Marguerite Roy
From Fort Pontchartrain to Québec City

Daughter of Pierre Roy and Marguerite OuabanKiK8é,
Goddoughter of Isabelle Couc / Madame Montour, and
Wife of Guillaume Dupont dit Leblond,
Jean Baptiste Dupuis,
and Jean Robin dit Latouche

Suzanne Boivin Sommerville

As I look at the names of all of the infants baptized at Fort Pontchartrain in the early years, I cannot help
but wonder what became of them, what kinds of lives they led, and to what extent those lives can be traced. So much that has been written about them is superficial and stereotyped. One such child who
aroused my curiosity is Marguerite Roy, baptized on 27 April 1704, the second complete record in the surviving registers of Ste. Anne de Detroit. Her parents are Pierre Roy and Marguerite OuabanKiKoué, a Miami Indian; and, acting as godparents at her baptism were Henri Belisle and Isabelle Couc, my seventh great-grand-aunt, who would later be known as Madame Montour. The priest, Father Constantin Delhalle, reported that the godmother did not know how to sign her name. This is true, but I am absolutely convinced that Isabelle has other ways of communicating with me! This article will demonstrate what I mean.

I have known for many years that her daughter, Marie Anne Montour, married in Québec City in 1730 to Jean Montary, and that Marie Anne died there that same year after giving birth to a son who also died soon after. As a result, I could not trace anything about her through any known descendants.

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1 This is exactly 236 years and one day [in 2003] before my own baptism in the same parish, Registers of Ste. Anne de Detroit, Detroit Public Library, Burton Library, microfilm #1252, reel 1. All subsequent references to events recorded there are from the originals photocopied on this microfilm. Misspellings in quoted material are as on originals. [2014 note: I have subsequently copied digital images for the records mentioned in this article.]

2 On the surviving records the “8” is actually a Greek upsilon [υ] on top of a Greekomicron [o], producing a symbol that the Jesuits used to represent a sound not found in French, close to French [OU] or English [W] before a vowel. When this symbol was transcribed and printed for publication, no appropriate equivalent was available to the typesetters, so the numeral [8] was chosen to take its place. PRDH transcribes the [8] as [OU]. On the original handwritten documents the symbol often looks like this Microsoft Word Wingding 61535 for the Taurus sign of the zodiac, [Ω], thus OuabanKiK8é / OuabanKiK8é. My thanks to Jean Quintal for suggesting I use this Wingding symbol to approximate on a word processor the appearance of the symbol used by the Jesuits. PRDH is Programme de recherche en démographie historique (Program of research in historical demography), internet version at http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca It is also available in multi-book format which makes no attempt to link individuals to families.

3 Marie Anne Montour is identified as daughter of “Isabelle Montour” and “le nommé Lamotte,” the man named “Lamotte” [Lamothe Cadillac?], according to the church record of her marriage to Jean Montary, 30 January 1730, Nôtre Dame de Québec, photocopy. One day earlier she is identified under the name Marie Anne Montour, “Anglaise de nation fille de defunt Jean baptiste Montour et Elisabeth Coucqnac de la ville dorange en la nouvelle angleterre” on the marriage contract, 29 January 1730, Dubreuil, photocopy. Orange is Albany, New York. Isabelle Couc is also known as Élisabeth; she was confirmed at Sorel in 1678 under the name “Elizabeth Couc dit Lafleur de Coignac” at age 11, photocopy. [She lived in New York and Pennsylvania after 1707.]

4 The twenty-third of April seventeen hundred and thirty was buried in the cemetery of this place [Nôtre Dame de Québec] Marie Anne Montour, wife of the man named Jean Montary dit Jolicoeur, deceased the previous day after having received the last sacraments in her illness, age about [thus a guess] thirty-five. Present: Monsieur Couvier, Pastor, and others. Photocopy. How I wish Father Couvier had named the others.

When I was beginning this phase of my research, I did not yet have evidence that Marie Anne had any contact with her mother after Isabelle left Fort Pontchartrain by 1707, proof for which I have since located. I kept asking myself how it came to be that Marie Anne married at Québec City, so far from Fort Pontchartrain, where her mother’s name appears in the registers of Ste. Anne de Detroit in 1704 and 1706, and a long way away from her mother’s next home, by about 1709, in New York. I also knew that Marie Anne Germaneau [her mother’s first husband’s name] Montour can be documented in Montréal by 1718, where her brother, Michel Germaneau, also lived after his 1717 marriage; and I not long ago learned that in the fall of 1721, she traveled to Orange (Albany) with two of her Ménard cousins, Louis and Marie Madeleine Ménard, children of her aunt, Madeleine (Couc), and Maurice Ménard. I know this now because her name is included among those individuals accused in 1722 in an “Ordonnance between Sr. Cugnet and Marie Magdeleine Menard, Louis Menard and others,” as titled, of having gone there without permission. If I had not sent for this document in 2002, I would not have discovered that among the “others” so accused is Marie Anne Germaneau, “cousin” of “brother and sister Louis Menard and Marie Magdeleine Menard, femme de Jean Baptiste Renaudet,” Magdeleine’s second husband. The summary of the proceedings against these people indicates that Marie Anne Germaneau could not be interrogated because she had remained in Nouvelle Angleterre. Thus I am now sure she and her cousins were in Orange, or Albany, at the same time her mother, Madame Montour, was interpreting for the government of New York. Most of the individuals who were investigated were found to be guilty and required to pay a fine. Marie Anne Germaneau / Montour again appears in the Chambly and Montréal records between 1723 and 1728, and I knew that by 1727 her mother possibly resided in Pennsylvania [See another 1727 document on BAnQ]; but I wanted to know what influences, if any, had led Marie Anne to her 1730 marriage and subsequent death in Québec City.

It was actually while I was exploring for extant evidence of Isabelle Couc Montour’s daughter that I found Marie Anne’s “spiritual” sister, her mother’s goddaughter, Marguerite Roy, present in 1728 in Québec City, far from her birth at Fort Pontchartrain. Searching for Marie Anne Montour’s presence in Québec City, I discovered her documented at Hôtel-Dieu, the hospital, on 27 July 1728, a year and a half before her marriage:

le 27e Marie anne Montour illinoise agée de 26 ans servante de l’hopital (4 [days] ) p. 161 [entered on the 27th of July … Illinoise, 26 years old, servant of the hospital, remained four days in July]9

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5 1730-04-16, Jean Baptiste, godparents: Pierre Grondin garçon & Marie Angélique Metivier at Québec, mother called Marie Anne Montour, husband identified as Jean Montary, but the child said to be born of an unknown father and baptized conditionally: “Né de père inconnu. Baptisé sous condition.” This child died at St. Augustin des Maures 1730-08-05, according to PRDH, twenty-one days before the 26 August 1730 remarriage of widower Jean Montary to Marie Élisabeth Dery.

6 Marie Anne Germaneau, godmother on 27 July 1718 Montréal for Marie Anne Larcheveque, daughter of Mathieu Larcheveque & Catherine St André (Achin in Jetté), with Jacques de Bordé as godfather, photocopy.

7 Marriage 5 April 1717, contract 5 April 1717, LePailleur, ANQ, photocopies. [Editor’s note: Marie Catherine’s first marriage had been to Jacques Miville, who had been in Detroit in 1706.] [Author’s note: The “Lescuyer” brothers, Paul and Jean, along with Jacques “Mainville” / Miville, were hired by Lamothe Cadillac on 29 May 1706 to take three horses and ten betes à corne, literally horned animals, to Fort Pontchartrain. Notary Adhémar, ANQ-Montréal, photocopy.]

8 A transcription of this ordonnance of 15 July 1722, is found on NAC microfilm of Fonds des Ordonnances des Intendants de la Nouvelle-France, MG 8-A6, film C-13588, Vol 7, pp. 181-91, and I now have the original from Les Archives du Québec, photocopy.

9 Family History Library (FHL) microfilm #1287130 Hôtel Dieu de Québec. Emphasis mine. The last number indicates the number of days spent at the hospital in the given month. [Author’s note: Cadillac was mayor of Castelsarrazin before his death in 1730.]
I will return to her identification as an Illinoise subsequently; but, based on the other entries at the hospital, this identification appears to be the birth place of the individual named.\textsuperscript{10} She was there at the hospital again for the full thirty-one days of August of 1728:

Marie anne Montour servante (31 [days] ) p. 162

And she continued to serve as servante each month through January of 1729, a full year before her marriage on 30 January 1730.

As I continued to scan the entries documenting those who were at the hospital, I was amazed to find Marie Anne Montour’s future husband, Jean Montary dit Jolicoeur, soldat de Rigaud, also documented more than once, between 1726 and 1729, beginning 5 June 1726:

C [ompany] de Rigaud 5 Juin Jean Montarie dit jolycoeur de Castel sarrazin en Languedoc âgé de 25 ans soldat parti le 11e idem [left the hospital on the 11\textsuperscript{th} of the same month] 6 [days], p. 111.\textsuperscript{11}

Although PRDH does not refer to him as a soldier, Jean is identified here as a member of the Company of Rigaud. François Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil, his commanding officer, is the son of Governor-general Philippe de Rigaud de Vaudreuil,\textsuperscript{12} the Vaudreuil who authorized the killing in 1709 of Marie Anne’s uncle, Louis Couc Montour,\textsuperscript{13} and who sanctioned the visit to Orange (Albany, New York) in 1719 by Louis Couc Montour’s and Madame Montour’s sister, femme St. Serny, Angélique Couc.\textsuperscript{14} Governor Vaudreuil died in 1725, a year before this reference to Jean Montary.\textsuperscript{15} Rigaud, the son, could possibly have recruited Montary in France, as his family’s estate was not that far from Castelsarrazin, where Cadillac served briefly as mayor in 1723. I couldn’t help but notice the “coincidences” were beginning to be remarkable.

Examining the records at the hospital, I found, again remarkably, many other references to individuals connected to Marie Anne Montour or to the Montour / Montary marriage. I have developed these references in another article focused on Isabelle’s children. This next person, though, entered the hospital in December of 1729, just one month before Marie Anne’s marriage, and it is this record that eventually led me to Marie Anne Montour’s “sister” (through the sacrament of Baptism),\textsuperscript{16} Marguerite Roy:

\textsuperscript{10} For example, August 1728, “le 5e Jean vernet de lle Dorleans paroisse de la Ste famille agé de 42 ans sorti le 11e idem (6),” p. 163. The Montary / Montour marriage contract was written in his home at Québec 29 Jan 1730; he was a previous resident of Montréal, but he was born 16 and baptized 17 June 1685 at Ste. Famille, Isle d’Orléans, thus his “origin” for this hospital record was the parish of his birth, not his current residence nor the place from which he had recently traveled. His brother Jacques was hired to go to Fort Pontchartrain 10 July 1703, photocopy.
\textsuperscript{11} He was also there in June of 1729: “C de Rigaud Jean montari dit joly coeur soldat (30)”
\textsuperscript{12} Born 8 February 1703 at Montréal, his mother was Louise Élisabeth de Joybert de Soulanges and de Marson; “his father had him appointed at the age of five to the company of gentlemen midshipmen, despite the regulation that candidates be 18. He obtained a post for him as ensign in the colonial regulars in 1712 and a lieutenantcy on 2 June 1720”. Rigaud was given command of a company in 1723. See Jean Hamelin and Jacqueline Roy, Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Volume IV, also available online.
\textsuperscript{13} Vaudreuil à Pontchartrain, 14 novembre 1709, AN Col., C11 A, vol. 30, f. 50. This letter gives Vaudreuil’s reasons for having Montour killed that year. Louis Couc Montour was leading Western Nations to trade at Albany.
\textsuperscript{14} Her voyage is mentioned in 14 November 1720, Manuscript photocopy, Ordonnance de l’intendant du 14 novembre 1720, ANQ, signed “Begon”.
\textsuperscript{15} See Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Volume II.
\textsuperscript{16} The ties established by the sacrament of Baptism between the godparents and the baptized even required dispensation for any future marriage between the parties.
canonnier le 3ᵉ Jean robin dit latouche de chagnier sur charante âgé de 21 ans sorti (14) [cannoneer, entered on the 3rd of December 1729 … from Chagnier-sur-Charante, 21 years old, left after 14 days]

I was surprised to see Jean Robin there at the hospital, even though I already knew that ten years later in Québec on 27 April 1739,17 Jean Robin dit Latouche would marry Isabelle’s godchild, Pierre Roy’s daughter Marguerite. The church document for this marriage clearly identifies Marguerite’s father as Pierre Roy, and her mother’s name, as transcribed on the PRDH “certificate,” is MARGUERITE OUBANQUIQUOIS. PRDH identifies this Marguerite Roy as:

MARGUERITE ROY Father: PIERRE ROY Mother: MARGUERITE OUACASKIKOUE OUAOUANHICOUCT [sic] Birth: 1704-04-27 Ste-Anne-de-Détroit Death: 1755-04-20 Québec
First [sic] marriage: 1739-04-27 Québec with JEAN ROBIN LATOUCHE Father: JEAN ROBIN Mother: MARIE JEANNE GADOLET [Note: at the time I copied this record, PRDH was not yet aware of Marguerite Roy’s first two marriages.]

I soon realized with another shock of surprise that Marguerite had married Jean Robin dit Latouche on her thirty-fifth birthday! And when I photocopied the actual entry I saw that she had signed the record:

Because I was at first searching for evidence of Marie Anne Montour in Québec City prior to her marriage, I then looked at the Family History Library microfilm of the religious acts at Québec in 1728 and noticed a baptism for a child of a Guillaume Dupont and a Marguerite Roy on 27 November 1728.

Even before I could return home to access the PRDH certificate on the Web to see whether any marriage was recorded for this couple, though, I was absolutely fascinated by the signature of Guillaume Dupont and a Marguerite Roy on 27 November 1728.

I consulted the PRDH “certificate” for the baptism of Marguerite Dupont:

#66016 Québec 1728-11-27 Birth: 1728-11-26

17 PRDH #164922 Québec 1739-04-27 and photocopy of record. As with Montary, PRDH does not indicate Robin was a soldier.
18 This is how PRDH standardizes the name. In the registers of Ste. Anne de Detroit, it is most often 8abanKiK8é. [2014 Note: In an e-mail message, Michael McCafferty, Miami language scholar of Indiana University, informed me the name translates to Dawn Woman.]
19 The Robin couple had several children baptized at Québec, but only one appears to have survived to perpetuate the line, Pierre, PRDH #161953, born 13, baptized 14 August 1741, who married Brigitte Garneau 1768-06-20 at L’Ange-Gardien, PRDH #223626. Pierre Robin’s son Jean Robin married Catherine Robert 1792-01-31 Beauport, PRDH #355064 Beauport (Civil archives). See MHH, Vol. 22, Commemorative Issue #1, January 2001, p. 7, for Gail Moreau-DesHarnais’s chart of descendants to 1942.
20 FHL #1289908.
The names of the godparents gave me no immediate indication of who this Marguerite “Roi” could be. There are so many Marguerite Roys! No surviving Dupont / Roy marriage record appeared to exist, according to PRDH, but for Guillaume Dupont, PRDH showed:

GUILLAUME DUPONT LEBLOND  
Father: GUILLAUME DUPONT LEBLOND Mother: MARIE MADELEINE MICHEL TAILLON OLIVIER Family  
Birth:1693-10-24 Québec  
Death: 1729-07-09 Montréal  
First marriage: before 1728-11-26 with MARGUERITE ROY  

The appearance of the dit name Leblond reminded me that one of the signers of the same document that contained Guillaume Dupont’s and Marguerite Roy’s signatures in 1728 was a Claude Leblond, who, I quickly confirmed, could be Guillaume’s brother. Making this connection would prove to be crucial as I continued my search because Guillaume Dupont died less than a year after his daughter Marguerite Dupont’s birth, as indicated by PRDH above.

The document containing the signatures of Claude Leblond, Marguerite Roy, and Guillaume Dupont had been written by Father Dominique Thaumur at the Miami mission of St. Philippe (also known as Fort Miami, present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana). It was the religious act of 25 May 1728 uniting in holy matrimony Pierre Chesne and Magdelene Roy, the daughter of Pierre and Marguerite and the sister of Marguerite Roy. Their sister, Marie Louise Roy, also signed, as did several others. I also had in my possession a photocopy of the marriage contract Father Dominique Thaumur wrote for the couple in the Pierre Roy home the day before, 24 May 1728. A copy of the official Church marriage record found its way to the Ste. Anne de Detroit register, perhaps carried there by Father Thaumur or by the newly-married couple, Magdelene and Pierre, where it appears now as a loose sheet, page 204, inserted within the register proper between entries by Frère Bonaventure for 13 June and 24 September 1728. Father Thaumur himself deposited the marriage contract with the notary J. B. Adhémar in Montréal on 30 July as he was traveling to his ultimate destination, Québec City, where I next located him at Hôtel-Dieu by 24 September 1728.

When I made this connection, I began to think that the “coincidences” were getting really weird: Marie Anne Montour, said to be an Illinoise, or from Illinois territory, appeared at Hôtel-Dieu in July of 1728; Marguerite Roy, mother of Guillaume Dupont’s daughter, was present in Québec City for her child’s birth.

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21 PRDH #52750 Montréal 1729-07-09  
22 Photocopy of church record.  
23 Photocopy of record written 24 May at St. Philippe des Miamis and deposited 30 July 1728 in the Étude of J. B. Adémard by D. Thaumur, ANQ.  
24 The Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. II, says Father Thaumur went to the mission of the Tamarois (Cahokia, Illinois) in 1718 and lived ten years in the mission of Ste. Famille des Tamarois. Again according to the DCB, he returned to Québec in 1728, and illness prevented him from going back. I found Thaumur documented at Hôtel-Dieu by 24 September 1728, FHL microfilm #1287130, Hôtel-Dieu de Québec.
and baptism in November of the same year, and both of the child’s parents had signed a document at St. Philippe des Miamis just months earlier. I was aware that the Miami are closely related to the Illinois. And what is more, Father Dominique Thaumur himself was at Hôtel-Dieu de Québec in 1728. I already knew he had gone to the mission of the Tamarois (an Illinois tribe, Cahokia, Illinois) in 1718 and lived ten years in the mission of Ste. Famille des Tamarois and that he had stopped at Fort Pontchartrain to baptize Indians and sign the register once on 3 August 1718 as he was traveling to the Tamarois. Remarkable! I did not, however, know how weird and wonderful and sad my investigation would become.

PRDH gave no parents for Marguerite Roy, the wife of Guillaume Dupont dit Leblond, and no further information, except for her remarriage to Jean Baptiste Dupuis in 1735:

MARGUERITE ROY

First marriage: before 1728-11-26 with GUILLAUME DUPONT LEBLOND Father: GUILLAUME DUPONT LEBLOND Mother: MARIE MADELEINE MICHEL TAILLON OLIVIER

Second marriage: 1735-05-19 Québec with JEAN BAPTISTE DUPUY Father: ELOI DUPUY Mother: MARIE BARBE VANZEUCLE LAUZON

Imagine my shock when I examined the actual marriage record on microfilm! There, clearly hand-written on the church entry—on which Marguerite Roy is identified only as veuve de Dupont, widow of Dupont—was Marguerite Roy’s signature, and, wonder of wonders, this 1735 signature seemed to match the two others of 1728 and 1739.

I cannot begin to explain all the steps I took next to confirm that the three Marguerite Roys are the same. For this topic alone, my research in the primary records has resulted in a folder that is about five inches thick. I have been lucky to live close enough to the Family History Center in Roseville, Michigan, to be able to use regularly the facilities and the microfilms I have placed on permanent loan, and I am grateful to all the volunteer assistants who helped, sometimes only by being there or by reacting enthusiastically to my discoveries. I have also been fortunate to be able to order copies of notarial and other documents from Les Archives Nationales du Québec, both the Montréal and Québec branches. This mail service is invaluable. And, oh, what remarkable details these documents contain!

25 Illinois(e) is a term that was applied to the Mississippi River area and also to Fort St. Joseph (des Miamis or des Illinois, modern-day Niles, Michigan), as the Miami Indians were closely related to the Illinois. Marie Anne’s aunt, Marguerite Couc, served as a godmother several times at St. Joseph from 15 Aug 1720 to 02 May 1723. See Marthe Faribault-Beauregard, La population des forts français d’Amérique (XVIIe siècle, Éditions Bergeron, 1982, for Fort de la Rivière Saint Joseph des Illinois (Miamis), 1720-1773 and FHL #1018092, photocopy.

26 Ste. Anne de Detroit, p. 66.

27 Bertrand Desjardins recently accepted my proof, and the PRDH data base will eventually be updated. [2014 addition: see Individual #101169, Couple #16493 of GUILLAUME DUPONT LEBLOND and MARGUERITE ROY, and Individual #90966 JEAN BAPTISTE DUPUY SANSREGRET, accessed 2/14/2014. This latter certificate mentions CITÉ LE 29-03-1720 DANS LE REGISTRE DE L’HÔTEL-DIEU DE QUÉBEC: "JEAN-BAPTISTE DUPUIS SANSREGRET, 20 ANS, PARIS, SOLDAT DE M. SAINT-VINCENT". PRDH is kind to mention my research in connection with Marguerite Roy and her husbands.]
After placing several orders and while waiting impatiently for them to arrive from the archives, I next checked the census of 1744 for Québec, since the Robin children had been baptized there. I looked first on PRDH, where I found:

#186969 Québec 1744-00-00 [Census]
Rank Name Age M.S. Pr. Sex
01 JEAN ROBIN Occupation: ECRIVAIN 029 m p m [I really question this occupation, as there is another Robin, Louis, who was ecrivain (scribe), and I’ve not seen evidence this Jean Robin could even sign his name.]

02 MARGUERITE ROY 038 m p f

03 PIERRE MARIE ROBIN SON OF 01 003 c p m [apparently, the only surviving child in 1744. Note: Marie was not an unusual name for boys in New France.]

I next consulted my Les Rapports des Archives nationales du Québec CD-Rom version of the census. This source informed me that living at what I first assumed was next door to Jean Robin and Marguerite Roy on rue de la Ste. Famille, depuis la Place jusque sur le Rempart, from la Place as far as the Rempart [rampart], in 1744 were François Leblond, forgeron, 34; Catherine Beaugy (Baugis), his wife, 30; and three children, five and under. Domiciled with the François Leblond family in 1744 were Claude Leblond, 50, and Jacques Spénard, 17. I felt sure this Claude Dupont (dit Leblond) would turn out to be the one who had signed the marriage record carried to Ste. Anne and also the marriage contract. Claude Dupont (dit Leblond), a full brother of Guillaume Dupont, was born 22 Feb 1697 Québec, thus actually 49 in 1744; and François Dupont dit Leblond is the half-brother of Guillaume and Claude, François’s parents being Guillaume and his second wife, Anne Trottain, veuve Antoine Choquet, who were married at Batiscan 8 Sept 1704. François was born at Québec 18 Aug 1707, thus actually 37 in 1744. It seemed to me it could not be mere coincidence that placed the Robin dit Latouche family either next door to or even in the same dwelling as the Dupont dit Leblond family.

Two documents concerning the Dupont property on rue de la Ste. Famille eventually arrived, confirming that before his death in 1729 Guillaume Dupont fils had been granted an advance on his inheritance, the house on rue de la Ste. Famille.

29 One of François Dupont dit Leblond’s children, Claude Dupont Leblond, m 1766-01-30 Ste. Anne de Detroit Cécile Campeau (Nicolas Campeau & Agathe Lacasse St Aubin). PRDH and Ste. Anne de Detroit, pp. 246-47, photocopy. Cécile Campeau’s ancestors were among the first to settle in Detroit. Her father was called Niagara because he was born there at the portage to Jacques Campeau and Cécile Catin, who would certainly have known Pierre Roy and his family. [Editor’s note: Agathe Lacasse St Aubin was the daughter of Jean Casse dit St-Aubin and Marie-Louise Gauthier, also first settlers in Detroit, père Antoine Choquet, who were married at Batiscan 8 Sept 1704. François was born at Québec 18 Aug 1707, thus actually 37 in 1744. It seemed to me it could not be mere coincidence that placed the Robin dit Latouche family either next door to or even in the same dwelling as the Dupont dit Leblond family.

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30 Census of 1744, RAPQ CD-Rom version.
31 Another brother is Jean-Clement Dupont m. 1730 M. Anne Beaudoin 1730 Quebec. Jetté and PRDH.
32 Vente et bail a rente d’un emplacement rue Ste famille a Guillaume Dupont dit le blond [Guillaume Dupont père], 26 November 1698, Notary Genaple, #1471; and Accord Guillaume Dupont père et Guillaume fils, 5 May 1729, Notary DuBreuil, #3178, photocopies.
Although PRDH had no death date for Jean Baptiste Dupuis, by examining Pierre-George Roy’s index of judicial and notarial acts, I found a reference to an investigation in 1735 of the death of “Jean Baptiste Dupuy, two days after his marriage. Suicide in a moment of insanity.” The timing was right; I felt sure the subject of this judicial record had to be the Dupuis who married Marguerite Roy, widow Dupont, in 1735. I assure you it was difficult for me to wait for the eventual arrival of this document from the archives; but, although the investigation of this suicide saddened me, I was not disappointed in making further connections.

Marguerite Roy’s husband had indeed ended his life on 21 May, as verified by the testimony of the witnesses called to the inquiry into whether his death was truly suicide and not homicide. Marguerite Roy herself testified and signed the document with the same distinctive signature I had seen on the other documents dated 1728, 1735, and 1739.

On 24 May 1735 at nine in the morning, Marguerite Roy stated under oath that she was 30 years old, living in her house on rue de la Ste. Famille, “widow of her first marriage to Guillaume Dupont and of her second marriage to Jean Dupuis.” She is then reported as testifying:

Her husband at the time of the marriage seemed to have a deranged way of thinking [l’esprit derangé] and she was even warned he was lunatic; but, hoping she could bring him back to his senses at some point in time, she nevertheless married him on Thursday the 19th of the present month at about eight p.m. [20 heures du soir]; they went together to her home and stayed there until three a.m. During this time he told her he believed he would die. She asked him what was going on. He told her that one day [most probably back in France], his sister having gone to a reader of horoscopes, she asked him to go in [to see the fortune teller]; the tireur d’oroscope, looking at his hand, told him he would go to a foreign country [pays étrange] where he would live quite nicely [assez gracieusement] for some three years; that he would also marry a widow from an even more foreign country [Miami territory?], whom he would have difficulty [la peine, sorrow?] to obtain, after which marriage something would happen to him; [she further said] that she asked him what this something could be and told him he should not believe such superstition; at which he brusquely turned his back [on her] and brusquely said, “I’ll tell you”. And this is all she testified she knew.

But she signed her testimony.

The inquiry is recorded on seventeen pages of small handwriting. I cannot repeat here all of the interesting details provided by the witnesses, but all said they believed Dupuis was not in his right mind.

34 1735 – Information sur la mort du nommé Jean Baptiste Dupuy, deux jours après son mariage. Suicide dans un moment de folie. (No 1065), Roy, Inventaire, p. 102.
35 1735 – Information sur la mort du nommé Jean Baptiste Dupuy, # 1065, ANQ-Québec, photocopy, my translation, with punctuation added for clarity.
36 Pierre “Piloste,” who initiated the investigation; Widow Perthuis, employer of Dupuis; Widow La joye; Simon Touchet, negociant, merchant’s assistant, neighbor of Marguerite Roy on rue de la Ste. Famille, who identified Dupuis as commis (clerk) of Sr. Perthis; Pierre Charles “Chauvage” (sic: Sauvage, a legitimate French family name), who witnessed the marriage and contract. (Thérèse Véron Grandmesnil, also born at Fort Pontchartrain, 24 July 1709, served as godmother 26 January 1733 at Québec of Joseph-Louis de Gonzague Sauvage, son of Pierre-
They create vivid images of him racing around the city before and after the marriage, abandoning his bride in the wee hours of the morning, hiding under a house and on the ramparts, and, eventually being found dead with a noose around his neck under a tree. Sauvagesse (female Indians) found him there, cut him loose, and carried him to a doctor, who thus did not visit the corpse on-site. For this reason, as well as because of evidence of injuries to his head, the inquiry or inquest was conducted to determine the cause of death. As a suicide, Dupuis was denied a Christian burial, and it was ordered that the cadaver would be attached behind a cart and dragged on the ground, the head below, face against the earth, through the streets of the city as far as the Place Royale, from there returned to the front of the prison to be hanged by the feet for 24 hours and his body thrown into the water.

As I eventually learned from Raymond Boyer’s book on crime and punishment, however, the widow (unnamed in Boyer) protested the judgment of the court that his body should be so treated; the Conseil Supérieur revoked “the infamous decree [.;] and the body of the suicide was deprived only of Christian burial.”37 As interesting and distressing as all of this was, though, I still did not have a link between Madame Robin and the widow Dupuis. I did have circumstantial evidence because of the reference to the widow Dupuis’s home on rue de la Ste. Famille, later also occupied by the Robin family, but I wanted more.

As the year 2003 began, I received the marriage contract of Jean Baptiste Dupuis and Marguerite Roy and a document I had ordered simply because it was indexed as the inventory of the possessions left by deceased dupuy, with no first name, and dated 27 June 1735.38 I learned that this man had been a merchant in the city of Québec residing rue Notre-Dame in the home of “Therese Montambault,” widow of deceased “Sr. Elie Boucher Lajoye”. Widow Lajoye had testified at the inquest into Jean Baptiste’s death. Louis Beaudouin, negociant and creditor of Dupuis, was acting for, among others, the widow of deceased Sr. Perthus, also a witness at the inquest; and a man named Gaspard Boucault was acting for the absent heirs of Sr. Dupuy and other creditors.

The document is a fascinating window into the life of an eighteenth century negociant, merchant’s assistant. I will mention here only a few important details. First, Dupuis had five books in his possession, two of them loaned to him by others. One book he owned is the Oeuvres (writings) de Boileau (Nicolas Boileau, 1636 – 1714, French satirical poet who modeled his work after Horace and also a famous literary critic), and another book, one he had borrowed from Charles d’Auteuil,39 a history of the Schism of the Greeks. So much for the image of these merchants and traders who traveled to the pays d’en haut as all illiterate bumpkins! He also had an unpaid bill due for the washing of several items of clothing. I immediately thought of all the references I have read that alleged our ancestors did not wash either their clothes or themselves. Finally, among the items found in the room Dupuis rented for his store, magasin, were three “billes” (balls) of chocolate worth three livres per “bille” and women’s silk stockings worth six livres a pair.

Charles Sauvage, dit Chevalier in Jetté, and Anne Badeau (Fabien & Marie Anne Corbin), PRDH. I must, of course, wonder whether Marguerite and Thérèse knew each other through this mutual acquaintance.) Also testifying: Joseph Perthus, 19, negociant, who said Dupuis lived at his, Perthus’s, mother’s for five years; and Basile Marois, menuisier, 33, invited to witness the marriage but then summarily dismissed by Dupuis.

37 Raymond Boyer, Les Crimes et les Châtiments au Canada Français du XVIIe au XXe siècle, Ottawa: Le Circle du Livre de France, 1966, p. 130. Boyer cites some sources I have not yet seen. This book was one of my earliest purchases, about twenty years ago [in 2003], of used books concerning New France.

38 27 June 1735, Notary Boisseau, photocopy.

39 Charles Ruette d’Auteuil, sieur de Monceaux, was involved in the fur trade, visited Fort Pontchartrain, and on 27 September 1734 at Montréal married the widow of Simon Réaume, Thérèse Catin, who would become the first woman to negotiate business in what became the state of Indiana when she entered into an association with Philippe Damours de La Morandière on 11 June 1735 for trade at the Miami post, Notary Gaudron de Chevremont.
But I return to my primary topic. The inquest had mentioned a marriage contract written on the same evening as the church ceremony. I learned this contract had been written by Notary Pinguet, 19 May 1735. Both "Dupuis" and "Marguerite roy veuve dupont" signed it. 40

Marguerite stipulated that she possessed, at that time,

one-fifth of a share in property and a stone house near La chapelle de bon Secours in Montréal as her share of inheritance from her father and mother, and also property on Rue Ste. Famille on which is a stone house of one story

This latter property belonged to her legally from her deceased husband as "ses acquets que de ses conquets faits avec le dit feu Sr. dupont son mary." She also declared she possessed 1750 livres in personal assets, 850 livres in card money of this country, and 900 livres in personal possessions, household items, and merchandise.” The document indicates a list, but this item appears not to have survived. The future bride reserved the right to hold these assets as her propres. This meant they would remain hers alone and would not enter into the marital community property, her right under the Coutume de Paris / Custom of Paris. She also excluded from the marital property an expected inheritance from her parents, an account of which François Roy, her uncle, would provide her.

When I saw the name François Roy I knew I had been right in evaluating the various Marguerite Roy signatures. Uncle François is documented multiple times as handling her father’s business interests. Besides, this document had added yet one more example of her signature.

Her intended offered a customary “douaire” of 3000 livres. 41 The “douaire” represented the inheritance the husband promised to a wife should he predecease her. Thus, Marguerite Roy should have received 3000 livres from the estate of Jean Baptiste Dupuis, but I do not yet know whether his debts exceeded this amount or exactly how the issue was resolved. Marguerite promised that if she were to predecease her husband without any children of their marriage, she would leave him 1000 livres from her “propres heritage.” He predeceased his wife, though, and no children were born of the Dupuis marriage. I was nevertheless still aware of the child Marguerite Dupont, born in 1728 of Marguerite’s first marriage. What had happened to her?

Searching for documents concerning Claude Dupont dit Leblond, I finally located and received an appeal he filed 6 April 1742. 42 He was protesting the fact that Marguerite Roy, widow of Guillaume Dupont, and femme du nommé Latouche, wife of the man named Latouche, and also the children born of their marriage, still occupied the home dependante de la Succession du nommé Guillaume Dupont, inherited from Guillaume Dupont. Claude further stated that she had legally held this property in the name of the

40 19 May 1735, “Contrat de mariage entre j. B. Dupuy et marguerite Roy,” Notary Pinguet, photocopy, written at the home of the future bride. Also signing were “Simon touchet; P C Chauvage; marie marois; Marie anne badeau; [Alexis] brunet; [Louis] Burgouin”.
41 This is the same amount Jean Montary stipulated for Marie Anne Montour on their marriage contract.
42 Indexed in Roy, Inventaire, part of #1295, 1742 – “Claude Dupont, voyageur, contre Latouche, journalier”, photocopies from ANQ.
child Marguerite Dupont, who was apparently deceased by the date of this appeal. Claude wanted Latouche and his wife, who were living on rue de La Ste. Famille with their own children, to pay rent.

On 21 May 1742, as the appeal continued, a man named Rageot, huissier au conseil superieur de quebec, bailiff or process server, after copying the proceedings for that day, declared he had delivered to the notary Barolet for Latouche et sa femme a copy of the marriage contract between Guillaume Dupont and Marguerite Roy, dated 17 May 1726, and was charging one livre for writing the copy and one livre, ten sols for transcribing the current day’s document. I have been unable to have the archives locate a copy of the marriage contract [Note: I found it in 2007 on BAnQ, and I have read it. See my postscript below], but the marriage itself is also said in this series of documents to have taken place in the pays d’en haut. Another document, part of this appeal, revealed that within a year of his son’s death, Guillaume Dupont père (the father) had filed a legal request for a tutor (legal guardian) and substitute tutor to be appointed for his granddaughter, Marguerite Dupont, a minor of fourteen to fifteen months, born of his son Guillaume’s marriage “au pays des Miamy” with Marguerite Roy. He believed Marguerite Roy would leave soon to join her family there and wanted to safeguard the child’s rights. How many more documents like this and the 1726 marriage contract have simply disappeared [or have not yet been found because they were not indexed properly]?

Marguerite Roy’s marriage to and inheritance of property from Guillaume Dupont explains her presence in 1728 Québec. I still do not know with certainty the influences that resulted in her godmother’s daughter’s, Marie Anne Germaneau / Montour’s, appearance there in the same year. I may have, however, uncovered evidence for what might have been an eighteenth century “network” established among several of the women with roots at Fort Pontchartrain and the pays d’en haut. We must not assume our female ancestors had no say about their lives. Certainly, Marguerite’s life challenges such an assumption.

Born in the hinterland of New France, the daughter of a French Canadian and a Miami, she would certainly have been branded a “half-breed” by earlier generations of writers in English, yet neither she nor her sisters or brothers are so-called in any record I have seen. Their mother’s “origin” is alluded to when her full name is given, as is the case for those whose parents came from European or American origins. All of her life was not lived at Fort Pontchartrain, as some have guessed. She and her siblings most probably accompanied their parents to Montréal between 1716 and 1719. Her brother Pierre, baptized 21 April 1706 at the fort of Détroit, died and was buried in Pointe aux Trembles on the island of Montréal on 19 June 1716, age ten.44 Present at his burial was his aunt, born Marguerite Roy in 1674, a nun in the Congregation of Notre Dame de Montréal. She joined the community at the age of fifteen, taking the name Soeur de la Conception. It is not unlikely she taught her nieces to write and perhaps also to read. There is no doubt they learned to sign their names.

43 Question was raised about the extent to which Marguerite Roy could enjoy “usufruct,” the use of the inherited property, since her child by Dupont was deceased. It is interesting that her marriage to Robin is called her second marriage, with no indication she had married Dupuis. I have to wonder whether that marriage was annulled because of the state of mind of Dupuis on the day of the wedding. Ecclesiastics are the only persons indicated as present at her marriage to Robin, and no mention is made there of either of her previous two marriages.

44 PRDH #12037 Pointe-aux-Trembles 1716-06-19. Register of L’Enfant Jesus de la Pointe-aux-Trembles, FHL microfilm #1018016, photocopy of the record, my translation. I decided to view the actual record on microfilm to determine how far off someone’s reading of “Rabakikoi” for PRDH might be from OuabanKiKoué. It actually reads abaKìKì, the transcriber misreading the first “u” over an “o” as an “R”. This Pierre is definitely the son of Pierre and Marguerite. A side bar notation, not recorded by PRDH, even identifies him as “neveu de la Sr de La conception,” nephew of Sister de La Conception.

45 See Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. III, pp. 574-75, for this interesting woman. She died in December of 1749. [Editor’s note: She was the great-aunt of Charles Baubin, part of whose life is shown in MHH, Vol. 24, #2,
Their parents can be specifically documented in Montréal in 1718, Marguerite’s mother even serving there as godmother for her brother-in-law Jacques Roy’s child Jacques on 5 April 1718. On this entry Marguerite 8abanKiK8é is recorded not with her Indian name but with the last name of her husband, as Marguerite Roy, femme, wife of Pierre Roy. She was not alone in Montréal in 1718. Her sister was also there, as shown by a 20 July 1718 baptism, three months later:

[in the margin] B[aptism] of Pierre miamy

This twenty of July of the year seventeen hundred and eighteen was baptized Pierre, three days old, son of a Miami and of a Miamie [female]. The godfather was Mr. Pierre Roy, and the godmother Mar [?], Miamie sister of the wife of Pierre Roy, fils [son or junior].

Belmont, priest
Name [of the Miami] unknown

Her husband was in Montréal in 1718 as well. Five years earlier, on 10 September 1713, Pierre Roy père acting for Pierre Roy fils, presently absent at detroit du lac Erie, had purchased for him a plot of land on the island of Montréal at La pointe Saint Charles sur le bord du fleuve, at Pointe Saint Charles on the bank of the river. Le Saint Laurent. This property was later sold back to the previous owners, the final payment accepted by Pierre in person on 31 July 1718.

By 1720, at the latest, the family was established at Ste. Philippe, later called Fort Miami, when, in August of 1720, Governor-general Vaudreuil gave instructions to enseigne Dumont, about to leave to assume command of both the Ouiatanon post (modern-day Lafayette, Indiana) and Fort St. Philippe (now Fort Wayne, Indiana). Dumont was to tell Pierre Roy to take himself, his wife and children, and

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April 2003, pp. 79-87: “Encountering Inconsistences/Mysteries with Primary Sources: The Case of Charles Baubin,” by Gail F. Moreau-DesHarnais.]  

46 Photocopy of the record, my translation. Jacques Roy’s wife, Marthe French, on their marriage record (PRDH #48043 Montréal 1711-11-24) is identified as originally from Deerfield, New England, having been taken from there during the attack by French and Abénaki, and later becoming a French citizen.

47 Photocopy of the record. It is impossible to tell which of the three Pierre Roys in this family is the godfather. Another Pierre Roy, a younger brother, had purchased for him a plot of land on the island of Montréal at La pointe Saint Charles sur le bord du fleuve, at Pointe Saint Charles on the bank of the river.

48 Adhémar, #9315, photocopy.

49 Ibid., Endorsement 31 July 1718, indicating that Pierre Roy, present, had been paid by Nicolas Lefebvre and his wife, Marie Anne Ducharme, the remaining amount of money due for them to repurchase the property they had sold to him. [Editor’s note: Nicolas Lefebvre had been in Detroit in 1709. His wife’s two brothers, Louis and Joseph, had also been to Detroit. In addition, her uncle and aunt were Pierre Mallet and Madeleine Thunay dit Dufresne, who had been in Detroit.]

50 The Ouiatanons, or Weas, a branch of the Miami (Twicktwigs / Oumamis) had formerly lived for a time at the St. Joseph River. La Salle found them there in 1679 living side-by-side with Miamis and Mascoutens. Cited by Gilles Havard, Empire et métissages, Indiens et français dans le Pays d’en Haut, 1660-1715, Toronto and Paris: Septentrion and Presses de l’Université de Paris-Sorbonne, 2003. This wonderful new book will eventually be translated into English. It addresses a subject that has been generally ignored by historians, particularly United States historians writing only in English.

51 As summarized on the Canadian Archives ArchiviaNet: 3611 Extrait du mémoire de Vaudreuil pour servir d'instruction à l'enseigne Dumont qui s'en va commander au pays des Ouiatanons et à la rivièrè des Miamis - lettres à remettre à Tonty; les voyageurs munis de congés et les marchandises resteront à Détroit jusqu'à ce qu'on sache si les Miamis et les Ouiatanons quitteront leurs villages ou non; ira avec Reaume au village des Miamis et communiquera à Pierre Roy et aux autres Français l'ordre de quitter ce village et de se retirer à Détroit; demandera à Vinseneau "de le venir joindre" au village des Miamis; tâchera de convaincre les Miamis de s'établir à la rivièrè Saint-Joseph et les Ouiatanons de s'installer sur le Téatiki. Colonial Archives Item part of: Fonds des

his possessions to Fort Pontchartrain, to winter there, and to return the following spring to the new colony.\textsuperscript{52} Other French / French Canadians were also evacuated. Pierre Roy even entered into at least two legal trading associations with the commandants at Fort St. Philippe.\textsuperscript{53}

Modern writers must not make the mistake of presuming our ancestors were ignorant of such matters even though much of their lives was lived “at the margins,” as “part of the untamed and unrefined environment”\textsuperscript{54} of the Indian country. Nor should modern writers guess that our ancestors stayed put at whatever place we find them documented. Guillaume Dupont, fils, on 6 July 1729, only three days before he was buried, drew up a legal document because “having fallen ill,” he wished “to clarify his association” with Jacques Rouillard, “with whom he planned to go to Detroit.” Who is to say Marguerite had not planned to accompany him? Or that she did not travel there then and at other times? The Dupont / Rouillard association was later declared null at Québec, signed “la veuve Dupont” on 28 October 1731.

Marguerite was not unacquainted with the legal system of the day, especially the Coutume de Paris, the Custom of Paris, as is demonstrated in the surviving legal documents concerning the Dupont inheritance. [See my article on the Coutume at www.habitantheritage.org] By the time of her marriage to Dupuis, she had assets of her own, for which she had enough savoir-faire (or savvy) to want to protect from a prospective husband rumored to be “not all there in the head,” however much she might have loved him and wanted to help him. Marguerite never became la veuve Robin, Widow Robin. She predeceased her husband on 20 April 1755, said to be fifty years old, and was buried on the 21\textsuperscript{st}, six days shy of her fifty-first birthday.\textsuperscript{55} Only one of her children by Robin appears to have survived to marry.\textsuperscript{56}

Her mother had been buried at Fort Pontchartrain in the cemetery of Ste. Anne on 31 October 1732, after receiving all the sacraments: “Margueritte SabanquiKouet [sic], femme de Pierre Roy, morte dela picote”, the latter phrase inserted above the line: died from smallpox (p. 231). Picote is another name for la petite vérole, smallpox. Marguerite Roy’s sister Magdeleine died a few weeks after her mother, on 20 November 1732, femme de Sieur labutte (Pierre Chesne’s dit name is LaButte), after receiving all the

\begin{itemize}
\item Colonies. Correspondance générale; Canada MG 1 - Série C11A. Microfilm of original, reel no. F-42, Volume 42, fol. 158-160v. The full letter refers specifically to Roy’s wife, children and possessions and to the other details.
\item See an English language excerpt of the instructions in Frances Krauskopf, translator and editor, Ouiatanon Documents, Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1955, specifically p. 167.
\item See agreement written on 24 May 1728 (same day as Magdelene Roy’s marriage contract) by Father Dominique Thaumur at St.-Philippe and filed in the papers of J. B. Adhémar on 5 September 1728 by François Roy. He had returned to the mother colony with the first pelletries (skins and furs) to be sold for the profit of the partnership of the two Roy brothers and “DeNoyelle,” as he signed it. The contract specifically states no secret commerce would be allowed. De Noyelles would not contribute as much as the two other partners, and an adjustment was to be made at the end of the contract. It is possible Marguerite and her husband traveled with her uncle. See also, Société des S[ieurs] Darnaud et Roy, 3 juin 1732, Chicago Historical Society, French America collection, II, 319, photocopy. Written at Detroit, the contract includes Pierre’s cross in place of a signature. [Insert image]
\item The Detroit area was identified as such by Karen Marrero, “Encountering Cadillac,” Le Passage du Détroit, 300 ans de présence francophone / Passages, Three Centuries of Francophone Presence at Le Détroit,” edited by Marcel Bénéteau, Publications of the Humanities Research Group, Working Papers in the Humanities 11, University of Windsor, 2003. Marrero delivered this paper to a symposium held at the University of Windsor in July of 2001, a presentation I was unable to attend, although I heard almost all of the others. Marrero, p. 38. [See my “Encountering Errors: Interpreting history from incomplete or unreliable sources,” unpublished article.]
\item PRDH #251504 Québec 1755-04-21 Death :1755-04-20
\end{itemize}
sacraments, about 22 or 23 years of age. No cause for her death is given. Correspondence of the time indicates there was also an infectious fever in the area.\textsuperscript{57}

And because of my research on Pierre Roy’s daughter, I can at last report a time by which her father was definitely deceased: 12 April 1737, when François Roy, guardian of the minor children of “Pierre Roy and Marguerite 8uabaKuique [sic],” and “Joseph Trutteau [Trudeau], subrogé tuteur,” assistant guardian, arranged to have a house examined and repaired by two carpenters and two masons. The house was situated in the city of Montréal and part of the inheritance left by Pierre Roy. During the previous winter all of it had been damaged, even reduced to rubble, “toute fraccassé meme [?] en Ruine.”\textsuperscript{58} No precise address is given, but this may be the property for which Marguerite Roy claimed a one-fifth share in 1735.\textsuperscript{59}

I wish I had space here to share even more details I have found. My quest has convinced me there is so much out there just waiting to be discovered. Knowing this, I continue to be impatient with those who make snap judgments about our ancestors on the basis of very little evidence. Isabelle Couc / Madame Montour is one whose reputation has suffered from this syndrome, as have her children, as has the entire history of the French-Canadian experience and contribution to the peopling of the United States. I am doing my part to set a most interesting record straight. Thank you, Isabelle! I feel confident you have guided me along the way.

\textbf{Postscript:} The marriage contract of Guillaume Dupont and Marguerite Roy, 11 May 1726, can be read at Bibliothèque et Archivesnationales du Québec, Cite: CR301,P1298. It was written by Father Guymonneau, Missionary to the Miami. Pierre Roy, father, promised to give the couple 100 pistolettes in merchandise to be delivered when his son-in-law asked. Guillaume Dupont dowered Marguerite Roy with cent ecus of douaire and cent franc of préciput. One ecu was equal to three livres, so 300 livres for the douaire, dower’s portion. Before the witnesses, father guymoneu, messieurs dubuisson, lefèbvre father and son, and claude dupont, Guillaume and

\textsuperscript{57} Letter from Beauharnois to the minister, 1733 May 30 at Montréal: “la petite vérole et une fièvre maligne continuent de faire des ravages à Détroit ainsi que chez les Miamis et les Ouianans”, C11\textsuperscript{A}, Volume 59, fol. 8-9v, excerpt from ArchiviaNet. Governor Beauharnois must have received this news from the first convoy to reach the mother colony from Fort Pontchartrain that spring. Twelve of twenty deaths recorded in the Ste. Anne de Detroit register from October 1732 to March 1733 were cited as caused by smallpox, ten of these twelve recorded deaths were French Canadians. The infection had originated in Iroquoia and moved to Miami territory because of trading the Indians did in New York with the English; then it spread to Detroit and elsewhere. Marguerite, although she is recorded as first to die from this cause, was most likely already at Detroit with her husband when he signed his contract with the newly-appointed commandant of St. Philip Miamis, d’Arnaud, in June. See footnote 53. The epidemic also affected the mother colony. A 1733 October 14 letter from Beauharnois and Hocquart to the minister in France says there were close to 2000 deaths in the colony from “la petite vérole”. Work had to be suspended. C11\textsuperscript{A}, Volume 59, fol. 163-206, excerpt from Library and Archives Canada, ArchiviaNet. My examination of the registers for Montréal and Québec City for 1733 showed that almost all of the deaths recorded are French-Canadians, page after page, often of young children. The outbreak prevented the domiciled Indians from trading with the English.


Marguerite declared that they wish their contract to be governed by the Custom of Paris. Also present were François Roy, uncle of the bride, and Pierre Dozat. The contract was insinuated and registered 30 August 1729 in the Fonds Cour supérieure, District judiciaire de Québec.

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