Bourbonnais) Dulong, <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> , p. 11.                   |
| 1960s         |   | Meo         | Letter from Irving DuLong to John P. DuLong with genealogical data.                            |
| 16 Mar. 1963  | Columbus,<br>Bartholomew<br>Co., Indiana        | Mayo DuLong | Death certificate of Lloyd E. DuLong.  |
| 18 Nov. 1966  | USA   | Meo Dulong  | Social Security Application and Claims Index, 1936-2007, record for Priscilla (DuLong) Symons. |
| Oct. 1967     | Hubbell   | Meo Dulong  | Obituary of Hubert DuLong, clipping probably from the <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> .            |
| Dec. 1970     | Hubbell   | Meo DuLong  | Obituary of Cecilia (DuLong) Kerber, clipping probably from the <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> .  |
| 26 Nov. 1975  | Lake Linden                                     | Meo Dulong  | Obituary of Irving E. Dulong, clipping probably from the <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> .         |
| Mar. 1978     | Royal Oak,<br>Oakland Co.,<br>Michigan          | Meo DuLong  | Obituary of Harold W. Dulong, Sr., clipping probably from the <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> .    |
| 2 May 1980    | Hubbell   | Meo DuLong  | Obituary of Lucille (DuLong) Cundy, clipping probably from the <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> .   |
| April 1990    | Beloit, Rock<br>CO.,<br>Wisconsin               | Meo DuLong  | Obituary of Priscilla (DuLong) Symons, clipping probably from a Beloit newspaper.              |
| 19 Jan. 1995  | Kenosha,<br>Kenosha Co.,<br>Wisconsin           | Meo DuLong  | Obituary for Genevieve (DuLong) Staats, <i>Kenosha News</i> , p. 4.                            |
| 30 Jan. 1996  | Royal Oak                                       | Meo DuLong  | Obituary of Joseph Leo "Cy" DuLong, <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> clipping.                      |
| July 1999     | Madison<br>Heights,<br>Oakland Co.,<br>Michigan | Meo Dulong  | Obituary of Delores M. (DuLong) Whitelam, <i>Daily Mining Gazette</i> , clipping.              |

A few points to consider:

- Unless otherwise indicated, all these events occurred in Houghton Co., Michigan, in the Copper Country.
- The surname DuLong is seen in these records as Dulong, DuLong, and Du Long. My father always told me to spell the name as DuLong, but I have noticed he sometimes singed using Dulong. In Québec the surname is most often seen as Dulong. In proper French, if indeed the L is to be capitalized, then Du Long with a space would be appropriate. Richard Dulong, the first of our name in New France, spelled his surname as du Long. I follow my father’s advice and use DuLong.
- Notice that the baptism given names of Meo’s children were not the names that they eventually went by in life. Also, it was customary among French-Canadian families to give the name Joseph to the boys and Marie to the girls in honor of the holy family. You can see this custom in some of the baptism records. As adults, Joseph and Marie was dropped.
- One might wonder if Meo was just a proper name and not a nickname at all. I have been unable to find it listed in any book of given names I have consulted.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, there is no Saint Meo and the Catholic church was not fond of baptizing children with names other than those of a saint.<sup>6</sup> Meo can be a nickname for the Italian version of Bartholomew, that is, Bartolomeo, but in French the name would be Barthélemy and not lend itself to being corrupted as Meo. Another possibility is that it is a corruption of Romeo, a name used in French Canada. However, I have seen no evidence for that name being associated with Meo.

The frequency distribution of the names for Meo are found in the following table:

| Given Name | Number | Percentage |
|------------|--------|------------|
| Eldage Meo | 1      | 1.8        |
| Emil       | 2      | 3.6        |
| Emilio     | 1      | 1.8        |
| Mayo       | 4      | 7.3        |
| Meo        | 35     | 63.6       |
| Meo E.     | 1      | 1.8        |
| Meo Eldage | 2      | 3.6        |
| Meor       | 1      | 1.8        |
| Mileo      | 1      | 1.8        |
| Milio      | 3      | 5.4        |

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<sup>5</sup> For this report I consulted several naming books: *Les Prénoms: Comment les choisir? Leurs significations* (Montréal: Presses Sélect Ltée., 1978; Lareina Rule, *Name Your Baby* (New York: Bantam Books, 1973 reprint); and Leslie Dunkling and William Gosling, *The New Dictionary of Baby Names* (New York: Signet, 1983).

<sup>6</sup> Code of Canon Law, Book IV. Function of the Church, Part I. The Sacraments, Title I, Baptism, Can. 855 “Parents, sponsors, and the pastor are to take care that a name foreign to Christian sensibility is not given.” See: [http://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic\\_lib4-cann834-878\\_en.html#TITLE\\_I](http://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib4-cann834-878_en.html#TITLE_I). (accessed 3 Apr. 2020). Meo would be considered an unusual name for a Catholic child to receive.

|              |    |       |
|--------------|----|-------|
| Milo         | 1  | 1.8   |
| Mio          | 1  | 1.8   |
| Neo          | 1  | 1.8   |
| William      | 1  | 1.8   |
| <b>Total</b> | 55 | 100.0 |

The table shows that about 64 percent of the time his name appears he went by Meo. If you add the near variations of Meo (Eldage Meo, Mayo, Meo E., Meor, Mio, and Neo), then the count rises to 84 percent. This analysis includes documents made out before and after his death.

Many years ago, when researched the baptism records of his children preserved at St. Paul Catholic church in Calumet, I noticed that overtime his name was recorded as Emil then Milio or Mileo and finally as Meo. Furthermore, at his marriage he is recorded with the Spanish version of Emil, namely Emilio. From these facts I deduced that his given name must have been Emil or Emile in French and that over time this was corrupted to become the nickname Meo.

Likewise, I believed that Eldage was indeed his middle name and a corruption of the French name Eldège or Aldège.<sup>7</sup> I suspected that he Americanized it to Eldred when he named his eldest son. Therefore, I concluded that his name must have been Emile Eldred with a nickname of Meo, hence the Emile Eldred “Meo” DuLong. I shared this naming pattern with some cousins and over the years it has spread online. Nevertheless, in my notes in RootsMagic database, I see I stated: “Please understand that this is a compromise that will have to surrender to better documentation if it is ever found.”

Unfortunately, given the lack of a birth or baptism record for Meo I am unable confirm his given name at birth. Should any of my cousins have evidence of his given name that I have not seen please contact me with this data and I will adjust this report.<sup>8</sup>

**Conclusion:** I think the best way to record my grandfather’s name in any genealogy is simply Meo DuLong. This is the name he is most often found under, the name he used for his signature, and the name his children most often used for him. Lastly, his tombstone in Lakeview Cemetery near Calumet reads simply: “Meo 1871-1926.” Recording his name as Emile Eldred “Meo” DuLong is going beyond the available evidence, he was just Meo DuLong.

Now you should justifiably believe that I will go through my webpages and my RootsMagic genealogy database and modify all instances of Emile Eldred “Meo” and change it to just Meo. However, I must warn you that I am notoriously slow at updating my webpages and RootsMagic. I am simply not a good data entry clerk. I would rather write a report like this then spend hours repairing my data.

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<sup>7</sup> A search for the name Eldege reveals 98 entries in the La France database at <http://www.genealogiequebec.com> which covers Québec records from 1621-1918. There are no hits for the name Meo, but interestingly, it maps to the name Romeo of which there are 1,545 hits.

<sup>8</sup> My email address is [dulongj@habitant.org](mailto:dulongj@habitant.org).