

## Marguerite, Widow Jarret de Beauregard and Wife of Pierre Fontaine

### Part 8

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With her husband deceased, Marguerite handled business affairs in several contracts she had drawn up, leasing a farm of three *arpents* frontage for three years to Vincent Poupeau 24 October 1691 (gr. Maugue) and requesting the inventory of her deceased husband's property 12 April 1692 (gr. Basset).<sup>1</sup> One day later, on 13 April 1692, after fifteen years of marriage to André, and with under-age children, Marguerite remarried to Pierre Fontaine *dit* Bienvenue. His “dit” name means welcome, and welcome he may have seemed to this widow. Their marriage contract was passed before Notary Basset. From Orléans, France, Pierre, fifteen years her junior, was a wood merchant who had served as a corporal in the Company of Louvigny in the *Troupes de la Marine*, soldiers who began to arrive in the 1680s in response to renewed Iroquois and also English aggression. With Marguerite he had three children, all of whom survived to marry. PRDH gives the couple four children, but Pierre Fontaine in 1700 listed only three, two girls, Marie Thérèse and Marguerite, and one boy, Gabriel.

#### More Legal Transactions

In the fall after her remarriage, on 20 September 1692, Marguerite leased a house (gr. Maugue)<sup>2</sup> to Madeleine Chrétien, now the widow Chicouane, the same who owed André money at his death and who, in 1691, had handled the purchase of the property she was now about to obtain, property in Montréal on rue Saint-Jean-Baptiste. A visit to the Adhémar web site revealed that this street was between rue Saint-Paul and rue Notre-Dame, “parcelle 30344, côté est,” on the east side, but west of Saint-François-Xavier at rue Saint-Gabriel. My brother, Lou, and I walked the modern versions of these streets in 1995. The property had a “superficie” of 3737.99 square feet *français*. From 22 September 1691 to 3 October 1699, the listed proprietors were:

Anthiaume, Marguerite *dite* Anne [I do not know why this “dite” Anne appears here.]  
Chicoine, Pierre  
Duplais, Louis  
Jarret de Verchères, François  
Jarret dit Beauregard, André  
héritiers (inheritors)<sup>3</sup>

Then, on 6 November 1692, Marguerite had a quit claim drawn up by Notary Basset to renounce, in her name and the name of her minor children, her rights to the property at Verchères in favor of François Jarret de Verchères, “par les mains de sa femme,”<sup>4</sup> literally, *by the hands of his wife*, or through her action in her husband’s name. I have no idea why Marguerite did this or whether François was eligible to inherit from his half-brother. François himself was impoverished and may have needed it more than she. Another possible reason may be found in Marguerite’s response to an episode that occurred after she leased the house and less than a month before the quit claim was filed, the attack on Verchères made famous by historians who read the two accounts attributed to Marguerite’s niece-by-marriage, Madeleine de Verchères. She may have simply wanted to leave the area. In fact, in addition to having her orphaned children with her during the attack at Verchères, Marguerite was most likely pregnant with her first Fontaine child. Her first child by Fontaine would be baptized in Montréal about seven months later in

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<sup>1</sup>Godbout, "Nos Ancêtres," p. 498.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Adhémar web site

<sup>4</sup> Excerpt provided by Archiv Histo, 6 November 1692, Basset dit Deslauriers, B., Montréal.

June of 1693. As mentioned earlier, daughter Marie-Thérèse Fontaine was baptized the following June in Montréal. See my article on Marguerite and Madeleine de Verchères.

### ***Marguerite's Children by Pierre Fontaine:***

Marie-Thérèse Fontaine, baptized 28 June 1693 Montréal, married 1719 René Monteil, widower of Marguerite Chicoine, who was the daughter of the Marguerite Chrétien who leased the house in Montréal. Marie-Thérèse had three children, remarried 1725 Guillaume Truchon, by whom she had 5? children, died 2 May 1767 at St-Henri-de-Mascouche (with her daughter's family?).

Marguerite Fontaine, born ??, married 1715 Paul Desmarais, 9 children; remarried 1745 Joseph Leduc.

Gabriel Fontaine, born ??, married 1721 Marie-Anne Godu, 6 children; remarried 1741 Marie-Anne Lefebvre.

Jacques Fontaine, born 24 September, baptised 5 October 1699, Varennes; died.  
At least 23 additional grandchildren for Marguerite.

### Marguerite's Death

Marguerite died at Isle-Ste-Marie, one of the islands granted to her husband André, on 4 October, days after the birth of Pierre's fourth child, Jacques, and she was buried 5 October 1699 at nearby Varennes.<sup>5</sup> Jacques has no burial record, but he is not mentioned in the estate papers filed after Marguerite's death. André and Marguerite's daughter Anne, and her recently-married husband, Joseph Tetreau (12 June 1700 Montréal), filed a request on 19 June 1700 to have guardians named for François, age 15; Louis age 13; Joseph, age 11, and Vincent, age 9 or thereabouts. My mother descends from both Joseph and Vincent.

Joseph Tetreau also requested an assembly of friends and family so that an estimate could be made of the personal and marital property still owned by Marguerite Anthiaume and the half of the marital property from her marriage to André that would now go to her children by him. The petition was accepted, and Anne and Joseph were given custody of the minor Beauregard children. Pierre Fontaine evidently was not interested in them, or unable to fulfill this duty, because he filed his account of his guardianship on 1 July 1700 with Pierre Guertin, who became the legal guardian of the Jarret de Beauregard children, assisted by Anne and Joseph.<sup>6</sup> I have other documents that come before and follow this one, including both of Marguerite's marriage contracts, both inventories after death, and the assignment of the estate of Marguerite Anthiaume, widow André Jarret de Beauregard, to her Jarret de Beauregard children and to her second husband, Pierre Fontaine *dit* Bienvenue, and the three Fontaine children she had by that second marriage.

This whole series of documents is a good example of the legal powers women had under the Custom of Paris to hold and transmit property in their own right and name. In her marriage contract to Pierre, Marguerite treated him as if he were one of the children of her marriage to him (thus, he would receive the full half of their marital property, and the same portion as each of their surviving children, in this case, one-fourth, three-fourths for the three children and one-fourth to her second husband); and she had insured the inheritance that her children by André would receive at her death from her own property. Her

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<sup>5</sup> See PRDH #91895 for Marguerite's death on 4 October, burial 5 October 1699. The inventory after death states she died on Isle-Ste-Marie. Image 39 of 230, Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967 Varennes, 1693-1730, shows both Jacques's baptism and Marguerite's burial. The record is missing on FamilySearch, Varennes, Sainte-Anne-de-Varennes, Baptêmes, mariages, Sépultures 1693-1789, Image 65-66 of 2390.

<sup>6</sup> Excerpt provided by Archiv Histo, 1 July 1700, Adhémar dit Saint Martin, A., Montréal. I now have copies of all of the estate papers from the archives. The 21 June 1700 inventory after Marguerite's death is by notary Raimbault.

children by Pierre would inherit from the marital community between Marguerite and Pierre Fontaine. Pierre then remarried, had children by his second wife, and added further complication to the transmission of heritage.

In Madeleine de Verchères's longer account of the attack on the fort, she quotes Pierre Fontaine as saying, "I will never abandon this fort while Mademoiselle Madelon (Madeleine) is here."<sup>7</sup> Just as he refused to carry his wife Marguerite to another fort then, he would not be legally responsible for the upbringing of her and André's minor children. Perhaps the four Jarret de Beauregard boys—François, Louis, Joseph, and Vincent—felt more comfortable with their married sister than with a step-father they had known only a few years. Pierre, with three children of his own, remarried within a year to Marguerite Gentès, by whom he had another eleven children.<sup>8</sup>

Marguerite's age at death was given as forty; but, as she did not herself provide the information, she was more likely to have been forty-six. Did she, like my own mother, fib about her age because she was older than her husband?

### The Contents of the Inventory after Marguerite's Death

These inventories are fascinating. Although I have not fully detailed the many items in the inventory after Marguerite's death, here are a few interesting items.

1) It is from this legal document that I realized that a *tourtière* was not just a pie filled with ground pork, onions, and spices. I suspected that an actual "pie" would not have been counted in an inventory after a death in the family. In New France and in France, I learned, a *tourtière* was actually—and originally—the pan used to bake *tourtes*.

The *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*, 1st Edition (1694),<sup>9</sup> defines *tourtière* as:

Kitchen utensil which is used to cook "tourtes." Sometimes made of silver or copper.<sup>10</sup>  
*tourtière*. s. f. *Ustensile de cuisine, qui sert à faire cuire des tourtes. Tourtière d'argent. tourtière de cuivre.*

And what was a *tourte*? A kind of **baked pastry**. Pigeon is said to be the content of one and jam of another in this definition, but the allegation that all contained baked pigeon is an Urban Legend.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Quoted in Francis Parkman, *France and England in North America*, Vol. II, The Library of America, 1983, p. 223.

<sup>8</sup> See PRDH: Family# 6907 for the Fontaine children.

<sup>9</sup> *Dictionnaires d'autrefois*: French dictionaries of the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, the ARTFL Project: <http://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/node/17>

<sup>10</sup> For a picture of an 18<sup>th</sup> century *tourtière*, see Encyclopedia of French Cultural Heritage in North America: [http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-454/Lac-Saint-Jean\\_%C2%ABTourti%C3%A8re%C2%BB.html](http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-454/Lac-Saint-Jean_%C2%ABTourti%C3%A8re%C2%BB.html)

<sup>11</sup> Note the extra /r/ in the word *tourtre*. *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*, 1st Edition (1694)

TOURTRE, ou Tourterelle. s. f. Espece d'oiseau qui hante les bois, & qui est presque semblable à un pigeon. Les tourterelles volent ordinairement deux à deux, le masle & la femelle. la tourterelle gemit quand elle a perdu son pair. A type of bird that haunts forests, and which is very like a pigeon. Tourtres ordinarily fly two-by-two (in pairs), the male and the female together. The female tourterelle mourns when she has lost her mate.

<http://artflsrv02.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/dicos/pubdico1look.pl?strippedhw=tourtre>

*Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*, 1st Edition (1694)

TOURTE. s. f. *Especes de pâtisserie, de piece de four.*

A later old French dictionary adds: Pastry in which is placed meats, fish, *etc.*, and which is served hot. *Pièce de pâtisserie, dans laquelle on met des viandes, du poisson, etc. et qu'on sert chaude.*<sup>12</sup>

So a *tourtière* was a pan to bake "tarts" (*tourtes*) or pastries, of various kinds. Among the inventories I have seen, is the "Tourtière de cuivre," copper pan, estimated at a value of 10 *livres*, the second most expensive in the list of utensils used for cooking, in the 21 June 1700 inventory of deceased Marguerite Anthiaume. This part of the inventory was taken in her house on Isle-Ste-Marie, an island in the St-Laurent near Varennes and Verchères, where she died. She also had property at that time, also itemized in the document, in Verchères inherited from her husband's estate and in Montréal that she had purchased. (Notary Raimbault, photocopy from the archives) One sad note for the property in Verchères states that the governor had ordered everyone in the area to abandon it during the Iroquois incursions of the 1690s and that the house had fallen into ruin.

2) also owned, among other items, a luxurious and expensive mantle, expensive bed linen, and ... a dog-hair blanket.

To be continued

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<sup>12</sup> See definitions at *Dictionnaires d'autrefois*: French dictionaries of the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, the ARTFL Project: <http://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/node/17>