

Robert Navarre, First Royal Notary in *Dé*troit

Part IV

Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, FCHSM member (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.

To date the last known mention of Robert Navarre in France was 4 July 1725 (not quite 16 years old) when he was a godfather at Bussy-St-Georges near Paris. Between that date and 24 November 1729, when he was at *Dé*troit, his activities, at present, are not known. How, when and why he left France is not known. When he arrived in *Nouvelle-France* is not known. Could he have arrived as a soldier? At present, these are unanswered questions.

One method for sometimes determining the arrival of an ancestor in *Nouvelle-France* is to look through the *Hôtel-Dieu-de-Québec* records. I decided to start with the year 1726 and looked for what appeared to be the arrival of a ship. In the August 1726 records, I found the names of two ships: *L'Éléphant* and la *Reine des Anges*. I also found the listing of names of *nouvelles levées* (basically new recruits). I decided to concentrate on those new recruits who were said to be from Paris or that area.

August 1726

Pierre Moitel, age 16, at the Palais working for Intendant Dupuy
Pierre Guenar, age 21 returned to France October 1726
Nicolas Guenar, age 21 (twins), under secretary returned to France October 1726
Antoine Compan, age 17
Gille Savigny, age 18

September 1726

Christophe Boisseau, age 41
Claude Rémy *dit* Parisien, age 29 - in the Company of Longueuil by October 1726
Ensign Louis Esprit de Malespine, age 19

In August 1727 the ship *L'Éléphant* again arrived with a new group of recruits. None listed in the *Hotel-Dieu* records were from Paris or the region. In September 1728 *L'Éléphant* again arrived with new recruits. This time there were some from Paris.

September 1728

Pierre de la Croix de Villeneuve, age 34
Antoine Mastré, age 37
Amable Brugière, age 23
Louis Silo, age 25

L'Éléphant appeared to arrive in August 1729. There were some new recruits from Paris, as well as men with *lettres de cachets* (a letter under the seal of the sovereign, especially one ordering imprisonment, frequently without trial).

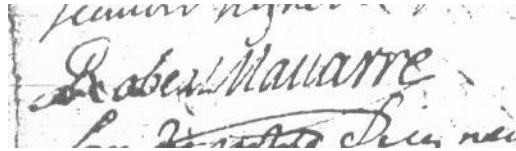
September 1729

New recruits
Laurent Baron *dit* Bellehumeur, age 26
Pierre Lamande *dit* Desjardins, age 25

lettres de cachet
Jean Tenay, age 35
Jacques Masse, age 26
Mr. le Chevalier de Courbuisson, age 33
Antoine Durney *dit* de Valcour, age 30

During this time period, there were many other soldiers listed from Paris. These soldiers belonged to various companies. (There was no connection to the ship *L'Éléphant*.) However, Robert Navarre was not among them. A quick search of PRDH Online also did not bring up his name in any parish registers.

The first mention of Robert Navarre in *Nouvelle-France* was at Détroit on 24 November 1729 at the marriage of **Pierre Estève dit Lajeunesse**, son of Pierre Estève dit Lajeunesse and Marie Magdeleine Frappier, to **Marie Desforges**, widow of François Picard. The three witnesses to the marriage were Navarre and Florentin, soldiers, and Joseph ... (name cannot be deciphered). Robert Navarre signed.¹ It is not known who Florentin was or who Joseph (?) was. This is not a notarial act as indicated in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. IV, p. 579.



The next act in New France regarding a Navarre was an *obligation consentie par Boutin et Navare à Sieur Quenel Fonblanche*, by the notary Rimbault fils, at Montréal, on 3 June 1730. This contract mentions *un nommé Navarre* (one named Navarre), an associate of the voyageur **Jacques Boutin**, who was going to *fort le Pont-Chartrain*.² This Navarre was a soldier in the **Company of Périgny** and was already at fort Pont-Chartrain. Jacques Boutin signed the contract. Although this document does not give a first name for Navarre, evidence of Robert in Détroit in 1729 would tend to be more than circumstantial evidence that he is the soldier named in the document which follows.

I again checked the *Hôtel-Dieu de Québec* records between 1726 and 1729 looking for soldiers said to be in the Company of Périgny (Paul Ailleboust, *sieur de Périgny*). Those names might give a clue to the early acquaintances of Robert Navarre in Canada. The following soldiers were found between 1726 and 1728:³

September 1726 – **Nicolas Diligent dit Desjardins**

October 1726 – **Pierre Roy** from La Rochelle, age 17

April 1727 – **Jean Faillefoy dit St-Louis** from La Rochelle, age 34

September 1727 – **Joseph Berna dit Jolycoeur** from Blois, age 16 (Joseph **Bernard dit Jolycoeur** was still a soldier of Périgny on 22 August 1730)

November 1727 – **Jacques Ménard** from St-Jean-d'Angely, age 38 (also listed as a soldier of Périgny 17 May 1730, age 30)

May 1728 – **Jean Baptiste Maigret dit St-Jean** from Nantes, age 24; Jean Megret dit St-Jean, a soldier in the Company of Périgny, married Angélique Malidor, 17 February 1744 at Montréal. [PRDH #150211]

September 1728 – **Louis Bienville** from Sens en Bourgogne, age 25

27 July 1728 – **Denis Bernard dit La Terreur**, from St-Sulpice in Paris, married **Marie Croquelois**, daughter of **Jacques Croquelois** and **Françoise Dumouchel**. In 1719, Denis Bernard was a soldier of Vaudreuil; in 1723, a sergeant in the Company of Senneville; in 1728, a sergeant in the Company of Périgny. [PRDH #48426, #48598, #7391]

¹ BHC microfilm # 1252, reel #1; it can also be found at Early U.S. French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1695-1954 > Michigan > Détroit, Ste-Anne; Autres Registres > 1704-1744, Image 112. Thank you to Suzanne Sommerville for the latter information.

² E.-M. Massicotte, "Répertoire des engagements pour l'Ouest conservés dans les archives judiciaires de Montréal (1670-1778)", *Rapport de l'Archiviste de la Province de Québec pour 1929-1930* (Rédempti Paradis, 1930), p. 276.

³ FHL Microfilm #1287130; *Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, Registre journalier des malades 1689-1760*, Marcel Fournier (archiv-histo@videotron.net)

3^e juin 1730. obligation contractée par *Blanche et sa femme a René*
qui est fort blanché

70. 538

Je soussigné *Jacques Ledoux*
 voyageant associé des hommes *Blanche* soldat de la
 Compagnie de *deperigny* absent d'un voyage au fort
 pour la terre de *deperigny*. lequel *Blanche* s'est obligé de
 joindre led. *Blanche* s'ayant tant pendant que pour led. *Blanche*
 a volontairement reconnu et confessé de voir bien et jurer
 au *Jacques* *Blanche* *Blanche* sur ce que de cette
 ville a ce point et a ce point la somme de *deperigny* en
 huit lires pour trois mar loignes de traite que luy
 a fourni led. *Jacques* pour son voyage qu'il va faire
 au delant joindre led. *Blanche* s'obligant de
 laquelle somme de *deperigny* s'est traitée lires led. *Blanche*
 a promis solidairement au led. *Blanche* et un due seul
 pour le tout satisfaction, discussion ny sédition renoncant
 au d. *Blanche* rendre poitils et paies au d. *Blanche*
 en ce ville ou au port de *deperigny* dans tout le cours de sa vie
 d'avant de l'année prochaine mil sept cent trente un ou
 plutôt si par ailleurs effect de l'année avant led. *Blanche*
 et de en cartou au jour du bureau ou portoteries au port
 des marchands espagnols a jurer *Blanche* sous l'obligation de
 tout son bien mobilier et immeuble present et futur et
 par privilège special, les effect d'ad. de l'année qui demandera
 pour l'année d'ad. voyage comme gage naturel d'ad. *Blanche*
Blanche, au d. *Blanche* d'après y de l'année, en
 l'année *Blanche* et pour l'année *Blanche* s'obligant de
 cette ville s'obligant de l'année *Blanche* son d'ad. *Blanche*
 l'année *Blanche* au quel lieu *Blanche* s'obligant de
 pour l'année *Blanche* s'obligant de *Blanche* s'obligant de
 au d. *Blanche* et de l'année *Blanche* s'obligant de
 l'année *Blanche* s'obligant de *Blanche* s'obligant de
 et *Blanche* s'obligant de *Blanche* s'obligant de
 l'année *Blanche* s'obligant de *Blanche* s'obligant de
Blanche s'obligant de *Blanche* s'obligant de
Blanche s'obligant de *Blanche* s'obligant de

ARCHIVES NATIONALES
DU QUÉBEC
MONTREAL

Transcription of the 3 June 1730 document, by Raimbault *fils*, indicating the presence of Robert Navarre at Détroit.

3 juin 1730. obligation consentie par Boutin & Navarre a Sieur
quenel fontblanche

Expedié No. 538

#huit

^o huit

Pardevant etc. fut present Jacques Boutin
Voyageur associé du nommé Navarre soldat de la
Compagnie de M^r. de perigny absent en voyage au fort
pontChartrain du Detroit, lequel estant sur son depart pour aller
joindre led^t Navarre faisant tant pour luy que pour led^t Navarre
a volontairement reconnu et confessé devoir Bien et justement
au Sieur jacques quenel fontblanche marchand de cette
ville a ce present et acceptant la somme de dix neuf cent
trente # livres, pour Bonnes marchandises de traite que luy
a fourny led^t Sr. quenel pour son voyage qu'il va faire
au Detroit joindre led^t Navarre, ... dont etc.

laquelle d^e somme de dix neuf cent livres trente ^o livres led^t boutin
a promis solidairement avec led^t Navarre Et un d'eux seul
pour le tout sandivision, discussion ny fidejussion renonceant
au d. Benefice vendre Bailler et payer aud Sieur creancier
En cette ville ou au porteur etc. dans tout le cours du mois
d'aoust de l'année prochaine mil sept cent trente un ou
plustost. Si Eux ou leurs effets descendent avant le dit tems
Et ce en castors au prix du Bureau ou pelleteries au prix
des marchands Equipeurs a peine & sous l'obligation de
tous leurs Biens meubles et immeubles presens et avenir Et
par privilege special, les effets des^d. Debiteurs qui descendrons
provenant du^d. Voyage comme gage naturel dud. Sieur
Creancier, attendu la nature du prest cy dessus, car
ainsy & Et pour l'execution & esleu son domicile En
cette ville en la maison de Pierre Cardinal son Beupere
seize Ruë S^t Pierre auquel lieu & nonobstant &
promettant & obligeant & renoncant & fait & passé
au^d Montreal Etude dud. No^{tr} Lan mil sept cent trente le
troisieme juin aprésmidy presence des Srs Charles Benoist
Et Jacques dielle temoins qui ont signé avec les d parties Et
Not^r lecture faite *boutin fonblanche*
Charles Benoist jaque dielle Raimbault fils

Translation of the 1730 document:

3 June 1730 obligation [debt] acknowledged by Boutin and Navarre to Sieur Quenel Fontblanche

Before etc. and was present Jacques Boutin
Voyageur associated with the [man] named Navarre, soldier of the
Company of Mr. Perigny, absent, and on a voyage to fort
Pontchartrain du Detroit, this one [Boutin] being ready to depart to go
Join the said Navarre, acting as much for himself as for the said Navarre,
Has voluntarily having acknowledged and confessed owing well and justly
To Sieur Jacques Quenel Fontblanche, merchant of this
City, here present and accepting the sum of 1938
Livres, for good trade merchandise that the said
Sr. Quenel furnished to him for the voyage that he is going to make
To Detroit to join the said Navarre, ...
Which said sum of 1938 livres, the said Boutin
Has promised jointly with the said Navarre and one of them solely
for the whole without division, discussion, security renouncing

the said financial profit, to sell, mortgage and pay the said creditor in this city or to the bearer, etc. within the month of August of next year, 1731, or sooner. If they or their effects come down [from Detroit] before the said time and this in beaver [pelts] at the price of the Bureau or peltries at the price of the outfitting merchants, at the penalty and under the obligation of [loss of] all their property, [both] real [estate] and movable, present and future, and by special privilege, the effects of the said debtors, that will come down, arising from the said voyage, [will be treated] as the natural pledge of payment of the said Sieur Creditor, considering the nature of the above loan, because thus etc. and for the execution etc. has elected his domicile in this city in the house of Pierre Cardinal, his stepfather, located on Rue St Pierre in which place & notwithstanding & promising & obliging & renouncing & done & passed in the said Montreal, study of the said Notary in the year 1730 3rd of June, in the afternoon, in the presence of Sieurs Charles Benoist and Jacques Dielle, witnesses, who signed with the said parties and notary. A reading [aloud of this document] was done.

I was able to find a record at the National Library and Archives of Canada showing some information about the state of Périgny's company in 1730. On 31 January 1730, at Montréal, information was given about the wages paid Périgny, as captain; one unnamed lieutenant; two unnamed ensigns; two unnamed sergeants; three unnamed corporals; three unnamed *anspessades* [lance corporal] and twenty unnamed soldiers. The companies at Montréal were those of Blainville, Repentigny, Montigny, Beaujeu, De Vivier and Perigny. It appears that the amount of money paid was just for those men at Montréal.⁴

At the same time at Fort-Pontchartrain several military men are named. The following names were found in the parish register of Ste. Anne de Détroit:⁵

October 1728 -	St-Ours - Jean Saint-Ours, <i>sieur</i> Deschaillons, husband of Marguerite Legardeur
	Portneuf - Louis Robineau, <i>sieur</i> de Portneuf
February 1729 -	Simon Gilbert <i>dit</i> Sanspeur - sergeant in the troops
October 1729 -	François Picoté de Bellestre (a lieutenant) died at Détroit
November 1729 -	Beausoleil - <i>soldat</i>
Novembre 1729 -	Navarre and Florentin - <i>soldats</i>
May 1730 -	Portneuf still there.
November 1730 -	Boishébert - commander of fort
	<i>Monsieur</i> d'Arnaud - ensign
	Jérémie de Foüet - major

Thus, by 24 November 1729, Robert Navarre was at Détroit and apparently remained there for the rest of his life.

Senator Hillary Clinton is a descendant of Robert Navarre. The following generations can be placed in her chart.

Generation Seven

100 & 101 Antoine François Navarre married Jeanne Pluyette 21 January 1709 at Bonneuil, France [Fichier Origine #243047, submitted by Thierry Straub; accessed 17 September 2007]

4

http://mikan3.archives.ca/pam/public_mikan/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3050707&rec_nbr_list=3050707,3050605

⁵ BHC microfilm #1252, reel #1.