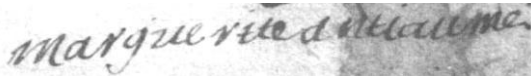


The Jarret de Beauregard Family
Part 7
Children and Property
Suzanne Boivin Sommerville

By the 1681 census for Verchères, the Jarret de Beauregard family included André “Jarrais,” age 37; his wife, “Marie” Anthiaume, age 28; and their children: **Marguerite**, four years old; and **Judith**, said to be fifteen **days** old. Marguerite, born 14 October at Verchères, baptized 26 October 1677, the act recorded at Boucherville, had as godparents, Michel Messier, the seigneur of Cap St. Michel, and Marie “Perro,” wife of André’s half-brother, François “Jared,” seigneur of Verchères.¹ The spellings Jarrais, Jarret, Jared are all pronounced the same. No baptism record for Judith survives.

The FHL microfilm for the parish of Contrecoeur includes a hand-written transcription (copy) of this 1681 census of Verchères made by Father J. Ducharme in 1902. The transcriber, apparently in error, records Judith’s age as *15 mois*, 15 months, not *15 jours*, 15 days, as it appears on the census document itself. I wonder whether Father Ducharme tried to account for the birth of “Anne” Jarret on 13 September of 1681 in Verchères, baptized there on 29 September by a visiting priest and recorded in the registers of Contrecoeur. She had as godparents Pierre Chicoine (husband of Madeleine Chrestien) and Anne “Phefert” (Foubert, from the archdiocese of Paris), whose husband, Pierre Boisseau, was also present and signing.² On the same day, Marguerite Anthiaume served as godmother for Agnes Chicoine, daughter of Pierre and Magdelaine Chrestien, born on the 25th of the same month at Verchères, with Francois “Chanion” *dit* Larose as godfather.



Contrecoeur, FamilySearch

This transcriber in 1902 may have decided the census taker had made a mistake. I even wonder whether he was right, since it seems hard to believe that the census taker, whoever he was, was still collecting information in September in Verchères, thus able to record Anne’s birth and also Agnes Chicoine’s birth. She is said to be one month old on the census itself. The census went to France with the mail sent 4 November 1681, just two months later, and Québec City took some days to reach from Verchères, especially if the census taker had other stops to make on the way to Québec. I have not, however, read any description of the taking of this census. PRDH has determined “Judith” is “Anne”. I am not aware of the use of the name Judith on any other record, but an **Anne** definitely survived to marry. Perhaps she, like many others, was given the first name of her godmother; but when or if Judith was born, she may have died young. This is just another anomaly that will never be resolved because of the loss of records. The 1681 census is now, 2013, on-line:

[http://bd.archivescanadafrance.org/acf/doc.xsp?](http://bd.archivescanadafrance.org/acf/doc.xsp?l=fr&id=CABAC_PIAF_6654_CABAC_PIAF_6654&base=fa&fmt=tab&qid=sdx_q0&from=&ss=true)

[l=fr&id=CABAC_PIAF_6654_CABAC_PIAF_6654&base=fa&fmt=tab&qid=sdx_q0&from=&ss=true](http://bd.archivescanadafrance.org/acf/doc.xsp?l=fr&id=CABAC_PIAF_6654_CABAC_PIAF_6654&base=fa&fmt=tab&qid=sdx_q0&from=&ss=true)

At this census, André owned one gun, one *pistolet*, five horned-cattle, and he had twelve *arpents* of land cleared and exploited. He is listed at Verchères immediately after his brother, the seigneur. Toussaint Lucas and his *Parisienne* wife, Marguerite Charpentier, are listed next. I count 61 persons recorded, 38 of them children, none older than 11. This young settlement would enjoy about three more years of peace before war broke out again. The Iroquois André had come to the New World to subdue resumed their attacks on the Indian allies of *Nouvelle France* and New France itself, resulting in retaliation by the Indian allies, as well as the *Troupes de la Marine*, who had begun to arrive to defend the colony, and the Canadian militia.

The census does not provide much detail about the possessions of the Jarret de Beauregards. Other

documents do. Madame F.-Beauregard reports the results of the inventory taken in 1692³ after André's death in 1691:

Among other real estate, he owned "a little house near the fort of Verchères, made, *pièce sur pièce*, 14 feet long by 10 feet wide, built on a concession of three *arpents* wide by thirty *arpents* deep, in the seigneurie of Verchères"; he also had on this concession, "a barn made of *pieux et poteaux* [posts and stakes] of thirty-eight feet long by twenty-two feet wide with, at the end of said barn, a stable constructed *pièces sur pièces* of the same length as the barn by fourteen feet wide enclosing 2 oxen, 5 cows, 3 bulls, 2 heifers, 2 pigs, and six chickens". He possessed also on l'île Sainte-Marie, opposite the fort, another concession of land of ninety *arpents* on which, in the parish of St-Vincent-de-Paul of Ile-Jésus, was erected a small building 19 feet long by 15 to 16 feet wide. He also had a house and its outbuildings situated on *rue Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, at Montréal, acquired by judicial sentence.⁴

The "pièce-sur-pièce" construction of André's house is the same as that cited by Aunt Alexina Boivin for her childhood family home in Val David at the turn of the twentieth century. Allan Greer in *Peasant, Lord, and Merchant*, comments that it was "nearly universal until the middle of the nineteenth century. This characteristically French-Canadian construction technique used roughly squared logs stacked horizontally and secured by dovetail joints on vertical posts at the corners."⁵ Greer calls it

an excellent adaptation to a country with a cold climate and relatively abundant supplies of timber. Simple to construct, these dwellings were also easily altered. Once the cracks between logs were stuffed, *pièce-sur-pièce* buildings were also quite warm, particularly in comparison with stone houses.⁶

I have read more than one Anglo writer dismiss these buildings as inferior to the American log cabin! Little did they know.

I can visualize André and Marguerite and their young children in their 19 foot long by 15 to 16 foot wide building on Isle Sainte-Marie or in their 14 by 10 foot home at Verchères, not even the size of many living rooms today, even considering that the French linear foot was longer than the English. The buildings for their animals were far larger, and appropriately so, but then some modern garages for cars and trucks or SUVs are not exactly primitive!

The inventory also listed André's personal effects:

Among his clothing are mentioned a shirt of fine linen along with others less elegant, nine handkerchiefs, some white linen, a maillot of double woolen red London serge, in the old style, a shirt of Rouen linen, *etc.* Finally, among the accounts owed to the succession, one may mention, 400 *livres* in silver, loaned to Sieur de Verchères, 200 *livres* loaned to dame Chicoine, thirteen *livres* loaned to Sieur Jacques Le Moyne, nine *livres* loaned to Jacques Hubert *dit* le Parisien of Sorel, to name only a few. The total value of his possessions attained the sum of 5,307 *livres*.⁷

This is certainly not a fortune; but, in contrast, his half-brother's now-famous daughter Madeleine de Verchères, would soon have to petition for a pension for her father because of his "poverty."

Since reading Marthe Faribault-Beauregard's article many years ago, I have acquired a copy of this inventory and will add further details in a later installment.

The last years of André's and Marguerite's lives, the years between 1689, the Iroquois attack at Lachine, the English invasion in 1690, and the preliminary peace treaty in 1700, ratified on 4 August 1701 as the Great Peace of Montréal, were terrible years for the inhabitants of Verchères and neighboring settlements on both sides of the Saint-Laurent, but especially those near the Richelieu River, once called the River of the Iroquois because it led to their territory in New York. In 1687, Governor Denonville ordered "that all men, and boys above the age of thirteen, should provide themselves with rifles, and carry them loaded when going to work, and even at Mass. Signal fires were made ready to warn the people of any enemy approach and to order them to take shelter."⁸ The militia served in the forays into Iroquois and English territory.

Deaths in the Family

The child Marguerite must have died before 1692, as did a sister, **Marie**, born 6 April 1683 at Verchères, baptized there 20 April, godparents Pierre Boisseau and his wife Anne "Febert," with the rite recorded at Contrecoeur.⁹ At least there is no further mention of these two girls, or Judith, by April of 1692, when Marguerite listed the names of her then-surviving five children. The death and burial dates of these girls are unknown, but, as already mentioned, some registers are missing. The register for Verchères includes an entry made on 24 October **1724** certifying the baptism on 13 August **1699** of François René Joseph de La Corne. His godparents swore that they had held him over the baptismal font on that day in the Church of "La Trinité," seigneurie de Contrecoeur. A note in the margin to the entry indicates that it is proof that the registers for the parish of Verchères [*sic*] for 1687-1699 were destroyed in a fire. Jetté reports that the registers there begin only in 1724. Perhaps what is meant is that records for individuals who lived in Verchères but had religious services performed at Contrecoeur were destroyed. These entries may have included the now-unknown burial of André.

The first Jarret son was born at Verchères on 9 February 1686, François Alexandre, and baptized there 17 February, with Uncle François as godfather and giving him his name, and Catherine Charon, wife of François Chagnon *dit* La Rose, as godmother, the act again recorded at Contrecoeur.¹⁰ None of the remaining three Jarret de Beauregard children — Louis, born about 1688; Joseph, about 1690; and Vincent, born posthumously, about 1692 — have extant baptismal records, but these are the terrible years of constant alarms and evacuations.

The same Father Ducharme who changed Judith's age copied a passage from *Collection de Manuscrits*, Vol.1, p. 579, into the registers of Verchères for the year 1691:

Sieur de Bourchemin reported that seven young boys and girls guarding the farm animals [*bestiaux*] within sight of the fort [of Contrecoeur?] were taken and carried into captivity by the *sauvages* [Indians] and that two soldiers on their way to St. Ours [a neighboring seigneurie] were also taken, as they were passing through the same woods going to St. Ours. This was proven true because the next day at daybreak, I was at St. Ours where I was told that they never arrived.

Could something like this have happened to the Jarret de Beauregard daughters? And could André have been one of the "soldiers"? He was not technically a soldier then, though.

The exact place and time have not survived, but André Jarret de Beauregard was massacred by the Iroquois sometime in 1691 (between May and September) at the young age of about 49. No death document has survived, but Marguerite was a widow by 22 September 1691 when **Madeleine Chrestien**, wife of Pierre Chicouane, then of Villemarie, acted on behalf of Marguerite and in her name in the purchase of property on *rue* Saint Jean-Baptiste in Ville Marie. The seller was **Jeanne Renaud**, formerly from St. François du Lac, the widow of Jacques Vaudry (written Baudry [*sic*]).¹¹ The document reports

that “after the death of her husband killed by the *IroKouism [sic]*,”¹² Jeanne Renaud, “sought refuge [these words crossed out] retired to this city [Ville Marie] and had a house built on property owned by the *Dames Religious of the Congregation*,” the CND sisters. Two widows, both with young children, their husbands having died at the hands of the Iroquois, thus turned to each other in a time of need, Marguerite with the funds to purchase a home away from the on-going incursions, and Jeanne with a home she needed to sell to care for her family.

On 21 February 1692, Intendant Bochart de Champigny issued an ordonnance allowing Xaintonge, a notary at Saint Ours, to draw up the inventory of André’s possessions. He explained that there was no notary at Verchères and the closest “justice,” or judicial court, was at Trois Rivières, “where it is hard to get to because of the distance and the war.” The inventory was to be made at the request of Marguerite Anthiaume, widow Jarret, “tutrice naturelle de ses enfants mineurs,” natural guardian of her minor children, in the presence of one or two family members or neighbors, who would serve as “subrogé tuteurs,” secondary guardians.¹³

It was necessary for the inventory to be drawn up and the value of the commonly held property, the *communauté de biens*, established at her 1676 marriage accounted for because Marguerite was about to remarry.

To be continued
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May 2005, 2013 version

¹ PRDH #2109 and photocopy.

² PRDH #89940 and photocopy.

³ 12 April 1692, Basset *dit* Deslauriers, B., Montréal.

⁴ Faribault-Beauregard, *op. cit.*, p. 190, my translation.

⁵ Allan Greer, *Peasant, Lord, and Merchant*, Rural Society in Three Quebec Parishes 1740-1840, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985, p. 43.

⁶ Greer, *ibid.*

⁷ Faribault-Beauregard, *op. cit.*

⁸ Gustave Lanctot, *A History of Canada*, Vol. 2, p. 107.

⁹ PRDH #89974 and photocopy.

¹⁰ PRDH #90028 and photocopy.

¹¹ 22 September 1691, Adhémar *dit* Saint Martin, A., Montréal.

¹² He had died by late 1688, according to Jetté.

¹³ MG8-C6, transcript, reel no. C-13985, summary at ArchiviaNet, NAC. This ordonnance was copied in full in the 1 July 1700 settlement of property, to be examined in a later installment.