

Tracking sites in the *fort du Detroit*, 1721
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State of the *emplacements du fort du Detroit*
(National Archives of Canada, F- 413, Fonds Archives des colonies, Série C11^E)
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca Mikan #2487443

Also to be found in “Statement of the sites occupied by the inhabitants of the fort of Detroit who pay two sols per foot frontage for the whole depth,” in a Memorandum Annexed to the Copy of the Letter of MM. Vaudreuil and Begon on **4 November 1721**. [*Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections* (hereafter *MPHC*), Vol. 33, pp. 687 – 689; the English translation below is principally from this source.]

“Prior to 24 August 1711, **Jacques Charles Renaud Dubuisson**, acting commandant of Détroit, cut Fort Pontchartrain in half, because the palisades were rotting, and he felt that the fort was too large to be defended by the small number of men at his disposal. The following buildings were left outside the fort: the Church, a warehouse, and homes belonging to the following: Father Chérubin Deniau, Antoine Lamothe de Cadillac, Fafard Delorme, Parent, Mallet, Roy, Robert, (Michel) Campeau and Bélisle. In May 1712, The French Canadians pulled down the Church, warehouse and houses that were immediately outside the fort to prevent the enemy from setting a fire to the buildings that might spread to the fort.” [*Michigan’s Habitant Heritage*, Vol. 33, #2, April 2012, pp. 114-121]

Based on the following statement of sites for 1721, there appeared to be four streets: *rue* S^t. Louis, *rue* S^t. Jacques, *rue* S^{te}. Anne, and *rue de Montréal*.

Rue S^t. Louis

- #1 A site to *s^r*. **Alphonse de Tonty**, contiguous to the *chemin* (path) of the *courtine* (palisade) of the Poutouatamis, containing a 105 feet frontage by 80 feet deep on one side, and 39 feet on the other by 37 feet frontage, bought from *M.* (monsieur) de Sabrevois for the sum of 1190 *livres* including the corn and other useful things.
Site of *s^r*. **Laurent Trudeau**, bordering on that of *M.* de Tonty containing 25 feet frontage by 18 deep, on which there is only a very poor house, which on the said *s^r*. Trudeau abandoning it, was valued for making a guard-house. [Note in margin said it then served as a guard-house.]
- #2 Site of *s^r*. **René Hamelin dit la Gausire** (*sic* - la Ganière), bordering on *s^r*. Trudeau, containing 25 feet frontage by 22 feet deep, abutting on *rue de Montréal*. [Note in the margin stated that **Goyo** (Jean Baptiste Goyau *dit* Lagarde) had acquired this site.]
- #3 Site of *s^r*. **Simon Gilbert** (Gilbert / Gelibert *dit* Sanspeur et Sanscrainte), sergeant of the garrison bordering on *rue de Montréal* on one side, with 18 feet frontage by 20 deep; granted by *M^r*. de Tonty.
- #4 Site of *s^r*. **Paul Guillet**, bordering on that of *s^r*. Gilbert, containing 18 feet frontage by 28 deep.
- #5 Site of *s^r*. **Jacques LaCroix** (Hubert *dit* Lacroix), bordering on that of *s^r*. Guillet, containing 20 feet frontage by 27 feet deep. [Note in margin indicated that **Godeffroy** had acquired this site. This is possibly Pierre Godefroy, *sieur de* Roquetaillade, who married Marie Catherine Jean *dite* Vien, widow of Jacques Sauvage, 5 August 1724 in Détroit. Another possibility is Jacques Godefroy, *sieur de* Mauboeuf, husband of Marie Chesne. However, both men also had their own concessions at this time.]
- #6 Site of *s^r*. **Louis Roy**, bordering on that of *s^r*. LaCroix at the *courtine* (palisade) of the Hurons, containing 20 feet frontage by 24 deep.
- #7 Site of *s^r*. **François Barrois**, *l’aisné* (the elder), containing 23 feet 8 inches frontage by 25 deep.
- #8 Site of *s^r*. **Jacques Cardinal**, bordering on that of *s^r*. Barrois, containing 22-½ feet frontage by 25 feet deep. [Note in margin indicated that the site was occupied by Barrois *le Cadet* (the younger).]

- # 9 Site of *s^r*. **Jean Bap^{te}. Forestier**, containing 16-½ feet frontage by 29 deep.
- #10 Site of the deceased *s^r*. **Pierre Robert** (Pierre Robert *dit* Lafontaine) belonging to **Angélique Tholomé Boucher** (Angélique Ptoloméé married Guillaume Boucher 16 August 1716 in Détroit), formerly his wife, and to his heirs, bordering on that of *s^r*. Forestier, containing 30 feet frontage by 32 deep.
- #11 Site on which the church and the house of the **R. P. Recollet**, and its dependence (outhouse/annex) are situated, abutting on the *chemin* (path) of the *courtine* (palisade) of the Poutouatamis, containing 30 feet frontage by 100 feet deep.
In the extant 10 March 1707 contract of **René Louis Fournier, sieur Dufiguier**, it was stated he lived on *rue S^t Louis* next to the *Reverends Pères Récollets* and the other part of the site was on *rue S^t François*. The site of the Recollets is not given in any of the extant contracts from this period. The Recollet priest in 1721 (from 12 November 1719 to 9 March 1722) was **Guillaume Martin de Lino** (Père Antoine Martin de Lino). According to a pastoral letter from Mgr. Saint-Vallier, dated 8 June 1720 and sent to the *habitants de Détroit*, it seems that the church and cemetery were not well-maintained. For three weeks in the summer of 1721, *père* de Lino was host to the Jesuit, F-X Charlevoix in his *presbytère*. [Odoric Jouve and Archange Godbout, “Père Antoine Martin de Lino,” *Dictionnaire biographique des Récollets missionnaires en Nouvelle-France* 1615-1645, 1670-1849 (Montréal: Éditions Bellarmin, 1996), pp. 666 – 667.]

Rue S^t. Jacques

- #12 Site of *s^r*. **René Desniaux** (Deniau), containing 21 feet frontage by 17-½ feet deep.
- #13 Site of *s^r*. **François Pelletier** (Jean François Pelletier *dit* Antaya), containing 27 feet frontage by 24 deep; conceded by *M^r*. de Tonty.
- #14 Site of *s^r*. **Pierre Roquetaillade** (Pierre Godefroy, *sieur de* Roquetaillade), bordering on that of *s^r*. Pelletier, containing 40 feet frontage by 20 feet deep.
- #15 Site of *s^r*. **Jacques Neveu**, bordering on that of *s^r*. Roquetaillade, containing 30 feet frontage by 26 deep, purchased by *M^r*. de Tonty and serves as a guard house.
- #16 Site of *s^r*. **Michel Campau** (Campeau), bordering on that of *s^r*. Neveu and contiguous to the *chemin* (path) of the *courtine* (palisade) of the Hurons, containing 26 feet frontage by 19 feet deep; granted by *M^r*. de Tonty. Note in the margin states *M^r*. de Linctot (René Godefroy, *sieur de* Linctot who was in the first convoy to Détroit 24 July 1701) acquired it from the said Campau.
- #17 Site of *s^r*. **Pierre le Breton** (possibly Pierre Élie *dit* Breton, although there is no proof he was ever in Détroit), contiguous to the *chemin* (path) of the *courtine* (palisade) of the Hurons, containing 28 feet frontage by 30 deep.
- #18 Site of *s^r*. **Joseph Parent**, bordering on that of *s^r*. le Breton, containing 32-½ feet frontage by 31 feet deep.
- #19 Site of *s^r*. **Pierre Perthuis** bordering on that of *s^r*. Parent, containing 25 feet frontage by 36 deep;
Site of *s^r*. **Pierre Maillet** (Mallet), bordering on that of *s^r*. Perthuis, containing 48 feet frontage by 36 deep.
Note in margin stated that *s^r*. Perthuis now has these two sites as the son-in-law of the said Mallet. [Pierre Perthuis, *sieur de* LaJanvry, married Marie Catherine Mallet, 18 March 1716 (marriage contract by LePallieur in Montréal).]
- #20 Site of *s^r*. **Jacques Philis** (Desmoulins *dit* Philis), bordering on that of *s^r*. mallet, containing 30 feet frontage by 36 deep.
- #21 Site of *s^r*. **Pierre Buteau**, bordering on that of *s^r*. Philis and contiguous to that of the R. P. Recollet, containing 30 feet frontage by 36 deep.

Rue S^{te}. Anne

- #22 Site of *s^r*. **Joseph Vaudry**, bordering on the back of that of *M^r*. de Tonty, containing 16 ½ feet frontage by 19 deep.
- #23 Site of *s^r*. **Louis Hamelin**, bordering on that of *s^r*. Vaudry, containing 38 feet frontage by 19 deep. [Note in margin states that **Thiery Noland** (Louis *dit* Louis Thierry Nolan) acquired it.]
- #24 Site of *s^r*. **Nicolas Millet**, contiguous to *rue de Montréal*, containing 25 ½ feet frontage by 18 feet deep. [Note in margin states that it was ceded to *s^r*. **Robbert** (possibly Étienne Robbert, *sieur de la Morandière*) in payment.]
- #25 Site of *s^r*. **Jean s^t. Aubin** (Casse *dit* Saint-Aubin), bordering on that of *s^r*. Millet, containing 33 feet frontage by 18 deep.
- #26 Site of *s^r*. **Bernard Demouchelles** (Dumouchel), contiguous to the *chemin* (path) of the *courtine* (palisade) of the Hurons, containing 21 feet frontage by 22 feet deep.
Site of *s^r*. **François del'Isle** (François Bienvenu *dit* Delisle), bordering on that of *s^r*. Desmouchelles, containing 31 feet frontage by 22 deep. [Note in margin stated that Delisle now has the site of Desmouchelles.]
- #27 Site of *s^r*. **Jacob Desrochers** (Marsac *dit* Desrochers), bordering in that of *s^r*. del'Isle, containing 27 feet frontage by 23 deep.
- #28 Site of *s^r*. **François Fafard Delorme** (Fafard *dit* Delorme), contiguous to *rue de Montréal*, containing 23 feet frontage by 24 deep.
- #29 Site of *s^r*. **Pierre la Jeunesse** (Estève *dit* Lajeunesse), bordering on that of *s^r*. de Lorme, containing 26 feet frontage by 24 deep.
- #30 Site of *M^r*. **de Tonty**, bordering on that of *s^r*. la Jeunesse and contiguous to *la porte* Ste. Anne (Ste. Anne gate), containing 42 feet frontage by 23 deep. [Note in the margin stated that **Chapoteau** (Jean Chapoton) *chirurgien* (surgeon) of the fort possessed it by the transfer made to him by *M^r*. de Tonty.]

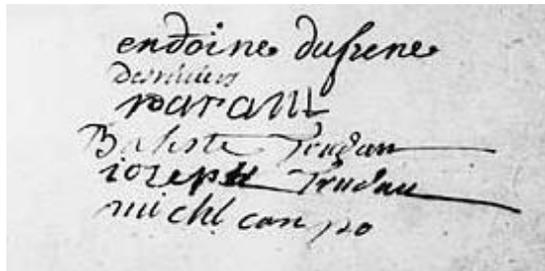
Begon signed this as a copy.

Détroit 1721 (exact date not stated)

In addition to the above names as *habitants* of Fort Pontchartrain in 1721, there were others present at the time who filed a complaint against M. de Tonty for cruelty and money extracted from them for various reasons. See *MPHC*, Volume 33, pp. 707-710 and www.collectionscanada.gc.ca Mikan #2487442.

The men who specifically filed the charges were **Langlois, Parent, Joseph Trudot, Baptiste Trudot, Joseph Langlois, Magnan, de Rivierres, Paul Dervisseau, Michel Campault, Mallet, Dufresne, Jacques Hubert de la Croix, Moiniere**. They stated they also represented all the other *habitants* who had taken out contracts of concession with M. de la Mothe, *seigneur*. They had exhausted themselves by taking care of their families there and had risked their lives (and their families' lives) in fighting against the enemies of the state in order to preserve the settlement. In addition to demanding money from the *habitants*, Tonty had also demanded payment from the *marchands foriants* (itinerant merchants) for residing in the fort, such as **Monsieur Neveu, Paul Desruisseaux, Franquelin, Jacques Campault, Antaya, Michel Campault, Godefroy, Baby**, and many others, unnamed, were forced to pay a 50# fine. Tonty had beaten **Paul Deruisseaux** and **Philis**. Vaudreuil was aware of this but did nothing. The Trudeaus had paid their *cens et rente*, according to their contracts, but Tonty had seized the land and had houses built on it. In 1721 Tonty had the *habitants* bring him their contracts of concession and would not return them. [This could be a reason why so few contracts still exist.]

- Langlois** (Jacques Langlois?) – Jacques Langlois received an *emplacement* in the fort on *rue S^{te} Anne* and *rue S^t Joachim* on 10 March 1707. By 1 January 1721 he was in Montréal where he signed as godfather to Marie Josèphe Mallet, daughter of Jean Mallet and Marie Barbe Milot [Ancestry.ca, Montréal, 1713-1725, image 257.] On 31 July 1731 Jacques Langlois, son of Jacques Langlois and Marie Renée Toupin, was born and baptized in Montréal. His father signed [Ancestry.ca, Montréal, 1713-1725, image 271].
- (Joseph) Parent** – received an *emplacement* 10 March 1707 on *rue S^t Louis* and *rue S^t Antoine*.
- Joseph Trudot** [Trudeau] – a carpenter; on the 7 June 1710 list of *habitants*; on the 1710 census; married 18 January 1718 to Geneviève Bélisle, daughter of Henri Bélisle and Catherine de Mosny. He does not appear to have received a concession in the 1706-1710 period.
- Baptiste Trudot** [Jean-Baptiste Trudeau] – a master blacksmith; m. 1 September 1715 at Montréal to Marie-Madeleine Parent, daughter of Joseph Parent and Marie Madeleine Maret; on the 7 June 1710 list of *habitants*; on the 1710 census. He does not appear to have received an *emplacement* in the 1706-1710 period.
- Joseph Langlois** – Not able to identify him at this time. Paul Langlois, brother of Jacques, received an *emplacement* 10 March 1707 on *rue S^t Joachim*.
- Magnan** (Jean-Antoine Magnan *dit* L'Espérance) – Received an *emplacement* 20 March 1708 on *rue S^{te} Anne*.
- De Rivierres** (Julien Trottier, *sieur* Desrivières) – *engageur*; merchant; m. Maire-Louise-Catherine Raimbault at Montréal on 9 January 1718.
- Franquelin** - Possibly Marie Joseph Franquelin, a *cadet* in 1725, son of Jean Baptiste Louis Franquelin, a map maker, who is said to have died in France between 1712 and 1730. (Jetté, p. 441) Cadillac traveled with the senior Franquelin to map the coast of New England in 1692.
- Jacques Campault** – Received an *emplacement* 1 March 1709 on *rue Ste Anne*.
- Baby** – Maybe Louis Babie who had come in the first convoy but more likely his brother, Raymond, a fur merchant who married Louise Lecomte *dite* Dupré on 9 June 1721 in Montréal. Their descendants are in the “Assumption Sandwich” vicinity today. Raymond Babie was in Détroit by 1716.
- Paul Deroisseau** [Paul Trottier *dit* DesRuisseaux] The last known record for him in Montréal was 31 July 1721 when he was godfather to Paul Ignace Trottier, son of Pierre Trottier Desauniers and Catherine Charet. He signed the act [Ancestry.ca, Montréal, 1713-1725. This act was just above the act for the son of Jacques Langlois.
- Mallet** [Pierre Mallet?]
- Dufresne** [Antoine Thunay *dit* Dufresne] – brother of Marie Madeleine Thunay and brother-in-law of Pierre Mallet; uncle of Jean François Pelletier *dit* Antaya; *voyageur*; m. Marie Angélique Roy on 6 June 1713 at Montréal; on 7 June 1710 list of *habitants*; received an *emplacement* on *rue S^{te} Anne*, bordering on *rue S^t Joachim* 14 March 1708 and on *rue S^{te} Anne* 28 June 1710.
- Monière** (Alexis Lemoine, *sieur* or *dit* La Monière) – fur merchant; *engageur*; m. 22 March 1715 at Québec to Marie Louise Kembal (English) and 12 August 1724 at Montréal to Marie Josèphe de Couagne. He did not receive an *emplacement* in the fort but did purchase one in 1708. His paper trail is an example of the complexity of land owning / possession in Détroit.

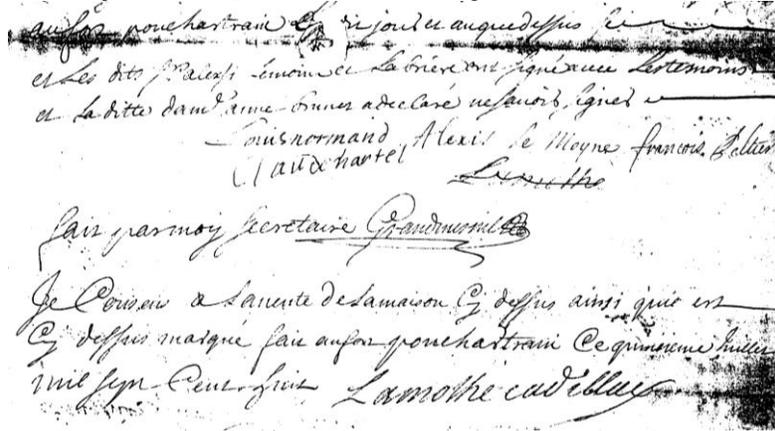


endoine dufresne
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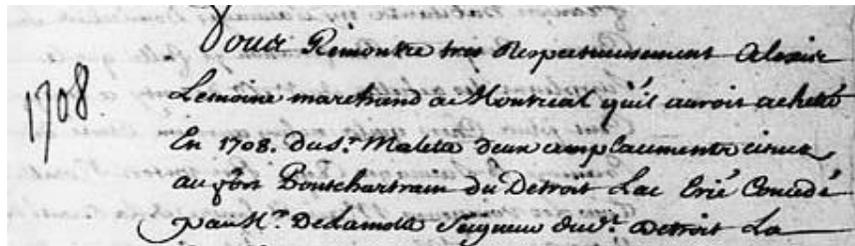
Mikan #2487442, image 9 - Those who signed the 1721 charges against Tonty.

Two examples of a “paper trail” in Fort Pontchartrain: Alexis Lemoine and Paul Guillet

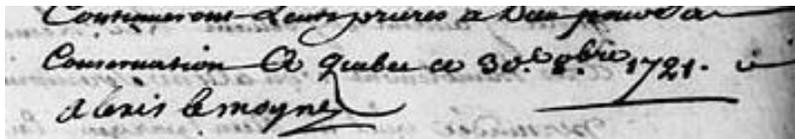
On 15 July 1708, **Alexis Lemoine, sieur or dit La Monière**, purchased from **Louis Normand dit Labrière** and his wife **Anne Brunet** (*sic* – Bruneau) a house on *rue S^e Anne* next to **Pierre Énard** and **Bonaventure Compain**. The *emplacement* was given to Louis Normand on 10 March 1707. The 1708 sale was witnessed by **Claude Hartel** (of unknown origin) and **François Peltier [Pelletier]**. Cadillac agreed to the sale.



From the contracts of Étienne Veron Grandmesnil, Québec Archives.



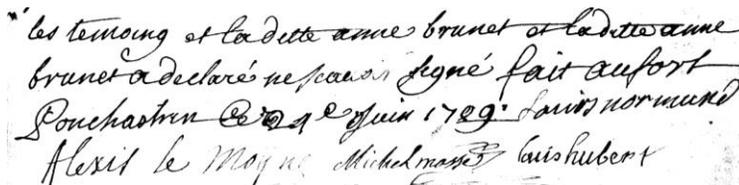
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca Mikan # 2487439 In this act from 1721 Alexis Lemoine stated he had purchased two sites, located in *fort Pontchartrain du Detroit Lac Erié* in 1708 from Sr. Mallette. The sites had originally been conceded by *M^r. DeLamotte seigneur* of the said Detroit. Tonty had taken these sites and was now in a new partnership with Gastineau and Gouin. As a result, Lemoine felt he would not receive the sites for which he had paid.



www.collectionscanada.gc.ca Mikan # 2487439

No other record for the purchase of a site in Fort Pontchartrain has been found in 1708 for Lemoine and no sales with Pierre Mallet. Alexis Lemoine was enumerated in the 1710 census of *Détroit* and was on the list of habitants on 7 June 1710 who agreed to pay for a priest.

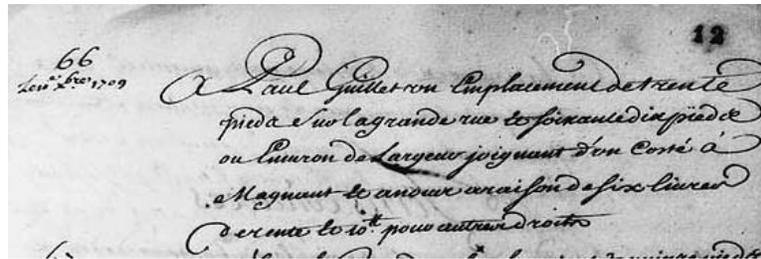
However, on 24 June 1709 Alexis Lemoine purchased from Louis Normand *dit Labrière* and his wife Anne Brunet (*sic* – Bruneau) one-half *arpent* of land next to Michel Dizier and Jacques Langlois on the north side next to a brook and next to Pierre Ostesse [of unknown origin] on the south. This was witnessed by Michel Massé and Louis Hubert *dit Lacroix*.



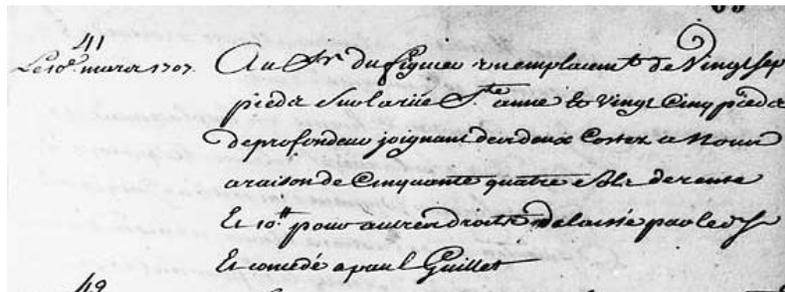
In the records of Étienne Veron de Grandmesnil. This act was not signed by Cadillac or Grandmesnil.

Paul Guillet.

The “paper trail” for Paul Guillet was unique in that a record for an *emplacement* in the fort exists from Cadillac, Sabrevois, and Tonty. On 10 December 1709 Paul Guillet received from Cadillac an *emplacement* on *rue S^{te} Anne*.



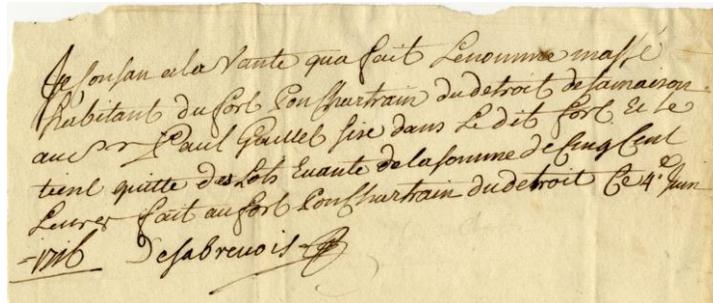
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca Mikan # 2487406, item 19



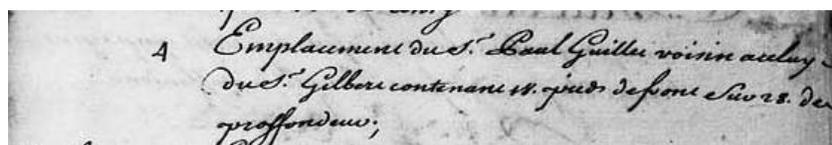
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca Mikan # 2487406, item 13

Paul Guillet also was conceded the *emplacement* of René Louis Fournier, *sieur DuFiguier*, after Dufiguier had to abandon it and return with the soldiers to Montréal in 1710. On 28 October 1710, at Fort Pontchartrain, and registered in the *étude* of LePallieur in Montréal, the contract stating the reasons for the abandonment of Dufiguier’s *emplacement*, was drawn up. **Lajeunesse** [most likely Pierre Estève *dit* Lajeunesse] had subsequently built on this site. Tonty, with Vaudreuil’s consent, had ceded another site to Paul Guillet that was the same amount and “on the same line in going up the river.” This was signed by Tonty at the *fort du detroit sur le Lac Érié* on 12 July 1717. All of this was in agreement with the *lettres patentes du Roy* in March 1716 and the consent of Sabrevois in 1716. Vaudreuil then signed the document 17 May 1718 in Montréal [FHL microfilm # 1556892- Le Pallieur].

On 4 June 1716 Sabrevois, commandant at Fort Pontchartrain, consented to Paul Guillet purchasing a house located in the fort from (Michel) Massé. It is not possible to state that this purchase and the concession in the fort at about the same time are related.



Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library. Printed here with permission.



www.collectionscanada.gc.ca Mikan 2487443, item 2 – 1721