

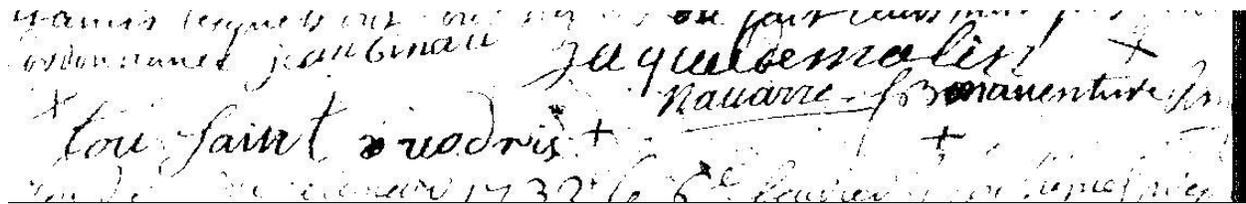
**Robert Navarre, First Royal Notary in *Détroit***  
**Part V**

Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, FCHSM member ([gfmoreau1@aol.com](mailto:gfmoreau1@aol.com))

Part I appeared in *Michigan's Habitant Heritage*, Vol. 28, #2, April 2007, pp. 95 - 100; Part II, Vol. 28, #3, July 2007, pp. 131 -133; Part III, Vol. 28, #4, October 2007, pp. 177-181; Part IV, Vol. 29, #1, January 2008, pp. 44-45.

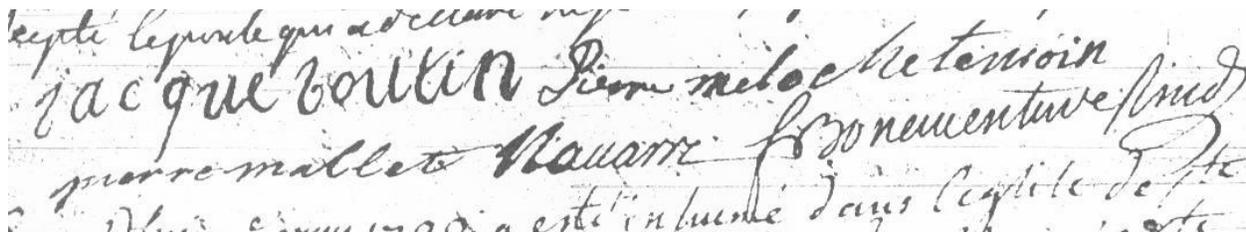
Robert Navarre's whereabouts are unknown between 3 June 1730, when *un nommé Navarre* was mentioned as a soldier in the Company of Périgny at Fort Pontchartrain and also as an associate of the voyageur Jacques Boutin, who was going to the Fort, and 20 January 1732 at *Détroit*. It can only be assumed at this time that he had remained in *Détroit* as a soldier.

On 20 January 1732, at Ste. Anne de *Détroit*, Navarre (no first name given) was one of the signed witnesses to the marriage of Joseph Desrosiers, son of Jean Desrosiers and *Angélique* Dandonneau,<sup>1</sup> from the parish of Champlain in Québec, and Marguerite Durivage, daughter of Pierre Durivage (*Ango dit Durivage*) and Magdeleine Cotteret. Magdeleine was the widow of Jean Baptiste Dufournel *dit* Deloriers. Witnesses to the wedding were: François Fafard *dit* Delorme, Pierre Estève *dit* Lajeunesse, Jean Baptiste Bineau, Joseph Vaudry, Philis (Jacques Dumoulin), Navarre, and Vallee.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely from a marriage record. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored paper. It appears to read "Robert Navarre" with some additional text above and below it, possibly including a date or location. The handwriting is somewhat stylized and difficult to decipher in some places.

On 27 May 1732, again at Ste. Anne de *Détroit*, Navarre signed the marriage act of Jacques Boutin, son of Michel Boutin and Magdeleine La Gardette, from the parish of Lachine, diocese of Québec, and Marie Joseph Poineau, daughter of Jean Baptiste Poineau and Barbe La Vigne, from the parish of Longueil, also the diocese of Québec. Witnesses to the marriage were: Pierre Meloche, François Séguin, Pierre Mallet (priest wrote *Antoine Malet* in the act itself). The signature of Jacques Boutin is the same as that of the voyageur associated with *un nommé Navarre* on 3 June 1730. Again, in this act, as in the 24 November 1729 and 20 January 1732 marriage acts at Ste. Anne de *Détroit*, no occupation was assigned to Robert Navarre.<sup>2</sup>



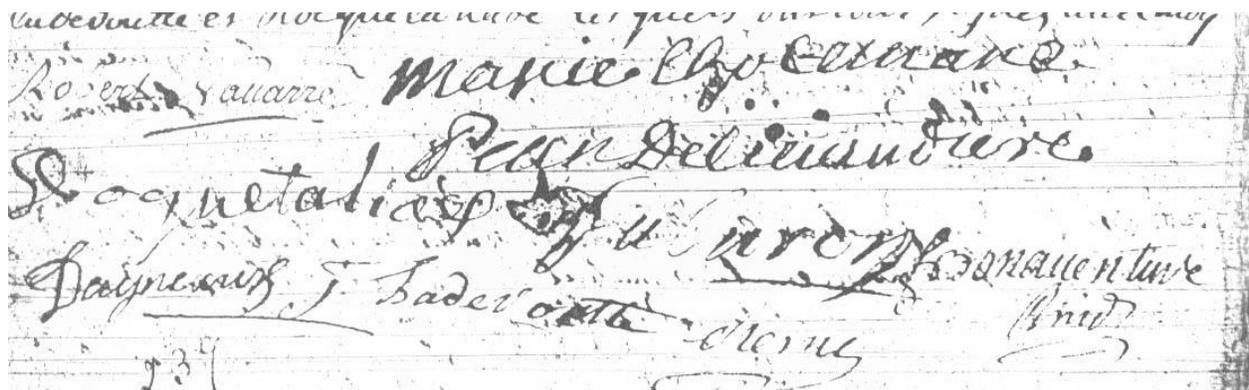
A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely from a marriage record. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored paper. It appears to read "Robert Navarre" with some additional text above and below it, possibly including a date or location. The handwriting is somewhat stylized and difficult to decipher in some places.

On 10 February 1734, at Ste. Anne de *Détroit*, Robert Navarre, son of François Navarre and Jeanne Pluyette, from Villeroy in France, married Marie Lootman *dite* Barois (*Lhotemane Barrois*), daughter of François Lootman (*Lhotemane Barrois*) and Marie Sauvage. Some of the witnesses to the marriage were: Hughes Jacques Péan, *seigneur de Lavaudière, chevalier de l'ordre royal et militaire de St. Louis, major de la ville et gouvernement de Québec et Commandant pour le Roy dans ce dit poste* [*Détroit*], *Monsieur*

<sup>1</sup> *Angélique* (aka *Françoise*) Dandonneau, was the second wife of Henri Belisle, first *chirurgien* at *Détroit*. (Jetté, p. 348)

<sup>2</sup> BHC microfilm #1252, reel #1, for both marriage records.

Dubaron, *enseigne dans les troupes du détachement de la marine en Canada*; Douville Dagneau (signed as Dagneaux); Charles Chesne; Laderoutte and Rocquetaliade.<sup>3</sup>



On the same day, a marriage contract for Robert and Marie was drawn up in the home of Péan at Fort Pontchartrain. Many of the persons in attendance were the same as those who attended the wedding. In the marriage contract, the various family relationships were explained: **Monsieur et Madame de Roquetaillade**, Marie's maternal grandparents; **Joseph Séguin dit Laderoute**, her uncle through marriage to **François Sauvage**, her maternal aunt; **Charles Chesne**, uncle through marriage to **Catherine Sauvage**, her maternal aunt.

Neither of Robert Navarre's parents, **Marie François Navarre** and **Jeanne Pluyette** from the parish of Villeroy, diocese of Meaux in France, was said to be deceased. Although Robert, now age 24, had been born and baptized in Gressy,<sup>4</sup> he seems to have considered himself to be from Villeroy. Perhaps his family was living there at this time?

**François Lhoteman dit Barrois** and **Marie Anne Sauvage**, parents of Marie *Lhoteman dite* Barrois, were married 31 May 1717 at Montréal. Their daughter, **Marie Françoise**, was born 20 November 1717 and baptized 5 December 1717 at Laprairie. She was sixteen years old at the time of her marriage to Navarre. The *Lhoteman* Barrois family was in Détroit when their daughter **Louise** was baptized 31 July 1722.

**Marie Anne Sauvage**, daughter of **Jacques Sauvage** and **Marie Catherine Jean dite Vien**, had two sisters: **Marie Catherine**, who married **Charles Chesne** 18 January 1722 at Détroit, and **Marie Françoise**, who married **Joseph Séguin** 12 April 1723 at Détroit. **Marie Catherine Jean**, widow of Jacques Sauvage, married **Pierre Godefroy, sieur de Roquetaillade**, 5 August 1724 at Détroit.

All of the above were on the side of the bride, in the marriage contract. On the side of the groom, in the marriage contract, were Péan, Duburon, and Dagneaux.

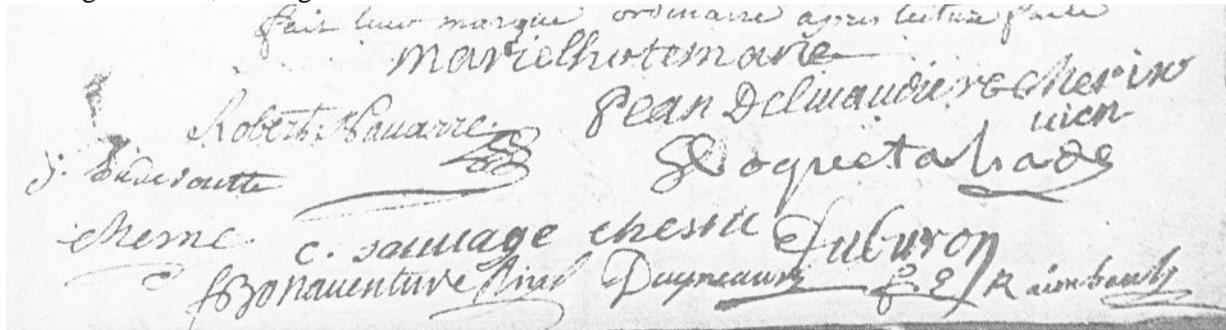
**Hugues-Jacques Péan**, sieur de Lavaudière, was baptized 23 October 1681 at St-Paul in Paris. He arrived in Canada as a cadet in 1698, was an ensign on 16 June 1712, a captain on 11 February 1721, and a *Chevalier de St-Louis* on 4 April 1730. He married **Marie Françoise Pécaudy de Contrecoeur** 25 June 1722 at Montréal.

**Jean Joseph Ferré, sieur DuBuron**, *escuyer*, an officer in the *troupes de la marine*, was second in command at *fort du Détroit*.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> See *MHH*, Vol. 28, #2, April 2007, p. 95, for Robert Navarre's baptismal act at Gressy, Seine-et-Marne, France.

**Jean Baptiste Dagneaux**, *escuyer, sieur de Douville*, was living at *fort du Détroit*. In looking at the signatures, it appears that his wife, **Marie Elisabeth Rimbault**, was with him at the signing of the marriage contract, although her name is not mentioned in the act itself.<sup>5</sup>



François Lhoteman Barrois took the marriage contract to Montréal to have it registered.<sup>6</sup>

On 22 May 1734, at Montréal, Gilles Hocquart, *Chevalier, conseiller du Roy* and Intendant of New France, commissioned *Sieur Navarre* notary at *Détroit*. Hocquart felt it was necessary to establish this position at the fort for the purpose of drawing up contracts and other acts for the *habitants* of the place as well as for voyageurs passing through on business and trading in the different posts of the *Pays d'en haut*. Because of reports he had received, Hocquart felt that *Robert Navarre* would be well suited for the position. Through the power given to him from his Majesty, Hocquart commissioned *sieur Navarre* to practice the office of royal notary (*Notaire royal*) in the area of *Détroit*. Hocquart authorized Péan, the commandant at the *fort du Détroit*, to receive and acknowledge *Sieur Navarre* as royal notary. Péan also had to verify information about Navarre's life and morals, the state of his Catholic background and his good conduct.<sup>7</sup>

On 10 July 1734 Péan made an inquiry at *Détroit*, by Péan, concerning *la vie et moeurs* (the life and morals) of Robert Navarre so that he could become *notaire royal*. Character references were given by **Péan**, **Jean Joseph Ferré DuBouron**, **Jean Baptiste Dagneaux Douville** and **le Révérend Père Bonaventure**, *Recollect missionnaire* at *Détroit*. **DuBouron** said he had no connection whatsoever with Navarre who he said was an honest man, had nothing bad about his character, and was a person who could be counted on in a serious matter. **Dagneaux** also said he had no connections with Navarre who was an honest man and of irreproachable character. **Père Bonaventure** said Navarre had always shown himself to be a true and good Catholic, Apostolic and Roman. He also certified that Robert was not under any ecclesiastical censure nor infected with any heresy or bad doctrine. On the contrary, he had a good reputation, led an exemplary life and was a faithful follower of the Catholic religion. **Father de la Richardie**, a Jesuit, certified that *Sieur Navarre* carried himself in such a manner as to attract praise from everyone both in the fact he is ceaseless in showing proof of good morals as well as by showing how he wants to serve everyone.<sup>8</sup>

The results of the inquiry were registered in Montréal on 12 December 1734.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Notary Porlier, Montréal Archives, 7 May 1734.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*; also in the *Insinuations de la Prévôté de Montréal*, 7 Mai 1734.

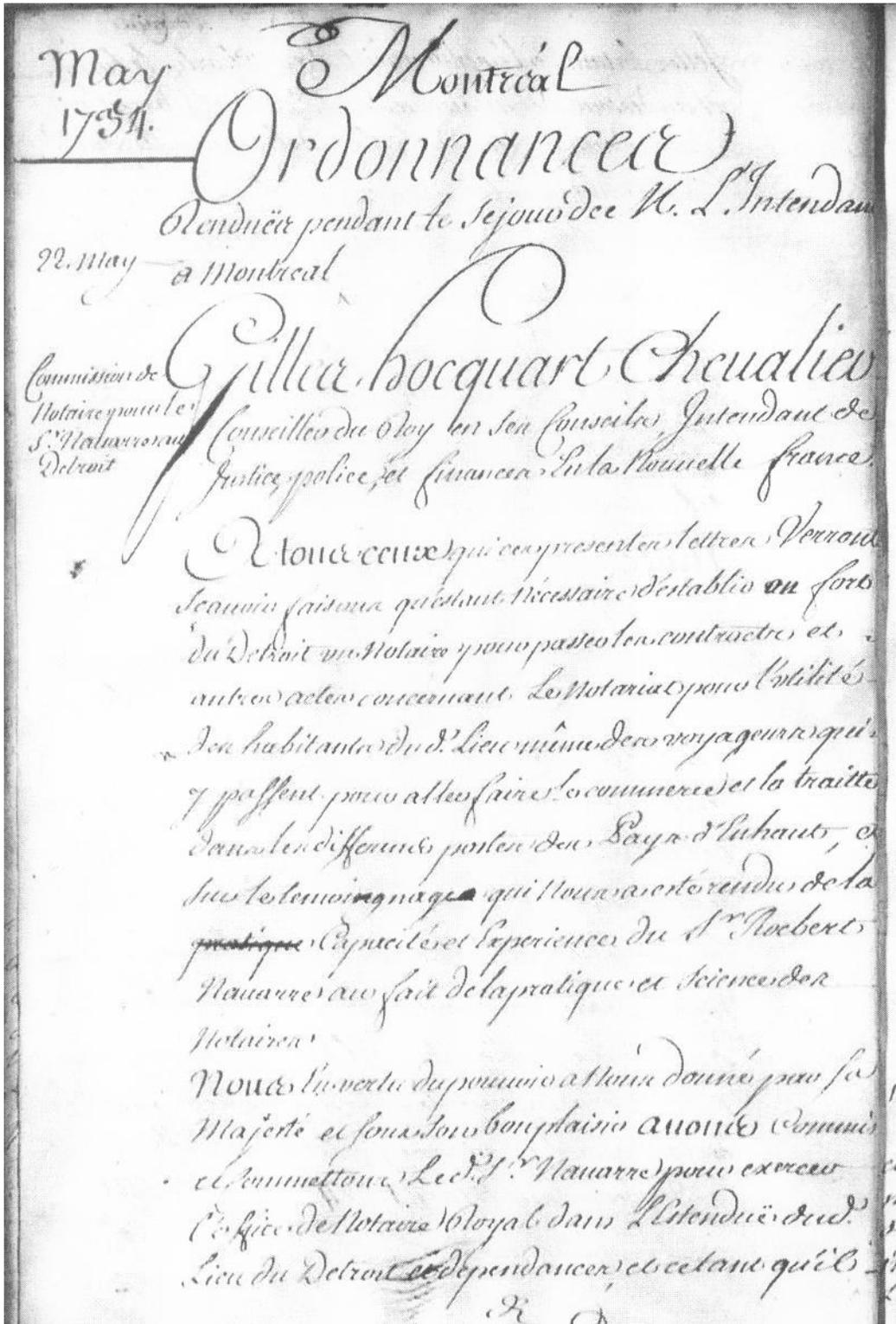
<sup>7</sup> Cote: E1, S1, P2639: Commission de notaire au *Détroit* par l'intendant Hocquart pour le *sieur Robert [sic] Navarre* – 22 mai 1734.

[http://pistard.banq.qc.ca/unite\\_chercheurs/description\\_fonds?p\\_anqid=20080208142532957&p\\_classe=E&p\\_fonds=1&p\\_centre=03Q&p\\_numunide=808674](http://pistard.banq.qc.ca/unite_chercheurs/description_fonds?p_anqid=20080208142532957&p_classe=E&p_fonds=1&p_centre=03Q&p_numunide=808674)

<sup>8</sup> Montréal notary, Porlier, 12 December 1734; *Montreal Notarial Records*, Vol. 6, p. 1918, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.

<sup>9</sup> Montréal, notary Porlier, 12 Decmber 1734.

Following is the commission of Robert Navarre as the first royal notary at fort du Détroit:



plaine de sa Majesté. Si vous et autorisons  
M. Jean Chevalier de l'Ordre Militaire de St.  
Louis Major de la ville et Gouvernement de Québec  
Commandant, au dit fort du Détroit de le faire  
recevoir et reconnaître M. S. Navarre, Sacerd.  
Qualité de Notaire Royal pour en joindre par lui  
aux droits, prérogatives, fruits, revenus et  
emoluments y appartenant après en avoir  
qu'il aura esté procédé par M. Jean  
(Information de vie et mœurs, Religion  
Catholique, apostolique et Romaine de M. S. Navarre)  
et qu'il lui aura apparus par icelle de sa  
Catholicité et bonne conduite et qu'il aura de lui  
pris et receu le serment requis et accoutumés  
pour accomplir l'information faite, être ce  
présent enregistrement en la juridiction Royale  
de Montréal; Et scavoir de quoy Notre  
seigneur a signé et fait contresigner ces présentes  
par Notre secrétaire et y a donné fait apposer le  
Cachet de Nos Armes fait et donné à  
Montréal Le vingt deux May 1734.  
Navarre

The first act that refers to Robert Navarre as a royal notary appears to be the marriage, on 27 July 1734, at Ste. Anne de Détroit, of **Laurent Parent**, son of Michel Parent and Marie Anne Laferté from Montréal, and **Jeanne Cardinal**, daughter of Jacques Cardinal and Jeanne Duguay.

Thus, 1734 was an important year in the life of Robert Navarre. He was married in February and by December, at the age of 25, was registered as a royal notary at the *fort du Détroit*.