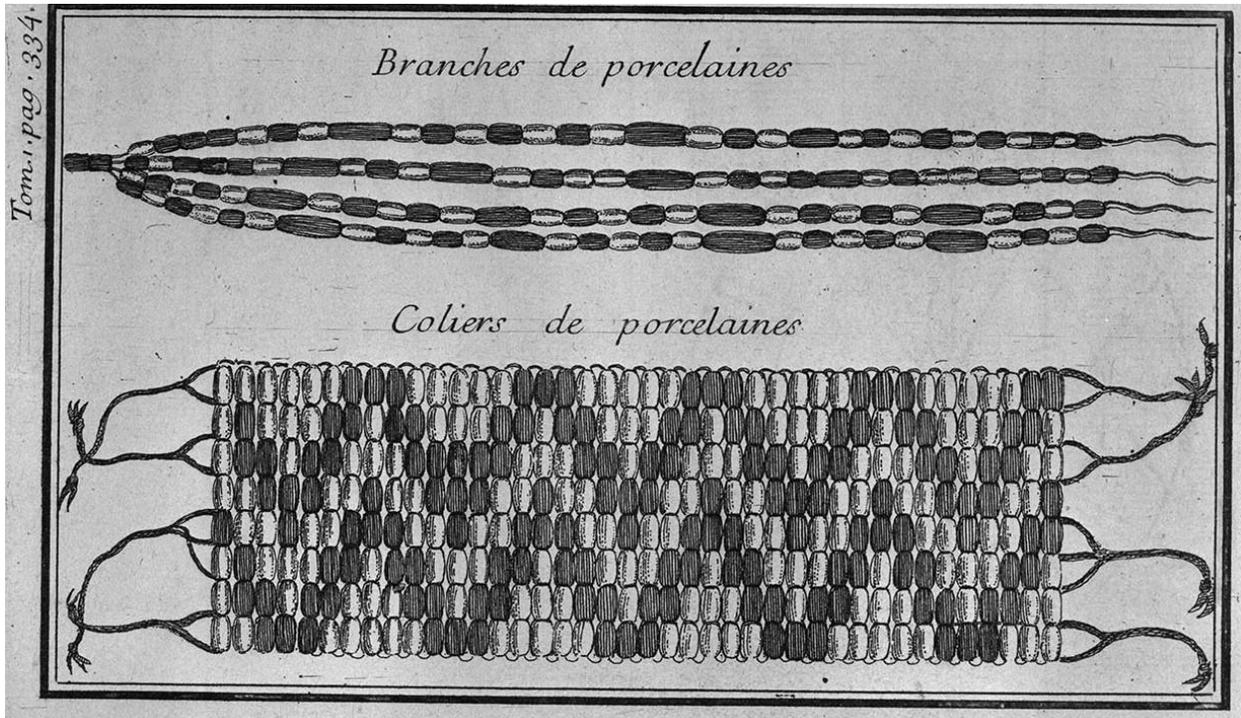


**Certificates, Memoires, and Other Official Documents Issued Between 1739 -1750 – Historical  
Background and Brief Timeline for the Detroit River Region**  
Diane Wolford Sheppard

**Historical Background**

- From the time of Champlain’s 1609 alliance with Algonquin, Huron, and Montagnais Warriors to defeat the Iroquois, New France has supported its Allies with French-Canadian officers and soldiers, with weapons and provisions in their expeditions against common enemies.
- These expeditions were often planned or discussed in conferences with Native leaders or chiefs. The conferences followed established protocols.
  - Native Americans presented a wampum belt for each of the points that they wanted to discuss with the representative from New France.
  - The Governor or Fort *Commandant* usually did not respond to the points raised by the Native Americans until the following day.
  - At the conclusion of the conference, the French-Canadian officials presented the Native-American leaders with gifts.
  - Interpreters translated the points made by the Native Americans, while a French-Canadian recorded the points made by each party during the conference.
  - Formal conferences and well as informal meetings often involved smoking tobacco.
- While the warriors were on their military campaigns, French Canadians often supplied their families with food and other provisions.
- If a warrior died during a military campaign, the French presented presents to his family after they returned to the fort or post. These ceremonies were known as “covering the dead,” an important part of Native-American culture. These ceremonies were also part of more formal conferences with the Native Americans.



La Potherie Illustration of a Wampum Collar and Wampum Belt – Courtesy of Library and Archives  
Canada – Mikan # 2953327

**Certificates, Memoires, and Other Official Documents Issued Between 1739 -1750 – Historical Background and Brief  
Timeline for the Detroit River Region**

Diane Wolford Sheppard - © 2015 – All Rights Reserved

During the period from 1739 – 1750, the *commandants* ordered their residents to supply goods or services for “the benefit of the King.” Following is a brief timeline that lists the reasons why the *commandants* needed these goods or services rather than relying on obtaining these goods or services through normal channels.

**Brief Timeline for the Detroit River Region:**

- 1739 – 1742 – French and Native-Americans campaigned against the Chickasaw
- 1742 – Armand de La Richardie, S.J., established the Huron Mission on Bois Blanc (present-day Bob-Lo Island)
- 1744 – 1748 – King George’s War. Louisbourg surrendered on 17 June 1745, allowing the British to cut off the flow of goods from France to New France.
- 1744 – *Commandant* Paul Joseph Lemoine de Longueuil with the aid of Nissiswauquet, an Ottawa Chief from L’Arbre Croche, frustrated a Native-American conspiracy against the French.
- 1744 – 1746 – Pierre Potier, S.J., arrived on Bois Blanc to aid La Richardie. In 1746, La Richardie suffered a stroke and returned to the St. Lawrence Settlements.
- 1747 – When Paul Joseph Lemoine de Longueuil learned that the British encouraged New France’s allies (Huron, Ottawa, Chippewa, Potawatomi, and Miami) to attack the French posts, he called all residents into the fort. No crops were planted. When Nicolas or Orontony, a Huron Chief, came to Detroit professing peaceful intentions, his warriors killed three French Canadians near the fort and then fled to the Huron Mission on Bois Blanc.
- 1747 – 1748 – In September 1747, a convoy of soldiers reached Detroit. The supplies and trade goods only lasted through the winter.
- 1748 – Nicolas or Orontony burned the Huron village on Bois Blanc and with 70 warriors and their families moved to present-day Sandusky, Ohio. The Christian Hurons appealed for the return of La Richardie.
- 1748 – Lemoine de Longueuil sent reinforcements to the posts at Fort St. Joseph (near Niles, Michigan), Ouiatanon (near Lafayette, Indiana) and in Illinois. In April 1748, he held a peace conference with the Ottawa, Potawatomi, Huron, and Ojibwa.
- 1748 – 1751 – In October La Richardie returned to Detroit. With the aid of a grant of 5,000 *livres* from the government, in 1748 he re-established the mission for the Huron at La Pointe de Montréal (in the present-day city of Windsor). Having completed the reconstruction and made renewed efforts to bring back to the fold the scattered remnants around present-day Sandusky, Ohio. La Richardie returned to Quebec in summer 1751.
- 1749 – Governor Roland Michel Barrin de La Galissonière offered farm animals and equipment to French Canadians who agreed to settle in Detroit and on the Canadian side of the Detroit River.
- 1749 – Governor La Galissonière sent Gaspard Joseph Chaussegros de Léry on a reconnaissance mission to Detroit. The fort was expanded.
- 1749 – Pierre Joseph Céleron de Blainville and 200 men reclaimed the Ohio Valley.
- 1750 – Additional French-Canadian families settled in Detroit.