

Rush to judgment?
Part 2 [2014 Version]
Étienne Véron de Grandmesnil, Father and Son

An example of misinterpreted evidence

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For his information on Étienne Véron de Grandmesnil,¹ Clarence M. Burton most probably did not consult J.-Edmond Roy, although Roy, like Burton, apparently confuses the two Grandmesnils. (Unfortunately, Burton does not always cite sources with any precision.) Roy, a contemporary of Burton, wrote *Histoire du notariat au Canada depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours*,² (History of the notariat in Canada from the foundation of the colony until today [1899]). Roy has this to say about Étienne Véron de Grandmesnil:

A notary from Trois-Rivières [Étienne Véron de Grandmesnil] belonged to a family originally from the town of Livaro in Normandy and his father was at Trois-Rivières in 1686. [sic]³ It is there that the notary was born 31 October 1649.⁴

Verron [sic] de Grandmenil served first as secretary of Lamothe de Cadillac when he founded Détroit. We have in front of us a series of documents written in his handwriting while he was under the command [sous les ordres] of the celebrated explorer. In 1706, we find him at Trois-Rivières where he is practicing as *notaire royal*. . . . The documents [étude] of Grandmesnil deposited at Trois-Rivières cover [the years of] 1706-1720. Another set of his papers is at Québec and cover three years from 1707 to 1710. These are almost all documents concerning the business affairs of Lamothe Cadillac with his creditors after he [Cadillac] left Détroit [1711] to go govern *Louisiane*.⁵

Included in the set covering 1707 to 1710 may be the “Jugement rendu par le Conseil de guerre Contre Bertellemy pichon soldat de la Comp[agnie] de Cortemanche [sic] de la garnison du fort pontchartrain,” signed by Grandmesnil on 7 November 1707,⁶ the first surviving “Council of War,” court-martial, at

¹ *Grandmesnil* is the spelling on the signatures I have seen, although it is also recorded as Grandmenil, Grandmeny, and other variations. Véron appears sometimes as Veron, and Verron. [The spelling *Grandmeny* seems to indicate the /s/ was not pronounced in Grandmesnil.]

² Roy, J.-Edmond (Joseph-Edmond), 1858-1913, *Histoire du notariat au Canada depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours*, Lévis, Québec? : sn., 1899. Page images from Early Canadiana Online. My translation.

³ Jean Véron, sieur de Grandmesnil, m Marguerite Hayet 1646, was killed by the Iroquois 19 August 1652 (Jesuit Journals), so the date must be a misprint, if not an error. Marguerite Hayet was half-sister to Pierre Radisson, Élisabeth Radisson m Claude Jutras, and Françoise Radisson m Claude Volant (parents of Étienne Volant dit Radisson). Marguerite Hayet remarried 1653 to Médard Chouart dit or sieur DesGroseilliers, the explorer and *coureur de bois* associated with Radisson. He went over to the English 1665-1674. [DCB I: 228-234] Radisson (Pierre-Esprit Radisson) who m 1st a Kirke, daughter of Sir John of the Hudson Bay Company, in 1665 or 1675 in London; m 2nd Marguerite-Charlotte Godet, 1685 St. Martin in the Fields, London. With Chouart he helped found the Hudson Bay Company. [DBC II 559-563] Jetté: 1120, 254 & 960.

⁴ Roy: 193.

⁵ Roy: 193. My translation. I use the word *Louisiane*, as did Roy, to distinguish it from modern-day Louisiana. Cadillac was actually at modern-day Mobile, Alabama.

⁶ Notaire [sic] Grandmesnil, photocopy, as identified at Archives nationales du Québec, # 4 880. I have compared the signature on this one with the signature on one I am sure Grandmesnil the elder wrote. The signatures are

Détroit. Later in his book, Roy also says: “In 1706 appears a marriage contract written by Paul Guillet, who identifies himself as secretary of Lamothe-Cadillac, commandant at Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit. From 1707 to 1710 it is a future notary of Trois-Rivières, Etienne Veron de Grandmesnil, who becomes the secretary of Lamothe Cadillac and who writes his acts.”⁷

Something does not fit here. How can Étienne Véron de Grandmesnil be a “future notary of Trois-Rivières” if he is, in fact, already a notary there by 1706? **Were the 1707-1710 documents now at Québec written by Véron de Grandmesnil the younger?**

After 24 March 1700 at Québec⁸ and before 1 December 1704, the name Étienne Véron Grandmesnil does not appear on any record I could find in the PRDH data base. In the absence of any other documentary evidence, either or both—father and son—could have been at Détroit between July of 1701 and fall of 1704.

On 1 December 1704, an Étienne Véron Grandmesnil served as godfather at Trois-Rivières for Étienne Audoyer, son of Martin Audoyer and Marie Esenard.⁹ The signature on the register¹⁰ matches that of the 1707 “Jugement” at Fort Pontchartrain. Étienne Véniard *Sieur* de Bourgmont and Grandmesnil were commissioned on 28 September 1705 by the Company of the Colony to take an inventory of the holdings at Fort Pontchartrain to establish the basis on which Cadillac, about to assume full control, would repay the Company for their initial investment.¹¹ I have not yet seen any trace of this inventory. The next day, on 29 September 1705, Florent de La Cetièrre drew up a hiring contract between “Étienne Véron de Grandmesnil and Antoine Laumet, *dit* de Lamothe Cadillac.”¹² Grandmesnil apparently went to Fort Pontchartrain late that fall, as he is mentioned as being present and signing with Bourgmont for expenses paid to the Miami, who were attacked by the Ottawa the following June of 1706.¹³ Did he travel with Bourgmont, who was appointed the same day to command at Détroit in Cadillac’s continued absence?

different. [Author’s note 2010: I have the full set 1707 to 1710 photocopied for me by the archives. It includes the “Jugement...”]

⁷ Roy: 369

⁸ PRDH: #61820

⁹ PRDH

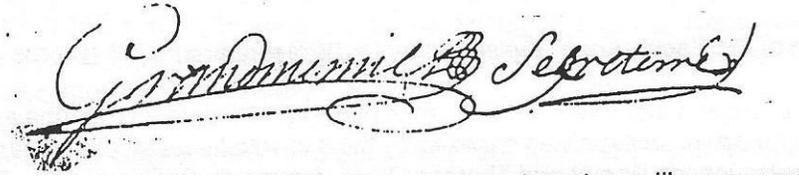
¹⁰ FHL #1298969 and the 1707 “Jugement rendu par le Conseil de guerre Contre Bertellemy pichon soldat de la Comp[agnie] de Cortemanche [*sic*] de la garnison du fort pontchartrain,” Notaire [*sic*] Grandmesnil, photocopy Archives Nationales du Québec, (ANQ). Signed by Jacques Lucas and by La Mothe Cadillac, Derané, d’Ailleboust D’Argenteuil, Guignolet, Francoeur, and **Grandmesnil**, *Secrétaire*, with Lafleurdor and Brindamour also present and indicating they could not sign.

¹¹ Photocopy of Contract between Lamothe Cadillac and the Compagnie de la Colonie, Notary Chambalon, 28 September 1705, AN, FC, série C¹¹A, Vol. 23, f. 89v. Bourgmont and Grandmesnil were to take an inventory of the fort in the presence of Tonty and Constantin delHalle, Missionaire, including all the “merchandise, fixtures, houses, stores, lands cleared, and generally everything which is at Détroit. In the inventories they will [indicate (?) word runs into the margin] the merchandise which has not been spoiled or damaged.” Translation mine. This is the version annotated by Cadillac. Tonty left soon after Bourgmont arrived, and delHalle died during the Ottawa attack in June. Was the inventory ever taken?

¹² NAC, ArchivianaNet, MG 8 - A 23, Transcript: Volume 110, 4 pages. Source: RC 70620

¹³ “He [Lamothe Cadillac] has sent to Sr Raudot, the son, a mémoire of the expenses made at Détroit for the defense [in 1706] of this post in the amount of 905 *livres* 19 *sols*, which is signed only by the Sr de Bourmont [*sic*] and a [man] named Grandmenil, Commis of the said Sr delaMothe, and not at all itemized.” The Raudots, father and son, did not believe the expense justified as the Miami were attacked by the Ottawa and did not need any “presents” or encouragement “to defend their lives and those of their women and children.” NAC microfilm F-26 of AC C¹¹A, Vol. 26, f.16-17. Joint letter signed by Vaudreuil and the Raudots, father and son, November 1707. See also pages 296-97 of the Cadillac Papers for another list of “Amounts expended for the King’s Service by Cadillac. Endorsed—29th Sept., 1706” at Fort Pontchartrain and signed by “Grandmenil”.

On 22 October 1707, Grandmesnil signed a marriage contract at what PRDH calls an undetermined location in Québec. The parties involved were Jacques Langlois, bourgeois, residence: Fort Pontchartrain, son of Germain Langlois, residence: Beauport, & Jeanne Chalifou; and Marie-Renée Dussaut (TOUPIN *dit* DuSault in Jetté),¹⁴ residence: "Pointe-aux-Cluaux, pres de Québec," daughter of Jean-Baptiste Dussaut, seigneur, & Marie-Madeleine Mezeray.¹⁵ Burton published this document, which states it was "Done and entered into at fort Pontchartrain du detroit the twenty second day of October one thousand seven hundred and seven." The signature of Grandmesnil¹⁶ is the same as that of several days later on 7 November at the "trial" of Bertellemy Pichon *dit* Larose, when he identified himself as *Secrtaire*.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Grandmesnil Secrtaire". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The word "Grandmesnil" is written in a large, flowing script, and "Secrtaire" is written in a smaller, more compact script to the right. There is a horizontal line drawn under the signature.

On 11 February 1708 appeared before notary Pottier (Pothier) at Saint-François-du-Lac, Pierre Babie sieur Dupéron, *majeur* [adult], son of deceased Jacques Babie, while alive a merchant resident at Champlain, and deceased Jeanne Dandonneau; and Marguerite Hertel, widow of deceased sieur Jean Crevier, while alive *seigneur* of the *seigneurie* of Saint-François, acting for and in the name of *Demoiselle* Marie-Anne Crevier, her daughter, and with her consent, to record a marriage contract. Among the friends and family present at the marriage contract were "le sieur Étienne Véron de Grandmesnil, Marie Moral son épouse [his wife], ... [and] Véronique et Thérèse Véron Grandmesnil."¹⁷ Pierre Babie married Marie-Anne Crevier at Trois-Rivières on 13 February 1708, two days after the contract.¹⁸

This is definitely the elder Véron, with his wife and two daughters. It seems highly unlikely that he could have traveled from Détroit after either 22 October 1707 or 7 November 1707 to be at Saint-François-du-Lac on 11 February 1708 in the dead of winter.

Two months later on 14 April 1708, a Grandmesnil signed a contract at Fort Pontchartrain recording the "Sale of the house of Pierre Pichet, *dit* St Onge to Ls. Fs. Vieneau."¹⁹ On a copy of the original, the signature is identical to the 7 November 1707 document at Fort Pontchartrain. Henry Belisle was witness and also signed, as did Lamothe Cadillac.

The Ste. Anne Register entry for 25 September 1708 records this summarized information:

Baptism of Joseph and Étienne, twins, sons of François Fafard *dit* Delorme and his wife Magdeleine Jobin. Joseph was baptized by the mid-wife because of the fear he might

¹⁴ Jetté: 1084 Jean Toupin *dit* DuSault's seigneurie was Pointe-aux-Écureuils (or Bélair).

¹⁵ PRDH: #95080 Lieu indéterminé (au Québec) 1707-10-22. Four of the Langlois children were baptized at Détroit between 1709 and 1715. The family appears to be in Montréal by 1719. Jetté: 648

¹⁶ *MPHS*, Vol. 34: 233-34. Also signing were *Marie Therese Guyon de la Mothe, Jacques Langlois, Magdeleine La Mothe, Dufigiers, and La Mothe Cadillac*. Joseph Parant, although present, said he was unable to sign as did Marie René Dussaut.

¹⁷ 11 February, Potier, transcribed in Benjamin Sulte, *Histoire de Saint-François-du-Lac*, Montréal?: s.n., 1886, pp. 84-85. Image of pages on *Early Canadiana*: <http://www.canadiana.org/>

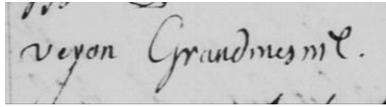
¹⁸ Jetté: 37 This Thérèse (baptized 1689-11-18, buried 1710-11-23 at Trois-Rivières PRDH) is sister to Étienne.

¹⁹ "Cadillac Records," *MPHS*, Vol. 34: 237, and photocopy of original courtesy of Gail Moreau, Editor of *MHH*.

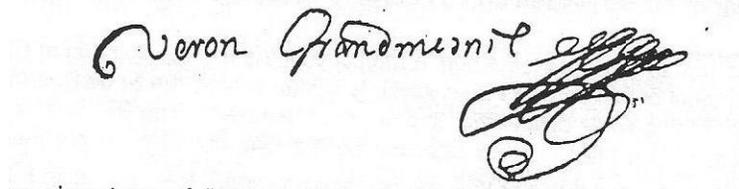
die. Godparents: Joseph Parant and Thérèse David, femme du Sr Desrochers. [Allegedly, Thérèse declared she could not sign, even though she had signed in previous records and did sign!] Étienne's godparents: *Étienne Veron dit de Grandmesny, Commis du magasin du Roy*, and Madeleine Fafart, all residents at the fort.

Thérèse David [future godmother of Marie Lepage's baby, Thérèse], Magdeleine Delorme, and *Grandmesnil* signed.²⁰

In 1709, the year in which Marie Lepage's Thérèse would be born, Véron the elder's daughter, Marie-Madeleine, married, on 4 February 1709,²¹ Jacques Babie, resident of Champlain, brother to the above Pierre Babie.²² Marie-Madeleine is said to be formerly of the parish of Trois-Rivières. Véron, senior, is mentioned as father of Madeleine, but the only individuals marked "present" on the PRDH "certificate" are the bride, groom, and officiating priest. An examination of the microfilm of the record, however, shows the signature of "**veron Grandmesnil**":

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "veron Grandmesnil" in a dark ink on a light-colored paper background.

as well as those of "J Babie" and "marie madeleine veron".²³ Étienne Veron, Sieur de Grandmesnil, "Notaire Royal en cette Ville" and husband of Thérèse Moral, are identified as the parents of the bride.²⁴ The signature is distinctive and different from his son's on the documents recorded at Détroit. There was, also, a marriage contract on the same day, and Véron the elder may have been present for it.²⁵ This is another example of the elder Grandmesnil's signature provided by the editor of *MHH* in 2001 (at a time when digital images were not as easily available as they now are):

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Veron Grandmesnil" followed by a large, stylized flourish. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored paper background.

Marie Lepage's daughter Thérèse, born 24 July 1709, would have been conceived probably in October of 1708. In order to father the child, Véron Grandmesnil the elder would have had to travel up to Détroit sometime prior to October. In order to be at Trois-Rivières early in 1709, Véron the elder would again have had to leave Détroit by October or November of 1708 because of the difficulty—perhaps the

²⁰ FHL #1026602

²¹ PRDH: #89182 Marriage at Trois-Rivières 1709-02-04. Image from Family Search, Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1900 Trois-Rivières L'Immaculée Conception 1634-1743, copied October 2011. One month earlier, Véron the elder wrote the marriage contract of Joseph Petit *dit* Bruno and Marie-Anne Delpé, daughter of François Delpé *dit* Saint-Cerney and Angélique Couc, 7 Jan 1709 at Trois-Rivières, ANQ photocopy; and on 12 May 1709, he recorded a sale of property by the Delpés to Joseph Crevier, ANQ photocopy. Véron the elder was definitely in Trois-Rivières in 1709.

²² The illegitimate Thérèse Véron would marry, on 22 April 1748 at Trois-Rivières, Pierre "Baby," son of this Jacques Babie and Madeleine Véron Grandmeny. See Part 3 of "Rush to Judgment?"

²³ FHL microfilm #1298969, Registers of Trois-Rivières, 1634 to 4 Feb. 1749.

²⁴ FHL #1298969

²⁵ Jetté: 37. (ct 4 February 1709 Pothier)

impossibility—of traveling down to the parent colony in the winter months. If he did indeed accomplish this trip, he could not have easily known so early that Marie Lepage was pregnant.

His son was definitely at Fort Pontchartrain on 25 September 1708, when the baptisms, mentioned above, of Joseph and Étienne, twins, sons of François Fafard *dit* Delorme and his wife Magdeleine Jobin, were entered in the registers of Ste. Anne du Détroit. The son was there also on 9 January 1709 when Louis Normand *dit* Labrière bought the property of Jean Bart *dit* Belleville on *rue* St. François next to Blaise Surgère. The act is signed Louis Normand, Alexis LeMoine, Paul Guillet, Lamothe Cadillac, and Grandmesnil, *Secrétaire*.²⁶

Based on the signatures and other references, Véron de Grandmesnil the younger was at Fort Pontchartrain from 1706 to 1709. Volume 34 of the *Michigan Pioneer Collection* translated and published six of his documents from 15 April 1708 to 4 September 1708 and nine from 1 January 1709 to 12 September 1709, all signed by Grandmesnil. Burton snidely suggests that Grandmesnil “found it convenient to leave Detroit before the entry of the baptism of this child” to go to “Montréal, where he was appointed the confidential attorney of Cadillac by letter of Attorney, dated July 26, 1709.”²⁷

It is true that he did leave Détroit after a 21 June 1709 sale of property document; but, although Burton was aware of the 26 July 1709 document, he evidently did not read it and thus did not know that Grandmesnil the younger apparently did not depart from Fort Pontchartrain du Lake Érie until after 26 July 1709, two days after the birth. On that day Antoine Lamothe Cadillac wrote a procuration (power of attorney) there naming Grandmesnil as his agent for all business matters. The document, signed by Lamothe Cadillac, was delivered to Adhémar by Grandmesnil, who, Adhémar writes, had just arrived in Ville Marie (Montréal) on 6 September 1709.²⁸ He went on to Québec where a 12 September 1709 document published by Burton was “done and executed at Quebec, in the office of the said notary [Chambalon]”, and states, “personally appeared . . . Estienne Verron de Grandmesnil, **junior**,”²⁹ who was acting for Lamothe Cadillac. Grandmesnil was also present in Québec on 26 November 1709 when the debt from the 12 September 1709 document was paid.

Whether he left Détroit because of the birth of Marie-Thérèse or simply to fulfill Cadillac’s legal needs must remain unknown, despite Burton’s suggestive comment. It is indisputable, however, that Grandmesnil the elder was in Trois-Rivières on 24 July 1709, the day of his granddaughter Thérèse’s birth, because he notarized payment of a debt owed to Joseph Hertel on that day.³⁰

Although the name Étienne Véron Grandmesnil shows up several times in the PRDH data base between 1709 and 1712,³¹ it is in a 1712 document that it can be ascertained that Étienne Véron the younger is most probably the one present in Montréal at the 10 March 1712 baptism of Étienne Corbin, son of Andre Corbin, *maître taillandier*, and Marie Charlotte Reinville. Serving as godfather is *Étienne Véron de Granmeny*, no marital status given, occupation: *MARCHAND*.³² At the 1709 marriage of his daughter,

²⁶ Photocopy, ANQ

²⁷ In “Fort Pontchartrain du Detroit—1701 to 1710—under Cadillac,” *MPHS*, Vol. XXIX, 1901, pp. 240-317, p. 275, footnote 74. Unfortunately, Burton does not name the “attorney” who wrote the document. Cadillac himself wrote it and had Grandmesnil take it to Adhémar at Montréal to be placed in his notarial papers.

²⁸ Adhémar, document 8275, photocopy ANQ.

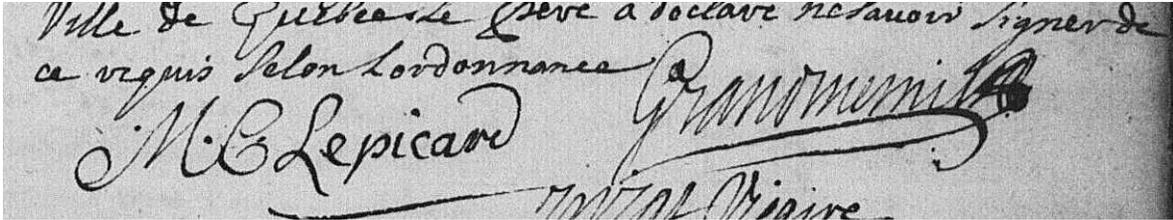
²⁹ *MPHS*, “Indemnity Mon. and Madame Riverin to Mon. Dela Mothe Cadillac,” p. 256.

³⁰ Notation dated 24 July 1709 attached to “Contrat de vente parmi le Sieur hertel fils au Sieur de Bourgeolly, 27 Mars 1708,” signed by Notary veron Grandmesnil, ANQ Trois-Rivières, photocopy.

³¹ For example, Étienne Véron, *marchand* (merchant), was witness for the baptism of Catherine-Genevieve Viger. This is surely the younger Grandmesnil. PRDH: #43827 Montréal 1711-09-17

³² PRDH: #43889 Montréal

Étienne the elder was said to be *NOTAIRE ROYAL* (royal notary). The signature “Grandmesnil” on the Montréal register matches the Détroit signatures. The godmother for the Corbin child is *Marie Catherine Picart*, celibate (unmarried). It is this Marie-Catherine that Étienne the younger married in the following year.



M.C. Lepicard Grandmesnil

Family Search, Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1900 Montréal Notre-Dame-de-Montréal 1710-1712 Image 91 of 128

At Nôtre-Dame de Montréal on 28 May 1713, *Étienne Véron de Grandmeny* declared being able to sign; his occupation was merchant and his residence Trois-Rivières. Étienne was said to be celibate, or unmarried. He was 32 years of age. *Marie Catherine Lepicart* declared being able to sign; her residence was Québec, and she was 22, the daughter of deceased Jean Lepicart, *marchand bourgeois*, residence Québec; and Marie-Anne Fortin, a widow.³³ Grandmesnil’s signature again matches those recorded at Détroit in 1707, 1708, and 1709. **Grandmesnil the younger was definitely the secretary recording the transactions at Détroit translated in Volume 34 of the Cadillac Papers.**

In fact, the signature of Grandmesnil the younger is so distinctive that it caught my attention as I was scrolling through the microfilm of the Nôtre-Dame-de-Montréal registers. There, in the entry for 31 December 1713, I saw that he attended the church wedding of Francois Lefebvre Duplessy Faber, *Lieutenant dans Les Troupes de ce Pays, Ecuyer*, and Catherine-Geneviève Pelletier. He signed the register, although his name is not mentioned in the text of the record and, as a result, does not appear in the extract published by PRDH.³⁴ The bride was daughter of Jean-François-Xavier Pelletier, deceased, and Geneviève Letendre, who became the wife of Étienne Volant de Radisson. Radisson and his wife were also at Détroit in the founding years, and, perhaps, Catherine-Geneviève Pelletier, daughter of Geneviève Letendre.

As for Burton’s speculation about whether the father of the “unfortunate” Thérèse “lost prestige,” it would seem that he did not. Attending his wedding were socially important persons: Ignace Gamelin, occupation: *marchand, bourgeois*; Pierre Delestage, occupation: *marchand*; Louis Daillibout de Coulonge, occupation: *écuyer*; Jean Baptiste Dailliboust de Musseaux, occupation: *écuyer*.

Those who served as godparents for Étienne’s children were also notables. Godfather for Marie-Anne Véron at Montréal 3 March 1714 was Étienne Volant de Ratisson (Radisson), *marchand, bourgeois*,³⁵ Jacques Barbet (Barbel), *secrétaire de l’intendant*³⁶ and brother-in-law to Étienne, served as godfather for

³³ PRDH: #48101 Montréal 1713-05-28 and photocopy from FHL microfilm #037584. Signing the document, although not mentioned in the text, is Geneviève Letendre widow of François Pelletier and wife of Étienne Volant Radisson. She served as godmother to Marie-Thérèse Lamothe with Bertrand Arnaud as godfather on 2 February 1704, the first act in the surviving register of Ste. Anne du Détroit.

³⁴ PRDH 48119 Montréal 1713-12-31 and FHL microfilm #037584. See DCB, Vol. III: 372-73 for Lefebvre.

³⁵ PRDH: #44262 Montréal 1714-05-03

³⁶ Barbel himself had scandalized society in 1703 by “profiting from the ‘consternation’ and the ‘loneliness’ of a widow [Marie-Anne Gaultier de Comporté], a minor,” and making her pregnant. Barbel, who had himself recently been widowed, seems to have escaped consequences because he was protected by the new governor, Philippe de

Marie-Catherine Véron³⁷ on 11 June 1715 at Québec. The family had relocated there by then. Radisson and the wife of Barbel, Marie-Anne Lepicart, were godparents for the 24 July 1716 baptism of Étienne Véron.³⁸ Pierre Rivet, *notaire royal*, and Louise Dion, widow of Mathieu Damours de Freneuse, *écuyer, conseiller au conseil supérieur de Québec*, served as godparents for Marie-Véronique de Véron on 2 February 1719.³⁹

Véron's wife, Marie-Catherine Lepicard, 28 years of age, died 8 February 1719, apparently as a result of the birth of Marie-Véronique. Present at the burial the next day was Barbel, brother-in-law or stepbrother, *secrétaire de M. l'intendant*.⁴⁰

No, Mr. Burton, Étienne Véron *filis*, the father of illegitimate Thérèse, did not lose prestige. Interestingly, though, only one of his children by his wife survived, daughter Marie-Catherine.⁴¹ All of the others died as infants, or in the case of the second child named Étienne, at the age of almost six.⁴²

Étienne Véron Grandmesnil the elder died and was buried 18 May 1721 at Trois-Rivières.⁴³

Véron Grandmesnil the younger is called merchant or bourgeois until the marriage of his daughter, Catherine Véron de Grandmenil, to Joseph Fleury Deschambault, *écuyer*, resident of Montreal at Québec 19 January 1738, when Véron is called: *receveur en ce pays de son altesse, Monseigneur Le Comte de Toulouse, Amiral de France*.⁴⁴ (Receiver in this country for his highness, Monseigneur Le Comte de Toulouse, Admiral of France.)

Marie-Catherine's daughter, Marie-Claire Fleury Dechambault, married 1 August 1765, after the Conquest, Jean Fraser, *Écuyer*, "capitaine des troupes de sa majeste britannique, l'un des juges de sa cour en plaidoyer commun de la province de québec, juge particulier dans le district de montreal pour les actes d'administration; origin: comte d'invernifs [*sic*] en ecosse."⁴⁵ (Captain of his majesty's British troops, one of the judges on his court of common pleas of the province of Québec, judge in the district of Montréal for administrative acts; origin: County of Inverness in Scotland.)

Rigaud de Vaudreuil, although the case was brought before the *Conseil souverain*. André Vachon comments: "To speak the truth, there were other [such cases] in the colony and the scandal was short-lived." DCB: II, p. 44.

³⁷ PRDH: #63719 Québec 1715-06-11

³⁸ PRDH: #63893 Québec 1716-07-24 Birth : 1716-07-24 Obiit :1716-07-29

³⁹ PRDH: #64272 Québec 1719-02-02 Birth : 1719-02-02

⁴⁰ PRDH: # 71671 Québec 1719-02-09 Death : 1719-02-08

⁴¹ Marie-Catherine Grandmesnil also had a distinctive signature. Because of this I was able to learn that she served as godmother for the 18 January 1729 baptism of Marie-Madeleine Chevalier, daughter of Nicolas-René Chevalier & Marie-Madeleine Leblanc. Godfather was Marie-Catherine's future husband. FHL microfilm #1289908. This Nicolas-René Chevalier served as godfather for the Nicolas-René baptized 13 January 1726 at Montréal, "né de père et mère inconnus," the same Nicolas-René hired out, on 23 Feb 1728 (before Adhémar *dit* Saint-Martin, J.-B., Mtl), to the Hôpital général de Montréal by Marie-Anne Germaneau, who acknowledged she was his mother. The child was supposed to remain there until he was 20. Marie-Anne Germaneau / Montour was said to be "Anglaise de nation fille de deffunt Jean baptiste Montour et Elisabeth Coucgnac de la ville dorange en la nouvelle angleterre" on her marriage contract with Jean Montary (29 Jan 1730 Dubreuill, photocopy, ANQ-Québec) and, at her marriage, a resident of Québec, daughter of the [man] named **La Motte** and Isabelle Montour (photocopy of N.-D. Québec Register). See my "Madame Montour and the Detroit Connection," *MHH*, October 1999.

⁴² See Jetté

⁴³ PRDH

⁴⁴ PRDH: #164865 Québec 1738-01-19 and photocopy from FHL microfilm #1289908

⁴⁵ PRDH: #339278 Lieu indéterminé (au Québec)1765-08-01 Notaire Mezieres

Roland-J. Auger, an important French-Canadian genealogist, in his entry about the younger “Véron de Grandmesnil, Étienne” in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, says only that he was clerk in the king’s warehouse at Trois-Rivières and merchant, but he also comments: “Because few documents remain concerning Véron’s activities as a merchant, it is difficult to state exactly what his business was.”⁴⁶ It appears now that his business was Cadillac’s business, at least in part. After his father’s death in 1721, according to Auger, who also seems to have confused the two Étiennes, Étienne the younger:

took in hand the interests of Lamothe Cadillac [Laumet*], whose secretary Étienne Véron the elder had been for several years [*sic*].

The numerous surviving signatures of Grandmesnil the younger signing as Cadillac’s *secrétaire* should now refute this assertion. Auger continues:

In 1730 Véron the younger, who had become Cadillac’s attorney, had an ordinance issued by Gilles Hocquart concerning the collection of the former governor of Louisiana’s assets. This was probably the last time that Véron intervened on Cadillac’s behalf, since the latter died that same year.⁴⁷

According to J.-Edmond Roy and documents available through the National Archives of Canada, Véron the younger’s labors did not end in 1730:

Veron de Grandmesnil, once Lamothe-Cadillac left [in 1711], went to establish himself at Québec. It was he who, for more than thirty years, occupied himself in managing the property that Lamothe-Cadillac had left in Canada

This is definitely Étienne the younger, as the elder died in 1721 at Trois-Rivières. Roy adds:

On 23 May 1730, Grandmesnil succeeded finally in obtaining an *ordonnance* from the intendant about the property that his commandant still possessed at Détroit. But, justice was apparently no more expeditious at that time than it is today, because eleven years after this *ordonnance*, Grandmesnil still worked at the liquidation begun in 1711. It took him a full thirty years to reach an end to the courts and the recalcitrant debtors of his old master.⁴⁸

Étienne Véron Grandmenil, said to be 63 years old, died at Québec 22 April 1743⁴⁹ and was buried the next day.

Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, 2014 Version

⁴⁶ Roland-J. Auger, “Véron de Grandmesnil, Étienne,” *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. III, 1741-1770, University of Toronto Press: 1974, pp. 642-43.

⁴⁷ Auger: 643

⁴⁸ Roy: 370. My translation.

⁴⁹ PRDH #167539 Québec 1743-04-23 Death: 1743-04-22.