

### **Bibliography: Michigan 17th century – circa 1805**

Gail F. Moreau-DesHarnais, Diane Wolford Sheppard, Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, FCHSM members

Pertaining to Michilimackinac, Détroit, Rivière-aux-Raisins (River Raisin, present-day Monroe, Michigan), Fort St-Joseph (Niles, Michigan), and Grosse Pointe. [For a comprehensive bibliography of French Canadians in Michigan by John P. DuLong, see *Michigan's Habitant Heritage*, Vol. 24, #2 and #4, April and October 2003.] Books marked with an asterisk are highly recommended.

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Bald, F. Clever, *The Great Fire of 1805* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, no. 5, 1951).

Bald, F. Clever, *Michigan in Four Centuries* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1954).

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- Bénéteau, Marcel and Peter Halford, *Mots choisis: trois cents ans de francophonie au Détroit du lac Érié* (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2008).
- Boynnton, Brother James, S. J., *Fishers of Men: The Jesuit Mission at Mackinac 1670 -1765* (Mackinac Island, Michigan: Ste. Anne's Church, 1996).
- Bréhant de Galinée, René François Dollier de Casson, and James H. Coyne (translator and editor), *Exploration of the Great Lakes, 1669-1670, Galinée's Narrative and Map* (Toronto, Ontario: Ontario Historical Society, 1903).
- Brunsmann, Denver and Joel Stone, editors, *Revolutionary Detroit: Portraits in Political and Cultural Change 1760-1805* (Detroit, Michigan: Detroit Historical Society, 2009).
- Brunsmann, Denver, Douglas D. Fisher, and Joel Stone, editors, *Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812* (Detroit, Michigan: Detroit Historical Society, 2012).
- Burton, C. M., *Cadillac's Village, or Detroit under Cadillac: With a List of Property Owners, and a History of the Settlement 1701 to 1710* (Detroit: by the author, 1896; republished by the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 1999). All of Burton's valuable works need to be read with caution because more modern research has refined his early contributions.
- Burton, C. M., *The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701 – 1922*, vols. 1-5 (Detroit: S. J. Clarke, 1922).
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- \*Choquette, Leslie, *Frenchmen into Peasants: Modernity and Tradition in the Peopling of French Canada* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997).
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- \*Dunnigan, Brian Leigh, *A Picturesque Situation, Mackinac before Photography 1615 – 1860* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2008). Dunnigan expertly narrates the history of Mackinac through the hundreds of maps, paintings, and portraits that illustrate this book.
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- Eccles, W. J., *Essays on New France* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1987).
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- Edmunds, R. David, *The Potawatomis: Keepers of the Fire* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978).
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\*Kent, Timothy J. *Ft. Pontchartrain at Detroit: A Guide to the Daily Lives of Fur Trade and Military Personnel, Settlers, and Missionaries at French Posts, Volumes I and II* (Ossineke, Michigan: Silver Fox Enterprises, 2001). FCHSM member Timothy Kent's two volumes about the early history of Detroit provides unparalleled detail about what life was like in Detroit's early years. The two-volume set includes the following chapters: Introduction; Historical Overview; Canoe Transportation; Provisions, Cooking, and Eating; Hunting and Warfare, Trapping and Fishing; Buildings, Hardware, and Furnishings; Furnishings of the Church, Vestments, and Activities of the Priest; Woodworking, Metalworking, and Masonryworking; Farming and Gardening; Clothing; Sewing, Laundry, and Cleaning; Grooming and Medical Treatments; Recreation; Trade and Commerce. The appendices contain translations of 32 documents related to life and trade at Detroit. Finally, Kent has illustrated the book with drawings, maps, and photographs.

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Parkman, Francis. *The Oregon Trail / History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac* (New York: Literary Classics of the United States, 1991). Parkman is now considered more as historical fiction than as history. As Eccles wrote in his *The Canadian Frontier*, originally published in 1969: "In a class by itself is the epic series by Francis Parkman... Written with a pronounced Anglo-American Protestant bias, they portray the inevitable victory of the forces of progress over the reactionary French Catholic regime in North America. Since Parkman's underlying premises were in accord with majority opinion in both the United States and Canada, his interpretation of the history of New France gained instant acceptance as definitive works by both American and English-speaking Canadians. Despite trenchant criticism by scholars, these works emulate the phoenix." (p. 214) Which is to say that, like the mythical phoenix bird, they keep rising from the ashes of the fire that tried to destroy them. When you read Parkman, enjoy his prose style, but remember that he is no longer considered accurate, especially in his interpretations.

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praised by academics, Sleep-Smith's assertions about Marie Madeleine Réaume and her "control of the fur trade" are not supported by the original records. In fact, had she consulted the original records Sleep-Smith would have had to delete most of the material about Marie Madeleine Réaume.

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### **Online Sources**

[www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/menu.html](http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/menu.html) Miami Indians Ethnohistory Library Archives: The Miami Collection. Part of the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology.

[www.mackinacparks.com/](http://www.mackinacparks.com/)

[www.geocities.com/michdetroit/](http://www.geocities.com/michdetroit/)

[www.gpwmi.us/aboutus/cityhistory1.html](http://www.gpwmi.us/aboutus/cityhistory1.html) (about the Grosse Point area)

[www.biographi.ca/EN/](http://www.biographi.ca/EN/) (Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online)

[www.canadiana.org](http://www.canadiana.org) (Early Canadiana Online)

### **FRENCH IN AMERICA CALENDAR**

See [http://www.johnfishersr.net/french\\_in\\_america\\_calendar.html](http://www.johnfishersr.net/french_in_america_calendar.html) for wonderful images and maps.

Electronic New France / Nouvelle-France électronique: a web site by Joseph Gagné  
<http://pages.videotron.com/nfe/>

### **Suzanne Boivin Sommerville's Guidelines to Exploring the Published History of New France**

As you explore the published history of the French and Canadian experience in Detroit, Michigan, and elsewhere, keep these guidelines in mind:

FIRST: Look at the date of publication of a work or of its re-publication. As copyrights expire, older works are now more readily available as reprints and even on the Web. Always remember that sources unavailable to a writer at the time of publication may have since become available. As a continuation of this warning, judge for yourself to what extent the writer made guesses about or did not understand the material used to prepare the book, and to what extent biased or loaded language controls a reader's

response. Prejudice and religious hatred abound in the published histories, and even in some of the original documents.

SECOND: Look at the bibliography or list of sources used for the work. If you see only sources published and translated years ago but no original research, even though the work has a twentieth- or twenty-first century publication date, then you will be looking at incomplete scholarship. Some authors continue to rely on source material that is no longer as reliable as it was once thought to be.

THIRD: Are any of the sources French language sources?

FOURTH: When you meet patronizing and even insulting references to our French and French-Canadian heritage, remind yourself that the writer knows no better. Native Americans / First Nations are receiving a much better, more sensitive treatment recently. Our day has yet to come. Get into the habit of reading critically. Not everything that appears in print is necessarily accurate.

FIFTH: If all a writer gives is generalizations and pronouncements on a grand scale but cannot even respect **the names** of our ancestors, you can be sure that writer has not done enough serious study.

SIXTH: Do your own research instead of relying on secondary sources. Even the smallest details contribute to the whole. There is much to be done about the French history of Detroit and Michigan for the years 1712 – 1760.