Les lacs du Canada
et Nouvelle Angleterre
Par le Sire Robert de Vaugondy
Plié de M. Bannier Géog. ord. du Roi
Avec Privilege 1749
Echelle
La côte d'une heure.
Center for French Colonial Studies: October 2015

Two Remarkable New France Women and their Families
“Dit” and “Dite” Names

• Last names in New France are often followed by the word *dit* for a man, pronounced “dee” or “dzee” and *dite* for a woman, pronounced “dit” or “dzit”.

These words indicate an additional name by which a person was “also known as” or by which he or she was “called”.

The word “dit” or “dite” often appears in documents and signatures. Sometimes only the “dit” name survived in later years.
Isabelle / Élizabeth Couc
dite Lafleur de Cognac

• Pierre Couc *dit* Lafleur de Cognac, from France, and

• Marie Mitéouamegoukoué, Algonquin

Also known as *La Germaineau; La femme de Tichenet;* and Madame Montour
Marguerite Roy

• Pierre Roy, French Canadian, and

• Marguerite OuabanKiKoué, Miami

Wife of Dupont *dit* Leblond; Dupuis; and Robin *dit* Latouche
27 April 1704, baptism of Marguerite Roy, legitimate daughter of Pierre Roy and of Marguerite OuabanKiKoué; godfather Henry Belille; godmother Isabelle Coup [Couc], Constantin Delhalle, Récollet aumonier. “La marine declare ne pouvoir signer”: The godmother declared she could not sign.
1749, Robert de Vaugondy, Les lacs du Canada
Marguerite
© Jan Underwood, Information Illustrated, 2011 for the Archeological Conservancy Magazine
Niagara River emptying into Lake Ontario at Fort Niagara
Carte des environs du fort Détroit [Carte du détroit et du lac Sainte-Claire]

1703
Isabelle
Pierre Couc *dit* Lafleur traveled on peace missions to Iroquoia in 1653-54 (Jesuit Relations)
8 or Greek upsilon [υ] on top of a Greek omicron [ο]

- What looks like an /8/ is actually a Greek upsilon [υ] on top of a Greek omicron [ο], producing a symbol which the Jesuits and other officials used to represent a sound not found in French, close to French /OU/ or English /W/ before a vowel.[1]

- When this symbol was transcribed and printed for publication, no appropriate symbol was available to the typesetters, so the numeral /8/ was chosen to take its place. PRDH always transcribes the /8/ as /OU/.

- On the original handwritten documents the symbol looks somewhat like this Microsoft Word© Wingding 61535, [ṉ]. See the next record.
Baptism 6 November 1650, Montréal
KaKésiK8K8é, spouse of Asababich, renamed
Marie Mitè8amig8K8è
Trois-Rivières in 1650
Pierre Couc dit Lafleur de Cognac and Marie Mitè8amig8K8è
16 April 1657, Trois-Rivières

Witnesses: Algonquinis, Carolus Pachirini, et Bartholomæus Anàra8i; et gallis autem D[ominus] Pére, mercator, et D[ominus] [blank space] Ameau, dictus S. Severinus
Mariam MitèamigKè
Latin Form of Name
Cap de la Madeleine
1667 Census: Petit Cap de la Madeleine

- Pierre "Couque," age 40 (1627-26);
- wife Marie, 35 (1632-31);
- Jeanne, 10 (1657, baptized 14 July 1657);
- Louis, 7 (1660-59, actually baptized 27 Nov 1659, so he would have been 8 later in the year 1667);
- Angélique, 5 (1662 or 1661, if her birthday occurred after the census was taken);
- Marguerite, 3 (1664-63); and
- Élisabeth (“Eslizabeth”), 3 mois (months), thus born 1667, probably before April.
1681 Census
Saint François du Lac

• Pierre Couque, habitant (inhabitant or resident), age 57 (1624-23);
• wife Marie, 50 (1631-30);
• Louis, 20 (1661-60, actually baptized November 1659);
• Marie, 18 (1663-62) thus easily Marie Angélique, probably born 1662);
• Marguerite, 16 (1663-64, actually baptized 1 June 1664, this census likely taken before June);
• Élisabeth, 14 (1667);
• Madeleine, 12 (1669-70);
• Jean, 8 (1674-73), all children recorded as unmarried.
No church at St. François du Lac. Family traveled to Sorel for religious rites.
• COUC, ELIZABETH? (La Chenette, Techenet; Montour), daughter of Pierre Couc, *dit* Lafleur, and Marie Mitegamegk8e. The given name of this woman is not definitely known. If she was Elizabeth, as evidence suggests, she was born at Trois-Rivières in 1667. It has been claimed that she was married once in the church, but no record has been found and her husband’s name is not known. Her several later marriages were probably according to Indian custom and cannot be dated exactly. She died about 1750 probably near Harris’s Ferry (Harrisburg, Pa.).

• Information on Elizabeth Couc’s early life is vague and contradictory.
Considerable Revision Is Needed to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography

• What follows presents original manuscript documentation for the Couc 
  *dit* Lafleur de Cognac and Montour family

• Revision is also needed for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* in its entries for

  • **VÉNIARD DE BOURGMOND, ÉTIENNE DE**, officer, coureur de bois, explorer of the Missouri; b. c. 1675 in the province of Normandy, son of Charles de Véniard Du Vergier and Jacqueline Jean; ennobled in 1725; d. in France.

  • **OUTOUTAGAN (Outoutaga, Otoutagon, Ottoutagan; better known as Jean Le Blanc or Jean Le Bland because of the whiteness of his mother’s skin)**, an important chief of the Ottawas du Sable, and son of the chief Le Talon; figured prominently in the Ottawa-Miami feud at Detroit in 1706; fl. 1698–1712.
Simone Vincennes

• I am indebted to Simone Vincens for introducing me to Isabelle’s story in the early 1980s.

• I have been able to consult original manuscripts that extend and refine her research

• Simone Vincens, *Madame Montour et son temps* (Québec / Amérique, 1979)
Jeanne Couc *dite* Lafleur

- Born 1657-07-14. Died 1679-10-23 Trois-Rivières,
- The first-born, Jeanne, was murdered during a fight, possibly an attempted rape, in 1679. Pierre himself suffered injuries when he went to her aid. The crime resulted in lengthy litigation, but Jean Rattier was eventually found guilty and, after an appeal, was sentenced to be hanged by the neck until he died. When it came time to execute the sentence, no executioner was in residence at Québec. Therefore, according to custom, Jean Rattier was offered his life in exchange for serving as official hangman. He accepted, and finished his years in this role.[1] Pierre received 300 *livres* in damages for the death of his daughter and 400 for the injuries inflicted by François Crevier and his henchmen.[2]
Louis Couc *dit* Montour

- Second child, first son
- There is a small village named Montour near Cognac, France, his father’s origin
- Active in the fur trade
- At least two Indian wives; at least one son survived
- Left his inheritance rights to sister Madeleine, wife of Maurice Ménard. Children of French and Indians were considered French legally
- By 1706, active in leading Indians to New York to trade
Louis Couc dit Montour

- His “dit” name taken by his sister Isabelle after his death. He was assassinated by the French
- 17 May 1709 [Old Style] at Albany, reporting: “Yesterday arrived here a Sachem called Kaquck of the Messasaga Nation commonly called by the Name of the farr Nations with 4 Indians of the same Nation who came with Montour to the 5 Nations & were conducted hither by Montours Sister." The sachems say, "We are come upon the word of Montour. . . . We have had a great Loss having lost the Man who guided us" and "we have had a great Loss by Montours Death. . ." [as written, with underlining mine.]
Marguerite Couc *dite* Lafleur

- Marguerite married, first,
- **Jean Fafard *dit Maconce***, voyageur and interpreter of Indian languages. Children from the Fafard marriage often used the *Maconce* name. They can be traced at Detroit, Fort St. Joseph, and in the Illinois Country settlements. Her son, with his cousin, Joseph Montour, Louis’s son, documented as Louis Montour’s nephew in New York; and daughter Marguerite, wife of Turpin, also documented there. This Marguerite may have been “French Margaret.

- After his death, she remarried to
- **Michel Massé** before 31 December 1705, apparently in the *Pays d’en haut*. Two daughters, one married a Leduc *dit* Souligny; the other John Lydius of Albany. Lydius children were godparents for Isabelle’s grandson, Nicholas Montour
Jean Fafard *dit* Maconce

- Born in Trois-Rivières 17 September 1657, he served Daniel Greyselon, sieur Du Lhut (later spelled Duluth) in 1677 at the age of 20, according to Simone Vincens, and spoke Huron, Iroquois, Algonkin and Sioux. In 1678-80 he traveled as far as the source of the Mississippi and helped save the captured companions of René Robert Cavelier de La Salle from the Sioux. When he returned to Québec, he was placed in prison for a time until King Louis XIV granted amnesty to the *coureurs de bois*. 
Son “Jean Fafar alias Maconts and Joseph Montour, the first being nephew & last Son of Montour who was murdered…” documented in New York 1723

1723: Commission on Indian Affairs at Albany (found in the Canadian Archives Minutes, Jan. 7, 1723 - Sept. 4, 1732)
Angélique Couc

- Angélique married François Delpé dit St. Cerny at Sorel on 30 August 1682. All of her living siblings attended: Louis, Marguerite, Isabelle, Madeleine, Jean Baptiste. Her husband was hired by Henri de Tonty to travel to the Illinois in 1692.

- She visited her sister, La Germaneau / Madame Montour, in New York. Some of the descendants of this family St. Cerny used the name Montour.
1692 François Delpé *dit* St. Cerny to Illinois with Henry Tonty and Laforest
30 August 1682

Marriage contract

Marque of Marie Miteomegou & margueritte couc

Angelique couc

Pierre Couc

Montour

Marque of Isabelle Couc & Marie Magdeleine Couc
Madeleine Couc

• Madeleine married
• **Maurice Ménard**, voyageur and interpreter in the Ottawa language, the marriage taking place most likely at Michilimackinac, before the end of 1694. At least one of their descendants would use the name **Montour**. Son and daughter at Fort St. Joseph
• Present at St. Ignace location of Michilimackinac and also at Mackinaw City location. Son and daughter traveled to visit Albany with Isabelle’s daughter, **Marie Anne Germaneau / Montour**
Maurice Ménard

- (1) With Jacques Gaudry and Estienne Dumay, he purchased a *congé* (permission to trade) from Paul D’Ailleboust de Périgny for 1000 *livres* on 3 August 1688, with his destination the *8ta8ais* (Ottawa);
- (2) he borrowed 3573 *livres 6 sols* from Louis Dailleboust *sieur* de Coullonge on 19 September 1694 to purchase trade merchandise for his voyage to the Ottawa;
- (3) his son Antoine was baptized at Michilimackinac in 1694 (his wife was most certainly there then);
- (4) he borrowed 1983 *livres* on 3 September 1696 from St. Romain for a voyage to the Ottawa;
- (5) In June of 1710, Maurice gave testimony in a *procès-verbal* (legal inquiry) involving a debt owed by Jacques Arrivé to Lamothe Cadillac from 16 years earlier (thus 1694) at Michilimackinac. Étienne Véron Grandmesnil *fils* represented Cadillac. I also have much documentation for Maurice’s presence in the Great Lakes in the 18th century.
- He and his wife relocated there about 1714.
Jean Baptiste Couc *dit* Lafleur and Montour

- PRDH says he married Anne before 1706-11-24, when their son Jean Baptiste was born and baptized four days later at Lachine on 1706-11-28, #13817. Anne is identified as an *Abénaquise* at the baptism. Godparents were Lambert “Cuillerie” and Catherine Patissier.

- Interestingly, when their son François Kouk, age seven, died and was buried 1711-07-14 at Montréal, PRDH gives JEAN KOUK the “Origin” Amerindien, and ANNE, Amerindienne.

- These terms are relatively modern ones used by PRDH but not on the record itself. The register actually reads: "François Kouk sauvage décédé à l'Hôtel Dieu de cette ville agé de sept ans fils de Jean Kouk et de Anne sa femme“. François Kouk, Indian, deceased at the Hôtel Dieu (hospital) of this city, age seven, son of Jean Kouk and of Anne, his wife.

- Once again an index version is not totally accurate. I am not sure whether this Anne and Anameackhiskaman are the same woman.
John Montour in 1733

- In a letter addressed to Thomas Penn, 22 August 1733, James Logan speaks of her brother, known in the New France records as Jean Baptiste Couc, husband of Anne, but whom Logan identifies in this way:

  “John Montour, Brother to Madam Montour (so called), formerly wife to Carundawana [sic], alias Rob Hunter, is husband, as he says to Anameackhiskaman, who with her son claimes [sic] some Land at or near Leckey, or forks of Delaware, above Durham . . . .”
John Montour in 1733

- James Logan characterizes him in an unflattering but nevertheless picturesque way, saying he is “very noisy & troublesome . . . a senseless fellow, and is like his sister as an oyster is to an apple.” Logan then provides another image of Isabelle / Madame Montour, as he saw her in 1733, when she would have been sixty-six years old. After first reporting that John “says his sister will be in town [Philadelphia] in a day or two,” Logan adds, in closing the letter:

- She is of another make [from her brother], but ancient, & should be well treated. Pray know of her in ye [the] most proper manner whether ever she reced [received] that suit of clothes wch [which] I sent her about 8 years since, in your names, by Henry Smith.[1]

- Although Isabelle was only six years older (66) than her brother Jean / John, she is considered “ancient” by James Logan and to be treated with respect, in the “most proper manner.”
Isabelle’s Husbands

• **Joachim Germaneau**, 1684, deceased by 1700
• **Pierre Tichenet**, by 1704. Isabelle is called “La femme de Tichenet,” whose brother-in-law is Maurice Ménard by Cadillac in 1704 and Pierre and Isabelle are at Fort Pontchartrain that year. Killed in Indian fracas at the fort in 1706
• **Carandowana**, Iroquois sachem in New York. Many references in NY documents. Their son Andrew Montour is well-documented.
• BUT not **Étienne de Véniard, sieur de Bourgmont**
• Or Jean Leblanc, Ottawa
Contract Isabelle Couc & Joachim Germeneau, 26 April 1684, Sorel
Le trousseau de Mlle. C. E. G. a été calculé sur la base de 150 livres.
Isabelle’s Trousseau

• a feather bed with its coverings, a base for the bed, six pewter [étain] dishes, a pewter chandelier, half a dozen pewter forks, the clothes she is taking with her, all estimated to total 150 livres.

• Not “completely Indianized”
Marguerite Roy… See Part 2
Center for French Colonial Studies: October 2015

Two Remarkable New France Women and their Families
Part 2
Isabelle’s Germaneau Children

Michel and Marie Anne
Son by Joachim Germaneau

• **Michel Germaneau**, baptism record missing
• Documented in Montréal by his 1717 marriage
• Said to be twenty-two at his 1717 marriage to Marie Catherine Lescuyer, the widow of Jacques Miville, thus born about 1695-4. Contract 5 April 1717, Notary Le Pailleur, gives no age, but the church ceremony at Montréal the same day says he is *vint deux*. It is tempting to believe that, wherever he was born, Michel had as godfather Michel Massé, who gave him his first name, but there is, of course, no proof.
• **His witnesses, the Barrois / Lootman brothers, have ties to the English colony of New York**
• He was hired to travel to Michilimackinac several times, where his maternal uncle by marriage, Maurice Ménard, husband of Madeleine Couc, served
Isabelle’s Daughter Marie Anne, at first used the last name Germaneau

• Her name is included among those individuals accused in 1722 in an “Ordonnance between Sr. Cugnet and Marie Magdeleine Menard, Louis Menard and others,” as titled, of having gone there without permission. If I had not sent for this document in 2002, I would not have discovered that among the “others” so accused is Marie Anne Germaneau, “cousin” of “brother and sister Louis Menard and Marie Magdeleine Menard, femme de Jean Baptiste Renaudet,” Magdeleine’s second husband.
Isabelle’s Daughter Marie Anne, at first used the last name Germaneau

- Her name is included among those individuals accused in 1722 in an “Ordonnance between Sr. Cugnet and Marie Magdeleine Menard, Louis Menard and others,” as titled, of having gone there without permission. If I had not sent for this document in 2002, I would not have discovered that among the “others” so accused is Marie Anne Germaneau, “cousin” of “brother and sister Louis Menard and Marie Magdeleine Menard, femme de Jean Baptiste Renaudet,” Magdeleine’s second husband.
Change of Name from Germaneau to Montour

• The summary of the proceedings against these people indicates that Marie Anne Germaneau could not be interrogated because she had remained in *Nouvelle Angleterre*. Thus I am now sure she and her cousins were in *Orange*, or Albany, at the same time her mother, Madame Montour, was interpreting for the government of New York.

• Marie Anne Germaneau / Montour again appears in the Chambly and Montréal records between 1723 and 1728, and I knew that by 1727 her mother possibly resided in Pennsylvania
Isabelle’s Daughter Marie Anne Married with Last Name Montour

• Marie Anne Montour is identified as daughter of “Isabelle Montour” and “le nommé Lamotte,” the man named “Lamotte” [Lamothe Cadillac?], according to the church record of her marriage to Jean Montary, 30 January 1730, Notre Dame de Québec.

• One day earlier she is identified under the name Marie Anne Montour, “Anglaise de nation fille de defunt Jean baptiste Montour et Elisabeth Coucqnac de la ville dorange en la nouvelle angleterre" on the marriage contract, 29 January 1730, Dubreuill. Orange is Albany, New York.
Marie Anne Germaneau / Montour

• Marie Anne Montour, wife of the man named Jean Montary *dit* Jolicoeur, is said to be 35 at her death from childbirth and burial 23 April 1730 in Québec City.
Pierre Tichenet

• His father was a Carignan soldier and active in the fur trade, as had been Joachim Germaneau

• By 1704, he and Isabelle are both serving as godparents at Fort Pontchartrain, Isabelle first for Marguerite Roy in April.
Pierre Tichenet godfather
5 May 1704 for Joseph Bienvenue
Isabelle godmother with Pierre Tichenet 21 April 1706 for Pierre Roy, Marguerite’s brother.
Isabelle godmother
6 September 1706 for
Pierre, a Huron

1706.

Cette jour a 6 septembre est baptise Louis fils du
pierre Tahemardoy et de marteins de precet mort-

donne le parint Louis Normand albignier a Martine

Isabelle Long

Feri Dominique Tahemard

Majonnaire Recolle

Louis Normand

La marteins a declaré martinaid Sigel
Isabelle’s Husbands

- **Joachim Germaneau**, 1684, deceased by 1700
- **Pierre Tichenet**, by 1704. Isabelle is called “La femme de Tichenet,” whose brother-in-law is Maurice Ménard by Cadillac in 1704 and Pierre and Isabelle are at Fort Pontchartrain that year. Killed in Indian fracas at the fort in 1706
- **BUT not Étienne de Véniard, sieur de Bourgmont**
Étienne de Véniard, sieur de Bourgmont

• What is true is that Isabelle (la Femme de Tichenet, sister of Montour) and Bourgmont deserted Fort Pontchartrain with her brother Montour; met at Longue Pointe [on Lake Erie, now Ontario]; after which she and her brother were said to be planning to go to live among the English that summer

• Montour is cited in Albany by 1708, speaking with Lord Cornbury

• Montour deceased and “his sister” documented 17 May 1709 [Old Style] at Albany in New York
La Longue Pointe and La Longue Rivière on Bellin Map
Marker at the portage at Long Point

Ghosts of voyageurs???
LONG POINT PORTAGE

This portage, which crossed the isthmus joining Long Point to the mainland, was used by travellers in small craft following the north shore of Lake Erie in order to avoid the open waters and the length of the journey around the Point. Although used earlier by the Indians, the portage was first recorded in 1670 by two Sulpician missionaries, Dollier de Casson and René de Bréhant de Galinière. For about 150 years traffic increased over the carrying place, first as a result of the French expansion to the south-west, including the founding of Detroit in 1701, and, after 1783, because of the movement of settlers into this region. The portage was abandoned in 1833 when a storm broke a navigable channel through the isthmus.
Silhouette of a voyageur entering the portage at Long Point
Bourgmont and Isabelle

• Several sources contradict each other about Isabelle and Bourgmont:

• The soldier being interrogated in 1707, Pichon *dit* Larose, does not say they are going to live like *sauvages*, Indians. It is d’Aigremont’s 1708 account that makes this allegation, one which has been distorted out of all proportion, particularly since the English word “savages” carries definite connotations not conveyed by the word Indians. The diverse attempts to merge the various accounts, without considering the separate sources, has led only to confusion and, I believe, fiction in recording their relationship.

• Please read my analysis, especially of the 1707 *conseil de guerre*. 
Nonsense written about Isabelle and Bourgmont…

• Here's Henri Folmer: "De Bourgmond [sic] seems to have been a gallant officer whose soldierly virtues accompanied an easy susceptibility to womanly charms. The latter characteristic proved detrimental to his respect for military and social discipline. He dared to conquer the heart of one of the married ladies at Fort Detroit and eloped with her. Quite naturally he incurred the wrath of Mr. Tichenet, the unfortunate husband, and his friends, who doubtless were somewhat prejudiced against him for having succeeded where others had failed. Quite obviously, also, Madame Tichenet must have been a very charming lady, because De Bourgmond received all the blame."

More nonsense…

- Milton Reichart, who cites Folmer as his source:

- "Bourgmont as a young man had served for a short time in 1706 as temporary commander of Fort Detroit, but he deserted his post, taking with him several members of the garrison and also a woman named Tichenét [sic] whose jealous husband is thought to have made it prudent for Bourgmont to absent himself from the fort.


- Among other details Reichart and Folmer apparently ignore, Pierre Tichenet had died in battle sometime in June 1706, more than a year before the "trial" or court martial of November 1707 that "reports" Bourgmont's and La Tichenette's desertion from the fort. Tichenet was the third French casualty in the Miami/Ottawa/Huron conflict.
Madame Montour is “Eysabelle,” wife of Carondowana in 1711

- Isabelle most likely witnessed the assassination of her brother but then continued to lead the Indians recruited by him to trade at Albany in 1709. Under the name Madame Montour, first name “Eysabelle,” wife of Carondowana, she is documented as an interpreter and advisor to the New York government by August 1711, when she appeared at a conference in Albany between Governor Robert Hunter and the leaders of the Iroquois.

- Hunter himself, writing to Kilian Van Rensselaer the following year, 15 May 1712 (O.S.) said: “I beg you’ll countenance [give or express approval to] Mrs. Montour for I shall never be able to hear the truth but by her means,” 291
Robert Hunter on Madame Montour
15 May 1712 (O.S.) Albany

“I beg you’ll countenance Mrs. Montour for I shall never be able to hear the truth but by her means.”
Colden on Madame Montour

- Cadwaller Colden, in 1759, just six years after Madame Montour was reported to be deceased, wrote that Governor Hunter of New York had

- “allwise a French woman standing by him, who had married one of our Indians, to inform him whether the interpreters had done their part truly between him and the Indians, notwithstanding that Col. Schuyler was present at the same time. This woman, commonly called Madame Montour, had a good education in Canada before she went among the Indians, and was very useful to Mr. Hunter on many occasions, for which reason she had a Pension, and was sometimes admitted to his table in her Indian dress.”

- Colden arrived in New York by 1719, when he was named first surveyer general. His use of the word “commonly” suggests she may not be using her husband’s or even her birth name.
“La Germano” in 1719

- in 1719, Governor Vaudreuil sent “la St Serny” to *Nouvelle Angleterre* to try to convince her sister to come back to *Nouvelle France*.[1]

- The woman “la St Serny,” who traveled to the English colony in 1719, is named on the *ordonnance* document dated 14 November 1720 as *sister* to a woman named *La Germano*, then in the English colonies, whom she had visited.

La Germano sa soeur

Rend les quatre pieces Ecarlatines a la St Serny
Monsieur le Marquis de Vaudriue luy ayant dit qu’il luy avoit permis d’apporter avec Elle tout ce que la Germano sa Soeur luy donnerait.

Return the four pieces of *Ecarlatines* to the [woman named] St Serny monsieur le Marquis de Vaudreuil having told him that he had permitted her to bring back with her all that the [woman named] Germano her Sister would give her [written by Bégon, 1720]
Angélique Couc, in the name of and with permission of her sisters Isabelle, Marguerite, and Madeleine sells inherited property in Trois-Rivières, 11 June 1723
Signatures on 11 June 1723 Sale

Renouard L'Écuyer, au seing de Pierre Pée, notaire, après avoir lu, la première fois de l'acte, et devant leurs vingt-trois témoins, lesquels étant présents, lesdits Pierre et Jean baptisée pour lui, de sa propre main, avec Son sceau d'huissier, en présence du sieur Jean Baptiste Poulin de Courval, seigneur de Norté, procureur du Roy, et de Jean Pigeon, seigneur de Norté, demeurant à Norté, en Champagne, qui ont avec ladite Jeanne Buc, l'une de leurs maîtresses, présidée à l'église de la paroisse de Courval, en presence de leur seigneur.}

Signé : 

Jeanne Courval

Lieu de l'emplacement : Courval
In a letter addressed to Thomas Penn, **22 August 1733**, James Logan speaks of her brother, known in the New France records as Jean Baptiste Couc, husband of Anne,[1] but whom Logan identifies in this way:

- John Montour, **Brother** to Madam Montour (so called), formerly wife to Carundawana [*sic*], alias Rob Hunter, is husband, as he says to Anameackhiskaman, who with her son claims [*sic*] some Land at or near Leckey, or forks of Delaware, above Durham . . . .”

- This letter was written to introduce John Montour, who was to be the “Bearer” of it, to Thomas Penn, one of the sons of the famous Quaker, William Penn.
John Montour in 1733

- Logan characterizes him in an unflattering but nevertheless picturesque way, saying he is “very noisy & troublesome . . . a senseless fellow, and is like his sister as an oyster is to an apple.” Logan then provides another image of Isabelle / Madame Montour, as he saw her in 1733, when she would have been sixty-six years old. After first reporting that John “says his sister will be in town [Philadelphia] in a day or two,” Logan adds, in closing the letter:

- She is of another make [from her brother], but ancient, & should be well treated. Pray know of her in ye [the] most proper manner whether ever she receed [received] that suit of clothes wch [which] I sent her about 8 years since, in your names, by Henry Smith.[1]

- Although Isabelle was only six years older than her brother Jean / John, she is considered “ancient” by James Logan and to be treated with respect, in the “most proper manner.”
Madame Montour deceased by the end of 1752

- Son André / Andrew Montour survives her and works with the young George Washington.
- One of Andrew’s wives is Sarah / Sally Haines / Hands, who will relocate and be active in Detroit and on the Thames River.
- Their son Nicholas Montour will become the seigneur of Pointe-du-Lac after a career in the Canadian West.
  - His cousins, children of John Lydius and Geneviève Massé were his godparents in Albany
- A son or nephew named Louis / Lewis whose father is unknown, and, perhaps, a daughter named Marguerite, are also cited as children of Madame Montour.
- See my “All Sources…” articles on the FCHSM webpage
Marguerite
Marguerite 8abanKiK8é written using the digraph for the /ou/ or /w/ sound
Children of Pierre Roy & Marguerite OuabanKiKoué, Miami

• André Roy was probably born in Fort St. Joseph or Detroit; based on inheritance documents, André Roy is believed to have been the oldest child in the family. He was known as Roy *dit* Pacanne; active at Fort Miami (Fort Wayne, IN).

• Marguerite Roy was baptized 27 April 1704 in Détroit. Her godparents were Henri Bélisle and Isabelle Couc.

• Pierre Roy was baptized 21 April 1706 in Détroit. His godparents were Pierre Téchenay / Tichenet and Isabelle Couc; buried 19 June 1716 in Pointe-aux-Trembles.
Children of Pierre Roy & Marguerite OuabanKiKoué, Miami

• Marie Louise Roy was baptized 19 May 1708 in Détroit. Her godparents were Sieur Louis Gatineau dit or sieur Duplessis et de LaMeslée, a merchant, and Marie Renée Toupin dite Dussault, wife of S.r Jacques Langlois; married Alexis Trottier DesRuisseaux 6 January 1735, Ste. Anne du Détroit.

• Marie Madeleine Roy was born and baptized 25 May 1710 in Détroit [Jetté, p. 1022 – Jetté mistakenly states she was born and baptized in 1711]. Her godparents were Paul Guillet, commis at the King’s warehouse, and Marie Madeleine Parent; married Pierre Chesne dit Labutte, son of Pierre Chesne dit Saint Onge and Louise Jeanne Bailly, 25 May 1728 in Fort St. Philippe [record at Ste. Anne du Détroit, Image 107].

• François Roy was born 20 April 1713 and baptized the following day in Fort Pontchartrain. His godparents were François Roy [probably his uncle] and Marguerite Parent; married Élisabeth or Barbe Dudevoir dite Lachine before 1735.
A Second Marie Louise

• Marie Louise Roy was baptized 3 June 1717 in Detroit. Her godparents were Baptiste Trudo [Trudeau] and Marie Robert [Ste. Anne du Détroit, Image 36; Jetté, p. 1022 – Roy – Jetté mistakenly states that Marguerite Ouabankekoué had an illegitimate daughter by an unknown father]

• The record identifies this child as the daughter of a Pierre Roy with no mother named.

• See “Detroit River Region métis Families – Part 14 – Rhodes to Roy Families” by Diane Wolford Sheppard for images of the baptisms of the Roy children
André Roy *dit* Pacanne and François Roy

- See my articles about these brothers,
- their inheritance,
- and the role they played in keeping the Miami loyal to the French.
Marguerite 8abanKiK8é & Pierre Roy

- She was buried at Fort Pontchartrain in the cemetery of Ste. Anne on 31 October 1732, after receiving all the sacraments: “Margueritte 8abanquiKouet [sic], femme de Pierre Roy, morte dela picote”, the latter phrase inserted above the line: died from smallpox (p. 231). Picote is another name for la petite vérole, smallpox.

- Pierre Roy died not too long after, as I discovered in a series of estate documents in Montréal after he and his wife were deceased. The Roy children inherited equally, daughters as well as sons.
Beyond 1704 …

• The friendship of the Roy and Montour families continued because on 30 October 1711, Magdeleine, daughter of Joseph Montour (the son of Louis Montour & Jeanne, an Algonquinne) & Isabelle Monthio (PRDH version, but I read “Ononthio”), a Huronne, at Détroit, was baptized with godparents Pierre Roy & Marguerite Fafard, (cousin to Joseph (Ste. Anne de Detroit).

• 1711 is the year Madame Montour begins to appear in the extant documents as an interpretress in New York so this “Isabelle,” wife of Joseph Montour and a Huron, cannot be the wife of Carondowana as alleged by some.
1712

• In early spring of 1712, the Fox Indians attempted to murder (*poignarder*) an inhabitant of the fort named Lajeunesse, most likely Pierre Estève *dit* Lajeunesse, and “la grande fille de Roy,” most probably Marguerite Roy, age eight, the big or eldest daughter of Pierre Roy and his Miami wife, Marguerite OuabanKiKoué.

• From my

“‘Detroit never saw such a collection of people.’ The Start of the ‘Fox Wars’ 300 Years Ago”
Searching for Madame Montour’s daughter Marie Anne Germaneau / Montour led me to the records in Québec City
Hôtel Dieu de Québec

• le 27e [July, 1728] Marie anne Montour illinoise agée de 26 ans servante de l'hôpital (4 [days] ) p. 161 [entered on the 27th of July … Illinoise, 26 years old, servant of the hospital, remained four days in July]
Also at Hôtel Dieu de Québec, Marguerite Roy’s future husband

- **5 June 1726:**
- C [company] de Rigaud [Governor Vaudreuil’s son] 5 Juin Jean Montarie dit jolycoeur de Castel sarrazin en Languedoc âgé de 25 ans soldat parti le 11e idem [left the hospital on the 11th of the same month] 6 [days].
And Hôtel Dieu de Québec

• canonnier le 3e Jean robin dit latouche de chagnier sur charante agé de 21 ans sorti (14) [cannoner, entered on the 3rd of December 1729 ... from Chagnier-sur-Charante, 21 years old, left after 14 days]

• Finding these records led me to examine the registers for the years between 1726 and 1729 for evidence of Marguerite Roy in Québec City because I knew she would later marry Robin there.
Marguerite & Jean Robin dit Latouche
27 April 1739, Québec City
1739 Marriage to Jean Robin dit Latouche

- MARGUERITE ROY  Status(es) : Immigrant
- Father: PIERRE ROY  Mother: MARGUERITE OUACAISKIKOUÉ OUAOOUANHICOUCT
  [sic][1]  Birth: 1704-04-27 Ste-Anne-de-Détroit  Death: 1755-04-20 Québec
- Father : JEAN ROBIN  Mother: MARIE JEANNE GADOLET

- [Note: at the time I copied this record, PRDH was not yet aware of Marguerite Roy’s first two marriages.]
Found: a child of a Guillaume Dupont and a Marguerite Roy baptized on 27 November 1728, in Québec City

• I was absolutely fascinated by the signature of Guillaume Dupont on the baptism record.
• I knew I had seen it before, on a document also signed eleven years earlier by a woman definitely identified as Marguerite Roy, the daughter of Pierre Roy and Marguerite 8abanKiK8é
Roy Daughters and Guillaume Dupont
Signatures 1728, Fort St. Philippe
[later Fort Miami / Fort Wayne, IN]

Guillaume Dupont and Claude le blond also signed this document.
Guillaume Dupont *dit* Leblond on PRDH

- GUILLAUME DUPONT LEBLOND
- Father: GUILLAUME DUPONT LEBLOND
  Mother: MARIE MADELEINE MICHEL TAILLON OLIVIER
  Family Birth: 1693-10-24 Québec
  Death: 1729-07-09 Montréal
- First marriage: before 1728-11-26 with MARGUERITE ROY [no parents for Marguerite given at first on PRDH; marriage date based on birth of child]
1728 and 1739 Signatures

Mauquenier roy

Mauquenier roy
Marguerite Roy, 1739

This signature matched the one on the marriage record of Marguerite Roy’s sister Madeleine Roy’s marriage to Pierre Chesne *dit* Labutte at Fort Philippe / Fort Miami, now Fort Wayne, Indiana.
25 May 1728

• Roman Catholic marriage of Magdelene Roy and Pierre Chesne,

• performed at Fort St. Philippe, Village des Miamis (became Fort Miami on the Maumee River, now Fort Wayne, Indiana).

• Father Dominique Thaumur wrote their marriage contract the day before (which I have), also signed by Magdelene and Marie Loüisse Roy; Church record delivered to Detroit and the contract to Montréal.
Eventually received a copy of 11 May 1726 
Marguerite Roy’s marriage contract with Guillaume Dupont at 
Fort Miami, now Fort Wayne, Indiana

• The marriage contract of Guillaume Dupont and Marguerite Roy, 11 May 1726, was written by Father Guymonneau, Missionary to the Miami. Pierre Roy, father, promised to give the couple 100 pistolles in merchandise to be delivered when his son-in-law asked.

• Guillaume Dupont dowered Marguerite Roy with cent ecus of douaire and cent franc of préciput. One ecu was equal to three livres, so 300 livres for the douaire, dower’s portion.

• Before the witnesses, father guymoneau, messieurs dubuisson, lefebvre father and son, and claude dupont, Guillaume and Marguerite declared that they wish their contract to be governed by the Custom of Paris.

• Also present were François Roy, uncle of the bride, and Pierre Dozat. The contract was insinuated and registered 30 August 1729 in the Fonds Cour supérieure, District judiciaire de Québec. Only a “copie” exists.
FORT MIAMIS
(Continued from other side)

Nearby confluence of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's rivers forms Maumee River, a strategic central part of the waterways system connecting Great Lakes regions with Mississippi River Valley. Using a portage between Maumee and Wabash rivers, travelers could journey nearly 2,500 miles by water from French Canada to Louisiana.
Québec City, “widow Leblond”: one more marriage with a tragic ending
Marguerite Roy, “La veuve Leblond” & Jean Baptiste Dupuis, 19 May 1735, Québec City
Signatures 1735 Marriage Contract

Dupuis

Marguerite roy Veuve Dupont
Marguerite’s Possessions

• Marguerite stipulated that she possessed, at that time,

• one-fifth of a share in property and a stone house near La chapelle de bon Secours in Montréal as her share of inheritance from her father and mother, and also property on Rue Ste. Famille on which is a stone house of one story
Inheritance from deceased Sr. Dupont

• This latter property belonged to her legally from her deceased husband as “ses acquets que de ses conquets faits avec le dit feu Sr. dupont son mary.” She also declared she possessed 1750 livres in personal assets, 850 livres in card money of this country, and 900 livres in personal possessions, household items, and merchandise.
Coutume de Paris / Custom of Paris

• The future bride reserved the right to hold these assets as her propres. This meant they would remain hers alone and would not enter into the marital community property, her right under the Coutume de Paris / Custom of Paris. She also excluded from the marital property an expected inheritance from her parents, an account of which François Roy, her uncle, would provide her.
**Douaire / Dower’s Rights**

- Her intended offered a customary “douaire” of 3000 *livres*. The “douaire” represented the inheritance the husband promised to a wife should he predecease her. Thus, Marguerite Roy should have received 3000 *livres* from the estate of Jean Baptiste Dupuis, but I do not yet know whether his debts exceeded this amount or exactly how the issue was resolved.

- Marguerite promised that if she were to predecease her husband without any children of their marriage, she would leave him 1000 *livres* from her “propres heritage.” He predeceased his wife, though, and no children were born of the Dupuis marriage.
See my translation on the FCHSM website

• 19 May 1735, “Contrat de mariage entre j. B. Dupuy et marguerite Roy,” Notary Pinguet, photocopy, written at the home of the future bride. Also signing were “Simon touchet; P C Chauvage; marie marois; Marie anne badeau; [Alexis] brunet; [Louis] Burgouin”.
To continue the story of the fate of Dupuy / Dupuis

• Investigation in 1735 of the death of “Jean Baptiste Dupuy, two days after his marriage. Suicide in a moment of insanity.”

• Marguerite Roy’s husband had indeed ended his life on 21 May, as verified by the testimony of the witnesses called to the inquiry into whether his death was truly suicide and not homicide. Marguerite Roy herself testified and signed the document with the same distinctive signature I had seen on the other documents dated 1728, 1735, and 1739.
1735 May 24
By way of conclusion …

- This has been the basic story of two remarkable women from remarkable families, based on actual documentation, not guesses or assumptions.
- Each was the daughter of a French parent and a Native American in a Catholic marriage.
- Each lived within the rights and obligations of the Custom of Paris and moved freely through Native American society, part of each culture.
- Each travelled widely, not remaining in the place of her birth all of her life.
- Each played a role in business and the politics of her time.
I am proud of my Algonquin eighth great-grandmother and her family, including my seventh great-grand aunt Isabelle / Madame Montour, and I know

Diane Sheppard is proud of her descent from the Miami mother of Marguerite Roy.

I hope you have enjoyed learning about and from these documented facts about their lives.
Isabelle and Marguerite