

**Fall 1762 Census – Introduction and Sources**  
Diane Wolford Sheppard and Gail Moreau-DesHarnais

**Introduction:**

Robert Navarre took a census of the residents of the Region in the fall of 1762, although with one exception, English traders were not included in the census. Suzanne Boivin Sommerville suggested that the British may have ordered Navarre to take the census in order to determine the number of men who were available to serve in a military capacity in the area.

Our transcription and translation is based on the actual census,<sup>1</sup> not on Donna Valley Russell's partial transcription contained in *Michigan Censuses 1710-1830 Under the French, British and Americans* (Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc.: 1982), 19-25 which has a number of errors. The original census is available in the Burton Collection at the Detroit Public Library, in the stacks, call number, 74D4 929.3 D4.<sup>2</sup> Clarence Burton estimated that the census was taken in 1760, although we are inclined to agree with Russell that Navarre took the census in the fall of 1762. Russell believed that it was taken in September or October.

We have transcribed all of the information contained in the census, including a designation of the household's financial status. Navarre recorded the information in a form with columns. He used a dash in the columns where the household did not have any individuals falling into a particular category; we have substituted a "0" because we are not using a form for the transcription. Women, with the exception of a few widows, were not enumerated in the census. A number of individuals owned property in more than one location. Navarre identified an individual with his family in only one place in the census, for additional properties, he only gave the individual's name, the size of the property [in *arpents* (.85 of an acre) or the size of their lot in feet for those living in the fort], and in some cases, their financial status. We have included a cross reference to where the individual is covered with his family. Navarre also noted that some individuals had left the area or were away when the census was taken. As with all censuses, there are some discrepancies in ages, place of birth, and the number of children in the household. It is possible that some of these discrepancies may be accounted for by an extended family, *i.e.*, children living with a married sibling or children who had been hired to work for another *habitant*. Russell identified many of the individuals enumerated, although we disagree with several of these identifications and have noted that in a footnote; other mistakes in her transcription have not been mentioned. We were unable to identify a few individuals. In addition to checking the names as identified by Russell, we have consulted the sources listed below to provide the information in the annotations' section for each entry.

We have transcribed the names exactly as found in the original census, although we have standardized the names in the annotations per Jetté wherever possible. The material contained in our annotations was not included in the original census, or in Russell's transcription of the census. The children in each entry are listed chronologically by sex to more closely relate to the information from the census; the list of children only includes surviving children who were not married at the time of the census. We have added descriptive phrases about the land owner if they were found in Ste. Anne's records in the two or three years immediately preceding or following the census. We have also added the names of the slaves in each household and their age or approximate birth date if known from Ste. Anne's records to provide the reader with a more complete picture of the household; for example, many of the slaves enumerated in the census were small children.

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<sup>1</sup> A shorter version of the transcription of the 1762 census originally appeared in Michigan's Habitant Heritage in the April, July, and October 2013 issues.

<sup>2</sup> The first page of the 1762 census in the Burton Historical Collection is printed in Part 1 of the census, with their permission.

Sources for each annotation appear in brackets at the end of the entry. We have noted in the annotations when the birth, marriage, or death of a child may indicate more precisely when Navarre completed the census for a section of the community. Finally, readers should correct their records for the numerous errors that were found in Denissen, and a few errors from Jetté and *PRDH*. See the ending section of this introduction for the sources.

**Additions to this version of the census:** due to costs, *Michigan's Habitant Heritage* has page and color limitations; we do not have the same restrictions for articles that are published on the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan's website. Therefore, we have added the following to the annotations of the census: 1. The names of the parents of each spouse; 2. The signatures at their marriage if the witnesses signed the register.

In addition we have included the following introductory information in separate chapters: 1. Introduction and Sources; 2. Maps and Illustrations; 3. Quotes from people who visited Detroit between 1749 and 1767; 4. Land Grants and Sales

**Sources:**

**Primary Sources:**

www.Ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, [D, Détroit, Ste-Anne; Autres Registres, 1704-1744](#), hereafter *Ste Anne Register*; [D, Détroit, Ste-Anne, 1702-1780](#), hereafter *Ste Anne Register*, part 2 - the records actually start in 1744; [D, Détroit, L'Assomption de Sandwich de Windsor](#), hereafter *Assumption Register*.

**Secondary Sources:**

Christian Denissen, *Genealogy of the French families of the Detroit River Region, 1701-1936* (Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, revised edition, 1987) Although Denissen is fairly reliable for records in the Detroit area, it is less reliable than Jetté or *PRDH* for records from other areas, rarely lists all children born outside Detroit, and often confuses baptismal dates for birth dates. Researchers should verify birth dates with Jetté, *PRDH*, or the actual parish registers.

Drouin Institute, *Lafrance*, (<http://www.genealogiequebec.com/>), hereafter *Lafrance*. Links to the parish records are part of the subscription.

Marthe Faribault-Beauregard, *La population des forts français d'Amérique (XVIIIe siècle)* (Montréal: Éditions BERGERON, 1982), Vol. I; Marthe Faribault-Beauregard, *La population des forts français d'Amérique (XVIIIe siècle)* (Montréal: Éditions BERGERON, 1984), Vol. II Faribault-Beauregard sometimes makes assumptions regarding parents without noting when she has made an assumption.

Fichier Origine, Fédération québécoise des sociétés de généalogie, under the supervision of Marcel Fournier - <http://www.fichierorigine.com/>, hereafter *Fichier Origine*.

René Jetté, *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines à 1730* (Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal: 1983).

Sharon A. Kelley, ed., *Marriage Records Ste. Anne Church 1701-1850* (Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 2001).

E.Z. Massicotte, "Répertoire des engagements pour l'ouest conservés dans les Archives Judiciaires de Montréal (1670-1778)," *Rapport de L'archiviste de la Province de Québec pour 1929-1930* (Québec: Rédempti Paradis, 1930).

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Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, “Ste Anne Burials, Part I” and “Ste Anne Burials, Part II,” “Ste Anne Burials, Part III,” *Michigan’s Habitant Heritage*, Vol. 31, #2 (April 2010), 95-101; #3 (July 2010), 139-148; #4 (October 2010), 206-215. These articles are now available on the Parish Records’ Page on the FCHSM website: [http://www.habitantheritage.org/french-canadian\\_resources/parish\\_records](http://www.habitantheritage.org/french-canadian_resources/parish_records) .

*Programme de recherche en démographie historique de l’Université de Montréal online:* <http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca>, hereafter *PRDH*.

Robert Toupin, *Les Écrits de Pierre Potier* (Ottawa, Ontario: Les Presses de l’Université d’Ottawa, 1996).

Marcel Trudel, *Dictionnaire des esclaves et de leurs propriétaires au Canada français*, included on a CD-Rom with *Deux siècles d’esclavage au Québec* (Montréal: Éditions Hurtubise HMH Itée, 2004) The identification of the slave owners is partially based on Russell; if Russell is not correct, the identification in Trudel may not be correct.

University of Toronto and Université Laval, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online*, (<http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html>), hereafter *DCB*.

Donna Valley Russell, ed., *Michigan Censuses 1710-1830 Under the French, British and Americans* (Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc.: 1982), pp. 19-25.