

A Tribute to the Deerfield Captives

Part I

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Acknowledgments: I would like to thank Gail Moreau-DesHarnais for having the foresight to forward a draft of my article to Suzanne Sommerville for review. Suzanne has researched some of the Deerfield captives and was kind enough to review the article and suggested some improvements which have been incorporated into this article. Specific citations will be found in the text or footnotes.

In the pre dawn hours of 29 February 1704 Old Style (O.S.), approximately 50 French Canadians under Jean-Baptiste Hertel de Rouville, and 200+ Abenakis, Hurons, Kahnawake Mohawks, Pennacooks and Iroquois of the Mountain raided Deerfield, Massachusetts. During the raid forty-nine (49) were killed and one hundred and twelve (112) were captured. Although twenty-one (21) were killed after the raid, the remaining captives were brought to Québec.¹

Suzanne's first suggestion was that I should explain to the reader that at the time of the raid, New France used the Gregorian Calendar New Style (N.S.), while England and the American Colonies used the Julian Calendar (O.S.). Pope Gregory XIII issued a papal bull in March 1582 which fixed the value of a year at 365.2422 days versus the Julian calendar's 365.25 days. In order to correct the calendar and to bring the vernal equinox back to March 21, the feast of St. Francis (October 5) was to become October 15, thus omitting 10 days from the year. The papal bull also established rules for calculating the date for Easter and established the rule that no centennial year would be a leap year unless it was exactly divisible by 400. The Gregorian Calendar also firmly established January 1 as the beginning of the year. In contrast, in Britain the year had first begun on December 25, and from the 14th century onward, on March 25.

Unfortunately for genealogists and historians, the Gregorian Calendar was not universally accepted and adoption of the calendar took place on a piecemeal basis. France, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain adopted the Gregorian or New Style calendar in 1582. The German Roman Catholic States, Belgium and part of the Netherlands followed the calendar starting in 1584. Britain and the American Colonies did not adopt the New Style calendar until 1752.² As a result, according to New France records, the Deerfield raid took place on March 11, 1704 (N.S.). The time gap in 1704 was eleven days. In this article, I have used the dates found in the sources that I consulted without making any attempt to convert them to the N.S. As a general rule, the dates that are based on New France records (Jetté & PRDH) will be in the N.S. and dates that are based on American Colonies' records will be in the O.S. Therefore, the important thing to keep in mind regarding the dates cited is the origin of the vital record, not necessarily where it was published. For example, *Fichier Origine* provides birthdates for some of the captives, but the dates are usually O.S. because they are based on an event that took place and was published in the American Colonies.

Descendants of the captives should refer to the Deerfield Descendant's section of Historic Deerfield's web site for details of the three reunion weekends planned for July 16-18, August 13-15, and September 3-5 (<http://www.deerfielddescendants.com>).

Due to space limitations, the following account of the Deerfield captives is limited to those captives who remained in Québec and were the parents of French Canadians or Native Americans. This article is certainly not the first that has been written about the captives, although it may be the first using the modern research available through PRDH online that has attempted to provide a genealogical account of all of the captives who remained in Québec and were the parents of French Canadians or Native Americans. Readers interested in individual captives should consult the PERSI database at

¹ Evan Haefeli & Kevin Sweeney. *Captors and Captives The 1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield*. University of Massachusetts Press: Amherst & Boston, 2003, pp. Front Inside Cover, 282-286.

² *Encyclopedia Britannica*, CD ROM edition 1994 - 2000.

<www.Ancestry.com>, the CD edition or printed editions found in many libraries.

Sarah Allen (Edward Allen, Jr. & Mercy Painter^{6,7}). Sarah was born 1 May 1692⁵ in Deerfield. She was baptized Marie Madeleine 30 May 1705 in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue⁸ and died 25 December 1764⁹ in Les Cèdres. Sarah married Guillaume Lalonde dit Lespérance on 27 April 1710¹ in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. Guillaume (Jean & Marie Brabant) was born 21 August 1684⁸ in Lachine and died 21 August 1752¹⁰ in Les Cèdres.

Children of Marie Madeleine Hélène (Sarah Allen) and Guillaume Lalonde
(Sources: Jetté, p. 635; PRDH #10633)

1. **Edouard** was born 6 May 1712 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. Edouard married Suzanne Sédillot on 24 January 1735 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. He married Marie Madeleine Messier on 9 February 1744, and Isabelle Decelles before 2 April 1752.
2. **Marie-Louise** was born 8 November 1713 in Pointe Claire. She died 24 October 1714 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.
3. **Louis** was born 30 August 1715 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. He married Marie Louise Picard on 7 February 1740 at Trois-Rivières.
4. **André** was born 9 April 1717 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. André married Marie Joséphe Diel on 7 April 1750 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.
5. **Albert** was born on 27 May 1719 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. He married Marie Angélique Monpetit dit Poitevin 7 February 1746 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.
6. **Marie-François** was born 2 July 1721 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. He married Elisabeth Marie Réaume 8 February 1745 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.
7. **Marie-Joséphe** was born 11 March 1724 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. She married Thomas Watier dit Lanoix 17 February 1749 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.
8. **Joseph-Marie** was born 19 November 1725 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. He married Marguerite Sarrazin (Depeltesu 10 January 1752 at Lachine.
9. **Marie Geneviève** was born 27 October 1727 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. She married Charles Lecompte dit Lafleur 6 May 1750 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.
10. **Guillaume** was born 19 June 1730 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. He married Marie-Charlotte (Charlotte Charle Marie) Bray 7 January 1754 at Les Cèdres.

¹ Fichier Origine, #206828 <<http://www.fichierorigine.com>>

² René Jetté, *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines à 1730*. Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal. Montréal, 1963, p. 635, "Marie" Painter.

³ Fichier Origine, #206828.

⁴ Jetté, p. 635.

⁵ PRDH Online, #307340.

⁶ Jetté, p. 635.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ PRDH, #307248.

11. **Marie Anne** was born 31 July 1732 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. She married François Maurice Berault iPoltovin before 23 September 1752.

12. **Jean Baptiste** was born 15 June 1734 at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.

John Carter (Chartier in Québec) (Samuel & Hannah Wheeler or Weller¹¹). John was born 22 September 1695¹² in Deerfield. He was naturalized in 1710¹³. In 1714, John told Rev. John Williams and Colonel Stoddard that he wanted to return to New England so much that he would travel by land (in contrast to most of the redeemed captives who traveled as a group by ship). When he was brought before Gov. Vaudreuil, however, he changed his mind so many times that when the commissioners sailed for New England, John stayed behind.¹⁴

John/Jean married **Marie Courtemanche** 29 October 1718¹⁵ in Rivière-des-Prairies. Marie (Antoine & Marguerite Vaudry¹⁶) was baptized 13 February 1691 in Montréal.¹⁷ John was baptized Jean Joseph 31 January 1724¹⁸ in Rivière-des-Prairies.

Prior to his marriage, John was employed by the Sulpicians. He spent the remainder of his life acquiring land, developing the properties, selling them or passing them on to his children, and developing business interests. The Sulpicians granted John his first piece of property in December 1712 at Rivière-des-Prairies. This grant was made with a dual purpose: to keep a captive in New France and to develop part of the Sulpician seigneurie. In 1725, he received a grant in the Richelieu valley which was held for about five years. In 1732 and 1734, he acquired property in Contrecoeur and sold part of his property in Rivière-des-Prairies. In the 1750s John acquired land in Longueuil which extended to the shores of Lake Champlain. During the Seven Years War, he withdrew from his southern properties at La Colle or Beaujeau and returned to Longueuil where his wife died. During the 1760s he acquired additional lands in Longueuil, before he returned his family to his family seat at St. Antoine near Chambly, where he continued his investments.¹⁹

John's business ventures from 1730-1750, included fur trading and lumbering. In 1742, he signed on briefly as a voyageur for Paul Marin de la Malgue, the future Commander at Green Bay, Wisconsin. In 1746, he formed a partnership with Françoise Louise de Ramezay (daughter of the former governor of Montréal). They built a sawmill at a creek on the Richelieu River which is still known as *ruisseau Chartier* (Carter's Creek).²⁰

John's father, Samuel, died in 1728. Samuel's will left 500 pounds to John if he would leave Québec to live permanently in New England. In the case of his refusal, John was left a nominal sum. Although John did not return to live in New England, he did not forget his family in New England. He visited his brother Ebenezer in 1736, by way of Albany, where a guide was hired to accompany John on his journey. During a 1751 trip to New England, John stopped at Fort Massachusetts where he aroused the suspicions of Captain Ephraim Williams, who wrote a letter to Lieutenant Governor Phipps, which stated that John had

¹¹ Fichier Origine #404272.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Emma Lewis Coleman, *New England Captives Carried to Canada*. The Southworth Press: Portland, Maine, 1925, vol. 2, p. 71.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Jetté, p. 236.

¹⁶ Jetté, pp. 236, 284.

¹⁷ Jetté, p. 284.

¹⁸ Jetté, p. 236.

¹⁹ *Captors and Captives*, pp. 217, 248-249.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

been sent to New England as a spy.²¹

A death for Jean Joseph Chartier cannot be found in PRDH, although Coleman states that he died 4 August 1772 and was buried in St. Antoine-sur-Richelieu.²² The only identifying information for this person in PRDH is that his name was Jeen and he was 74. Although the age does not match John's known birth date, ages given in parish registers are notoriously inaccurate. The certificate could be John's as he was buried in the same parish as his wife.²³ Marie died 18 November 1760²⁴ in St. Antoine-sur-Richelieu.

Children of Jean Joseph Chartier (John Carter) and Marie Courtemanche
(Sources: Jetté, p. 236 & PRDH #12956)

1. **Joseph** was born 21 August 1719 at Rivière-des-Prairies. He married Marie-Ursule Hubert on 7 June 1751 at Contrecoeur.
2. **Marie-Renée** was born 5 March 1721 at Rivière-des-Prairies. She died 17 May 1722 at Rivière-des-Prairies.
3. **Marie** was born 13 December 1723 at Rivière-des-Prairies. She married Pierre Paul Hubert on 3 August 1750 at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu.
4. **Jacques** was born 5 February 1725 at Rivière-des-Prairies. He died 18 March 1750 at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu.
5. **Jean-Baptiste** was born 1 May 1726 at Rivière-des-Prairies. He married Marie-Angélique Marguerite Roy 5 March 1753 at St-Sulpice.
6. **Pierre** was born 3 August 1727 at Rivière-des-Prairies. He died 6 August 1727 at Rivière-des-Prairies.
7. **Marie-Josèphe** was born 8 September 1729 at Contrecoeur. She died 7 February 1750 at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu.
8. **Pélagie** was born 10 May 1731 at Contrecoeur. She married Claude Hubert on 30 September 1748 at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu and died 14 May 1749 at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu.
9. **Théodore** was born 13 November 1734 at Rivière-des-Prairies. He married Marie-Thérèse Loupe Rochelet 12 January 1756 at Chambly.

Mercy Carter (Samuel & Hannah Wheeler or Weller²⁵). Mercy was born about 1694²⁶. Her captors took her to the Mohawk Village of Kahnawake where she married a Native American from the village.²⁷ Mercy had several sons and at least one daughter.²⁸ When Mercy's father died in 1728, his will directed that Mercy should be given 100 pounds if she and her Native American family left New France to live in Norwalk

²¹ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 73.

²² Coleman, vol. 2, p. 71.

²³ PRDH, #379264.

²⁴ PRDH, #331657.

²⁵ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 69.

²⁶ Haeffel and Sweeney, p. 283.

²⁷ Haeffel and Sweeney, p. 223.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

for a period of ten years.²⁸ Two of Mercy's sons visited Deerfield, and in 1751 they were issued a letter to help them on their way to Connecticut to visit their uncle Ebenezer.²⁹ *The Ransom of Mercy Carter* by Caroline B. Cooney is a fictional account of her life written for children in grades six-eight.

It is difficult to provide an accurate and comprehensive list of the husbands or descendants of Mercy Carter, Mary Fields, Mary Harris, Joanna Kellogg or Eunice Williams because they all married Native Americans, possibly members of the Mohawk tribe, and lived in Kahnawake. Unfortunately, with the exception of three baptisms prior to 1735, the registers for Sault-St-Louis (Kahnawake) prior to the year 1735 have not survived.³⁰

Elisabeth Corse/Casse (James Corse & Elizabeth Catlin³¹). Elisabeth was born 16 February 1696³² in Deerfield. She was baptized 7 July 1705 in Montréal³³ and became a citizen of New France in 1706.³⁴ Prior to her marriage, she had an *enfant naturel* by an unknown father on 12 April 1712.³⁵

Elisabeth lived with the family of Pierre Roy and Catherine Ducharme at the time of her baptism in 1705. Catherine Ducharme was Elisabeth's godmother. Elisabeth may have continued to live with them until her marriage to Jean Dumontet dit Lagrandeur on 6 November 1712 in Laprairie.³⁶ Pierre Roy and his son Jacques, who had married Elisabeth's cousin, Marthe Marguerite French, the previous year, were two of the witnesses at the marriage.³⁷ The elder Pierre was the father of Pierre Roy who lived in Detroit and married Marguerite OusbanKiKoué.³⁸ According to Jetté, Jean Dumontet (Jean & Georgette Forand) was born in England.³⁹

In 1716, Elisabeth's brothers, Ebenezer and James, reached an agreement regarding the estate of their mother and maternal grandfather, Catlin. They acknowledged Elisabeth's captivity and the fact that she was entitled to a reasonable share of the estate, agreeing to pay her slightly over 17 pounds on the demand of her agent.⁴⁰

Jean Dumontet died 5 May 1729 in the village of LaTortue.⁴¹ Descendants should also refer to John DuLong's web page (www.habitant.org) for his research on the origins of the Corse and Dumontet families. After Jean's death, Elisabeth married Pierre Monet on 16 January 1730 in Laprairie.⁴² Pierre (François & Marie Dumas) was baptized 19 March 1704 at Laprairie.⁴³

Captors and Captives suggests that a permanent bond may have been formed between Elisabeth

²⁸ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 72.

²⁹ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 70.

³⁰ John Demos. *The Unredeemed Captive*. Vintage Books: New York, 1995, p. 157.

³¹ PRDH, parish statistics.

³² Jetté, p. 384. Her name is spelled *Casse* in the French records. Suzanne Sommerville reports that the priest recording her 7 July 1705 baptism cites her birth as both 5 February (O.S.) and 16 February 1696 (N.S.) as part of the text.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 74.

³⁶ Jetté, p. 384.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 74.

³⁹ Jetté, 1018.

⁴⁰ Jetté, p. 384.

⁴¹ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 76.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ Jetté, p. 823.

⁴⁴ Jetté, p. 822.

and one of her French captors. The descendants of François Monet believe that he participated in the raid on Deerfield. François' son, Pierre, was Elisabeth's second husband.⁴⁶

In 1730, James Corse received a safe conduct to travel to New France ostensibly, "to recover her out of captivity".⁴⁷ One wonders what incentives James intended to offer a mother with five young children and a new husband to return to New England.

During his journey to recover Elisabeth, James kept a journal intending that the information in it might be useful in time of war. The journal was committed to the General Court and James received partial compensation for his journey.⁴⁸ Although the true purpose of his trip will never be known, it should be noted that James was a "noted hunter and scout" who served in the military through the end of the French and Indian wars in 1763.⁴⁹ Elisabeth died 30 January 1766 in Laprairie.⁵⁰

Children of **Elisabeth Casse (Corse) and Jean-Baptiste Dumontet dit Lagrandeur**
(Sources: Jetté, p. 394 & PRDH #11296)

1. **Marie-Elisabeth** was born 17 January 1715 at Laprairie. She died 22 January 1715 at Laprairie.
2. **Elisabeth Marie** was born 12 November 1717 at Laprairie. She married François Monet dit Lavardure 5 May 1732 at Laprairie.
3. **Antoine** was born 28 August 1720 at Laprairie. He married Marie-Marguerite Marier dit Ste. Marie 23 February 1745 at Laprairie. He married Marie-Françoise Bisailon 12 November 1759 at Laprairie.
4. **Pierre** was born 3 March 1722 at Laprairie.
5. **Jean-Baptiste** was born 27 June 1724 at Laprairie. He married Marie-Suzanne Charbonneau 23 November 1744 at Varennes. He married Marie-Josèphe Jetté 26 September 1753 at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu.
6. **Marie-Charlotte** was born 19 December 1725 at Laprairie. She married Richard Barre 5 November 1759 at Laprairie.
7. **Louis** was born 8 April 1727 at Laprairie. He died 11 August 1727 at Laprairie.
8. **Pélagie** was born 29 December 1728 at Laprairie. She died 2 May 1730 at Laprairie.

Marguerite Field (Sergent or Field in Jetté & PRDH) [Thomas & Mary Price (Praisie in Jetté⁵¹)]. Marguerite was born about 1699 in New England.⁵² Coleman believes that Marguerite may have been living with Mary Bennett Field (wife of Marguerite's father's cousin) after the death of her mother and was captured with her cousins, Mary and John Field.⁵³ Marguerite was probably her baptismal name, although her baptismal record cannot be found.

⁴⁶ Haefeli and Sweeney, p. 243.

⁴⁷ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 76.

⁴⁸ Coleman, vol. 2, p. 77.

⁴⁹ Haefeli and Sweeney, p. 285.

⁵⁰ PRDH, #370559.

⁵¹ Jetté, p. 1045.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ Coleman, Vol. 2, p. 79.

Marguerite married Jean Serre dit Léveillé on 7 June 1722 in Montréal.⁸⁴ Once again Jacques Roy appears at a wedding of one of the captives.⁸⁵ Jean (François & Marguerite Métayer) was born 7 February 1696 in Berson, Blaye, Bordeaux, Guyenne.⁸⁶ Jean was a soldier in the Company of Portneuf and a butcher.⁸⁷ The date of his death is not known.

Haeffel and Sweeney speculate that René Robineau de Portneuf (Jean Serré's commanding officer) may have ransomed Marguerite from the Abenakis. They point out that René had frequently fought alongside the Abenakis in raids against the English in Maine, and that René's father had helped establish the Abenaki village of Bécancour on his lands. They then suggest that René may have introduced Marguerite to his men.⁸⁸ Although it is possible that Robineau was involved in her ransom and her subsequent marriage, it is worth noting that there was an 18 year gap between the raid and her marriage.

Marguerite died 2 January 1741 and was buried in the cemetery of the poor in Montréal on January 3.⁸⁹ Although the cemetery had been set aside for the poor, after 1737, it was used for rich or poor, but retained its name.⁹⁰

Children of Marguerite Field and Jean Serré dit Léveillé
(Sources: Jetté, p. 1045 & PRDH)

1. Jean-Baptiste was born 12 April 1723 in Montréal.
2. Marguerite was born 28 July 1725 in Montréal. She married Jean Rambouillet dit Letarte 26 October 1750 in Québec. She married Etienne Domine 28 September 1752 in Québec.
3. Jean-Louis was born 22 December 1726 in Montréal. He died 13 July 1727 in Montréal.
4. Joseph was born 14 January 1728 in Montréal.
5. Pierre Théodore was born 21 March 1729 in Montréal and died in St-Laurent on 23 March 1730.
6. Jean-Louis was born 9 March 1730 in Montréal.
7. Ignace was born 28 April 1731 in Montréal. He died 6 May 1731 in Montréal.
8. Marie-Catherine was born 17 July 1732 in Montréal. She died 29 July 1732 in Montréal.
9. Barthélemy was born 24 August 1733 in Montréal and died there on 26 August 1733.
10. François was born on 15 September 1734 in Montréal and died there on 28 September 1734.
11. Marie-Josèphe-Amable was born 27 November 1735 in Montréal. She died 4 May 1737 in Montréal.
12. Marie-Josèphe was born 19 March 1737 in Montréal. She died 4 October 1737 in Montréal.
13. Madeleine was born 21 July 1738 in Montréal. She died 20 August 1738 in Montréal.
14. Marie-Josèphe was born 1 December 1739 in Montréal. She died 4 December 1739 in Montréal.

(To be continued.)

⁸⁴ Jetté, p. 1045.

⁸⁵ Coleman, Vol. 2, p. 79.

⁸⁶ Fichier Origine #414823.

⁸⁷ Jetté, p. 1045.

⁸⁸ Haeffel and Sweeney, p. 245.

⁸⁹ PRDH #152237. Curiously, her last name is given as *Franche* in the certificate.

⁹⁰ Coleman, Vol. 2, p. 80.