Detroit River Region métis Families – Paul to Perras 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

Paul – Potawatomi Family:
Jean / John Paul had a daughter by a Potawatomi at Michilimackinac.

1. Angélique Paul was born in 1794 in Michilimackinac. She was baptized 3 July 1819 in Ste. Anne du Détroit. Her godparents were Joseph André Clark and Clémence Pherson, his wife [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, Ste Anne, 1810-1848, Image 93].

Baptism of Angélique Paul

Angélique Paul married Jean Baptiste Fréton, son of François Xavier Fréton and Cécile Duprat, 5 July 1819 in Ste. Anne du Détroit [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, Ste Anne, Autre Registres, 1801-1832, Image 69].

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); Société Franco-Ontarienne d’Histoire et de Généalogie, Sepultures St-Jean-Baptiste D’Amherstburg 1802 – 1985 (Ottawa: SFOHG), hereafter, SFOHG, Sepultures St-Jean-Baptiste; Drouin Institute, Lafrance, http://www.genealogiequebec.com; University of Toronto and Université Laval, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online, (http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html ), hereafter DCB.]
Jean Baptiste Fréton was born 8 February 1794 at five o’clock in the morning and baptized the same day in Ste. Anne du Détroit. His godparents were Michel Duprat and Archange Hilaire [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, Ste Anne, 1780-1801, Image 214]. Angélique Paul and Jean Baptiste Fréton had six children. It is possible that some of their children married, but Denissen has less complete coverage in the area of Mt. Clemens.

Angélique Paul and Jean Baptiste Fréton’s children:
- Jean Baptiste Fréton was born 5 February 1820 and baptized the following day in Ste. Anne du Détroit. His godparents were Joseph Fréton and Anne Grant [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, Ste Anne, 1810-1848, Image 100].
- Infant Fréton was born 27 February 1821 and buried the same day from Ste. Anne du Détroit [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 497].
- Victoire Fréton was born 3 February 1822 and baptized 6 February 1822 in Ste. Anne du Détroit. Her godparents were Julien Fréton and Agnès Fréton [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, Ste Anne, 1810-1848, Image 121].
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Félicité Fréton was born 22 May 1825 and baptized 27 May 1825 in Ste. Anne du Détroit. Her godparents were Joseph Chauvin and Archange Fréton [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, Ste Anne, 1810-1848, Image 156]. She was buried 30 May 1825 from Ste. Anne du Détroit [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 497].

Félicité Fréton was born 14 June 1826 at St. François, Clinton River [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 497].

Zoé Fréton was born in 1831 and buried 28 March 1854 in Mount Clemens [Denissen, Vol. I, p. 497].

Perras – possible Native American Family:
André Noël Perras, son of Jean Baptiste Perras dit Lafontaine and Élisabeth Gervais, was born 25 December 1779 and baptized the same day in St-Jean-François-Regis (St-Philippe). His godparents were Jean Baptiste Gervais and Marguerite Lovetor? [Lafrance].

André Perras, son of Jean Baptiste Perras and Élisabeth Gervais married Élisabeth 14 June 1808 in Assumption. The bride and groom were both residents of Petite Ecorse on Lake Erie [www.ancestry.com, Drouin Collection, D, Détroit, L’Assomption de Sandwich de Windsor, 1781-1808, Image 322]. As can be seen below, Father Marchand did not name Élisabeth’s parents in the record, nor
did he state that she was a Native American. In most cases, the priest noted the Native Spouse’s Tribe or Nation in the record. Therefore, her ancestry is not known with certainty.

If André Perras and Élisabeth had any children, they would appear in the records of St. François Xavier in Ecorse.

By 1811, André Perras married Élisabeth Tremblay, of unknown parents, at an unknown location. The couple had seven children. Their first child Elisabeth was born 26 July 1811 in York (present-day Toronto) and baptized 12 April 1814 in St-Jean-François-Regis (St. Philippe) [Lafrance; PRDH-IGD, #973633]. It is possible that Élisabeth Tremblay was his only wife and the fact that her surname was not noted in the Assumption record was an oversight on the part of Fr. Marchand.