



THE FRIGONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIGON, FRIGONE, FREGO,
FREGOE, FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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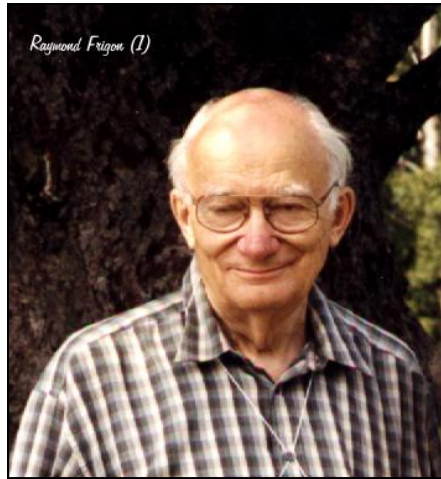
VOLUME 16 - NUMBER 1

WINTER 2009

RAYMOND HAS LEFT US

After a long stay in a nursing facility, Raymond has left us at the age of 93. He was the founding president of the Association and was in charge of the newsletter until 2000.

He was our guide for numerous years. We felt a great affection for this tall, calm gentleman with an attractive smile that was at once friendly and a bit teasing. He was a very sensitive person and was always oriented towards the improvement of his community. A leader who was open and could rally people together, he was never intransigent except when the quality of language was at issue. Then, he was pitiless! He would have so loved to perfectly master



Raymond Frigon (1) 1915 - 2008¹

the language of Molière. Raised in an Anglophone milieu, English was also the language of his workplace almost all his life. Before a newsletter could go to press, he would search assiduously for Anglicisms and would insist upon the preciseness of words. Raymond was an engineer. He was preoccupied with details and work well done. Raymond's death is a great loss and our warmest thoughts are with him.

May God keep his soul!,
as our ancestors used to say.

¹ Photo taken in 1996 during the Gathering in Batiscan. He had founded the Association two years earlier, in 1994.

2009 - Annual Meeting in the Mauricie Region

The organizers of the 2009 Annual Meeting are already hard at work.

325th Anniversary of Batiscan

375th Anniversary of Trois-Rivières

15th Anniversary of our Association

The details will be published in the
SPRING 2009 Newsletter.

CONTENTS

Raymond has left us	133
2009 - Annual Meeting in the Mauricie Region	133
The Aims of the Association and Adhesion	134
Board of Directors of the Association and The team of the Quarterly Newsletter	134
A Word from the President	135
Cécile Brunelle passes on the Torch	135
A Farming Lease for Two Oxen (2)	135
Augustin Frigon II - Tribute (continuation)	137
Some Frigons in France, La Rochelle 1707	138
Some Frigons in France, Summary	139
The Garden of Marie-Claude and François	140

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PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

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134 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES ARE TO

- retrace the families bearing the surnames Frigon, Frigone, Frego, Fregoe, Fregone et Fregon
- recruit members and resource persons
- organise gatherings and annual reunions with a view to creating bonds of friendship
- collect genealogical and historical information from the members and other sources in order to favour the promotion, development and the spread of Frigon history, genealogy and other ties between generations
- publish a Frigon Family dictionary
- publish the newsletter *THE FRIGONS*
- publish and make available monographs, biographies, family albums, the results of historical and genealogical research
- assure the preservation of the family archives

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual: \$20/year \$50/3 years \$80/5 years

Benefactor: \$30/year

Lifetime: \$250 (55 years and over)

Corporate: \$250/year (includes an optional free half-page advertisement in *THE FRIGONS* for two years/8 newsletters)

Canada: Canadian dollar USA and other countries: US dollar

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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The texts published in the newsletter are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Gérald Frigon (116)

Every society distinguishes itself by its culture, its values, its beliefs, its political and social structure. The society of contemporary Trois-Rivières probably differs more from Massena (NY) and Beaverville (IL) than it does from 17th century Batiscan. The Frigons who left the Batiscan region in the 19th century to settle in a new land evolved differently than did their cousins who remained in Quebec. What do we know of the evolution of each group of immigrants attracted by the industries of New England or the fertile plains of the Mississippi? What do we know of the opportunities and obstacles encountered by the French-speaking family groups in those areas? What was the position and the contribution of these francophones in the evolution of the country that received them, until today? Our American cousins are in

a better position than we are to do this research.

Here also, in Quebec, there remains much research to be done; for instance, the list of owners of the ancestral land from François Frigon to the present day; forest exploitation in the region of Batiscan in the 18th and 19th centuries; the plans and the construction of the *Chemin du Roy* between 1731 and 1735; the history and achievements of Honoré Chamois, Herald of Arms and father of Marie-Claude.

Each of you, depending on your interests and tastes, can contribute to the research that fascinates all of us and, thus, supply our newsletter with interesting articles. WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT?

CÉCILE BRUNELLE PASSES ON THE TORCH

The Garden of Marie-Claude and François

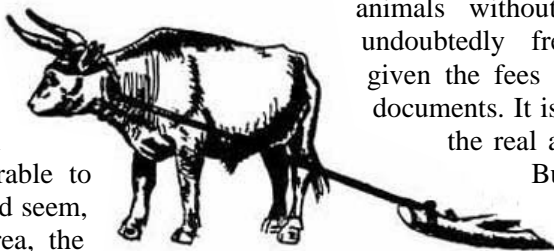
The chronicle *The Garden of Marie-Claude and François* was introduced with the *Winter 2004* newsletter. Under the guidance of Cécile Brunelle, this column published the lovely little faces of fifty-three of Marie-Claude and François' latest ancestors. The newsletter team wishes to thank Cécile for her fine work and, at the same time, welcomes Sylvie Frigon who will continue the column. Needless to say, Sylvie will have our wholehearted collaboration.

A FARMING LEASE FOR TWO OXEN (2)

Pierre Frigon (4)

Is D'Amour and Cossette's analytical grid applicable to the farming leases signed in the Trois-Rivières Region?

To answer this question, we consulted numerous farming lease contracts for animals in the Trois-Rivières Region. Those contracts confirmed that the rental conditions in that region were comparable to those that prevailed in Montreal. It would seem, however, that, in the Trois-Rivières area, the rental fees were payable mainly in wheat, whereas D'Amour and Cossette found no evidence of such a practice in Montreal.



as "bestiaux" (cattle) were mainly sold (16 sales out of 21 contracts).¹⁷ The authors mention that the exchange of animals without a notarized contract was undoubtedly frequent between neighbours, given the fees charged for drawing up such documents. It is therefore difficult to evaluate the real amplitude of the phenomenon.

But considering the scarcity of livestock, we can suppose that those who owned any exploited them to the fullest.

The cultivator-lenders counted for 30%. This is the group that put up the most animals for rent. They were followed by the merchants (15%), the noblemen and the bourgeois (13%), the craftsmen (12%).¹⁸ It is interesting to note that 10% of the lessors were widows. It seems that a rental by a religious community was rather rare. In fact, of the 213 contracts analysed by D'Amour and Cossette, not a one involved a religious community.

(Continued on page 136)

Rent or buy?

"There is likewise the question of renting oxen in the 17th century, when numerous agricultural establishments had none. The practice was less and less current a few decades later when several settlers had their own draft animals."¹⁶

D'Amour and Cossette noted that most of the time during the period 1661-1760, horses were bought (30 sales out of 33 contracts), and cows were rented (98 rentals out of 105 contracts). Rentals and sales of oxen and bulls were equal (26 rentals out of 54 contracts). Other animals, referred to

16. Robert Lionel Séguin, p. 545

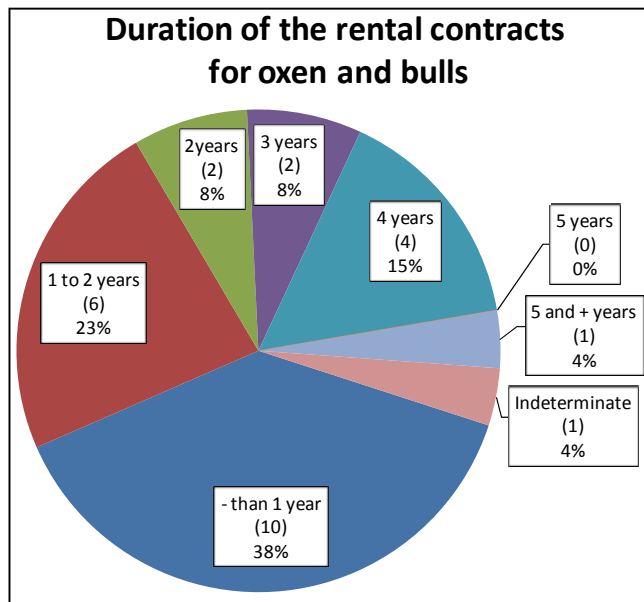
17. D'Amour and Cossette, p. 221, Table 1

18. D'Amour and Cossette, p. 226, Table 4

(Continued from page 135)

Why rent oxen for four years?

The rental of oxen and bulls lasted from a few weeks to five years and, rarely for more than five years. Generally they were rented for a period of less than one year. The following is the graph¹⁹ of oxen and bull rentals:



The rentals for a period of one year or less amounted to 38%. Must we conclude that the shrewder ones rented the oxen to clear and/or plough their fields, and then quickly returned them to the owner to avoid having to care for them, especially through the winter?

Not necessarily. Renting the oxen for a long period could be a good strategy. Given the shortage of draft animals in Batiscan, François Frigon made sure that he always had a team on hand. The advantage of this approach was that they could be used for transporting wood in winter, for bringing people to church, for clearing away stumps, ploughing, etc. Furthermore, once the rental period was over, the animals could be slaughtered for food and the hides made into *robes de boeuf*, *souliers de boeuf* (leather robes and shoes), belts, harnesses and more!

To rent in the fall or in the spring?

François Frigon took possession of his oxen in October. He then had to feed them for almost a year before he could make money on them. That was one of the risks that came with his contract.

The principal risk was the death of the animals, especially in winter, a period when the cold could be deadly. "For a natural death, the two most frequent clauses were the sharing of the loss equally by the owner and the renter, and the loss assumed by the lessor. In this latter case, the renter had to give the animal hide to the owner who would sell it to compensate for a part of the loss."²⁰ (In

François' contract,) notary Cusson does not include this information. So we presume that in the case of the death (of a rented animal), the hide belonged to François Frigon.

We note that the transfer of possession took place at the signing of the contract and that out of 6 contracts found by Audet²¹, 4 had been signed in the fall, one in winter, and one in the spring. In Séguin, pages 229 to 252, 30 oxen rentals were inventoried: 14 in September, October, and November; 8 in December, January and February; 8 in March and April. Here again, the contracts were mostly signed in the fall and winter.

The lessors thus spared themselves the obligation of caring for and feeding the animals during the winter and the risk rested on the shoulders of the lessees.

Given the harshness of life at that time, the probability of animals dying before the end of the contract was very real.

The oxen were too old?

François' oxen were 8 years old and he had to keep them for 4 years.

Out of 163 oxen listed by the authors, 106 were less than 8 years old (65%), 22 were 8 years old or more (13,5%), and 35 were of an indeterminate age (21,5%)²².

So the animals rented by François were pretty old! But, as we said, such animals were rare in Batiscan. Two old oxen were better than none at all, especially if they were accustomed to working together and had acquired a certain docility over the years. And if they were well treated, they could be useful for many years...."moyennant Dieu" (with the help of God), as they said at the time.

Was the age of the oxen the reason for leasing two of them rather than just one?

Not at all! "...the oxen often worked in pairs, and so they were almost always sold in pairs; it is conceivable that their value and their productivity increased after they worked together for a few years." Out of 126 oxen, 114 were sold in pairs! And they were usually of the same age²³.

In the next instalment: Were seven and a half *minots* of wheat per year too much to pay? Why pay at Christmas? Were the oxen too expensive? Conclusion.

19. D'Amour and Cossette, p. 225, (excerpt from Table 3)

20. D'Amour and Cossette, p. 224

21. Audet, *Se nourrir au quotidien en Nouvelle-France*, (Feeding oneself daily in New France), Les éditions GID, Ste-Foy, Québec, 2001, p. 70

22. Complementary information provided by Valérie D'Amour

23. Complementary information provided by Valérie D'Amour

NOTES OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE HECTOR PERRIER

“Life is too short to be insignificant.” This quote of D’Israeli seems to have been made to describe the all too short life of Augustin Frigon who dutifully accepted numerous postings assigned to him with efficacy and success.

I would like to honour his memory by highlighting his nomination and his work with the Pedagogical Commission of the Catholic Schools of Montreal (1928-1937) and with the Catholic Committee of the Public School Board (from January 1931 until his death).

From his arrival into each of these institutions, he set an objective that he never ceased to work on until it was attained: that is, to orient the teaching of manual work towards awakening in the students in elementary schools, most of whom were sons of working class parents, the urge to develop their gifts and talents and to prepare themselves for a better future.

In December 1929, he spearheaded a resolution adopted by the Board for mandatory manual training for Grade 5 and 6 students.

February 4, 1931, the first time he attended a meeting of the Catholic Committee, he drew on this resolution to obtain the nomination of a sub-committee charged with the task of studying the teaching of manual skills.

Following a report of this subcommittee (May 1931), Mr. Frigon explained what he hoped to achieve: “to give young boys the taste for manual work and to discover the career direction that suited their special aptitudes.” The Catholic Committee then expressed the wish that the regulations concerning the teaching of this subject matter would be more rigorously observed.

Augustin Frigon was right to return to the fray for the situation in this area was not promising; a report submitted in February 1933 by Mr. C.J. Miller, inspector general of the elementary schools, showed that only nine rural municipalities in all of the province provided manual training.

In May 1938, the Coordination and Examinations Commission, following two studies in which the authorities of the technical schools had participated, recommended “that the government be asked to study the opportunity to establish small technical schools according to the particular needs of each region.” This initiative of Mr. Frigon gave rise, in 1941, to the opening of several schools that introduced manual training in the rural areas.

In this persistent effort to promote and expand specialized teaching, Augustin Frigon never intended to promote technical teaching to the detriment of general studies; rather to the contrary, he insisted that admission to the technical schools only be done after the 8th grade of elementary school (Minutes of the May 1938 session of the Catholic Committee of the Public School Board) Moreover, he clarified his thoughts in a memoir entitled “Teaching and Economic Influence” that he submitted to the Public School Board in May 1942. (*Revue Trimestrielle Canadienne*, June 1942)

“Today we must act with determination so that the generation that follows us will be better equipped than most of us were, for the intense struggle that few of us recognize, that characterizes English-American economic life.

I feel that the problem is much more a question of basic training, of education rather than of specialization. If the training is good, the specialization will follow naturally. In short, it really is about preparing our youth so that our descendants will be happier in the midst of a people that is different from us but with whom we must be prepared to live.”

Among his colleagues of the Pedagogical Commission and the Catholic Committee of the Public School Board were imminent high school teachers and university professors. Mr. Frigon left them the work of providing the students with a dual track programme which included technical studies in the trade of their choice and general academic work, whereas he dealt with the complex and difficult questions that related to the specific technical studies, in which he was an expert.

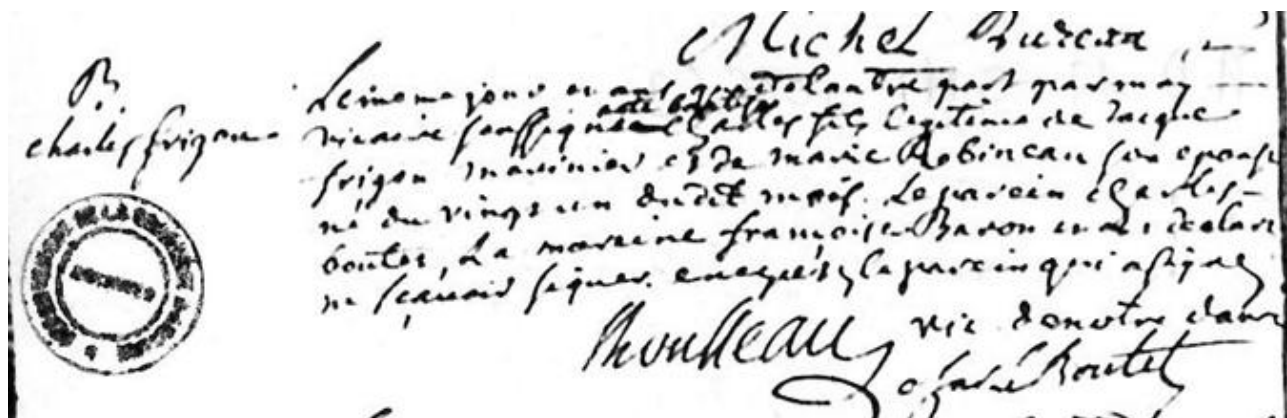
In teaching circles, as in all those others in which he was active, Augustin Frigon exercised a profound influence by his clear ideas about the conditions of our industrial life, his tenacious will and his unfailing dedication. Taking inspiration from a thought of Franc Nohain, you could say that he had “the art of living”, that is to say, that he lived in such a manner that we will remember him for a long time and that we will greatly miss him.

HECTOR PERRIER
HIGH COURT JUDGE

With La Charente-Maritime (17), the number of departments in France in which we have found traces of Frigons increases from 4 to 5.

To the certificates of baptism, marriage, and death already found in Departments 13, 26, 30, and 35 has been added the baptism of Charles Frigon, celebrated in La Rochelle, Notre-Dame parish, in July 1707.

Let us now look at the baptismal certificate bearing the stamp of the Department Archives (AD-Archives Départementales), followed by an incomplete transcript:



AD 17 5MI 1086/3

B.	On the same day and in the same year as indicated by me
charles frigon	the undersigned curate was baptized charles the legitimate son of Jacque
	frigon a bargeman and of marie Robineau his wife
	born the twenty-first of the said month. The godfather Charles
	boutet, the godmother Françoise Baron and they declared being
	unable to sign except for the godfather who signed
	_____ cur. Of notre-dame
	Charles Boutet

The volunteer who did the research at AD17 attached the following note to the copy of the birth certificate: "Frigon Charles Was definitely born in La Rochelle (Notre-Dame) on 24/07/1707 son of Jacques and of Robineau Marie." This note confirms the period corresponding to "The same day and the same year...", the day probably being that of the baptism since, on the certificate, it is written that he was born on the "twenty-first".

On her own initiative, she also looked for the marriage of Charles' parents. She found nothing in La Rochelle, Aunis, or Rochefort, nor in the islands of Ré and Oléron. She made the following comment: "the profession of bargeman reminded me that "gabarres" (ships that navigated on the rivers at that time) brought wines and cognacs to La Rochelle". She accompanied her reflection with the suggestion that we might want to orient our research towards the town and region of Cognac.

SOME FRIGONS IN FRANCE
SUMMARY

This **third** transcription made us discover the marriage of **Jullien Frigon** and Jacquette Huet, on July 24, 1696 in Bais. Department of Ille et Vilaine (35)
Newsletter WINTER 2006

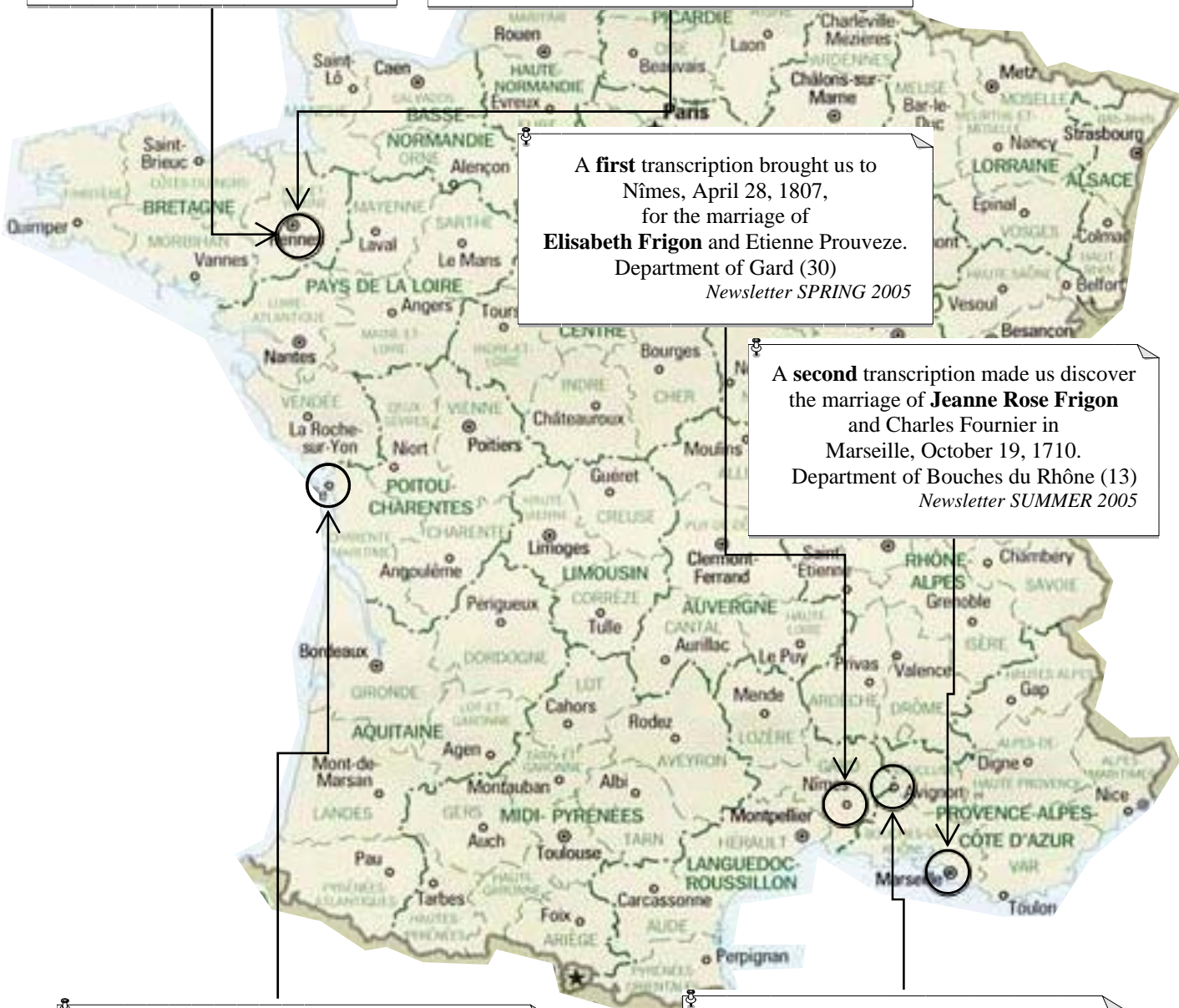
A **fifth** transcription brings us back to Bais in Brittany. On July 1, 1693, was baptized **Julienne Frigon**, daughter of Julien Frigon and Marie Roger. Department of Ille and Vilaine (35)
Newsletter FALL 2006

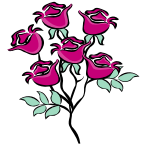
A **first** transcription brought us to Nîmes, April 28, 1807, for the marriage of **Elisabeth Frigon** and Etienne Prouveze. Department of Gard (30)
Newsletter SPRING 2005

A **second** transcription made us discover the marriage of **Jeanne Rose Frigon** and Charles Fournier in Marseille, October 19, 1710. Department of Bouches du Rhône (13)
Newsletter SUMMER 2005

A **sixth** transcription brings us to La Rochelle for the baptism of **Charles Frigon** on July 24, 1707, the son of Jacques and of Marie Robineau. This baptism brings to 5 the number of French departments where Frigons have been found. Department of Charente Maritime (17)
Newsletter Winter 2008

A **fourth** transcription. The death certificate of **Marguerite Frigon**, on October 16, 1615, in Barbantane, added to the marriage certificates of Jeanne Rose and of Elisabeth gives us a trio of Frigon women whose respective events were celebrated in different places of Provence. Department of the Drôme (26)
Newsletter SPRING 2006





 Our descendants

Editor's note: All these descendants are from the line of Louis-Augustin.



Emmanuelle Beaumier,
born October 11, 1997.



Luka Beaumier,
born May 5, 1999.



Nathan Beaumier,
born July 2, 2002.



Mathéo Beaumier,
born August 10, 2007.

Emmanuelle, Luka, Nathan and Mathéo are the children of Martin Beaumier and Geneviève Frigon.



Magaly Frigon,
born on February 23, 2001.

*Magaly and Renaud are the children
of Marc-André Frigon and Caroline Trempe.*



Renaud Frigon,
born on July 15, 2005.

*The Beaumier and Frigon children
are linked to the Frigon family
through their grandfather, René Frigon (75).*

Send us the photos of your grandchildren or your children and savour the pleasure of seeing their refreshing little faces in the newsletter!

Allow the members of the Association to share the joys of your expanding family.

Keep in touch! It will give me great pleasure to provide you with all the details.

Sylvie Frigon



I can be reached

by telephone: (418) 651-3948

or by e-mail: sylvie.frigon@videotron.ca



Philippe-Antoine Cressevich,
born October 27, 2004.

*Philippe-Antoine and Benjamin are the children
of Hubert Cressevich and Natasha Colimon.*

*They are linked to the Frigon family through their
maternal grandmother, Lorraine Frigon.*

Benjamin Cressevich,
born November 23, 2007.

