Detroit River Region métis Families – Hamelin to Lacasse Families
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Other than the parish records from the Drouin Collection at www.ancestry.com, which are fully cited in brackets, the full citations for other sources used are found below.¹

Hamelin – Awaci; Hamelin – Lesable; and Hamelin – Kiminitchagen Families: Although the following discussion properly belongs in a study of the métis families of Michilimackinac, Denissen, Vol. I, p. 569 – only provides the names of Catherine’s parents, her birth date and her baptismal date, therefore I thought it appropriate that I provide sufficient information for the direct line ancestry of the family.

Charles Joseph Hamelin, son of Louis Hamelin and Antoinette Aubert was baptized 11 April 1693 in Cap Santé [Jetté, p. 555; PRDH-IGD # 21245 – Hamelin Andenozon Family and Couple Views – states that he was the son of Jacques Hamelin and Marie Antoinette Richard, but their son Charles François was born in 1714, far too late to be the father of a child born circa 1725 or 1731].

Charles Hamelin first married Marie Athanase Thérèse Andenozon 27 November 1738 at Michilimackinac [Ste Anne’s CD, Mackinac Marriages 1725 – 1749, Image 1]. As you can see from the image below, during the period of Charles’ first marriage only the name of the groom was recorded in the reconstructed register.

Charles Hamelin’s first marriage – Ste Anne’s CD, Mackinac Marriages 1725 – 1749, Image 1

¹ Christian Denissen, Genealogy of the French families of the Detroit River Region, 1701-1936 (Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, revised edition, 1987) [although Denissen is fairly reliable for records in the Detroit area, it is less reliable than Jetté or PRDH for records from other areas; rarely lists all children born outside Detroit; and often confuses baptismal dates for birth dates. Researchers should verify birth dates with Jetté, PRDH, or the actual parish register. For most families, Denissen cuts off in the mid-1850s; René Jetté, Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines à 1730 (Montréal: Les Presses de l’Université de Montréal: 1983); Programme de recherche en démographie historique de l’Université de Montréal online: http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca, hereafter PRDH [does not necessarily name all the children born in Détroit; the PRDH numbers generally refer to family sheets or certificates]; Sharon A. Kelley, editor, Marriage Records Ste. Anne Church 1701-1850 (Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 2001).
Charles Hamelin and Marie Athanase Thérèse Andenozon had five children born between about 1725 and 1743, when their daughter Marie Angélique Renée was born 12 March 1743 in Montréal. Marie Angélique Renée was buried 16 September 1748 in Montréal [PRDH-IGD # 21245 – Hamelin Andenozon Family and Couple Views]. None of their five children married. Marie Athanase Thérèse Andenozon died before February 1748.

Sieur Charles Hamelin, a former voyageur, married Marie Athanase, a Sauteuse [Ojibwa/Chippewa], who had been recently baptized, 4 February 1748 in Ste Anne’s Mackinac [Ste Anne’s CD, Mackinac Marriages 1725 – 1749, Image 8]. Charles Hamelin and Marie Athanase Twissekoukwe Missalimougoue had at least one child, Marie Josèphe who married Toussaint Lanthier 24 September 1770 in Pointe Claire, and probably Louis. Charles Hamelin died before 7 January 1750, the day that Marie Athanase Twissekoukwe Missalimougoue married Louis Héry 

Marriage of Charles Hamelin and Marie Athanase
Ste Anne’s CD, Mackinac Marriages 1725 – 1749, Image 8

Louis Hamelin, son of the deceased Charles Hamelin and the deceased Awaci, a Sauteuse, his mother and father of Montréal, married Josette Le Sable, a Sauteuse, who lived in the old fort of Michilimackima, 20 August 1787. The priest noted that the couple had already pledged one-another many years ago in the hope of having their marriage ratified by an approved priest and before several witnesses, also according to the ordinance of the Church as testified below by the signatures of the witnesses [Ste Anne’s CD, Mackinac Baptisms, 1792 – 1799, Image 1].

Considering that both of Charles’ wives were named Marie Athanase and that we don’t have Louis’ baptism, we don’t know definitely whether Louis was the son of the first marriage or the second. My inclination is that he was the son of Marie Athanase Twissekoukwe Missalimougoue, the second wife because his mother is specifically stated to have been a Sauteuse.
Josephte Le Sable, a Sauteuse aged about 50, was baptized 19 August 1787. On the same day, their five children were baptized conditionally: Josette, born 4 August 1769; Charlotte, born 15 October 1771; Jean Baptiste, born 24 January 1774; Catherine, born 17 June 1776; and Augustin, born 7 February 1779. Augustin’s baptism appears below:
Augustin Hamelin, son of the deceased Louis Hamelin and Josephte Mischigaia, native of this parish married Angélisque Kiminitchaugan, daughter of Kimitchiaugan and 8ichigik8a, residents of L’Arbre Croche, 1 August 1823 in Ste Anne’s, Mackinac [Ste Anne’s CD, Mackinac Marriages 1823-1834, Image 2]

Their daughter Catherine Hamelin was born 29 January 1824 in Port St. Ignace near Michilimackinac and baptized 19 July 1825 in Ste Anne’s. Her godparents were John Robert McDougall and Angélisque Campeau [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, Ste Anne, 1810-1848, Image 158; Denissen, Vol. I, p. 569 – only provides the names of Catherine’s parents, her birth date and her baptismal date].
Hunault – Unknown Native American:
Gabriel Hunault, son of Gabriel Hunault and Madeline Henry, was born 10 February 1741 in Ste-Geneviève-des-Batiscan [PRDH-JGD, 17161 – Hunault – Henry Family and Couple Views; Denissen, Vol. I, p. 582 – erroneously states the Gabriel was the son of Marie Josèphe Christin, however their son Gabriel was buried 24 January 1724 in St-François Île-Jésus [Jetté, p. 580]. Gabriel Hunault’s ultimate fate is not known.

1. Gabriel Hunault, son of Gabriel Hunault and an Unknown Native American, was born circa 1778. His mother died before 1783. Gabriel Hunault was baptized 25 March 1783 in Assumption. His godparents were Alexis [Descompt dit Labadie and the widow Janis [Thérèse Meloche] [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit L’Assomption de Sandwich de Windsor, 1767-1783, Image 56]. Gabriel Hunault’s ultimate fate is not known.

Jacob – Native American:
An English merchant named Jacob and a Native American had a son circa 1782. The father died prior to 1786. Additional information regarding the parents are not known [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 590].

1. Pierre Jacob was baptized 10 January 1786 in Ste Anne’s. His godparents were Alexis Descompt [dit Labadie] and Marie Françoise Robert [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit, 1780-1801, Image 56].
Knaggs – Native American:
Thomas Knaggs, son of George Knaggs and Rachel Schley, born 1 November 1782 and was baptized 6 November 1782 at Assumption. His godparents were Joseph Dussault and Marie Josèphe Gamelin, wife of Sieur [Joseph] Bondy [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit L’Assomption de Sandwich de Windsor, 1767-1783, Image 54].

Thomas Knaggs may have had a son by Native American Woman in 1804 before his marriage to Catherine Pouget. Thomas Knaggs and Catherine Pouget had six children. Thomas Knaggs died circa 1831 [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 608].

Marriage of John Knaggs to Archange Lorrain

John Knaggs, widower of Archange Lorrain, married Félicité Desmarchais dit Parisien, daughter of Antoine Desmarchais and Hélène Marsac, 5 March 1732 in Ste Anne's [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Detroit Autre Registres, 1801-1832, Image 93 and 94]. Based on the fact that John Knaggs baptism has not been located and the fact that he was not stated to be the son of a Native American at either of his marriages, it is possible that the Native American mother was a family story.

Labreche/Labreshe – Richardville Family:
Introduction: the information in Denissen, Vol I. p. 634 regarding this family is extremely limited and I believe that the relationships stated are not correct. Instead of relying solely on Denissen, most of the genealogical information comes from a series of letters and affidavits regarding the Miami Indians that appears in the Congressional Series of United States Public Documents, Volume 2392; 49th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representatives, Exec. Doc. No. 23, Miami Indians. Hereafter, Miami Indians, This volume is available a free google book.

François Labreche married or had a child by Anne or Charlotte Drouet de Richardville, sister of Jean Baptiste Drouet de Richardville, Miami Chief. [Miami Indians, pp. 22, 23 – affidavits of Gabriel Dussan and John Monard [Ménard] – see below for these affidavits; See the discussion of the Drouet de Richardville – Tacumwa Family on this website; Denissen, Vol. I, p. 634 – does not give her name].

Jean Baptiste Labreche was born at or near Fort Wayne, present-day Indiana [Miami Indians, p. 23 – affidavit of John Monard]. His mother Anne or Charlotte Drouet de Richardville died when he was a baby and her sister nursed Jean Baptiste Labreche when he was an infant [Miami Indians, p. 23 – Affidavit of John Monard – states that Labreche told him that he was a Miami Indian and that the chief of

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2 FCHSM Member Dawn Evoe Danowski sent me a copy of an affidavit submitted by F.D. Laselle that one of her cousins had found online. While the Laselle affidavit, found on p. 25 of the Miami Indians, was a great find, it was not as specific as the examples used in this profile about the Labreche relationship to Jean Baptiste Richardville. A google search led me to the Congressional Series of United States Public Documents, Volume 2392; 49th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representatives, Exec. Doc. No. 23.
the tribe Jean Baptiste Richardville was his uncle; *Miami Indians*, p. 22 – affidavit of Gabriel Dussan – states that Labreche’s aunt came to visit Labreche after he had moved to Monroe County. The aunt informed Dussan that Labreche was a member of the Miami Tribe and that she had nursed Labreche after his mother’s death].

**STATE OF MICHIGAN,**

*County of Monroe, ss.*

Gabrielle Dussan, being duly sworn this 5th day of March, 1862, according to law, deposes and says that he is now about the age of sixty-four years, and resident of the town of Erie, in said county, and states that he was intimately acquainted with John B. Labresh during his life-time; that said Labresh was born on the Miami, and came to live in his neighborhood when he was a lad, and that he was of the Indian blood of the Miami tribe, and he informed this deponent that his mother and father were dead; that he received his yearly annuities with that tribe, at or near Fort Wayne, and knows of his going after his said annuities several years, and said Labresh frequently informed this deponent that he was of the Miami tribe of Indians, and that he had received a section of land and his regular annuities with the other Indians. Deponent states further, that some years after said Labresh came to live in his neighborhood, an aunt of said Labresh came to see him, who was an Indian woman, and she informed this deponent that she was his aunt, and was sister of his mother, and belonged to the Miami tribe of Indians; that his mother died when said Labresh was an infant, and that she then nursed him at her own breast, and took care of him till he became quite a lad; that said Labresh died in said town of Erie about 6 years ago; can’t say how long he continued to receive his annuities, but as near as he can recollect, until the tribe moved west of Mississippi, and he remained there.

Deponent states that he was also acquainted with Angeline Labresh, the daughter of said John B. Labresh, and knows that she married a man by name of Lewis Hiron, and removed to the River Rasin, some ten or twelve miles distant, and knows that she is now dead, and has seen one of her children who resembles her very much, and shows strong indications of Indian blood. Can’t say whether she received her annuity or not, but from what he has heard reported he has no doubt she did, because of her connections with the Miami tribe of Indians, as others did, and further saith not.

GABRIEL D. DUSSAN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written,

ALEX. D. ANDERSON.

*Miami Indians*, p. 22
Jean Baptiste Labreche married Angélique Drouillard, daughter of Dominique Drouillard and Josette Laviolette, 22 February 1815 at St. Antoine, River Raisin. [St. Antoine, River Raisin record. The following record of their marriage was supplied by FCHSM member Dawn Evoe Danowski].
Angélique Drouillard was born or baptized 18 March 1794 in River Raisin. Jean Baptiste Labreche and Angélique Drouillard had four children. Angélique Drouillard was buried 8 May 1819 from St. Antoine, River Raisin [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 634 – marriage of Jean Baptiste Labreche and Angélique Drouillard – numbers their children as if they were Jean Baptiste’s siblings].

Children of Jean Baptiste Labreche and Angelique Drouillard:
- **Marie Judith Labreche** was born or baptized 2 March 1815 in River Raisin [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 634].
- **Gabriel Labreche** was born or baptized 24 October 1816 in River Raisin [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 634].
- **Marie Labreche** was born or baptized 12 July 1818 in River Raisin. She was buried 16 September 1819 [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 634].
- **Angeline Labreche** was probably born in 1819 in River Raisin. See below.

Angeline Labreche and Louis Hivon/Yvon’s children as of 5 March 1862 [Miami Indians, pp. 19-20, Louis Hiron/Hivon/Yvon’s affidavit – see the affidavit below]:

- **Louis/Lewis Hivon/Yvon** was born 28 September 1833. He married Suzanne Simmoneau January 1858 [Miami Indians, pp. 19-20, Louis Hiron/Hivon/Yvon’s affidavit].
- **Marie/Mary Hivon/Yvon** was born 20 September 1835 [Miami Indians, pp. 19-20, Louis Hiron/Hivon/Yvon’s affidavit].
- **Jacques/James Hivon/Yvon** was born 4 October 1837 [Miami Indians, pp. 19-20, Louis Hiron/Hivon/Yvon’s affidavit].

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**STATE OF MICHIGAN,**
**County of Monroe,**

On the 5th day of March, A.D. 1852, personally appeared Lewis Hiron, aged 64 years, and resident of Frenchtown, county of Monroe and State of Michigan, before me, a circuit court commissioner in and for said county, who, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he was well and personally acquainted with John Baptist Labresh, during his lifetime, and that he resided formerly in this county; that he was his deponent’s, father in-law. Deponent states further that said John Baptist Labresh was of Miami blood, that he was of the tribe of Indians known as the Miami tribe, and deponent states that he, Labresh, always repaired to Fort Wayne and joined with the chief of the tribe, whose name was Richardville, and they with the rest of the tribe repaired to a place on the Wabash, appointed for the payment of the annuities to that tribe of Indians, and that said Labresh with the other Indians received his yearly annuity regularly. That he always went after his said annuity himself, excepting the last time he drew, which to the best of deponent’s recollection was about 17 or 18 years ago, when he gave a power of attorney to a man by the name of Morissian to draw his said annuity for him, and said Labresh subsequently informed deponent that said Morissian did receive said annuity and brought the same to him. Deponent states that he himself was accustomed to go to the same place and receive the annuity that was due to his wife, as daughter of said Labresh, and that when he did so on one occasion, he remained a month or six weeks at the residence of the chief of said tribe of Indians (the said Richardville), who informed him that said Labresh was of the Miami tribe of Indians blood; that he was a relation of his, the said chief; and deponent states that he knows from the features, complexion, and general appearance of the said Labresh, he was of Indian blood; and deponent states that said Labresh commenced drawing his said annuity from and after the treaty made with that tribe of Miami Indians by Governor Cass when governor of the Territory of Michigan, after the war of 1812—can’t say precisely what year, that he at that
time drew a section of land, as he informed this deponent, and continued to draw said annuity about 15 or 18 years ago, when, in consequence of said tribe of indians being removed west of the Mississippi river, and of his advanced age, he neglected to make any further efforts for said annuity, and he died in the month of November, 1855, in the township of Erie, Monroe County, Michigan. Deponent states that his wife, the said daughter of said Labreche, was named Angeline, and that she was also of the said Miami blood, and connected with said tribe of Miami indians, and that he, deponent, her said husband, was accustomed to draw her yearly annuities from said tribe several years for her, until about two years before her death. She died about twenty-one years ago at her residence in said town of Frenchtown aforesaid in the year 1846, and left three living children—two boys and one girl—who are still living and reside with deponent in the town of Frenchtown in said county of Monroe. The name of the oldest boy is Lewis Hiron, jr., and is now of the age of twenty-eight years and upwards, being born the 29th day of September, 1853, as will more fully appear by the baptismal record; and the said Lewis junior was married in the month of January, 1859, to Susan Simeon, and now resides in said town of Frenchtown, and by said marriage they have two children—two girls; one, named Eliza, was born the 20th of May, 1862; the other, named Victoria, was born the 20th of November, 1860. The other two children of the said Angeline, wife of deponent aforesaid, were named Mary and James, both unmarried, and living with deponent in said town of Frenchtown; the said Mary is now aged 25 years and past, born the 20th of September, 1835, and the said James was born the 4th of October, 1837. Deponent states further that the said children of said Angeline, his wife, viz., the said Lewis, junior, Mary, and James, all and each of them, show a very strong resemblance to their grandfather, the said John Baptiste Labreche, and consequently show very strong indications of Indian blood in their veins. And further this deponent saith not.

LOUIS X. HIRON.

[Sworn and subscribed before me the day and year above written.]

ALEXANDER D. ANDERSON.

Circuit Court Commissioner, Monroe County, Michigan.

[Sworn and subscribed before me the day and year above written.]

ALEXANDER D. ANDERSON.

Circuit Court Commissioner, Monroe County, Michigan.

[Miami Indians, pp. 19-20, Louis Hiron/Hivon/Yvon’s affidavit].

Lacasse – Splitlog Family:
Marriage of Philomène Lacasse and Alexis Splitlog

1. **Annie Adelaide Splitlog**, daughter of Alexis Splitlog and Philomène Lacasse, was born 8 July 1871 and baptized 16 July 1871 in St. Jean Baptiste, Amherstburg. Her godparents were Joseph White and Angélique Fortier [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, A, Amherstburg, St Jean, 1857-1874, Image 281].

Baptism of Annie Adelaide Splitlog

Anne Splitlog married **André Gibb**, son of James Gibb and Marie Dubé, 2 February 1891 in River Canard [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, R, Rivière aux Canards, 1885-1899, Image 35].