Pertaining to Michilimackinac, Détroit, Rivière-aux-Raisins (River Raisin, present-day Monroe, Michigan), Fort St-Joseph (Niles, Michigan), and Grosse Pointe. [For a comprehensive bibliography of French Canadians in Michigan by John P. DuLong, see Michigan's Habitant Heritage, Vol. 24, #2 and #4, April and October 2003.]

Books marked with an asterisk are highly recommended.


Anderson, Fannie, Doctors under Three Flags (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1951).


Bald, F. Clever, Detroit’s First American Decade, 1796 to 1805 (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1948).


Burton, C. M., *Cadillac’s Village, or Detroit under Cadillac: With a List of Property Owners, and a History of the Settlement 1701 to 1710* (Detroit: by the author, 1896; republished by the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 1999). All of Burton’s valuable works need to be read with caution because more modern research has refined his early contributions.


Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library. Many papers, ledgers, etc. from the early families are in the manuscript collection. The Montreal Notarial documents are also available.

*Cadillac and the Founding of Detroit: Commemorating the Two Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the City of Detroit by Antoine Laumet de Lamothe Cadillac on July 24, 1701*, (Detroit: Wayne State University Press for the Detroit Historical Society, 1976).


Charlevoix, S.J., Pierre François Xavier (de) and Dr. John Gilmary Shea, translator, *History and General Description of New France* (New York: Francis P. Harper, 1902), Vol. 5


*Corporation of the Town of Detroit.  Act of Incorporation and Journal of the Board of Trustees 1802 – Collection* (Detroit: Detroit Public Library, 1922).


Dean, Lawrie Cena and Margaret Kimball Brown, *A Calendar of Civil Documents in Colonial Illinois* [https://www.isas.illinois.edu/cms/one.aspx?portalId=260711&pageId=275583](https://www.isas.illinois.edu/cms/one.aspx?portalId=260711&pageId=275583)


“The Genesis and Building of Detroit” Mid-America, an historical review (Chicago, Illinois: Loyola University, The Institute of Jesuit History, Volume 30, Number 2, April, 1948), pp. 75-104. This article is accompanied by an appendix which contains a transcription of the 25 May 1701 contract, a list of those hired between 27 May to 3 June 1701 and Delanglez’ identifications of many of these men from the sources available to him then.


“Cadillac’s Last Years,” Mid-America, an historical review (Chicago, Illinois: Loyola University, The Institute of Jesuit History, Volume 33, Number 1, January 1951), pp. 3-42.

Denissen, Fr. Christian. Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region, 1701 (Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, revised edition 1987). Many corrections and refinements have been made to this work. Be aware that the first names as found on the original records have been changed from their French forms into English versions.


Dictionary of Canadian Biography, 14 volumes to date (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966).


*Dunnigan, Brian Leigh, Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701 – 1838 (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001). Dunnigan has lavishly illustrated Frontier Metropolis with all of the known images, maps, and plans of Detroit or its residents prior to 1838. Through these illustrations, he presents the history of Detroit and our ancestors.


Faribault-Beauregard, Marthe. *La population des forts français d’Amérique (XVIIIe siècle), Tome 1* (Montréal: Éditions Bergeron, 1982). Faribault-Beauregard can be used as a starting point for researching in this index/transcription to the parish records contained in this volume. However, readers should be aware of the fact that she made certain assumptions when identifying the individuals named in her index/transcription and does not indicate when she made these assumptions or why they were made.


Hamlin, Marie Caroline Watson, *Legends of Le Détroit* (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1977 reprint of 1884 edition). Readers should not rely on the legends or the genealogy material as factual; consulting the books marked with an asterisk will provide much more accurate information regarding the history of Detroit. Readers should also keep in mind that Hamlin herself calls her stories “legends”.


*Idle, Dunning, *The Fort of the St. Joseph River During the French Régime 1679-1761* (South Bend, Indiana: Support the Fort, Inc., 2003). Dunning Idle’s PhD. dissertation originally published in 1946 is one of the two recommended books about Fort St. Joseph (also see the entry for Joseph L. Peyser’s *Letters from New France*). Idle divided the book/dissertation into chronological chapters which cover the commandants, the missionaries, the soldiers, families, traders, and Native Americans of Fort St. Joseph. For the periods following the re-opening of the Forts of New France, he provides references to families named in parish records, tables covering the trading contracts, as well as references to administrative correspondence and orders. The book includes copious endnotes.


*Kent, Timothy J. Birchbark Canoes of the Fur Trade (Ossineke, Michigan: Silver Fox Enterprises, 1997).

Ft. Pontchartrain at Detroit: A Guide to the Daily Lives of Fur Trade and Military Personnel, Settlers, and Missionaries at French Posts, Volumes I and II (Ossineke, Michigan: Silver Fox Enterprises, 2001). FCHSM member Timothy Kent’s two volumes about the early history of Detroit provides unparalleled detail about what life was like in Detroit’s early years. The two-volume set includes the following chapters: Introduction; Historical Overview; Canoe Transportation; Provisions, Cooking, and Eating; Hunting and Warfare, Trapping and Fishing; Buildings, Hardware, and Furnishings; Furnishings of the Church, Vestments, and Activities of the Priest; Woodworking, Metalworking, and Masonryworking; Farming and Gardening; Clothing; Sewing, Laundry, and Cleaning; Grooming and Medical Treatments; Recreation; Trade and Commerce. The appendices contain translations of 32 documents related to life and trade at Detroit. Finally, Kent has illustrated the book with drawings, maps, and photographs.


*Rendezvous at the Straits: Fur Trade and Military Activities at Fort de Buade and Fort Michilimackinac, 1669-1781 (Ossineke: Silver Fox Enterprises, 2004). Kent uses maps, drawings, quotes from correspondence, and translations of dozens of contracts (including 52 documents that have never been translated before) to narrate the history of Fort de Buade and Michilimackinac. This book should be considered essential reading for anyone who is interested in the history of the Forts during the French Régime and the first 21 years of the British Regime.

*Lajeunesse, Ernest J., The Windsor Border Region: Canada’s Southernmost Frontier (Toronto: Champlain Society, University of Toronto Press, 1960; 2010 reprint by the Essex County Historical Society). In addition to introductory background information about both sides of the Detroit River, Lajeunesse translates 202 documents related to the history of the area, provides the original Latin or French Text for many of the documents that he translated into English, and provides appendices referring to residents of the area, such as extracts from Land Records and Parish Records. Available online at: https://ia800606.us.archive.org/13/items/windsorborderreg00laje/windsorborderreg00laje.pdf


“Congés et permis déposés ou enregistrés à Montréal sous le régime français” *Rapport de L’archiviste de la Province de Québec pour 1921-1922* (Québec: Rédempti Paradis, 1922).


Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, *Historical Collections* (Lansing: Robert Smith Printing Company, 1904), hereafter *MPHSC*, Vol. 33. Some translations and understandings about the society of New France have been refined in more recent studies, especially those marked by an asterisk.

*Historical Collections* (Lansing: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., 1905), Vol. 34, hereafter *MPHSC*, Vol. 34. Some translations and understandings about the society of New France have been refined in more recent studies, especially those marked by an asterisk.


*Naveaux, Ralph, Invaded on all Sides* (Marceline, Missouri: Walsorth Publishing Company, 2008). FCHSM Member, Ralph Naveaux’s book should be considered essential reading for all of those whose ancestors lived in Frenchtown or Monroe during the War of 1812.


*Paré, George, *The Catholic Church in Detroit, 1701 – 1888* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1983, reprint). The title of this book is somewhat deceiving, as Rev. Paré discusses 17th century missionary work and exploration, and his geographic coverage extends throughout the state of Michigan. In addition to the historical narrative, Paré quotes extensively from primary sources, thereby giving readers contemporaneous historical information. Available from the Hathi Trust: https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015071402997;view=1up;seq=1


Parkman, Francis. *The Oregon Trail / History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac* (New York: Literary Classics of the United States, 1991). Parkman is now considered more as historical fiction than as history. As Eccles wrote in his *The Canadian Frontier*, originally published in 1969: “In a class by itself is the epic series by Francis Parkman…. Written with a pronounced Anglo-American Protestant bias, they portray the inevitable victory of the forces of progress over the reactionary French Catholic regime in North America. Since Parkman’s underlying premises were in accord with majority opinion in both the United States and Canada, his interpretation of the history of New France gained instant acceptance as definitive works by both American and English-speaking Canadians. Despite trenchant criticism by scholars, these works emulate the phoenix.” (p. 214) Which is to say that, like the mythical phoenix bird, they keep rising from the ashes of the fire that tried to destroy them. When you read Parkman, enjoy his prose style, but remember that he is no longer considered accurate, especially in his interpretations.


from New France . . . is the second recommended book about Fort St. Joseph (See the entry for Dunning Idle’s The Fort of the St. Joseph River During the French Régime 1679-1761 for the other recommended book). Joseph L. Peyser presents the history of Fort St. Joseph through his translations of dozens of French language letters and other documents regarding Fort St. Joseph; his narrative provides additional historical background and perspective.


*Peyser, Joseph L. (translator and editor) and José Antonio Brandão (editor and author of the Introduction), Edge of Empire – Documents of Michilimackinac – 1671 – 1716 (East Lansing, Michigan and Mackinac Island, Michigan: Michigan State University Press and Mackinac State Historic Parks, 2008). The 62 documents translated in the volume provide the reader with great insight into the fur trade at Michilimackinac. It is an excellent complement to Kent’s and Dunnigan’s books on Michilimackinac.


Programme de recherche en démographie historique de l’Université de Montréal online: http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/Membership/en/PRDH/Recherche/Acte, hereafter PRDH or PRDH-IGD.


Rapport de l’Archiviste de la Province de Québec (1929-1930; 1931-1932; 1933-1934; 1935-1936; 1942-1943; 1946-1947). Also available on a CD. [engagements]


Register of Ste-Anne-de-Détroit (Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library. BHC #1252, reels 1, 2, 3).

Rheault, Marcel J., La Médecine en Nouvelle-France. Les chirurgiens de Montréal 1642-1760. (Sillery: Septentrion, 2004). Includes biographies of some surgeons who were in Détroit.


Sleeper-Smith, Susan, *Indian Women and French Men – Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes* (Amherst, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001). Although praised by academics, Sleeper-Smith’s assertions about Marie Madeleine Réaume and her “control of the fur trade” are not supported by the original records. In fact, had she consulted the original records Sleeper-Smith would have had to delete most of the material about Marie Madeleine Réaume.


Ste. Anne, *Mackinac CD-ROM* (Mackinac Island, Michigan: unknown date). This CD-ROM contains the images of the actual parish records, translations of the records from the *WiHC*, as well an index to the records. The children who were baptized in Michilimackinac were recorded in a list; the names of the godparents were not recorded until 24 October 1741. The first complete marriage entry is dated approximately July 1743.


*Trudel, Marcel. *Dictionnaire des esclaves et de leurs propriétaires au Canada français* (Montréal: Éditions Hurtubise HMH Ltée, 1994, second edition). While we recommend this book, readers should be aware of the fact that many of the slave owners are misidentified because the author relied upon Donna Valley Russell’s faulty identification in her annotations to the censuses.


Olivier Zunz, editor, and Arthur Goldhammer, translator, Alexis de Tocqueville and Gustave de Beaumont in America Their Friendship and Their Travels (Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2010).

**Online Sources**

www.mackinacparks.com/

www.biographi.ca/EN/ (Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online)

www.canadiana.org (Early Canadiana Online)

**FRENCH IN AMERICA CALENDAR**

See http://www.johnfishersr.net/french_in_america_calendar.html for wonderful images and maps.

Electronic New France / Nouvelle-France électronique: a web site by Joseph Gagné
https://electronicnewfrance.wordpress.com/

Suzanne Boivin Sommerville’s Guidelines to Exploring the Published History of New France

As you explore the published history of the French and Canadian experience in Detroit, Michigan, and elsewhere, keep these guidelines in mind:

**FIRST:** Look at the date of publication of a work or of its re-publication. As copyrights expire, older works are now more readily available as reprints and even on the Web. Always remember that sources unavailable to a writer at the time of publication may have since become available. As a continuation of this warning, judge for yourself to what extent the writer made guesses about or did not understand the material used to prepare the book, and to what extent biased or loaded language controls a reader’s response. Prejudice and religious hatred abound in the published histories, and even in some of the original documents.

**SECOND:** Look at the bibliography or list of sources used for the work. If you see only sources published and translated years ago but no original research, even though the work has a twentieth- or twenty-first century publication date, then you will be looking at incomplete scholarship. Some authors continue to rely on source material that is no longer as reliable as it was once thought to be.

**THIRD:** Are any of the sources French language sources?

**FOURTH:** When you meet patronizing and even insulting references to our French and French-Canadian heritage, remind yourself that the writer knows no better. Native Americans / First Nations are receiving a much better, more sensitive treatment recently. Our day has yet to come. Get into the habit of reading critically. Not everything that appears in print is necessarily accurate.

**FIFTH:** If all a writer gives is generalizations and pronouncements on a grand scale but cannot even respect the names of our ancestors, you can be sure that writer has not done enough serious study.
SIXTH: Do your own research instead of relying on secondary sources. Even the smallest details contribute to the whole. There is much to be done about the French history of Detroit and Michigan for the years 1712 – 1760.