Michel Chartier de Lotbinière’s 1749 Map of Michilimackinac
Commentry by Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, FCHSM Member

THE 1749 MAP

This is the earliest known map of Michilimackinac. It is also the only map which indicates where the residents lived.

Outside the fort at the top of the map is “currie a M’ Longide” — Longlade’s stable.

Near to the fort are two “jardins” bahk-a-rouen.

Inside the fort along the back street beginning from the left are located: “province” powde ru magraine, and the buisse of M’ Chevalier, Jollet, Léloque, Charles Amalou, Delvise, Duloue, Bertrand, Cecile, Michel Amalou, Chevalier.

Along the next street lived: l’Eglise, M’ Dauane, Parent, Burelond, M’ Gaunville, Bourman, M’ Le Commandant (Commandant’s house), Chevalier, M’ Longlade, Le Janelin, Jansen, Janssan.

Behind three and is front of two of the houses are located courts.

In the center of the fort is located the “place Durans” or parads ground with a “colonne” crucifix located in the center. Along the right side of the “place” is located a garden which adjoins the court of the Jesuits. This court lies behind the “Eglise” Church and the house of the Jesuits.

At the corner of the house is the “forge” or blacksmith shop. A small door in the fort wall gives access into an enclosed area where there is located a “glaciers” or icehouse a “four” or bake oven and a “pont du meridiene” post of the meridian.

Along the bottom row of houses running from right to left are the houses of Piquet, M’ Chevalier, M’ Chevalier, Ademier (crossed out) St. Germain, “Maison des officers sublittures.”

Along the left side of the fort lived Assiet, Le Sergent, Hubert, Chabot, M’ Le fevre and behind it another house of M’ Labvre.

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Suzanne Boivin Sommerville
The “Beaulong” living between “Parent” and “Mr Gonneville” (line 6) is Gabriel Bolon, husband of Susanne Ménard, daughter of Maurice Ménard and Madeleine Couc dite La Fleur.

The map is by Michel Chartier de Lotbinière, Map of Michilimackinac [1749], and is also reprinted in Peyser, ed. and trans., On the Eve of the Conquest, 94. Below is my 2008 photo of reconstructed buildings at Fort Mackinac, Mackinaw City, Michigan. One of these two buildings is said to represent the residence of Gabriel Bolon and Susanne Ménard, daughter of Maurice Ménard and Madeleine Couc dite La Fleur.