

Les Filles du Roi (The King's Daughters)



The above map shows the historical regions of France before 2015 (twenty-one on the mainland, and one other (Corsica). Boundary changes were made in 2016 and the number of mainland regions has now been reduced to thirteen.

North Americans who have Quebec ancestry can be almost certain that among those ancestors are included one or more “Filles du Roi”. These were the women who were recruited in France to emigrate to New France and marry one of the settlers or soldiers upon their arrival. In exchange, the government of France provided them with a dowry and free passage. This group of women became known by the term “Filles du Roi”. Between the years of 1663 and 1673, historians estimate that about 800 such women arrived in New France.

Although they were not always specifically indicated to be part of this group, usually their marriage contracts (with the mention of the King’s dowry) provide the proof of their status. Where the specific dowry was not mentioned, other evidence has been used to compile the lists.

Marriages took place usually within a few weeks of their arrival. It is unlikely that the couple would have had much time to get acquainted before the marriage. The “Filles” did not always accept the first man

with whom they signed a marriage contract. The records show that several of them changed their minds and the contract was annulled—sometimes more than once.

One of the reasons these “Filles du Roi” agreed to travel thousands of miles to an unknown country was that they came from the poorer segments of French society. Many were orphans with no fathers to provide a dowry. In the seventeenth century, French girls without dowries had little chance of marrying well or even entering a convent—which also required a dowry. Those who had only one living parent were at a disadvantage as well. Most of the “Filles du Roi” were impoverished, although there were a few known to be from upper-class families. The majority were single, although a few were childless widows.

For most of the “Filles”, the dowry from the King was 50 pounds; however, some received amounts of 100 or 200 pounds. In addition, each woman received a wooden chest which contained a head dress, taffeta handkerchief, bonnet, comb, spool of white thread, a pair of shoe ribbons, stockings, gloves, scissors, 2 knives, 100 sewing needles, 1,000 pins, 4 lace braids, and a small box with 2 livres in coin. (The French *livre* was established by Charlemagne in the 8th century and was equal to 1 pound of silver.)

The origins of the “Filles du Roi” have been determined for all but eighty of the women. Where a place of origin has been determined, more than half came from two areas closest to the ports—Normandy and Île-de-France (which includes the city of Paris).

Jim’s known ancestry includes thirty-three such women. Incidentally, it should be noted that although the term “woman” is generally used, many of them were girls, some as young as fourteen. Among Jim’s “Filles du Roi” ancestors, two were from the upper class. It is not known why they chose to emigrate and take on the challenges of life in the New World. Perhaps the family’s status had changed, or the parents had died.

Marie-Catherine BAILLON (c1645-1688)

[Jim’s 8X great-grandmother]

Marie-Catherine, of Montfort-l’Amauray, Rambouillet, diocese of Chartres, Île-de-France, was the daughter of deceased Alphonse de Baillon, Sieur de Valence, and Lady Louise de Marle. At the age of twenty-four on 12 November 1669, she married **Jacques MIVILLE dit DESCHÊNES** [8X great-grandfather] at Quebec. Jacques and Catherine died a few days apart in January 1688 at Rivière-Ouelle, aged 48 and 42. The death records do not include the causes of death. Jacques and Marie-Catherine were the parents of six known children. Marie-Catherine’s ancestry has been traced back to Charlemagne by several genealogists. Their evidence has been generally accepted, and descendants who can prove their lineage are eligible to join The Society of the Descendants of Charlemagne.

Marie BARBANT (c1648-)

[Jim’s 7X great-grandmother]

Marie was from Dieppe (St-Rémy parish) in Normandy, the daughter of Alexandre Barbant and Marie Lenoble. She married **Jean LALONDE dit LESPÉRANCE** [7X great-grandfather] on November 14, 1669 at Montreal; Jean was a soldier with the Carignan Regiment. He had signed—and annulled—three marriage contracts before marrying Marie. The couple had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood, and from which there are five lines of descent. [One of these is through their son Guillaume who married an American girl who was twelve years old when she was kidnapped from Massachusetts during an Indian raid.] Jean was killed by the Iroquois in 1687 at the age of 47, and Marie married the next year to another Carignan Regiment soldier, Pierre Tabault; Pierre was a

widower with five young children. Pierre died in 1723, but a death record for Marie has not been located.

Jeanne BARBIER (c1652-c1689)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Jeanne was from St. Nicolas, Chalôns-en-Champagne, Marne, and was the daughter of Guillaume Barbier and Luce Wilbert. She signed a marriage contract on August 30, 1670 with Bernard Chapelain, but this was annulled, and she then made a private contract on November 3, 1670 with **Julien PLUMEREAU dit LATREILLE** [8 X great-grandfather]. At the time she was about 18, and Julien was about 30 years old. Julien and Jeanne and their seven children were enumerated on the 1681 census (the date of which has not been determined), but he must have died shortly thereafter, since she remarried on January 7th of the same year. Her second husband was François Blain dit Abelin. Jeanne died shortly after the birth of their fourth child in 1689 at the age of 37. Francois would have been left with ten living children aged 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 7, 6, 4, and 1.

Jeanne BILODEAU (c1635-1684)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Jeanne was from Les Jarriges, diocese of Angouleme, Angoumois; she was the daughter of deceased Jean Bilodeau and Françoise Poupard, and the childless widow of Jacques Baubiche. She married **Pierre COUILLARD** [8X great-grandfather] on February 8, 1666 at Trois-Rivières. The couple had three children; the family apparently moved to Champlain in 1667 as they are enumerated in both Champlain and Trois-Rivières on the 1667 census. Jeanne died in 1684, aged about 49 years, and Pierre in 1713, aged 77.

Marie BLANCHARD (c1652-1722)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Marie was from St-Niçaise, Rouen, Normandy, the daughter of Jean Blanchard and Martine LeBas. She married **Mathieu BRUNET dit LÉTANG** [8X great-grandfather] on November 10, 1667 at Quebec City. Marie was only 15 years old, whereas Mathieu would have been about 39. In the next twenty years, they became parents of ten children. Mathieu died in 1708 in the hospital in Montreal at the age of 80. Marie remarried at Lachine about 1713 to widower Yves Lucas at Lachine. She died there in 1722 at the age of 75.

Marie CHANCY (c1657-)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Marie was the daughter of Gaspard Chancy and Étienne Trepé of Nôtre-Dame-de-la-Dore, Auxerre, Burgundy. She married **Michel PRÉZEAU dit CHAMBLY** [8X great-grandfather] at Montreal on October 2, 1673. It is not known why her dowry was 200 pounds—significantly larger than the usual King's dowry of 50 pounds. Marie and Michel were the parents of six children—three of whom died in infancy. Michael died sometime before 1709; Marie's death date is unknown.

Marie CHARPENTIER (c1655-1713)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marie was from Paris (St-Étienne-du-Mont parish), the daughter of François Charpentier and Marie Gatau. She was 16 years old when she married 28-year-old **Pierre Gendron dit Gendras** [7X great-grandfather] on November 1, 1671 likely at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade. Marie and Pierre were the parents of four children. Marie was about 58 years old when she died in 1713. Pierre remarried in 1715 to Marie Lefebvre, a widow with eight children. She also was a "Fille-du-Roi".

Marie-Reine CHARPENTIER (c1658-1728)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marie-Reine, of St-Sulpice, Paris, was the daughter of the Honorable Bonaventure Charpentier and Isabelle de Sens. Based on her stated age on the 1681 census (23) and at her 1728 death (70), she would have been only about thirteen years old when she married **Louis PRINSEAU** [7X great-grandfather] on 28 July 1672 at Quebec. They had three daughters before Louis' death about eight years later. On 26 August 1681, she married again to Étienne Domingo dit Carabi at Quebec. Étienne and Marie-Reine had five daughters. Étienne died in hospital in 1702, aged 58, and Marie-Reine in December 1728, both at Quebec.

Jeanne CHARTIER (c1640-1695)

[Jim's 9X great-grandmother]

Jeanne was from Paris (St-Honoré parish), the daughter of Pierre Chartier and Marie Gaudon, who had both died before she emigrated. She would have been about 30 years old at the time of her marriage on September 10, 1670 at Quebec. She married **Thècle-Cornelius AUBRY dit TÈCLE** [9 X great-grandfather] who was actually from Ireland—the first Irish immigrant to Canada. Jeanne had a large dowry—650 *livres* which included 50 *livres* from the King of France. The couple were parents of seven children, four of whom died in infancy or early childhood. Thècle died in 1687, aged 49, and Jeanne in 1695, aged 55.

Marie CHEVREAU (c1652-1724)

[Jim's 9X great-grandmother]

Marie of St-Valerian, Chateaudun, Chartres, Beauce, was the daughter of Francois Chevreau and Antoniette Jalee, and said to be an orphan at the time of her marriage to **René RÉAUME** [9X great-grandfather] on October 29, 1665 at Quebec City. Her dowry from the King was 200 pounds. René was a carpenter, and the couple had 13 children. He died in hospital in Quebec City in 1722 at the age of 80. Marie was 72 at the time of her death in 1724.

Marie-Charlotte COY (c1650-1707)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Marie-Charlotte was from Paris (St-Nicolas-des-Champs parish), the daughter of François Coy and Michelle Ouyer. She was about 19 years old when she married 24-year-old **Jean BRARD dit LAREVERDRA** [8X great-grandfather], a soldier in the Carignan Regiment, on 12 November 1669 at Trois-Rivières. Jean and Marie-Charlotte's third child was born in 1677, but Jean must have died about that time¹ since Marie-Charlotte remarried in 1678. Her second husband, Pierre Brunion, was also a soldier in the Carignan Regiment. Pierre died in November 1687, aged 42, shortly before the birth of their sixth child. Marie-Charlotte died in 1707, aged about 57.

Hélène DAMOURS (c1646-1699)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Hélène was from Paris (St-Laurent parish), the daughter of deceased Nicolas Damours and Madeleine Saison. On August 6, 1668 at the age of 22, she married **Louis FOUCHER dit LAFOREST**, [7X great-grandfather] who was 10 years older. They were the parents of six children. Louis died in 1685 at the age of 49, and Hélène remarried the following year to Isaac Lemire, and had three more children. She died in hospital in Quebec City in 1699, aged 53.

¹ It is quite common that death records for soldiers in New France are difficult to locate. Many deaths occurred while the soldiers were engaged in skirmishes away from their home parishes, and likely buried on the battlefield. Sometimes the only clues are the date their apparent widow remarried, or in the baptism records of posthumously-born children.

Anne DELESTRE (c1649-1685)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

It is not known where **Anne** came from in France or who her parents were. She married **François CÉSAR dit LAGARDELETTE** [7X great-grandfather] about 1674 at St-Ours. Anne died shortly after the birth of their seventh child in 1685, aged about 36, leaving François with seven children under the age of 10. About a year later he remarried to another Fille du Roi—Marie Hattanville. At the time of this marriage, Marie had been widowed three times and had 7 children and 4 step-children. It is hard to image a household of 20 people living in what was probably a very small home! Marie and François died within a month apart in 1723.

Catherine DUCHARME (c1657-1719)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Catherine was from Paris (St-Benoit parish), the daughter of Jean Ducharme and Anne LeLièvre. She was only 14 years old, when she married 28-year-old **Pierre ROY dit LEROY** [8X great-grandfather] on January 12, 1672 at Montreal. Eighteen children were born to this couple—fourteen of whom lived to adulthood. Catherine was 62 years old when she died at Montreal in 1719.

Marie-Jeanne GILLES (c1644-1708)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marie-Jeanne was from St-Nicolas-des-Champs parish in Paris; she was the daughter of deceased Pierre Gilles and Anne Nicola. She married **François FLEURY dit MITRON** [7X great-grandfather] in August 1670; her dowry was 350 *livres*, including 50 from the King. They became parents of ten children, the last of whom was born in January 1688. François apparently died sometime before her second marriage on June 1, 1689 to René Dumas dit Rencontre, a soldier with the Carignan Regiment. [René is an ancestor through his first marriage to another Fille-du-Roi, Marie Lelong (see entry for **Marie LELONG** on page 7). René and Marie-Jeanne had one child. A death record for René has not been found, but it was before Marie-Jeanne's third marriage on September 1, 1704 to Pierre Galet; she was about 60 years old and he was about five years younger. Marie-Jeanne died four years later in Montreal.

Mathurine GOARD (c1648-1710)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Mathurine was from the St-Sulpice parish of Paris, the daughter of Gilles Goard and Catherine Léger. The 1667 census shows her living at the convent of Sister Marguerite Bourgeois in Montreal—described as being 19 years old and a “fille à marier”. In May of that year, she married 33-year-old **Louis MARIE dit SAINTE-MARIE** [8X great-grandfather], a soldier in the Carignan Regiment. They were the parents of eleven children. She lived to be 80 years old, having been widowed for eighteen years.

Madeleine GUERIN (c1647-c1699)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Madeleine was from Vauzaillon, Soissons, Picardy, the daughter of Simon Guerin and Nicole Léduc. Her dowry from the King was 100 pounds when she married **Jean JULIEN** (8X great-grandfather) on November 10, 1665 at Quebec City. The couple had three children (1666-1672). She was said to be a widow at the time of her re-marriage to Pierre Boivin in 1873, although no record of Jean's death has not been found. There were no children from the second marriage. Death records for Pierre and Madeleine have not been found.

Catherine GUYARD (c1638-before 1705)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Catherine was from the parish of St-Laurent in Paris, the daughter of deceased Louis Guyard and Madeleine Vant. She married **Antoine BEAUDRY dit L'ÉPINETTE** [7X great-grandfather] on November 24, 1665 at Montreal. Antoine had been in New France since 1653, having arrived as part of "La Grande Recrue". Antoine and Catherine were the parents of five children. She died sometime between July 1703 (present at a daughter's wedding) and 1705, when Antoine (described as a widower) and his children sold a piece of property.

Élisabeth JOSSARD (c1650-1728)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Élisabeth was another girl from the Paris parish of St-Nicolas-des-Champs, the daughter of deceased Gaspard Jossard and Maris Deschamps. She married 25-year-old **Jean-Baptiste POITIERS dit BUISSON** [7X great-grandfather] on October 16, 1670 at Quebec. He was a soldier with the Carignan Regiment. Élisabeth had a large dowry of 850 *livres*, of which 50 was from the King. Jean-Baptiste and Élisabeth were the parents of seven children, four of whom were born in the state of New York, where Jean-Baptiste was a prominent interpreter. The family returned to Montreal, where both Jean-Baptiste and Élisabeth died in hospital—he in 1727 aged 82, and she in 1728, aged 78.

Marie LANGLOIS (1642-c1687)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marie Langlois was baptized 23 October 1642 at St-Jacques, Dieppe, diocese of Rouen, the daughter of Thomas Langlois and Mare Neufville. She was twenty-five years old when she married **Jean POIRIER dit LAJEUNESSE** on 18 March 1668 at Montreal. Her dowry from the King was reported to be 200 pounds. Jean and Marie were the parents of ten children. Marie died sometime between the birth of twins in 1687 and her husband's remarriage in November 1688. (see entry for **Catherine MOITIÉ** on page 7).

Marie LEBRUN (1643-1689)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marie was born December 3, 1643 at St-Jacques, Dieppe, Diocese of Rouen, the daughter of Jacques Lebrun and Marie Michel. She married **Pierre BARBARY dit GRANDMAISON** [7X great-grandfather], a soldier of the Carignan Regiment, on February 24, 1668 at Montreal. The couple had ten children and lived in the Lachine area. Tragically, two of their young children died in a house fire in April 1689. In August of the same year, there was a serious Iroquois attack at Lachine. Many of the villagers were killed, kidnapped or died in their homes which were set on fire by the invaders. Sadly, Pierre, Marie, and five of their children died in the massacre.

Louise LECOUTRE (c1648-aft 1709)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Louise married **Nicolas CREVIER dit BELLERIVE** [7X great-grandfather] about 1665 in the Cap-de-la-Madeleine area. Neither her parentage nor the place of origin in France are known. The couple had eleven children. Louise and Nicolas both died sometime after 1709.

Marie LELONG (c1646-1687)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marie was from Toussaint, Rennes, Brittany, the daughter of Mathurin Lelong and Perinne Moret. She married **René DUMAS dit RENCONTRE** [7X great-grandfather] on October 12, 1671 at Quebec City. He was a soldier with the Carignan Regiment. Marie's dowry from the King was 200 pounds. The couple had nine children. When Marie died at the age of 41 in December of 1687, her youngest child

was only 5 months old. René remarried in 1689 to Jeanne Gilles (also a Fille-du-Roi) and this couple are ancestors as well. [See the entry for **Jeanne GILLES** on page 5.]

Marie MARCHESSAULT (c1640-aft 1701)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Marie was from St-Jean-de-Magny, Luçon, Poitou, the daughter of Étienne Marchesseau and Sébastienne Lamoureux. She married Pierre Boutin about 1669 near Charlesbourg. Pierre died the following year in hospital leaving Marie with a two-month-old son. She married **Jean MICHEL** [8X great-grandfather] on November 25, 1670—two months after the death of her first husband. He was also a recent widower. Marie and Jean were the parents of five children. Tragically, Jean, as well as his 17-year-old son and 19-year-old stepson were killed by the Iroquois in the 1689 Lachine Massacre. Marie was still alive at the time of her daughter's 1701 marriage.

Denise MARIÉ (c1654-1720)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Denise was from Paris (either St-Paul or St-Sulpice parish), the daughter of Pierre Marié and Jeanne Loret. She was about 20 years old when she married **Jean QUENNEVILLE** [8X great-grandfather] on 12 February 1674 at Montreal. The couple had eleven children, and there are two lines of descent. Jean died at the age of 41 and Denise remarried on May 15, 1704 at Lachine to a widower (with nine children)—Jean Guilbert dit Laframboise. She died in 1720 at Montreal at the age of 65.

Françoise MOISAN (c1645-1718)

[Jim's 9X great-grandmother]

Françoise, also of St-Barthélemi, La Rochelle, Aunis, was the daughter of Abel Moisan and Marie Simiot. She was about eighteen years old when she married **Antoine BRUNET dit BELHUMEUR** [9X great-grandfather] on 28 November 1663 at Montréal. They had eight children (including a set of twins) before Antoine's death sometime before 1695. At the age of sixty-two, she married on 13 February 1707 at Montreal, to widower Pierre Perthuis dit Lalime, a soldier in the Carignan Regiment. Of Pierre's twelve children from his first marriage, two were still teenagers and unmarried at the time of his second marriage. Sadly, Pierre died a year later, and probably Françoise raised these children to adulthood. Françoise died 2 November 1718 at Contrecoeur at the age of seventy-five.

Catherine MOITIÉ (1649-1727)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Catherine was baptized 14 June 1649 at St-Barthélemi, La Rochelle, Aunis, the daughter of Jacques Moitié, royal bailiff, and Françoise Langevin. About fifteen-years-old, she was present at the 1663 marriage contract of her older sister, Marguerite. Perhaps they arrived together. When eighteen years old, she married at Montreal on 19 September 1667 to **Désiré Viger** [7X great-grandfather], a sailor. They became the parents of ten children. Désiré died in March 1688. In November of the same year, she married widower Jean Poirier dit Lajeunesse, a Carignan Regiment soldier, whose first wife had also been a "Fille du Roi". [Jean and his first wife are also ancestors. [See entry for **Marie LANGLOIS** on page 6]. Jean had ten children from his first marriage. Jean and Catherine had one child who died young. Catherine became a widow for the second time when Jean died in 1722. She died 21 October 1727 at Boucherville at the age of seventy eight.

Marguerite-Françoise MOREAU (c1655-1718)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Marguerite-Françoise was from St-Sulpice parish in Paris, the daughter of deceased François Moreau and Françoise Gardien. On September 30, 1670, at the age of 15, she married a soldier of the Carignan Regiment—30-year old **Mathieu FAYE dit LAFAYETTE** [8X great-grandfather]. They became

parents of eleven children. Mathieu and their 7-year-old son were killed by the Iroquois in August 1695. At the time the couple had six living children—the youngest only one month old—although the oldest girls were already married. A year later, in November 1696, she married Jean Lefort, who at 27 years old was about 15 years younger than she. The couple had three sons. Marguerite-Françoise died in 1718, aged about 63 and Jean remarried and had at least three more children.

Marie-Marthe PAYAN (c1653-1724)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marie-Marthe was born about 1653 in St-Benoit, Paris, the daughter of Hilaire Payen and Marie Gosselin. Only 17 years old, in August 1670, she signed (but later annulled) a marriage contract with Paul Taconnet. Soon after, she married 24-year-old **Mathurin CORNEAU** [7X great-grandfather] on October 6, 1670 at Quebec. They apparently only had one child—born 23 years after their marriage. Strange, but possible and apparently true according to several well-respected Quebec genealogists. Marie-Marthe would have been about 40 years old. Mathurin died in 1717, aged 71, and Marie-Marthe in 1724, about 72. They lived in Cap Santé—on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Marie PRIAULT (c1645-1699)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Marie's origin and parentage are not known. She married **Pierre GEOFFRION** [8X great-grandfather] about 1669 at Verchères. They were the parents of nine children. Marie died on February 24, 1699 in hospital at Montreal; she was fifty years old. Pierre died in 1704, also at Montreal.

Charlotte ROUSSEL (c1646-c1689)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Charlotte was from Nôtre-Dame-la-Ronde, Evreux, the daughter of Thomas Roussel and Barbe Poisson. She married **Pierre GAUTHIER dit SAGUINGOIRA** [8X great-grandfather] on November 12 1668 at Montreal. The couple were parents of eight children. Charlotte was captured by the Iroquois at the time of the Lachine Massacre in August 1689, and presumed to have died in captivity. Pierre died in 1703 at Lachine. There are three lines of descent from this couple.

Marguerite TENARD (c1645-1678)

[Jim's 8X great-grandmother]

Marguerite was from the village of Milly-la-Forêt, Île-de-France—a few miles south of Paris. Both her parents (Barthélemi Tenard and Jeanne Govin) were deceased. She married **Charles BOYER** [8X great-grandfather] on November 23, 1666 at Montreal. Charles worked as a domestic at the hospital. Marguerite apparently died shortly after the birth of their sixth child in January 1678; Charles remarried in October of that year. Marguerite would have been about 33 years old at the time of her death.

Marguerite VIARD (c1650-1715)

[Jim's 7X great-grandmother]

Marguerite was from Melun, Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France, the daughter of the late Pierre Viard and Catherine Lecompte. Marguerite signed (and annulled) two marriage contracts in October and November 1671. A year passed before she signed another and married **Mathurin BÉNARD dit LAJEUNESSE** [7X great-grandfather] on 11 October 1672 in Quebec City. Mathurin had been in New France since 1668—a soldier in the Carignan Regiment. Mathurin and Marguerite were the parents of four children—the last one born in October 1682. The baby was baptized on October 31st and the record states that Mathurin was deceased; it is not known for how long and a death record has not been located. The next day (November 1, 1682), Marguerite remarried. Her new husband was 47-year old Jean Inard dit Provencal. Similarly, a death record has not been found for Jean, but his death must have occurred within a year or two of the marriage, since 34-year-old Marguerite married for

the third time on September 24, 1684, to Joseph Serran dit L'Espagnol. He was originally from Valladolid, Spain. This couple became parents of six children. Marguerite is an ancestor for three lines of descent through her daughter Marie Bénard.

There have been many books and literary articles written about this aspect of Canadian history; most of them are in French. One novel published recently is *Bride of New France* by Suzanne Descrochers. It is a good representation of what life may have been like for these women—both before and after arriving in New France. A non-fiction recommendation is *The King's Daughters* by Joy Reisinger and Elmer Courteau—genealogists who were specialists on this topic.