Posters on social networks such as Facebook often make the statement that the Chevalier family was a métis family, and that Françoise Alavoine was a Menominee. Suzanne Boivin Sommerville addressed Françoise Alavoine’s ancestry in an article for Michigan’s Habitant Heritage’s January 2012 issue “‘But I read it…’ Is Marie Françoise Alavoine, Wife of Jean Baptiste Chevalier, ’of French and Menominee blood’”? 

Susan Sleeper-Smith also made the same statement in Indian Women and French Men (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001). Not being content to make Marie Madeleine Réaume’s second mother-in-law a Native American, Sleeper-Smith proceeded to describe the household in which Louis Thérèse Chevalier was raised. “Louis Chevalier lived in a household typical of many Great Lakes traders: Catholic, matrifocal, and the type of Native household in which his wife [Marie Madeleine Réaume] had been raised. Women processed peltry, produced an annual agricultural surplus, and produced such fur trade items as snowshoes.” [p. 60]. A “matrifocal” household is defined as follows: “In a matrifocal household, the woman evolved as the center of economic and decision-making coalitions with their children, despite the presences of a husband-father. The woman is the focus of the relationship but is not the head of the household.” [pp. 169-170].

While it is true that these cultural practices were common to many Native Tribes or Nations, there is absolutely no evidence that Marie Françoise Alavoine or Marie Madeleine Réaume did any of these things or that they made the economic or other decisions in their respective households, although Marie Françoise Alavoine handled her husband’s business affairs in his absence [DCB – Jean Baptiste Chevalier’s biography].

Further, as will be shown below and as Suzanne Boivin Sommerville already noted, Marie François Alavoine was not Native American.

Sleeper-Smith continued the genealogical errors by stating that Louis Thérèse Chevalier had a country marriage with an Odawa/Ottawa prior to marrying Marie Madeleine Réaume [Sleeper-Smith, p. 47 – while citing an unpublished article. However, the baptismal records for Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac, does not support this allegation]. She also stated, “several of Louis’ brothers had married among the Winnebago.” [Sleeper-Smith, p. 48 – Sleeper Smith provides no sources for the last statement]. In Women, Kin, and Catholicism, she compounds the error by stating that all of the men in the Chevalier family “married native women on the western shore of Lake Michigan.” As will be noted below, only one of Louis Thérèse Chevalier’s brothers (Luc) was documented to have children by a Native American; however, the name and tribe of Luc Chevalier’s significant other is not recorded in the records. Although Sleeper-Smith consulted the published transcriptions of Baptisms and Marriages at Michilimackinac for other purposes it does not appear that she made any efforts to determine whether her allegations regarding the Chevalier family were true. She may have made the fatal assumption that a person with the same name

---


2 Susan Sleeper-Smith, “Women, Kin, and Catholicism”, p. 458 in Susan Sleeper Smith, editor, Rethinking the Fur Trade – Cultures of Exchange in the Atlantic World (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2009). Readers should also beware of Sleeper-Smith’s comments regarding the Catholic faith and her comments about kin networks in which relatives, friends, post officers, or business associates acted as godparents. These relationships were not unique to métis families, fur-trade families, or the Great Lakes. In fact, the parish records for the St. Lawrence settlements reveal that relatives, friends, business associates, and neighbors acted as godparents. The same pattern continues today with practicing Catholics. Baptism should not discussed as if it were some dynastic plan conceived by an alleged “fur trader.” A full discussion of these and other misunderstandings regarding the Catholic faith could easily be discussed in a separate article.

3 The transcriptions of the Baptisms appear in Vol. 19 of the Wisconsin Historical Collections; the Marriages appear in Vol. 18. These Volumes can be downloaded from the Hathi Trust:
was the son of another person with the same name. In light of these alleged genealogical facts, it is appropriate to discuss the family and provide acceptable sources for the facts.

Jean Baptiste Chevalier, son of Joseph Chevalier and Françoise Marthe Barton, was baptized 6 August 1675 in Montréal. His godparents were Jean Fonteneau, of Lachenaie, and Marie Millet. [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, M, Montréal, Basilique N-Dame, 1669-1680, Image 67 – note this is incorrectly labeled as “copie textuelle” – these are the original records].

Jean Baptiste Chevalier married Marie Françoise Alavoine, daughter of Charles Alavoine and Marie Thérèse Machard, 8 April 1709 in Montréal [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, M, Montréal, Basilique Notre-Dame, 1705-1712, Images 205-206].

[Signature at the marriage of Jean Baptiste Chevalier and Marie Françoise Alavoine]

http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003931976. Hereafter, these translations are referred to as WiHC, Vol. 18, or WiHC, Vol. 19.
Marie Françoise Alavoine was born 30 September 1691 and baptized 2 October 1691 in St-Barthélémy, La Rochelle, France. Her parents were married 3 October 1689 in St-Barthélémy, La Rochelle, France. [Fichier Origine, #240022, Researchers: Jean-François Paboul and Jean-Paul Macouin; accessed 16 July 2015: http://www.fichierorigine.com/detail.php?numero=240022].

Although the earliest baptisms and marriages at Michilimackinac are no longer extant, extracts from the earliest registers of Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac, were recorded in a simple list. For most baptisms, only the name of the father was listed. For most marriages, only the name of the husband was listed. Full entries for baptisms that list both parents and the godparents do not start until 24 October 1741. Full entries for marriages do not start until 21 [or 31] July 1744, although the pages from the full marriage entries are torn. Therefore, sources for baptisms and marriages presented here are often from Jetté, PRDH-IGD, or the transcriptions of the Ste. Anne, Mackinac records rather than an image from the original records that is often just one line.

Jean Baptiste Chevalier and Marie Françoise Alavoine’s Children:
1. Marie Charlotte Chevalier was born and baptized 3 August 1710 in Montréal [Jetté, p. 248]. Marie Charlotte Chevalier married Jean Cauchois, son of Jacques Cauchois and Élisabeth Prudhomme, 6 August 1725 in Ste Anne’s, Mackinac. Their 3 August 1725 marriage contract was deposited with the Notary Jacques David [Beauregard, Couple # 116345].

   After Jean Cauchois’ death at an unknown date, Marie Charlotte married Antoine Deshêtres 30 October 1729 at Ste Anne’s, Mackinac [Ste. Anne, Mackinac, CD, Marriages 172501749, Image 3 – note that the register entry is torn and only the first names of the husbands are listed in this part of the

---

4 René Jetté, Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines à 1730 (Montréal: Les Presses de l’Université de Montréal: 1983). All names have been standardized per Jetté.
The Deshêtres – Chevalier family lived at Michilimackinac, Fort St. Joseph, and Detroit. Marie Charlotte Chevalier died 20 March 1768 and was buried in Assumption’s cemetery [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

2. **Marie Anne Chevalier** was born and baptized 22 January 1712 in Montréal [Jetté, p. 248]. Marie Anne Chevalier married Charles Chaboillé, son of Charles Chaboillé and Angélique Dandonneau, 22 September 1735 in Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac. Marie Anne Chevalier died 12 July 1788 in Montréal [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

3. **Catherine Chevalier** was born and baptized 10 March 1714 in Montréal. She died and was buried 12 March 1714 [Jetté, p. 248].

4. **Michel Jean Baptiste Chevalier** was born and baptized 20 January 1715 in Montréal [Jetté, p. 248]. His ultimate fate is not known.

5. **Marie Josèphe Chevalier** was born and baptized 26 May 1718 in Montréal [Jetté, p. 248]. Marie Josèphe Chevalier married Pierre Renaud dit Locas, son of Pierre Renaud and Françoise Desportes, 21 July 1739 at Michilimackinac [Beauregard, Couple # 111592; PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

   Marie Josèphe Chevalier married **Marc Fush** 7 April 1760 in Cahokia [Beauregard, Couple # 112468 – the names of his parents are not known].

6. **Constance Chevalier** was baptized 3 April 1719 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Constance Chevalier married Joseph Hains or Hins, son of Joseph Hains or Hins and Marie Marois, 30 August 1741 in Michilimackinac [Beauregard, Couple # 20903; PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

   While she was a widow, Marie Constance Chevalier had an illegitimate son by Dequindre. Antoine was ondoyé and conditionally baptized 22 March 1749 at Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac [Ste. Anne, Mackinac, CD, Baptisms 1695-1749, Image 27].
During February 1751, Constance Chevalier had another illegitimate child by an unnamed father. Marie Angélique was baptized 11 February 1751 at Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac [Ste. Anne, Mackinac, CD, Baptisms 1750-1758, Image 3].

Constance or Marie Couttance Chevalier married François Louis Cardin, a soldier, 6 July 1751 in Ste. Anne, Mackinac [Ste. Anne, Mackinac, CD, Marriages 1750 – 1775, Image 5].
7. **Louis Thérèse Chevalier** was baptized 30 November 1720 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Louis Thérèse Chevalier married **Marie Madeleine Réaume**, daughter of Jean Baptiste Réaume and Symphorose Ouauagoukoué, and widow of Augustin Larchevêque before 28 May 1752 [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views]. See The 28 April 1752 marriage contract between Louis Chevallier and Marie Madeleine Réaume, widow of Augustin Larcheveque, translated by Suzanne Boivin Sommerville on the Fort St. Joseph page on our website. Suzanne used this document as a handout for her presentation at the 2010 Center for French-Colonial Studies conference in Niles, Michigan. See the discussion of the Chevalier – Réaume Family below.


   Marguerite Chevalier married **Jacques Lesage**, son of Jean Baptiste Lesage and Marie Josèphe Gerlaise, 29 August 1768 in Berthierville [Beauregard, Couple # 70069].

   Marguerite Chevalier married **Pierre Doucet**, son of Pierre Doucet and Élisabeth Sylvestre, 2 May 1786 in Berthierville [Beauregard, Couple # 58772]. Marie Marguerite Chevalier died 25 April 1801 in L’Île-Dupas [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

9. **Marie Chevalier** was baptized 12 October 1724 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Marie Madeleine Chevalier married **Jacques Demers or Dumas**, son of Jacques Demers and Marie Barbe Brosseau, 21 July 1744 at Michilimackinac [Ste Anne, Mackinac, CD, Marriages 1725-1749, p. 4].

   The family lived at Michilimackinac, Fort St. Joseph, and Detroit. Jacques Demers was killed by a Native American. At his burial in Ste. Anne’s, Detroit, 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 de Detroit, Part II]. Marie Madeleine Chevalier died 29 March 1783 in Laprairie [Beauregard, Couple # 111390; PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

10. **Charlotte Véronique Chevalier** was baptized 1 March 1726 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Charlotte Véronique Chevalier married **René Bourassa**, son of René Bourassa and Agnès Gagné, 3 August 1744 at Michilimackinac [Ste Anne, Mackinac, CD, Marriages 1725-1749, p. 4]. Beauregard, Couple # 111274; PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views. Most members of this family settled in the Detroit River Region.

11. **Charles Chevalier** was baptized 10 October 1727 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Charles Chevalier married **Geneviève Dubois**, before 27 February 1785. Charles Chevalier was buried 1 June 1788 in L’Île-Dupas [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

12. **Joseph Maurice Chevalier** was baptized 5 October 1728 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Joseph Maurice Chevalier married **Marie Louise Duroseau**, daughter of Antoine Duroseau and Louise Marchand, 4 November 1749 in Montréal [Beauregard, Couple # 18435]. Joseph Maurice Chevalier died 27 May 1805 in Montréal [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

13. **Louis Pascal Chevalier** was baptized 22 July 1730 in Michilimackinac [Jetté, p. 248]. Louis Pascal Chevalier married **Marie Madeleine Larchevêque**, daughter of Augustin Larchevêque and Marie Madeleine Réaume, before 25 May 1758 [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

14. **Anne Thérèse Esther Chevalier** was baptized 28 March 1732 in Michilimackinac [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views – mistakenly states that the baptismal date was the birth date]. Anne Thérèse Esther Chevalier married **Jean Étienne Chenier**, son of Joseph Chenier and Marie Madeleine Duboc, 4 June 1752 in Michilimackinac [Ste Anne, Mackinac, CD, Marriages 1750 - 1775, p. 6; Beauregard, Couple # 112097]. Anne Thérèse Esther Chevalier was buried 13 December 1814 in L’Île-Dupas [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].
15. **Angélique Chevalier** was baptized 11 July 1733 in Michilimackinac [PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views – mistakenly states that the baptismal date was the birth date]. Angélique Chevalier married **Antoine Nicolas Lauzon**, son of Nicolas Séraphin Lauzon and Marie Madeleine Morand, 22 February 1759 in Ste Anne, Detroit [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, Ste Anne, Autre Registres, 1704-1744, Image 86; PRDH-IGD, # 10399 – Chevalier – Alavoine Family and Couple Views].

At his burial from Ste. Anne’s, Detroit, the priest recorded the following: “Antoine Nicolas Lozon, lived on the coste du Nord Est, husband of Angelique Chevalier; son of Seraphin Nicolas Lozon and Marie Magdelaine Morand; about 42 years, 16 May 1770, buried in cemetery.” [Moreau-DesHarnais, *Burials from Ste Anne de Detroit, Part III*].

Angélique Chevalier married **Louis Casse dit Saint-Aubin**, son of Pierre Casse and Marguerite Fourneau, 26 May 1775 in Ste Anne, Detroit [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, Ste Anne, Autre Registres, 1704-1744, Image 199 – the priest was the only one who signed the register; Beauregard, Couple # 112036]. Angélique Chevalier was buried 13 March 1800 in Ste. Anne’s, Detroit Cemetery. At her burial, the priest noted the following in the register: Angélique Chevalier, wife of Louis St Aubin; about 70 years, 13 March 1800, buried in cemetery [Moreau-DesHarnais, *Burials from Ste Anne de Detroit, Part VII*]. Louis Casse dit Saint-Aubin was buried 9 January 1805 in Ste. Anne’s, Detroit Cemetery [Moreau-DesHarnais, *Burials from Ste Anne de Detroit, VII*].

16. **Luc Chevalier** was baptized 22 May 1735 in Michilimackinac [WiHC, Vol. 19, p. 4]. He had three children by an unnamed Native American. **Joseph Chevalier** was born 17 April 1782 and baptized
20 July 1782 at Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac. **Jean Baptiste Chevalier** was born 14 February 1785 and baptized 20 July 1786 at Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac. **Marguerite Chevalier** was born 23 December 1778 and baptized 20 July 1786 at Ste. Anne’s Mackinac [Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac, CD, Baptisms, 1775-1789, Images 7 and 8. The images of their baptisms follow].

![Baptism of Joseph Chevalier](image)

The record says the enfant belongs to Luc [appartient] and has an Indian mother.

![Baptism of Jean Baptiste Chevalier](image)

The record states the child was the issue of Luc; it also says he is preparing to marry the mother of the child.

**Chevalier – Réaume Family:**
Louis Thérèse Chevalier, son of Jean Baptiste Chevalier and Marie Françoise Alavoine, married Marie Madeleine Réaume, daughter of Jean Baptiste Réaume and Symphorose Ouaoagoukoué, and widower of Augustin Larchevêque, before 28 May 1752.

Son of Louis Thérèse Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Réaume:
1. Louis Chevalier, the naturel son of Louis Thérèse Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Réaume, was born 11 October 1751 and ondoyé by [Louis] Pascal Chevalier. He was conditionally baptized 9 April 1752. His godparents Sieur J.B. [Jean Baptiste] Jutras and Madeleine Chevalier, wife of Sieur du May [Demers]. [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S, St-Joseph de Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 13].

Chevalier – Larchevêque Family:
Louis Pascal Chevalier married Marie Madeleine Larchevêque, daughter of Augustin Larchevêque and Marie Madeleine Réaume, before 25 May 1758. Marie Madeleine Larchevêque’s birth and baptismal date are not known.

Marie Madeleine Larchevêque married François Marcot, son of Jacques Marcot and Marie Marguerite Bissonnet before 26 August 1778 in the pays d’en haut [PRDH, #57782]. They had four children [Lafrance].

She was buried 9 November 1795 in St-Vincent-de-Paul. François Marcot died 18 April 1822 and was buried 20 April 1822 in St-Vincent-de-Paul [PRDH, #57782].

Louis Pascal Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Larchevêque’s children:
1. Geneviève Chevalier was born 25 May 1758 and baptized the following day in Fort St. Joseph. Her godparents were Jean Baptiste Jutras/Jutras and Madeleine Chevalier, widow of Larche [Augustin Larchevêque] and wife of Louis [Thérèse] Chevalier [Ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S. St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 21].
2. **Marie Madeleine Chevalier** was born about 3 p.m. on 24 January 1761 and baptized the following day at Fort St. Joseph. Her godparents were Louis [Louis Thérèse] Chevalier and Marie Amable Larche [Larchevêque] [Ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S. St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 27].

Marie Madeleine Chevalier married **Charles Gauthier Devierville**, son of Claude Germain Gauthier Devierville and Thérèse Amiot *dite* Villeneuve 20 July 1786 in Michilimackinac [Ste Anne, Mackinac CD, Marriages, 1750-1799, Image 6].
Louis Chevalier was born 30 March 1767 and baptized 19 August 1768 in Fort St. Joseph. His godparents were Jean Baptiste Ladouceur and Louise Gibault [Ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S. St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 28]
4. **Amable Chevalier** was born 19 January 1770 and baptized 7 March 1773 in Fort St. Joseph. Her godparents were Jean Baptiste Nolin and Marie Madeleine Réaume, wife of Louis [Thérèse] Chevalier [Ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, S. St-Joseph-de-Michigan, 1720-1773, Image 29].

Amable Chevalier married **Jean Baptiste Collet**, son of Jean Baptiste Collet and Élisabeth Labelle, 14 January 1793 in St-Vincent-de-Paul. Amable Chevalier died 27 February 1840 in St-Vincent-de-Paul [Lafrance; PRDH, #55990 – Family Sheet of Louis Pascal Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Larche/Larchevêque].
5. **Pierre Chevalier** was born *circa* 1773 in the *pays d’en haut*. He was baptized 19 October 1781 in Varennes. He married **Amable Marcot**, daughter of Pierre Marcot and Suzanne Sédiot *dite* Montreuil, 7 January 1799 in Les Cèdres [Lafrance; PRDH, #55990 – Family Sheet of Louis Pascal Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Larche/Larchevêque].

6. **Augustin Chevalier** was born *circa* 1774. He was baptized 19 October 1781 in Varennes. He died 10 July 1846 in St-Vincent-de-Paul [Lafrance; PRDH, #55990 – Family Sheet of Louis Pascal Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Larche/Larchevêque].

7. **Marie Archange Chevalier** was born *circa* 1777. She was baptized 19 October 1781 in Varennes [Lafrance; PRDH, #55990 – Family Sheet of Louis Pascal Chevalier and Marie Madeleine Larche/Larchevêque].

**Other Chevaliers found in the Ste. Anne, Mackinac Records, or the Wisconsin Historical Collections:**

In addition to the Chevaliers named above, the following individuals can be found in the Ste Anne, Mackinac Records or other volumes of the Wisconsin Historical Collections. While these individuals may be descendants of Jean Baptiste Chevalier and Marie Françoise Alavoine, rather than speculate about the relationship, the information from the register or the *WiHC* is presented below in alphabetical order.

**Amable Chevalier, an Ottawa Chief.** He married **Catherine Kimiouenan or Chenier**, an Ottawa, *circa* 1783. Two daughters, **Marie Chevalier** and **Marie Louise Chevalier** were baptized at Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac, in 1787 and 1794 [WiHC, Vol. 19, pp. 93, 101-102]. He lived for a period at Deux Montagnes, Québec [WiHC, Vol. 12, pp. 141-142].

**Angelina Chevalier,** daughter of “an old French resident”, married **Moses Hardwick** in 1824. The couple had four children and she died in 1832 [WiHC, Vol. 9, p. 404].

**Barthélemi Chevalier** had a country marriage with an unknown **Native American**. Their daughter **Marguerite Chevalier** was baptized 22 July 1786 [WiHC, Vol. 19, p. 85]. His widow was living in Green Bay, Wisconsin in 1818 [WiHC, Vol. 10, p. 138].

**Jean Baptiste Chevalier** was an American Fur Company employee in 1821 [WiHC, Vol. 12, p. 156].

**Louis Chevalier** had a son by a **Sauteux** [Ojibwa/Chippewa]. **Jean Baptiste Chevalier** was born 15 March 1803. He was baptized conditionally 20 June 1804 at Ste. Anne’s, Mackinac *WiHC*, Vol. 19, p. 124]. It is possible that this Louis Chevalier was the same person as Louis Paschal Chevalier listed below.

**Louis Paschal Chevalier** had a child by **Josephte**, an **Ochhipwas** [Chippewa]. Their daughter **Josephte Chevalier** was born 8 September 1807 and baptized 10 August 1821 in Ste. Anne, Mackinac. Her father was present for the baptism. A direct genealogical link between this Louis Paschal Chevalier and the Louis Paschal Chevalier who was the son of Jean Baptiste Chevalier and Marie Françoise Alavoine cannot be made.

**Marguerite Machar Chevalier** married **Jean Baptiste Laborde dit Sansregret** in a civil ceremony at Michilimackinac on 21 January 1792 [WiHC, Vol. 18, 492].

Pierre Chevalier was an American Fur Company employee in 1821 [WiHC, Vol. 12, p. 156].