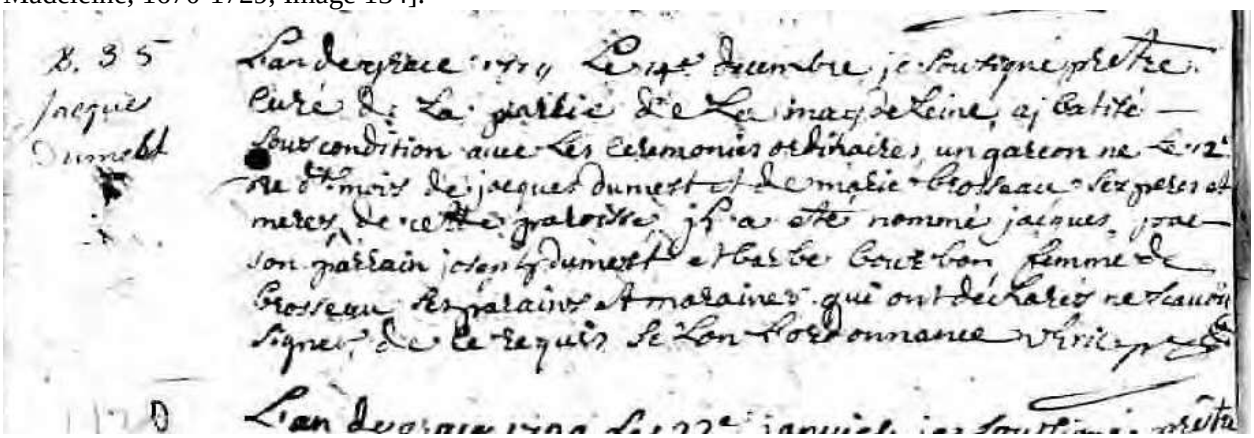
Michilimackinac and Fort St. Joseph Families – Demers to Defond
Compiled by Diane Wolford Sheppard, FCHSM Member

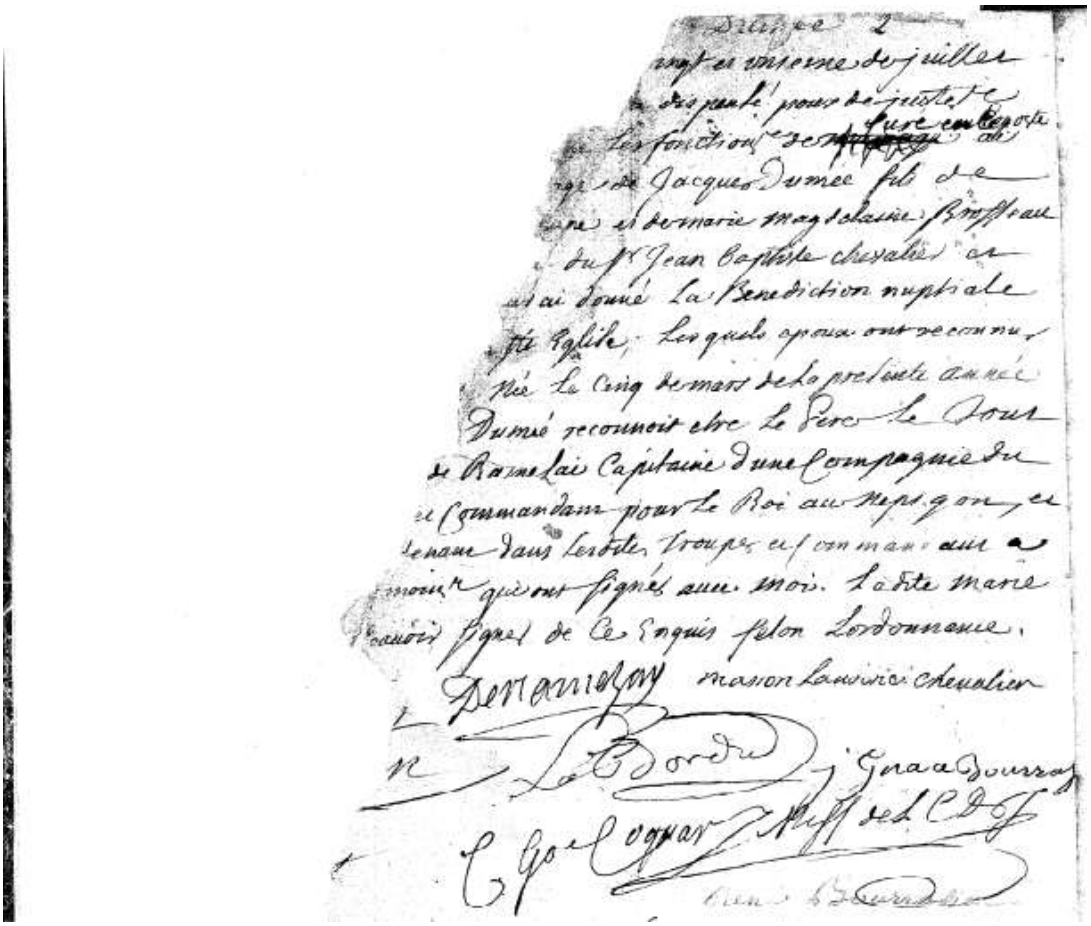
Demers – Chevalier Family

Jacques Demers, son of Jacques Demers and Marie Barbe Brosseau, was born 12 December 1719 and baptized 14 December 1719 in Laprairie [Jetté, p. 328]. His godparents were Joseph Dumest [Demers] and Barbe Bourbon [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, L, Laprairie, Notre-Dame de La Prairie de La Madeleine, 1670-1729, Image 134].



Baptism of Jacques Demers

Jacques Demers married **Marie Madeleine Chevalier**, daughter of Jean Baptiste Chevalier and Marie Françoise Alavoine, 31 July 1744 in Michilimackinac [Ste Anne, Mackinac CD, Marriages, 1725-1749, Image 4]. [PRDH – #84441 – Dumais Demers – Chevalier Family and Couples Views – only names two children].



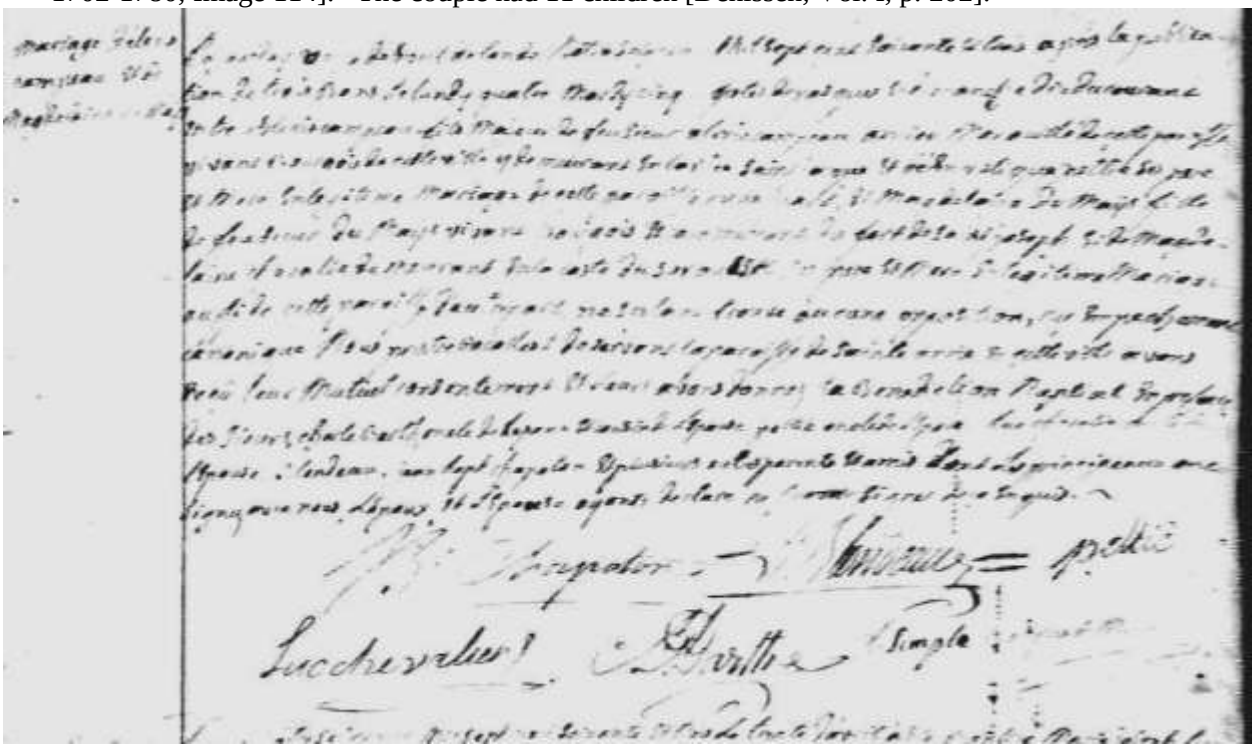
Marriage of Jacques Demers and Marie Madeleine Chevalier and Baptism of their oldest child

Marie Chevalier was baptized 12 October 1724 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Jacques Demers and Marie Madeleine Chevalier had 11 children born and baptized at Michilimackinac, Fort St. Joseph, Laprairie, and Detroit. Jacques Demers was killed by a Native American 6 December 1760; he was buried the following in Ste Anne's Church. At his burial, the priest noted the following: "Jacques Dumay, *fermier* [agent] *du sieur Cabassier a la coste dite de Poutouatamis*, killed by a *sauvage*, about 40 years, 7 December 1760, buried in church" [Moreau-DesHarnais, Burials from Ste. Anne's, Part II]. Marie Madeleine Chevalier died 29 March 1783 and was buried 31 March 1783 in Laprairie [PRDH # 84441 – Dumais Demers – Chevalier Family and Couple Views – only lists two children]. See Serge Demers, "Legends, The Demers family from Detroit to LaPrairie?" *MHH*, Vol. 19, #1, January 1998, 15-18; Denissen, I, 437 – only gives an estimated birth year for most of the children and does not mention others]. Marie Françoise Alavoine was not a Native American. FCHSM Members, see "But I read it . . . " Is Marie Françoise Alavoine, Wife of Jean Baptiste Chevalier, "of French and Menominee blood," in by Suzanne Boivin Sommerville in the January 2012 issue of MHH and Diane Wolford Sheppard's profile of the Chevalier Family on the Michilimackinac Page on the FCHSM website.

Jacques Demers and Marie Madeleine Chevalier's Children:

1. **Madeleine Demers** was born 5 March 1744 and baptized 21 July 1744 at Michilimackinac. Her godparents were *M.* de Ramezay, captain of a company of Marines and *commandant* for the King at Nipigon, and Marie Françoise Alavoine, wife of Jean Baptiste Chevalier [Ste Anne, Mackinac CD, Marriages, 1725-1749, Image 4 – her name does not appear in the register – see the image above].

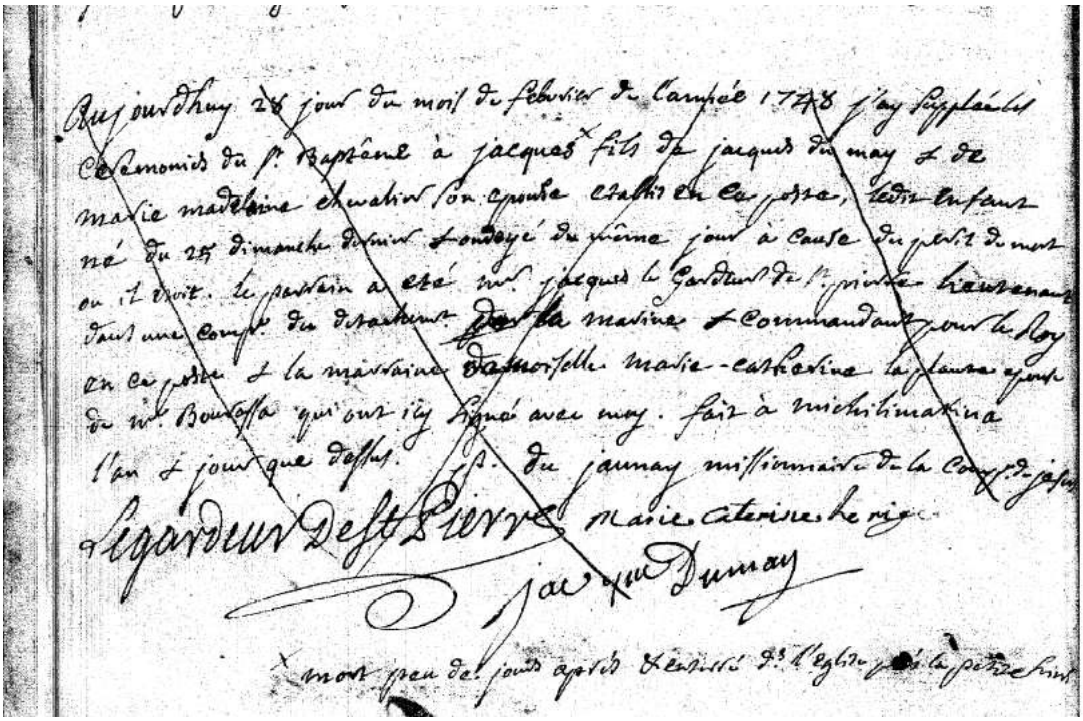
Madeleine Demers married **Alexis Campeau**, son of Antoine Campeau and Marie Angélique Pelletier, 11 April 1763 in Detroit [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, Ste Anne, 1702-1780, Image 114]. The couple had 11 children [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 202].



Marriage of Madeleine Demers and Alexis Campeau

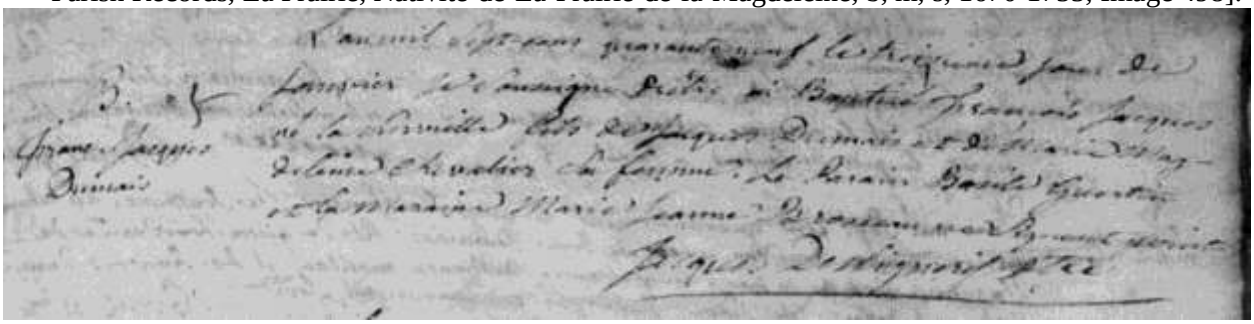
Alexis Campeau was buried 5 September 1782 in Ste. Anne's Church [Moreau-DesHarnais, Burials from Ste. Anne's, Part IV]. Madeleine Demers was buried 30 June 1795 Ste. Anne's Cemetery [Moreau-DesHarnais, Burials from Ste. Anne's, Part VI].

2. **Jacques Demers** was born 25 February 1748 in Michilimackinac and given lay baptism because he was in danger of death. He was conditionally baptized 28 February 1748. His godparents were Jacques Legardeur, *sieur* de Saint-Pierre, lieutenant of a company in the troops detached from the Marines, and *commandant* of this post for the King, and Marie Catherine [Lériger *dite*] Laplante, wife of *Mr.* Bourassa. He died shortly after his baptism [Ste Anne, Mackinac, Baptisms, 1695-1749, Image, 24].



Baptism of Jacques Demers and notice of his death and burial

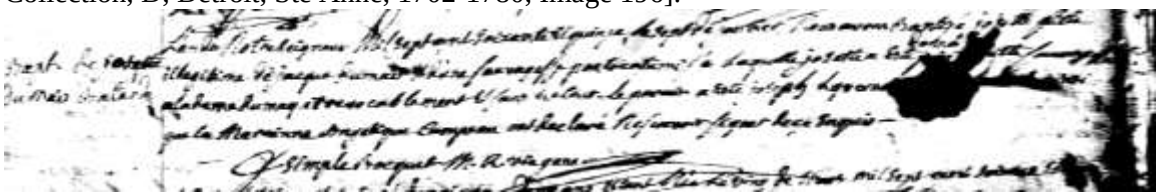
3. **François Jacques Demers** was born 11 January 1749. He was baptized 13 January 1749 in La Prairie. His godparents were Basile Guertin and Marie Jeanne Brosseau [familysearch.org, Catholic Parish Records, La Prairie, Nativité-de-La-Prairie-de-la-Magdeleine, b, m, s, 1670-1755, Image 498].



Baptism of François Jacques Demers

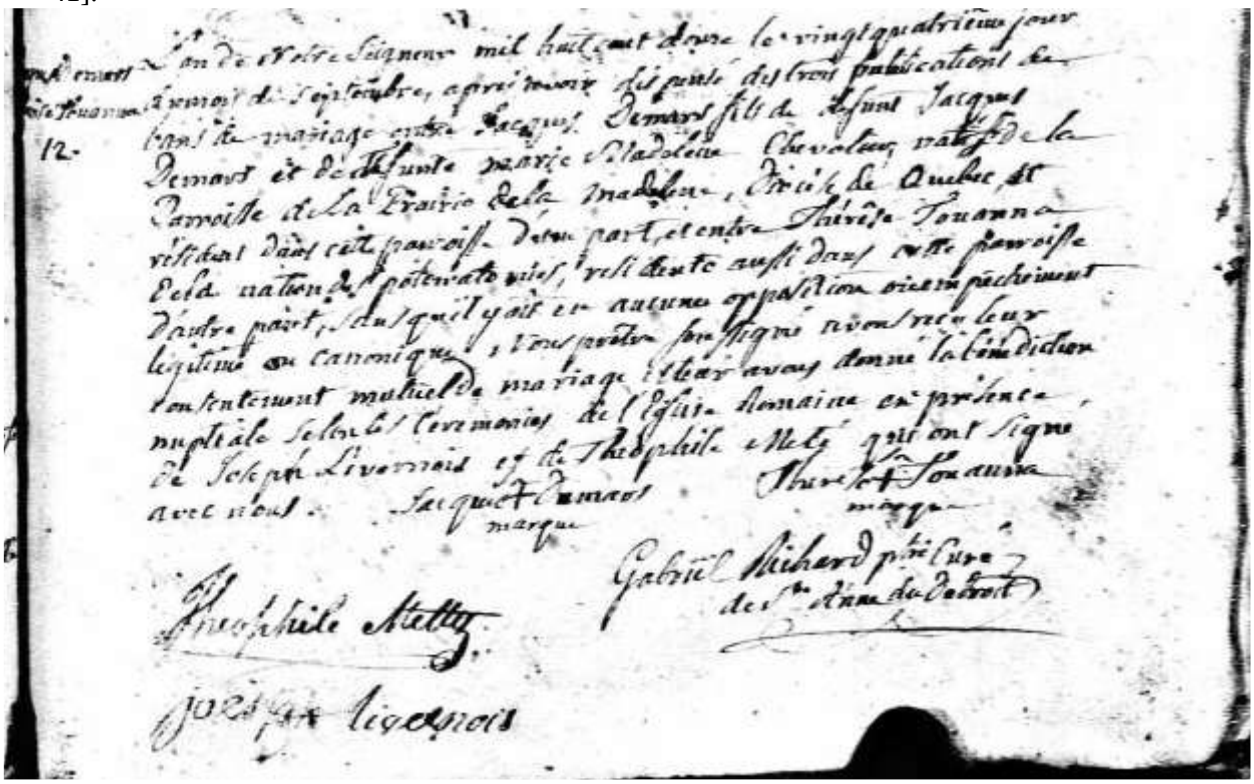
François Jacques Demers was the father of an illegitimate daughter in 1773

a. **Josette Dumay**, daughter of Jacques Dumay and a Potawatomi who had been given to *Dame* Dumay, was born 20 March 1773 and baptized 7 January 1775 in Detroit. Her godparents were Joseph [Benoît dit] Lyvernois and Angélique Campeau [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, Ste Anne, 1702-1780, Image 196].



Baptism of Josette Dumay/Demers

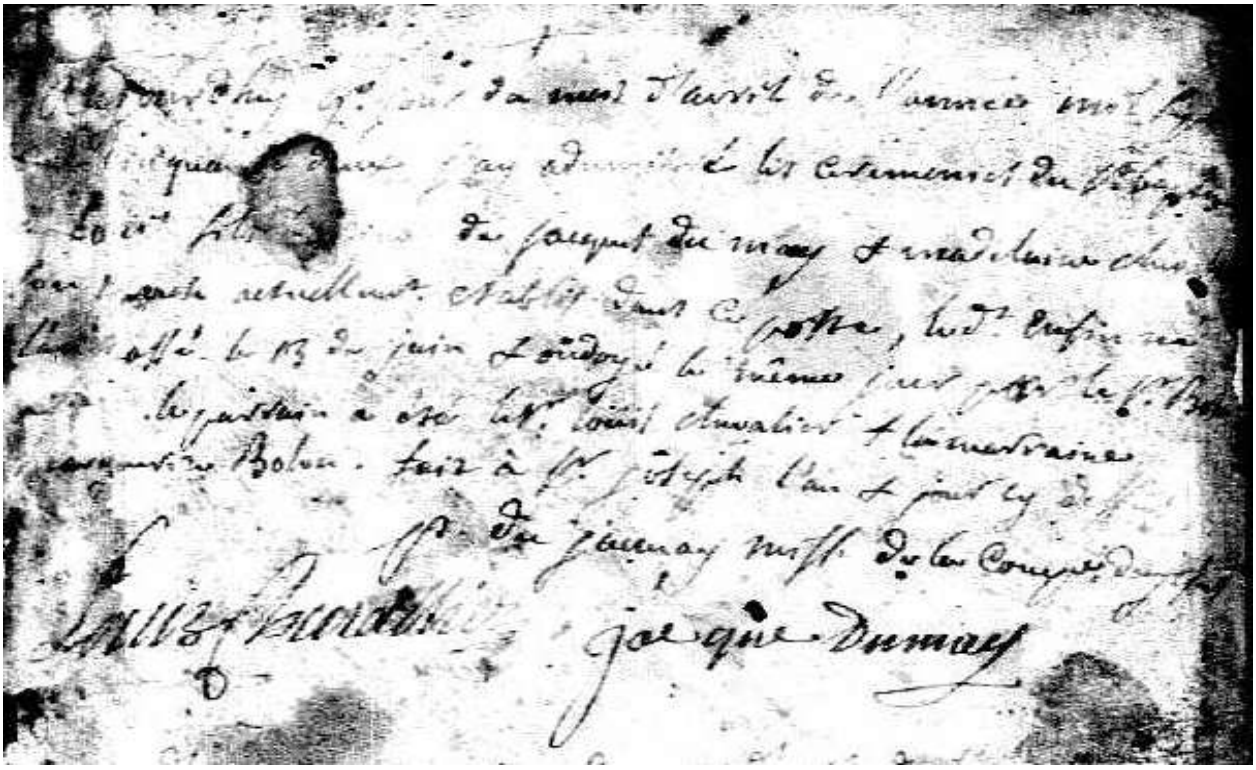
Jacques Demers married Thérèse Touanna, a Potawatomi, 24 September 1812 in Detroit [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, Ste Anne, Autre Registres, 1801-1832, Image 41].



Marriage of Jacques Demers and Thérèse Touana

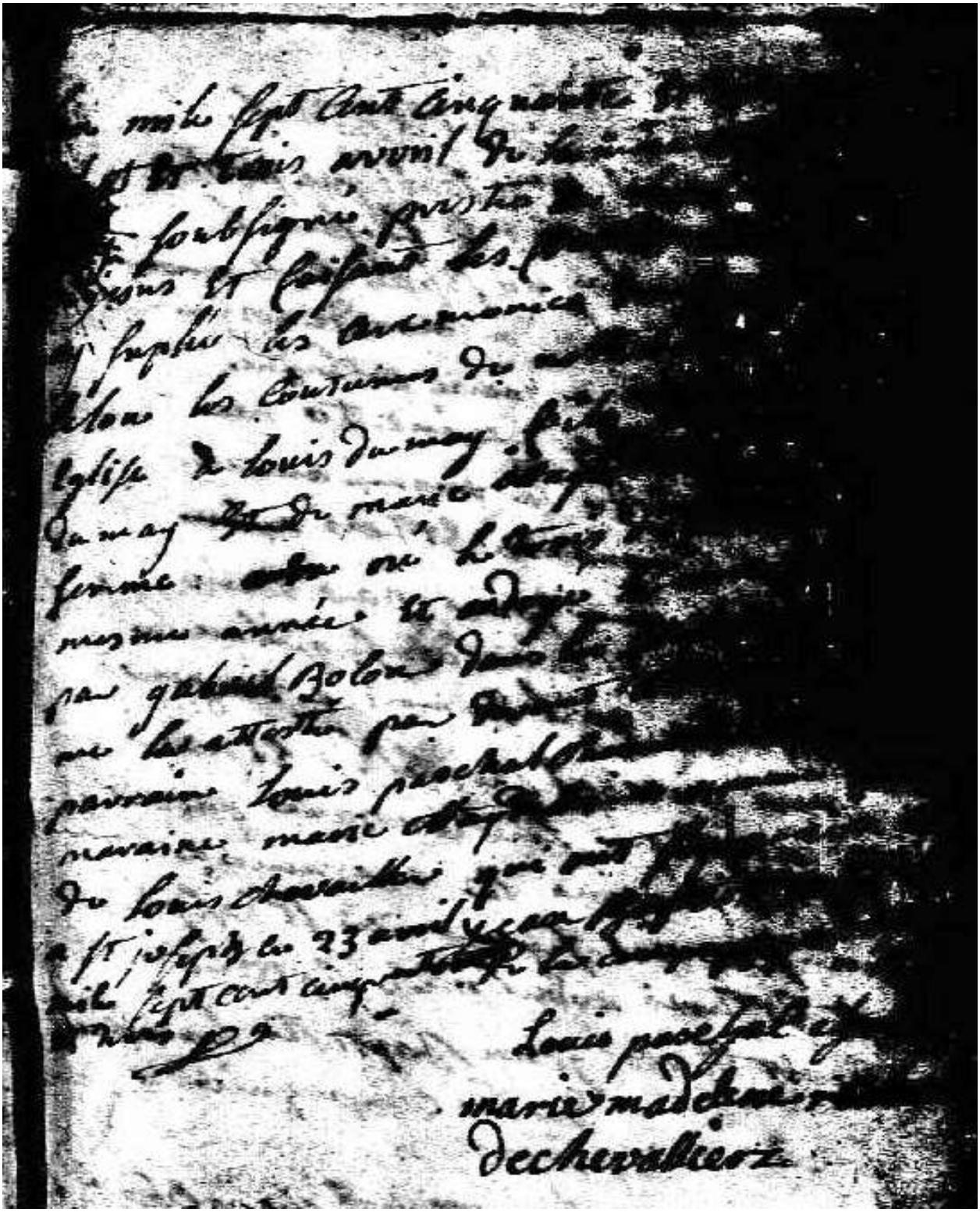
Jacques Demers was buried 29 April 1814 at the age of about 60 from Ste. Anne's. Thérèse Touana was buried 12 October 1815 at the age of about 50 [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 437]

4. **Louis Demers** was born 13 June 1751 at Fort St. Joseph and given lay baptism by Gabriel Bolon at birth. He was conditionally baptized 9 April 1752 at Fort St. Joseph. His godparents were Louis Chevalier and Suzanne [Ménard] Bolon [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S, St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 13].



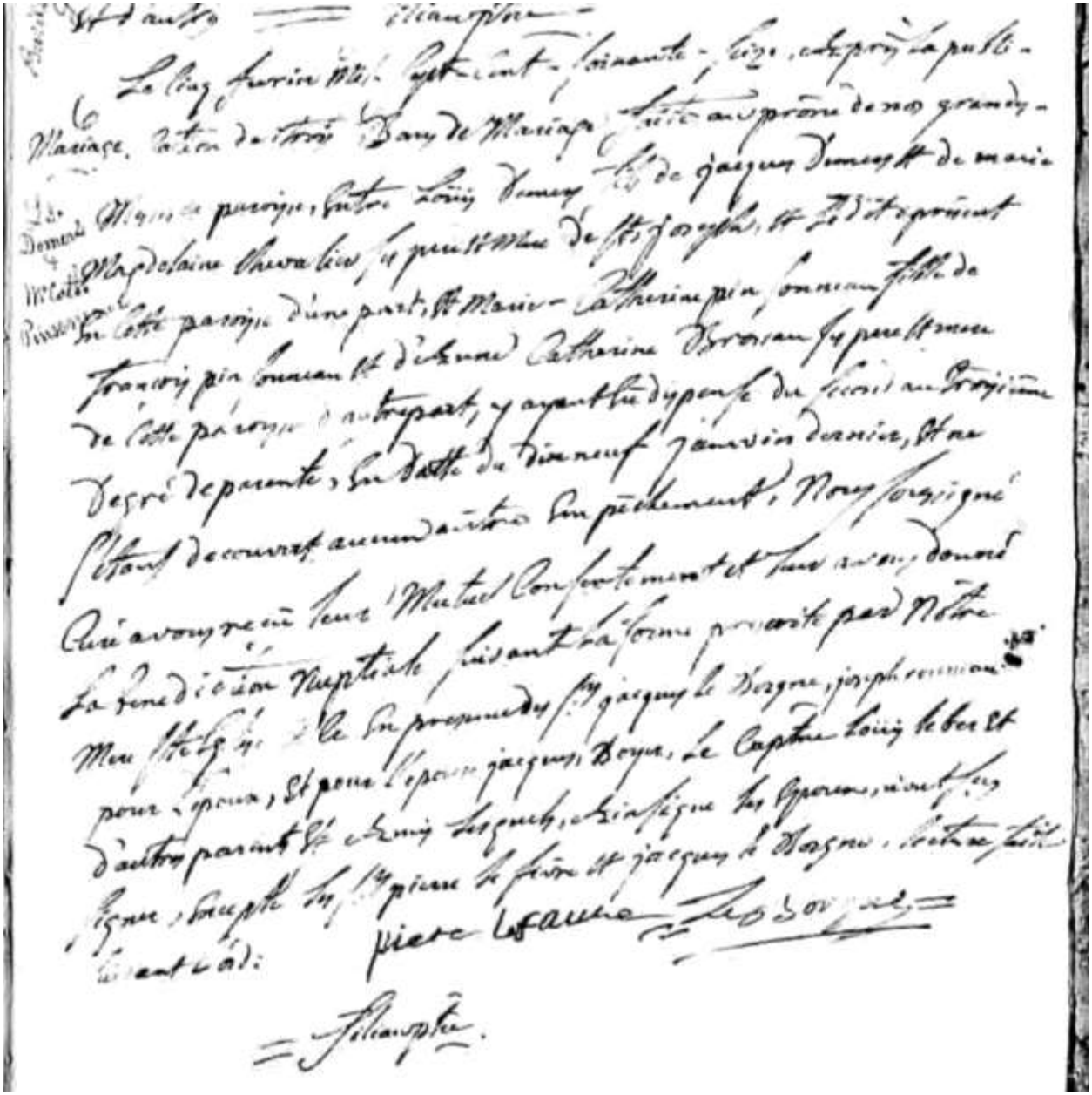
Baptism of Louis Demers

5. **Louis Demers** was born 3 February 1753. He was given lay baptism at birth by Gabriel Bolon. He was conditionally baptized 23 April 1753 in Fort St. Joseph. His godparents were Louis Paschal Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Réaume, wife of Louis Chevalier [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S, St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 14].



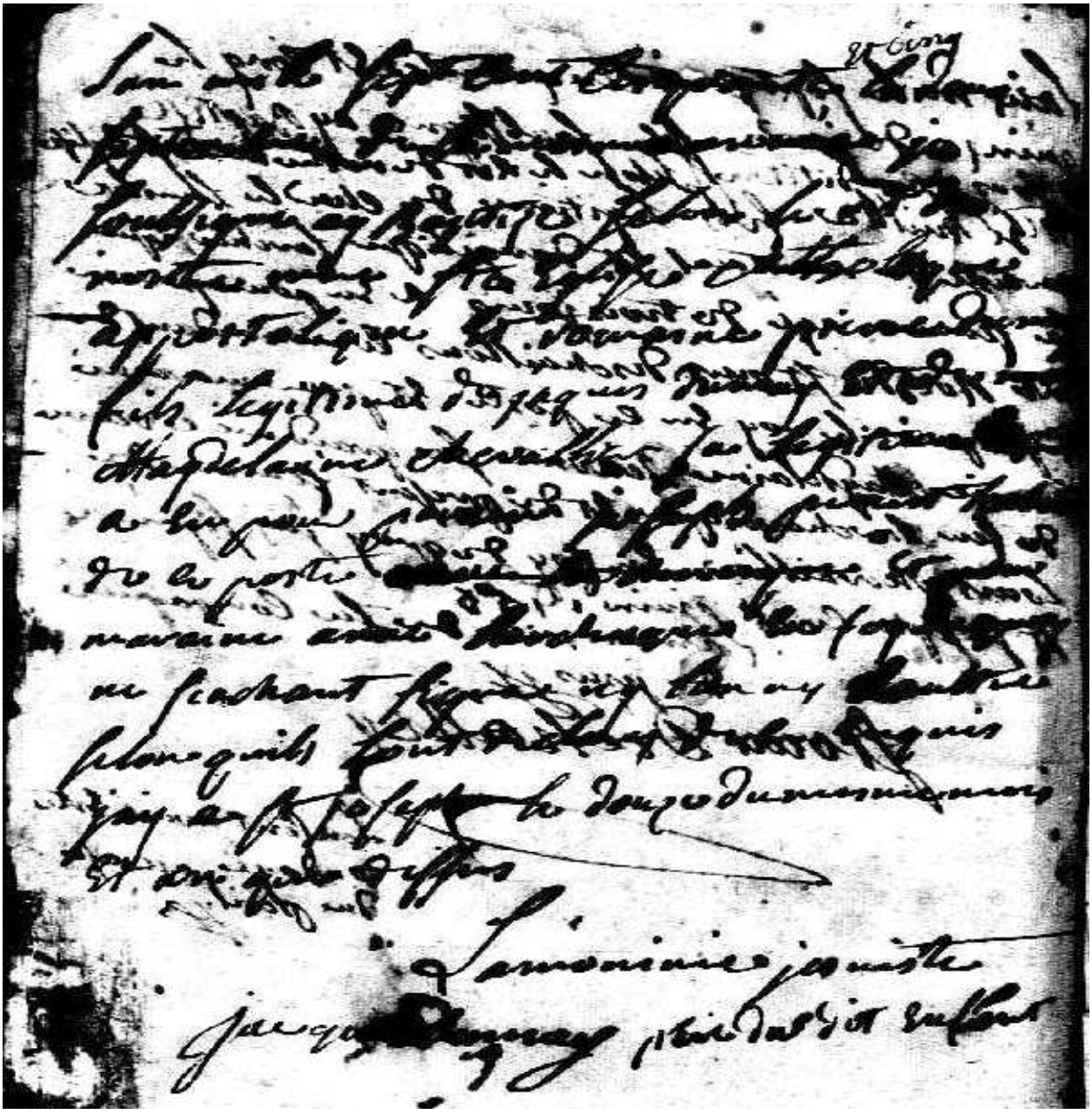
Baptism of Louis Demers

Louis Demers married **Marie Catherine Pinsonnault *dite* Lafleur**, daughter of François Pinsonnault and Anne Catherine Brosseau, 5 February 1776 in Laprairie [ancestry.com, L, La Prairie, Nativité-de-La-Prairie-de-la-Magdeleine, 1776-1786, Image 8].



Marriage of Louis Demers and Marie Catherine Pinsonneau *dite* Lafleur

6. **Pierre Demers** was baptized 12 September 1755 in Fort St. Joseph. His godparents were Joseph Prou and Anne Larchevêque [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S, St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 16].



Baptism of Pierre Demers

Pierre Demers married **Angélique Lemay**, daughter of Théophile Lemay and Marie Angélique Pelletier, 5 May 1783 at Assumption [amcestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, L'Assomption de Sandwich de Windsor, 1767-1783, Images 57 and 58].

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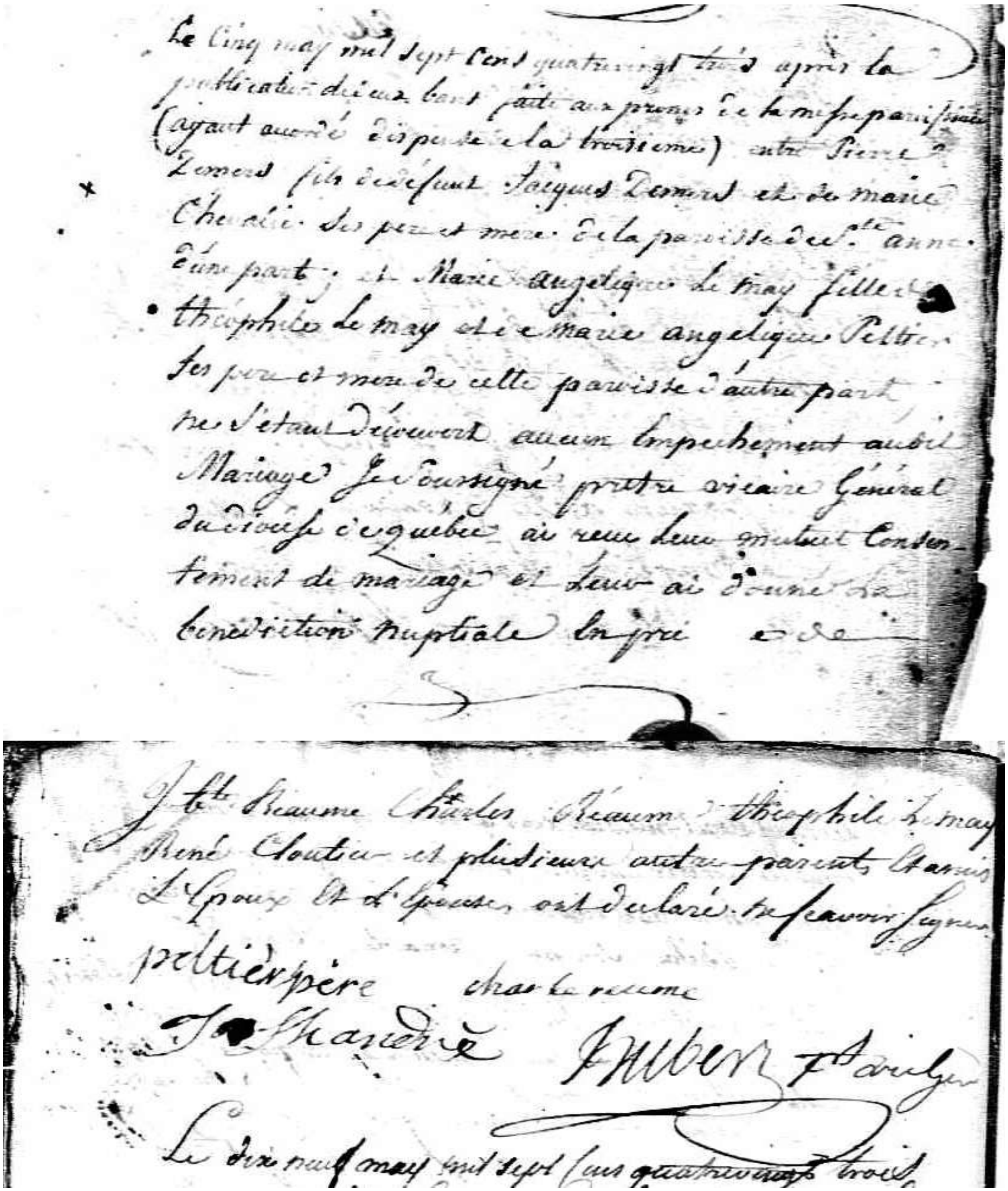
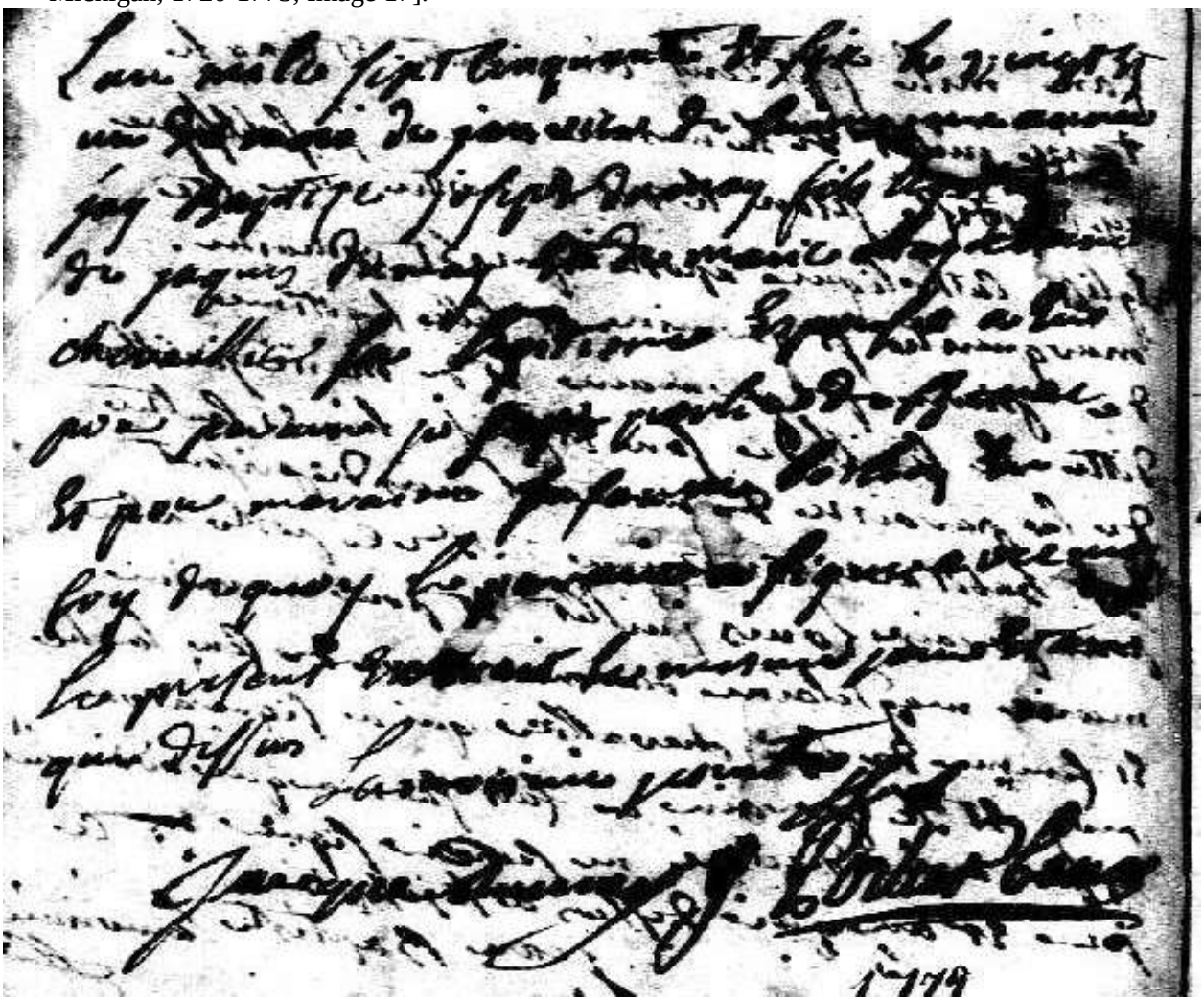

Le Cinq may mil sept cent quatrevingt trois après la
publication de deux bans faite aux prones de la messe paroissiale
(ayant accordé dispense de la troisième) entre Pierre
Demers fils de defunt Jacques Demers et de marie
Chevalier ses pere et mere de la paroisse de Ste anne
d'une part ; et Marie angelique Le may fille de
theophile Le may et de marie angelique Peltier
ses pere et mere de cette paroisse d'autre part
ne s'etant découvert aucun empechement audit
Mariage Je soussigné pretre vicaire General
du diocese de quebec ai recu leur mutuel Consen-
tement de mariage et leur ai donné la
benediction nuptiale en presence de
J Bte Beaume Charles Beaume theophile Le may
René Cloutier et plusieurs autres parents et amis
L'Epoux et l'Epouse ont declaré ne scavoir signer
peltier père chas le reaume
Hubert
Le dix neuf may mil sept cens quatrevingt trois

Marriage of Pierre Demers and Marie Angélqiue Lemay

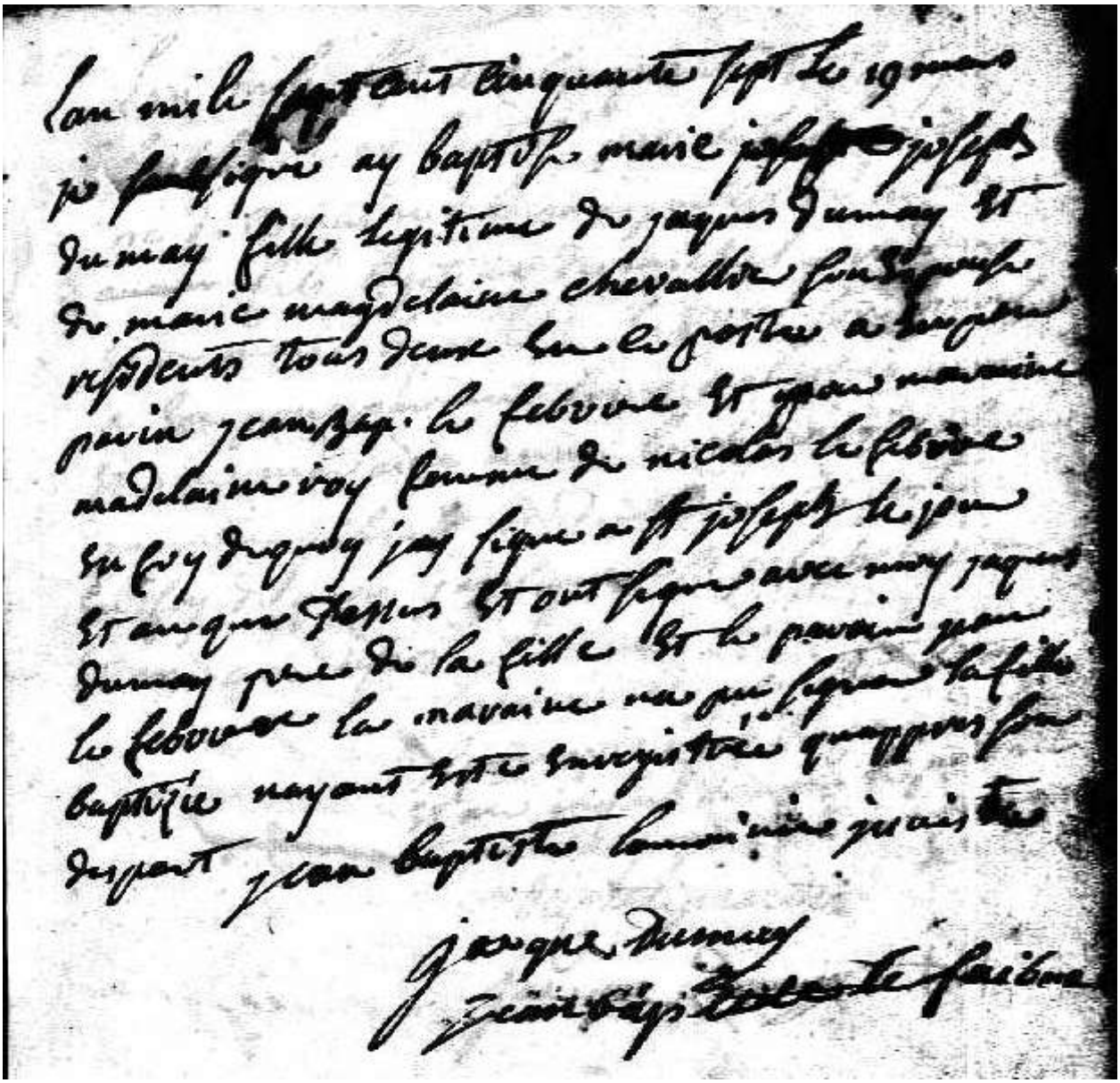
Pierre Demers and Angélique Lemay had seven children. Marie Angélique Lemay was buried 12 June 1803 in Ste. Anne's Cemetery [Moreau-DesHarnais, Burials from Ste Anne's, Part VII]. Pierre Demers was buried from Ste. Anne's 16 March 1814 at the age of about 60 [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 437 – does not state where and when Pierre was born and baptized].

7. **Joseph Demers** was baptized 21 January 1756 in Fort St. Joseph. His godparents were Joseph Porlier de Benac and [Suzanne Bolon], his wife [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S, St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 17].



Baptism of Joseph Demers

8. **Marie Josèphe Demers** was baptized 19 March 1757 at Fort St. Joseph. Her godparents were Jean Baptiste Lefebvre and Madeleine Roy, wife of Nicolas Lefebvre [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S, St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 19].



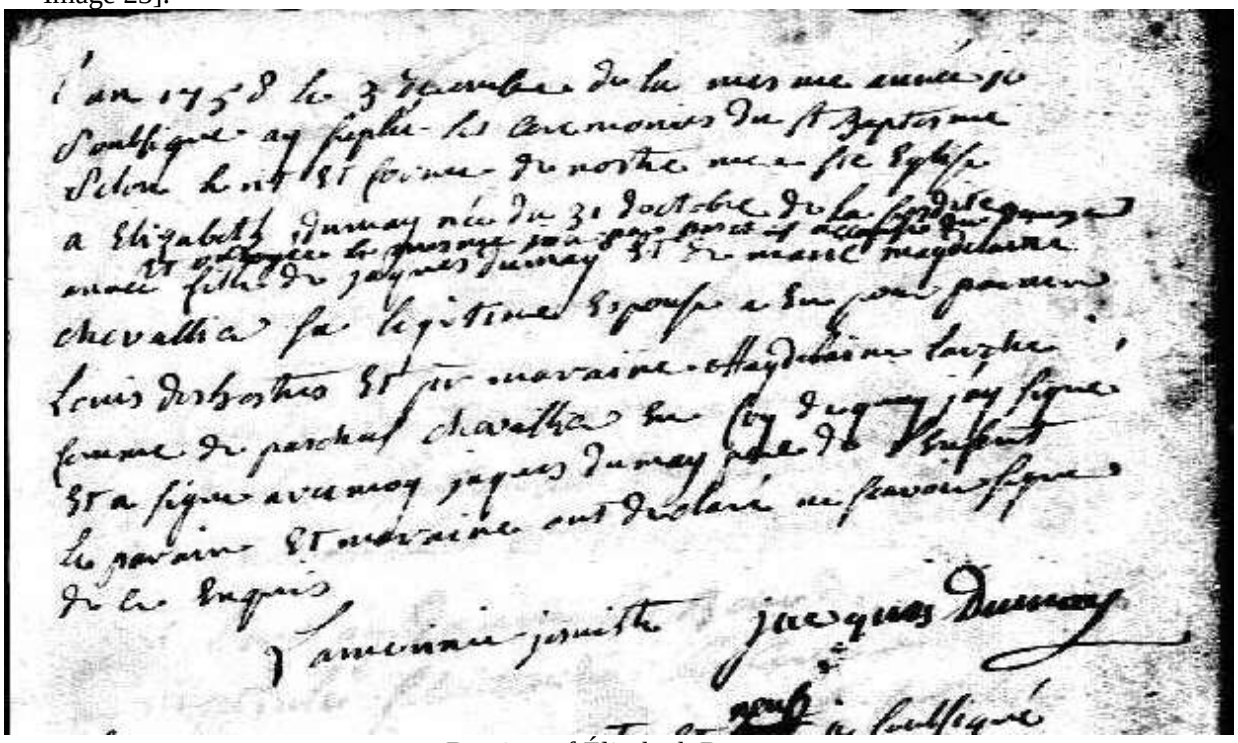
Baptism of Marie Josèphe Demers

Marie Josèphe Demers married **Joseph André *dit* l'Italien**, son of Pierre Marie André and Marguerite Guivarelle, 30 June 1774 in Ste. Anne's [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, Ste-Anne, 1702-1780, Image 192].

Marriage of Marie Josèphe Demers and Joseph André *dit* l'Italien

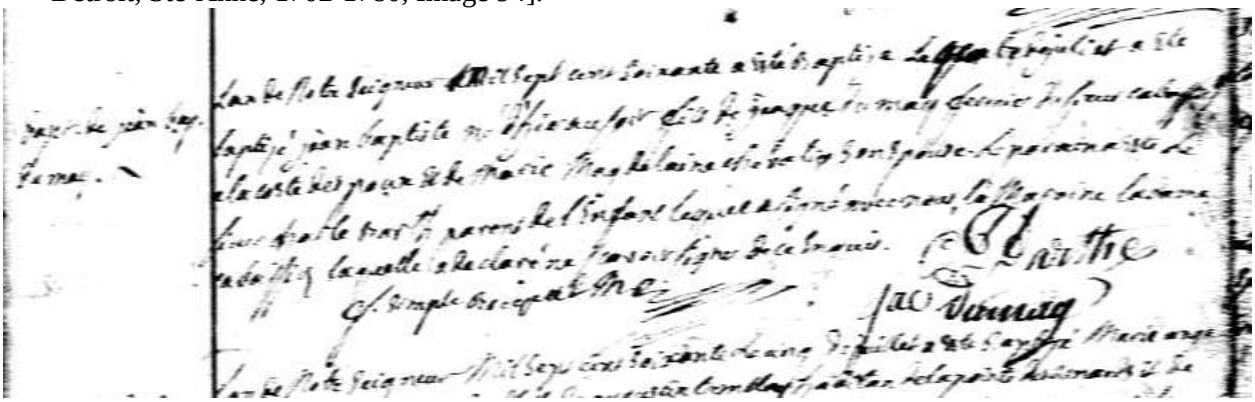
Marie Josèphe Demers and Joseph André had six children. Their death dates and location are not known [Denissen, Vol, I, p. 14 – does not provide Marie Josèphe Demers' birth date or location].

9. **Élisabeth Demers** was born 31 October 1758 and baptized at birth. She was baptized 3 December 1758 in Fort St. Joseph. Her godparents were Louis Deshêtres and Madeleine Larchevêque, wife of Louis Pascal Chevalier [ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S, St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 23].



Baptism of Élisabeth Demers

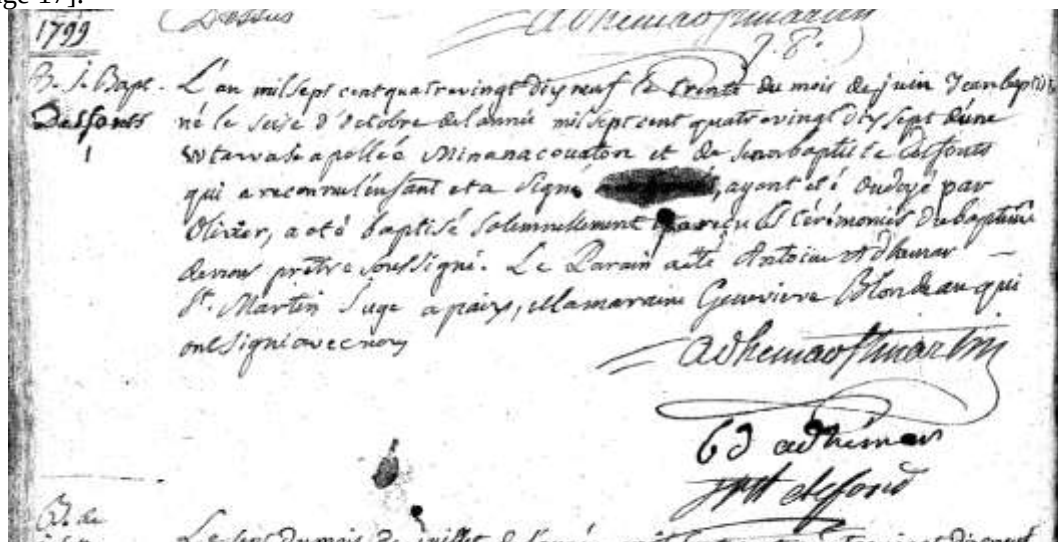
10. **Jean Baptiste Demers** was born 3 July 1760 on the coast of the Potawatomie where his father was an agent of *Sieur* [Joseph] Cabassie. He was baptized the following day in Ste. Anne's. His godparents were Charles Barthe, *parent* of the infant [the word parent also means relative; he was the baby's great-uncle; Barthe was the son of Marguerite Charlotte Alavoine, Marie Madeleine Chevalier's aunt] and *Dame* Cabassie [Angélique Bienvenu *dite* Delisle] [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, Ste-Anne, 1702-1780, Image 94].



Baptism of Jean Baptiste Demers

Defond - *Minanaconaton Family:
Jean Baptiste Defond had a son by Minanaconaton, an Ottawa, in 1797.

1. **Jean Baptiste Defond** was born 16 October 1797 and given lay baptism by M. Olivier. He was conditionally baptized 30 June 1799 at Michilimackinac. His godparents were [Toussaint] Antoine Adhémar *dit* Saint-Martin and Geneviève Blondeau [Ste Anne, Mackinac CD, Baptisms, 1792-1799, Image 17].



Baptism of Jean Baptiste Defond