

In attempts to understand historical groups that were not well documented internally, historians often rely on contemporary outsider sources in relation to such groups. In colonial America, the community that arose between French and indigenous Americans created a unique cultural dynamic. In the North American French colonies, it was common for French men to marry indigenous women which established a culture of individuals of both First Nation and French descent. Due to ties to both cultures, these individuals were often classified as either European or First Nation. This profiling was on display in a piracy trial in Boston 1726. The five men on trial were members of the Mi'kmaq tribe but they were also of French descent. Since the trial was held in Boston on British soil, the men's ancestry played a significant aspect in how they were depicted. Despite all of the men sharing a common background and upbringing, three men were described as savage Indians, while the other two were considered French and, therefore, more respectable. The piracy trial provided valuable insight on how descendants of native and European cultures were viewed by outsiders as well as the internal cultural dynamics of families of French and indigenous backgrounds.

While many ties between communities are well documented historically, there are times when the cause of established connections are simply overlooked. Mary Melanson Basset was an Acadian woman who moved to Boston early on in life before eventually marrying merchant David Basset. Her religious faith and connection to the Huguenots of Boston allowed the Bassets to partake in the expansion of Atlantic trade from the perspective of the Huguenot merchant community in Boston. Mary also acted as a tie between the Huguenots and the recently established, growing Acadian population. Despite the colony's consistent shift between French and British rule, Acadia maintained trade with Massachusetts, which allowed for a flow of Acadian immigration, especially into Boston. This population assimilated into the prospering

trade-society of the Atlantic coast. The Huguenots also were melding into Massachusetts' culture in order to escape religious persecution in France. Mary Basset was a bridge between these two new aspects of Bostonian culture. As a merchant's wife and a merchant herself, Mary was able to benefit her family by expanding her trade ties and networking capabilities due to her various connections to the Acadian and Huguenot communities.