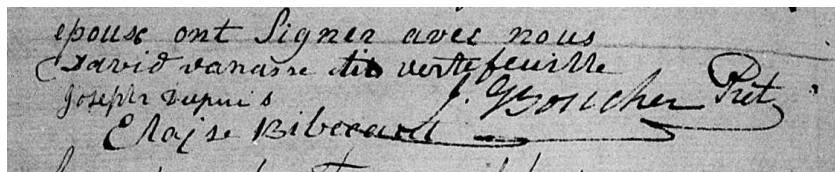


**A Hidden Gem Not Mentioned in the Genealogical Indexes:
My Great-Grandmother Éloïse BIBEAU's Reputation in her Community**
Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, FCHSM member

Éloïse BIBEAU (Pierre & Christine Labonne): Born and baptized 22 February 1825¹ at St-Michel-de-Yamaska. Married 21 February 1843² in St-Guillaume-d'Upton, Québec, Canada, for 55 years. Died 22, buried 24 of September 1898³ in St-Guillaume-d'Upton, at age 73; 1861 Census 36 years old; 56 in 1881 Census. Monument in St-Guillaume-d'Upton gives age at death as 75; her burial record says 74.

Spouse: **Joseph DUPUIS** (Joseph & Théotiste Vanasse): Born and baptized 4 February 1821⁴ at St-Joseph, Maskinongé, Québec, Canada. Died 15 April 1908⁵ in St-Guillaume-d'Upton at age 87, said to be 86, buried the 20th; 1861 Census, 38 years old; one-story house of wood, 40 *arpents* of land; 59 in 1881 Census, occupation: farmer. He was later also a business man and owned a horse racing track. Fourteen children, eleven boys, three girls. Son **Édouard Dupuis**, my maternal grandfather, born 12, baptized as *Édouard Alfred* on 13 February 1855 St-Guillaume-d'Upton.⁶

The above presents some of the “facts” about my mother’s paternal grandmother Éloïse Bibeau and her husband and family; but the places and the names and dates are, in themselves, so cold. (Be honest, now. Did you read every single word?) It is true that from these details I can judge that this great-grandmother must have enjoyed good health to have given birth to fourteen children (twelve of whom married and one who did not marry but survived into his eighties). She did not die until the age of 73, my present age. Her husband, Joseph Dupuis, experienced an even longer life. Deceased in 1908, Grandfather Dupuis would have known my mother, the youngest of her family, born in 1898. Mom had memories of him and shared them with me, but she could not have personally known her paternal grandmother, who died when Mom was exactly five months old. What was Great-grandmother Éloïse like? She was able to sign her marriage record on 21 February 1843, one day before her eighteenth birthday.



Signatures of David Vanasse dit Vertefeuille, Joseph Dupuis, and Eloïse Bibeau at their 1843 marriage

What kind of character and reputation did she have? Only when I examined her original burial record did I get a sense of the woman she appears to have been. No index contains these details, so I was thrilled to read the following record of her burial in the small village of St-Guillaume-d'Upton, where she had also been married 55 years earlier.

¹ FamilySearch, accessed 17 Sep 2013, Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979 > [Saint-Michel-d'Yamaska](#) > Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1809-1829 > image 419 of 616. Hereafter FamilySearch.

² FamilySearch, accessed 17 Sep 2013, [Saint-Guillaume-d'Upton](#) > Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1835-1857 > images 83-84 of 530. Image of signatures from 84.

³ FamilySearch, accessed 17 Sep 2013, [Saint-Guillaume-d'Upton](#) > Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1888-1900 > images 728-729 of 897.

⁴ FamilySearch, accessed 17 Sep 2013, Maskinongé > Saint-Joseph > Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1819-1835 > image 64 of 728.

⁵ Ancestry.com. Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967, [St-Guillaume-d'Upton](#), Québec, 1908, burial Joseph Dupuis, image 14 of 45.

⁶ FamilySearch, accessed 17 Sep 2013, [Saint-Guillaume-d'Upton](#) > Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1835-1857 > image 421 of 530.

S. 57
 Eloïse Bibeau
 Le vingt-quatre Septembre mil huit cent
 quatre-vingt-dix huit, nous Soussigné, vicaire
 de St François du Lac, avons inhume dans
 le cimetière de cette paroisse le corps de
 Eloïse Bibeau, épouse légitime de Joseph Dupuis,

[Side margin: S. 57, Eloïse Bibeau]

Le vingt-quatre Septembre mil huit cent
 quatre-vingt-dix huit, nous Soussigné, vicaire
 de St François du Lac, avons inhume dans
 le cimetire de cette paroisse le corps de
 Eloïse Bibeau, épouse légitime de Joseph Dupuis,

Congrès, de cette paroisse, décédé l'avant
 Veille, en cette paroisse, à l'âge de soixante
 quatorze ans. Présents à l'inhumation Joseph
 Dupuis, Edouard Dupuis, Adolphe Dupuis,
 Guillaume Dupuis, tous fils de la défunte,
 et tous soussignés; étaient aussi présents
 Joseph Blais, ptre, curé, Eli Blais ptre, et
 J. B. Durocher, ptre, tous trois soussignés;
 étaient encore présents un bon nombre
 d'autres parents, les Freres du Sacre-Coeur,
 et leurs élèves les Soeurs de l'Assomption
 avec leurs élèves. Lecture faite
 Joseph Dupuis
 Edouard Dupuis
 Adolphe Dupuis
 Guillaume Dupuis
 J. B. Blais, ptre
 E. Blais ptre
 J. B. Durocher, ptre
 Thomas J. J. J.

bourgeois de cette paroisse, décédée l'avant
 Veille, en cette paroisse, à l'âge de soixante
 quatorze ans. Présents à l'inhumation Joseph
 Dupuis, Edouard Dupuis, Adolph Dupuis,
 Guillaume Dupuis, tous fils de la defunte,
 et tous soussignés; étaient aussi présents
 Joseph Blois ptre curé, Eli Blais ptre, et
 J. B. Durocher ptre, tous trois soussignés,
 étaient encore presents un bon nombre
 d'autre parents, les Freres du Sacre Coeur,
 et leurs élèves, les Soeurs de l'Assomption
 avec leurs élèves. Lecture faite.

[signed] Joseph Dupuis
 Edouard Dupuis
 Adolph Dupuis
 Guillaume Dupuis
 Joseph Blais ptre
 E. Blais ptre
 J. B. Durocher ptre

Thomas Ferron, ptre

Translation: The twenty-fourth of September eighteen hundred ninety-eight, we the undersigned, vicar of St. François du Lac, have buried in the cemetery of this parish the body of **Eloïse Bibeau**, legitimate wife of **Joseph Dupuis**, bourgeois of this parish, deceased the day before yesterday, in this parish, at the age of seventy-four. Present at the burial were Joseph Dupuis, Edouard Dupuis, Adolph Dupuis, Guillaume Dupuis, all sons of the deceased, and all signed below; were also present Joseph Blais, priest pastor, Eli Blais, priest, and J. B. Durocher, priest, all three signed below, in addition, were present a good number of other relatives, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart [Frères du Sacre Coeur], and their students, the Sisters of the Assumption [Soeurs de l'Assomption] with their students. A reading [of the record] was made.

[signed] *Joseph Dupuis*
Edouard Dupuis [my grandfather]
Adolph Dupuis
Guillaume Dupuis
Joseph Blais priest
E. Blais priest
J. B. Durocher priest
Thomas Ferron, priest

It is unusual to have more than one priest present and signing a burial or other religious record and a priest from another parish, in this case, St-François-du-Lac. Reverend Father Thomas Ferron, O. M. I., from this nearby parish, had a reputation for being a healer and a saintly man, according to Thomas Charland.⁷ Father Joseph Blais was then the pastor at St-Guillaume; Father Jean Baptiste Durocher was the vicar; and Father Élie Blais had served there as vicar from October to the end of December of 1879, 19 years earlier.



[Tombstone of Éloïse Bibeau and her son Amable in the cemetery of St-Guillaume-d'Upton. This St-Guillaume church was blessed in 1862. Photos by author in 1995.]

My great-grandfather Joseph Dupuis had been elected as a *syndic* (parish overseer) on 15 October 1858. Pierre Bibeau, great-grandmother's father, served as one of the first three *marguilliers* (parish councilmen); he was elected in 1835.⁸ Pierre Bibeau had been one of the original inhabitants of the area. The family thus had deep roots in the parish. To have so many priests in attendance at a funeral Mass is, even so, a distinct honor, one I do not see often in parish records.



⁷ Thomas-M. Charland, *Histoire de Saint-François-du-Lac* (Ottawa: Collège Dominicain, 1942), 335.

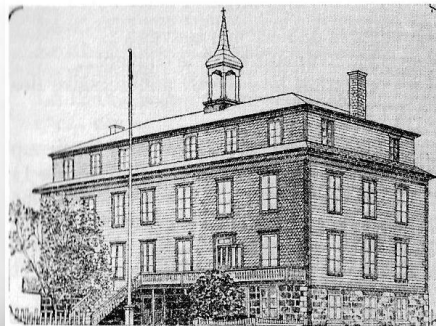
⁸ These details about the priests and the Dupuis and Bibeau families from René Desrosiers, *Saint-Guillaume d'Upton 1833-1983, 150 Ans D'Histoire*, (Les Éditions de la Société Historique du Centre du Québec, 1983), 109, 112, 105, 98, 81. I have my mother's certificate of graduation.

The presence of “the Brothers of the Sacred Heart [Frères du Sacre Coeur], and their students” and “the Sisters of the Assumption [Soeurs de l’Assomption] with their students” testifies to the respect my great-grandmother received from the two religious educational institutions in the village. The brothers taught boys; the sisters taught girls. My mother attended the convent staffed by the Sisters of the Assumption. She was graduated from there 1 August 1915 with a degree that certified her competence to teach in the schools of the province. Her service in the one-room schoolhouses continued until 1924. Four of her surviving sisters also taught, Aunt Alma, into the 1940s.

The impressive *Collège* building where the boys received instruction is to this day directly across the street from the home where my aunts Corinne and Alma Dupuis, who never married, resided before and after their widowed father died, a place I visited often, beginning in 1945 and most recently in 1995 with my brother.



Le collège St-Joseph.



Le couvent de 1878.

Photos from Desrosiers, *Saint-Guillaume d'Upton 1833-1983*, 254, 249. This convent was rebuilt in 1906 after a fire.

Education has always been a significant value in both my mother’s and my father’s families.⁹ It is not surprising, then, that I, too, became a teacher.

When my only brother, Lucien (affectionately called Lou) died in 2010 at the age of 81, I thought of Great-grandmother Éloïse Bibeau’s death record. At All Saints Church in Detroit, three priest-friends of my brother honored him by concelebrating his funeral Mass. Present were other religious, many family members, friends, and parishioners, including some “young’uns” my brother had befriended before he was no longer able to serve as a lay deacon at All Saints. I thought then that Great-grandmother must have been much like my brother and sensed that I knew her personally, at last, because I knew the kind of man my brother had been. I again felt grateful for the attitudes and heritage Great-grandmother Éloïse transmitted to her family, and they to me and my family.

⁹ My father and some of his brothers had even been sent to St-Hyacinthe, about 100 miles from their home in Val David, to be taught at the seminary there staffed by the *Frères du Sacre Coeur*, although none entered religious orders. One Boivin sister, Alexina, taught in the province’s schools before and after her marriage, and another sister, Marguerite Poxeline Boivin, born on 5 February 1892, taught the French community in Manchester and Nashua, New Hampshire, in New England, for six years. A Holy Cross sister, *Soeur Marie de Saint-Florian*, she had entered the convent in Saint-Laurent on 13 September 1910. These details are from my Family History.



1915, Anna Dupuis (top row at the far right) and students at the convent

On this 115th anniversary of your death, Great-grandmother, I honor you. 22 September 2013

FRANÇOIS BIBEAU Lineage of Suzanne Boivin Sommerville

I	François Bibeau* (Jacques & Jeanne Savigneau)	17 Nov 1682 Québec City	Louise Énard (Simon & Marie Loubier)
II	Nicolas Bibeau	1 Feb 1717 Île Dupas	Marguerite Pelletier (Michel & Françoise Meneux)
III	Charles Joachim Bibeau	18 Feb 1765 Sorel	Marie Catherine Hus <i>dite</i> Cournoyer (Paul & Antoinette Petit <i>dite</i> Bruno)
IV	Pierre Bibeau	13 Feb 1786 Ste-Geneviève-de-Berthier Berthierville, Québec	Marie Anne Henault <i>dite</i> Enos, <i>dite</i> Canada (Simon & Catherine Desorcy)
V	Pierre Bibeau	7 Apr 1823 St-Michel-de-Yamaska	Christine Labonne (Joseph & Marguerite Le Maître <i>dite</i> Desaulniers)
VI	Eloise Bibeau	21 Feb 1843 St-Guillaume-d'Upton	Joseph Dupuis (Joseph Dupuis & Theotiste Vanasse)
VII	Marie Rose Jarret <i>dite</i> Beauregard (Louis & Zoé Meunier <i>dite</i> Lapiere)	20 Feb 1882 St-Hugues-de-Bagot	Édouard Dupuis
VII	Jean Boivin (Joseph & Paulexine Benoît)	25 Dec 1925 Ottawa, Ontario	Anna Dupuis

*François Bibeau was a voyageur for about ten years. In 1669 he traveled with Nicolas Perrot to the *pays d'en haut* or Country Up River from the mother colony.¹⁰ On 14 June 1671,¹¹ he signed, with Louis Jolliet and Nicolas Perrot, the document claiming possession of Sault-Sainte-Marie for the French. Louise Énard was his second wife, his first being Jeanne Chalifou, by whom he had one daughter, Marie. Nine children were born in his second marriage. Fichier Origine shows Louise Énard's baptismal record: ENARD / ESNARD, Louise 241457 born 6, baptized 8 October 1668, La Rochelle (St-Jean-du-Pérot) (Charente-Maritime) 17300, researchers Archange Godbout; Lise Dandonneau. Louise Énard traveled to New France as a baby with her parents and her sister, Marie, in 1670.

Baptême
Le Lundy 8^e octobre 1668 a esté baptisée Louise fille de Simon
Énard M^r Sautier et de Marie Boubier conjoints, née le 6^e du
Mourant. Le témoin Michel Castelle, M^r Sautier et marraine
Louise Boubier. Le Père et la marraine n'ont fait signe, de se
signer par moy soussigné.
M^r de la Roche Curé de Saint-Jean du Pérot
soussigné

I descend from **François Dupuis dit Jolicoeur**, one of the soldiers in the Troops of the Marine who were sent, beginning in 1683, to defend New France from the renewed attacks by the Iroquois and the threats posed by England. He decided to remain in New France and married **Marguerite Banliac**, a daughter of a Carignan Regiment soldier, François Banliac *dit* Lamontagne.

Direct Descendants of François Dupuis

- 1 François Dupuis
+ Philippe David Father: Mother:
- 2 **François Dupuis dit Jolicoeur** b: 08 December 1670 in St-Astier, France d: Abt. 1726
+ **Marguerite Banliac** Father: François Banliac *dit* Lamontagne Mother: Marie
Angélique Pelletier b: 17 April 1681 in Sorel m: **10 November 1698 in Champlain** d: 18
January 1756 in Trois-Rivières
- 3 **Charle Dupuis** b: 31 July 1699 in Rivière-du-Loup d: 21 March 1754 in Trois-
Rivières
+ **Ursule Sicard** Father: Jean Sicard de Carufel Mother: Geneviève Raté
b: 18 September 1695 in St-Pierre, Isle Orléans m: **24 May 1720 in Maskinongé** d: 19
January 1770
- 4 **Charles Dupuis** b: 1721 d: 1761 in Maskinongé
+ **Marie Josèphite Bruneau** Father: Joseph Petit *dit* Bruneau Mother: Marie-Jeanne
Brisset b: 11 June 1715 in Rivière-du-Loup (now Louiseville) m: **03 July 1745 in Maskinongé**
d: 1761 in Maskinongé

¹⁰ Québec and Montréal were DOWN river while the accessible territory by rivers and lakes was UP river. It has been very confusing to overcome the tendency to think in terms of a modern map with North at the top, therefore up, and to recall that down meant up and up meant down!

¹¹Michel Langlois, *Dictionnaire Biographique des Ancêtres Québécois* (1608-1700) Tome I, Lettres A à C (Sillery: La Maison des Ancêtres & Les Archives Nationales du Québec, 1998), 186.

- 5 **Pierre Charles Dupuis** b: 02 November 1749 in Maskinongé d: 16 October 1814 in Maskinongé
 + **Françoise Baril dite Ducheny** Father: Joseph Baril *dit* Duchesny Mother: Geneviève Courtois
 b: 16 July 1753 in Ste-Anne-de-LaPérade **m: 15 November 1779 in Rivière-du-Loup**
 d: 30 March 1844 in Maskinongé
- 6 **Joseph Dupuis** b: 20 October 1786 in Maskinongé
 + **Théotiste Vannasse** Father: François Vannasse Mother: Angélique Marchand
 b: 04 December 1791 in Maskinongé **m: 08 January 1810 in Maskinongé**
- 7 **Joseph Dupuis** b: 05 February 1821 in Maskinongé, Québec d: 15 April 1908 in Saint-Guillaume-d'Upton, Québec
 + **Éloïse Bibeau** Father: Pierre Bibeau Mother: Christine LaBonne b: 22 February 1825 in St-Michel-de-Yamaska
 m: 21 February 1843 in Saint-Guillaume-d'Upton, Québec
 d: 22 September 1898 in Saint-Guillaume-d'Upton, Québec
- 8 **Édouard Alfred Dupuis** b: 12 February 1855 in St-Guillaume-d'Upton, Québec d: 14 January 1929 in St-Guillaume d'Upton, Québec
 + **Marie Rose Jarret dite Beauregard** Father: Louis Jarret *dit* Beauregard Mother: Zoé Meunier *dite* Lapierre
 b: 20 January 1859 in St-Charles, Québec **m: 20 February 1882 in Saint-Hughes, Québec**
 d: 05 February 1908 in St-Guillaume-d'Upton, Québec
- 9 **Anna Dupuis** b: 22 April 1898 in St-Guillaume-d'Upton, Québec d: 29 September 1977 in Detroit, Michigan
 + **Jean Boivin** Father: Joseph Boivin Mother: Paulexine Benoît b: 10 April 1903 in Val David, Québec
 m: 25 December 1925 in Ottawa, Ontario d: 10 September 1975 in Detroit, Michigan
- 10 **Suzanne Boivin** m: **George Sommerville**