



THE FRIGONS

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FRIGONE, FREGO, FREGOE,
FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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ANOTHER LOOK AT THE LIFE OF MARIE-CLAUDE CHAMOIS

(2nd of 5) Gérald Frigon (116)



HER YOUTH

In 1656, when Marie-Claude was born, her father, Honoré Chamois already belonged to the gentry. Her family lived in Paris. As the Count of Harcourt's secretary, her father must have spent most of his time in Anjou and therefore was probably rarely at home.

In the resume of the testimony given on June 21, 1688, at the trial against her mother, the names of Marie-Claude's godparents were mentioned. Were they of the nobility? Ruglau is listed as her godfather. That name still exists but without a trace whatever of historical exploits. But it could also be Ruglay (same origin?) which is the name of an old Norman family that produced several warriors and whose most famous branch was the one that emigrated to England in 1066, becoming Rugeley. The godmother mentioned was Dame de Moussy. This name is quite wide-spread. Several French villages bear this name, all of them in the north of the country. However, Marie-Claude's baptismal record leads to confusion. We know that Marie-Claude was baptized the same day as her two older brothers, Henri and Philippe-Michel and that the baptismal record mentions only one godmother: Marthe Pavillon, widow of Nicolas Faret, secretary

of Count Harcourt's intendant. I have come to the conclusion that Madame Pavillon must have been the godmother of the oldest child, Henri. At the trial, where Marie-Claude was the only one concerned, it was Dame Moussy who was the one listed as her godmother. This leads us to believe that she was the real godmother. So, the godparents of Marie-Claude could have been neighbours but they were more probably of the gentry, as were those of her brother. At the baptism of this nobleman's child, there must have been organ music. The organist of Saint-Gervais/Saint-Prottais at that time was none other than François Couperin, who became famous for his organ and harpsichord music. But of course, Marie-Claude was too young to appreciate this...

(Continuation on page 66)

CONTENTS

Another look at the life of Marie-Claude Chamois.....	065
A Word from the President	067
The Utility Poles of Montreal	068
Photos taken August 18, 2012 at Montmorency	069
Letter from Mildred (Millie) D. Frigon	071
Did You Know That	072

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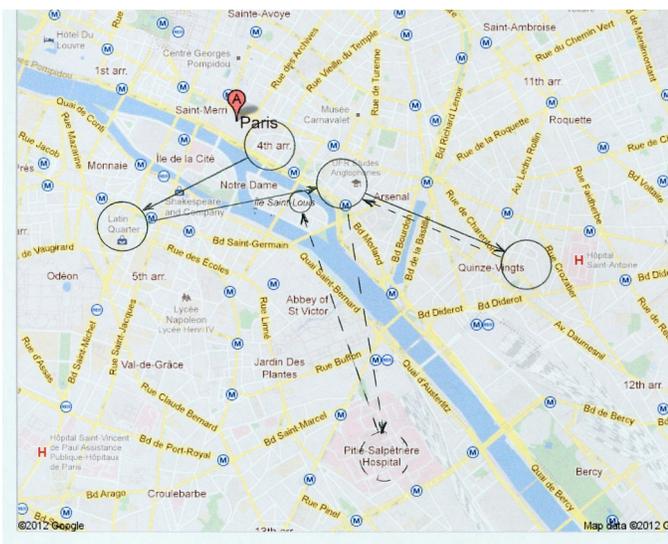
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(Continued from page 65)

Between the death of her father and her flight from home, Marie-Claude lived through three moves. From the parish of Saint-Gervais the family moved to Rue Saint-Étienne-des-Grès, on the left bank, in the 5th Arrondissement (district), not far from the Sorbonne. She lived there from about 6 to 9 years of age.

While they lived in this district, her brother Michel died and the family returned to the 4th Arrondissement, on the right bank, again on the Rue de la Truanderie but further east in Saint-Paul's parish. She perhaps lived there from the age of 9 to 12. The map that follows shows Marie-Claude's moves in Paris.



When her older sister Marie married Pierre Mareuil, the family took contiguous apartments even further east, in the 12th Arrondissement, in the Faubourg Saint-

Antoine. With each move, she lost her friends and her social circle became smaller. It is there that, her mother having left her alone with her 20 year old brother, 7 years her senior, she refused his advances and fled from the house to protect herself. Why did she not seek protection at her sister's apartment next door? Why did she choose to go to see "La Rivault" who lived about one kilometre further in the Saint-Paul district? Who was this woman? Was she a former sympathetic neighbour, a family friend, a friend's mother? Whatever the case, she found in her a good ear, for as reported in the

sentence of June 21, 1688, Marie-Claude "hid there for several days; upon learning the reason" (*of this flight*), "La Rivault" brought her to the vicar of Saint-Paul who had her admitted at the Salpêtrière. She was in tatters, could neither read nor write having never been sent to school. It was recognized from then on that her mother had little interest in her. So, they had to place her, not with the orphans of nobles to learn how to write and to make lace (tattooing), but with the commoners to learn to clean and cook. Marie-Claude must have had a strong character and a lot of determination to resist her brother's advances, to know where to seek refuge and to choose the option of exile. Even today, many mistreated children do not have the courage to denounce their aggressors and simply resign themselves to suffer in silence.

The court notes also mention that she went in "refusing to identify herself or to give her name or that of her mother." She was given the name of Marie-Victoire. Whose idea was it to hide her identity, perhaps so that she would be accepted at the La Pitié Hospital? Was it the choice of this thirteen year old "uneducated one", of "La Rivault", or of the vicar? Who was this Dame Rivault? There was a certain gentleman by the name of David Rivault who was attached to the chamber of Henry IV and preceptor of his son, Louis XIII. Both the brother and the nephew had responsibilities in the circle of the king, one as "Maître des eaux et forêts" (master of waters and forests), the other as farmer at the Chatellerie; the nieces also married well, one to a banker, the other to the Seigneur of Flurance. Dame Rivault could



(Continuation on page 67)



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Louise Frigon (83)

Dear Members,

To begin with, I wish to thank those who attended the Annual General Assembly. It was a splendid day at the Manoir des Chutes in Montmorency: superb weather, impeccable service, an excellent meal, and enthusiastic participants. All the comments we received were positive. The day had called for a lot of preparation, but with such feedback, we, the Board of Directors and I, feel proud of our achievement.

The theme of the reunion was “Our History...a Family”. The theme was appropriate. It was heart-warming for me to see all those people expressing their happiness at meeting again, the hugs, the fraternal spirit that united us. All the elements were right for making this day a real success: your human warmth, the enchanting site and even the weather.

Congratulations to the members elected to the 2012-2013 Board of Directors. Thank you also for the trust that you have shown us. We will continue the work of our predecessors to make our history come alive and to make it known.

The Association is not the concern of only the Board of Directors, so I invite you to send us your

commentaries and suggestions. Know that you are welcome to attend our meetings. We have a fine team.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on May 4th at 9:30 a.m. at 1190, 37th Avenue, Laval.

Louise Frigon

MONTMORENCY
MANOR



THE LADY OF
THE LAKE

THE WATERFALLS
AT MONTMORENCY



ANOTHER LOOK AT THE LIFE OF MARIE-CLAUDE CHAMOIS

(Continued from page 66)

have been a member of this family (of the gentry). Marie-Claude boarded the ship for Rouen and New France “at the foot of the Pont Rouge” (a wooden bridge painted with minium (red lead), today called Pont Royale (joining the Île-Saint-Louis to Saint-Gervais Parish).

It must have been heart-wrenching for her to leave for such a remote land, boarding the ship just in front of the district of her childhood, facing the parishes of Saint-Gervais and Saint-Paul. These were the wharves and the streets that she knew so well for having played and strolled there often. Indeed, what

does a child of 10 or 11 who is not registered in school do when left to herself all day? She plays in the streets and runs about the wharves with her friends. The only childhood friend that Marie-Claude ever mentioned at the trial was that of Babeth Trouson. There is no “Fille du Roy” (king’s ward) by this name. Besides, upon her admission at the Salpêtrière, there is no mention of her being accompanied by another girl. She would then have had no childhood friend in the region of Batiscan. However, might she have befriended a few of her companions at the Salpêtrière or those who made the trip to New France in 1670? This will be the subject of our next article.



To lift the mystery surrounding the underground conduits, the following illustrations and photographs will give us a better idea of this system. “The conduits are cast on the spot, leaving a minimum clearance of 24 inches between the surface of the sidewalk and the top of the conduit. The ducts are 3 ½ inches in diameter on the inside and are at least ¼ inch thick.” (figure 1)

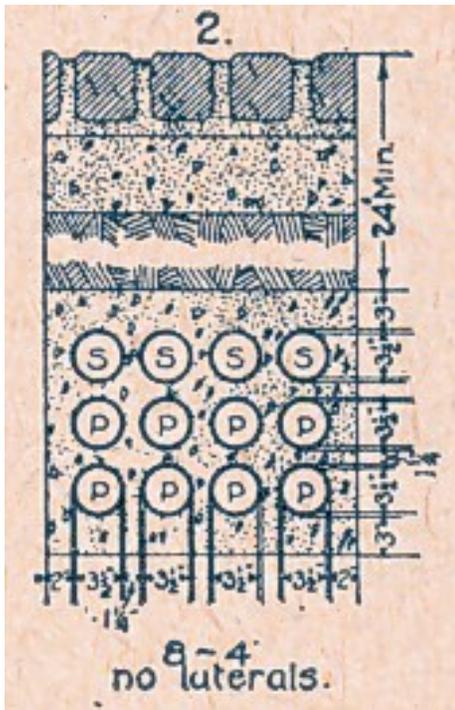


Figure 1

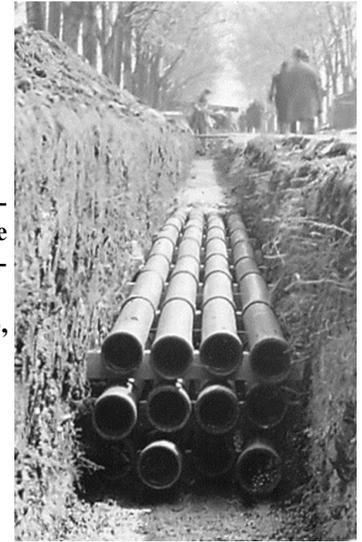
“Dimensions of an underground conduit and its position 24 inches beneath the surface. The exterior measurements of this type of conduit are 24 inches (70cm) by 31 inches (61cm). S = spare. P = power.”Source: Templeman, 1925 Report, p.5, figure 10 (VM98 S2 SS3 D1).

“Cement is poured directly over the ducts on the ground to construct the conduit. Concrete spacers are used to maintain the clearance between the ducts when the cement is poured.” (figure 2)

Figure 2

“Photograph of construction work on Park Avenue south of Mont-Royal Avenue.”

Credit. VM98,SY,D3, P040

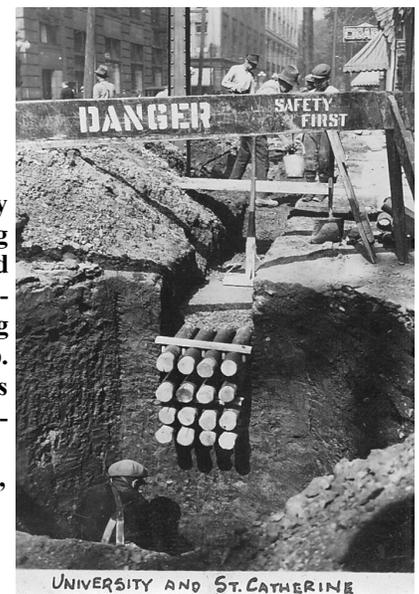


“Here is a typical conduit at the angle of University and Saint Catherine Streets, at the entrance of that which will be the concrete access shaft being constructed on this spot in 1913. We see very clearly the conduit and the ducts it contains. Caps protect the interior of the ducts while awaiting the insertion of electrical transmission and telecommunication cables.” (figure 3)

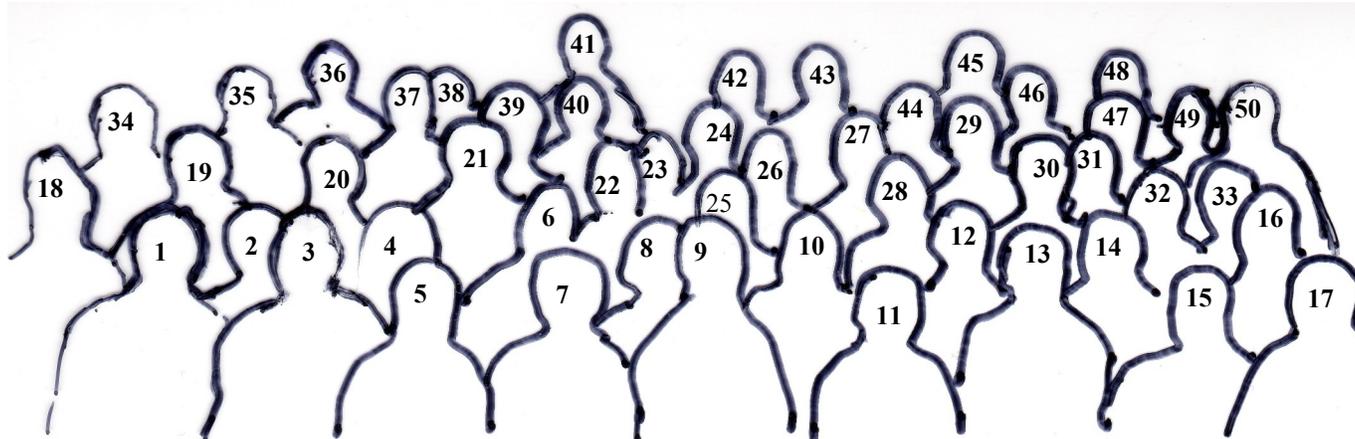
Figure 3

“Here we see clearly the work of digging being done by hand and an employee putting the finishing touches on the job. Mechanical shovels were rare at this period.”

Credit. VM98, SY, D1, P070.



(Continuation on page 70)



1. Francine Lalonde, Gatineau
2. Thérèse Frigon, Saint-Laurent
3. Claude Vaillancourt, Sainte-Anne
4. Odette Frigon, Montréal
5. Louise Frigon, Sainte-Anne
6. Richard Caron, Gatineau
7. Rita Frigon, Laval
8. Lucie Frigon-Caron, Gatineau
9. Réjeanne Frigon, Laval
10. Sylvie Frigon, Cap-Rouge
11. Raymonde Frigon, Saint-Jérôme
12. Denise Melançon, Grand-Mère
13. Bernard Naud, Cap-Rouge
14. Denise Frigon, Trois-Rivières
15. Claire Renaud Frigon, Ottawa
16. Hermine Trudel, Montréal
17. Jacques Frigon, Ottawa
18. Anita Frigon-Guillemette, Montréal

PRESENT FOR THE PHOTO

19. Claude Frigon, Laval
20. Marie-Paule Frigon, La Doré
21. Pierre Frigon, Saint-Hippolyte
22. Fernand Beaulieu, Québec
23. Julie Ross, Forestville
24. Jeannine Vallée Boivin, Anjou
25. Nicole Guilbault, Québec
26. Marie-Jeanne Frigon-Ross, Forestville
27. Denise Hupé, Rimouski
28. Lise Drolet, Laval
29. Roger Frigon, Rimouski
30. Ghislain Frigon, Grand-Mère
31. Marie-Josée Frigon, Trois-Rivières
32. Cécile Brunelle, Trois-Rivières
33. Reine Martin, N-Dame du Mont-Carmel
34. Marcel Guillemette, Montréal
35. Paul-André Bilodeau, La Doré

36. Roger Frigon, Gatineau
 37. Léonce Frigon, Laval
 38. Murielle Dubois-Frigon, Laval
 39. Jeanne-Mance Plourde, Laval
 40. Jean-Guy Boivin, Anjou
 41. Gérald Frigon, Laval
 42. Georgette Frigon (Cormier), Baie-Comeau
 43. Guy Naud, Montréal
 44. Claudette Chevrette Naud, Montréal
 45. Jean-René Frigon, Trois-Rivières
 46. Alexandre Daigle, Trois-Rivières
 47. Aline Frigon, Prouxville
 48. André Perron, Saint-Tite
 49. Diane Frigon, Saint-Tite
 50. Gilles Bergeron, N-D. du Mont-Carmel
- Absent for the photo:** François Frigon, Claudette Frigon-Giesinger, Denise Frigon Pelletier, Gérard Pelletier.

(Continued from page 68)

At the beginning of the 20th century, “there are also ceramic conduits with four ducts. These conduits are seldom used by the Electrical Services Commission of the City of Montreal, the preference being for fiber pipes.” (figure 4)

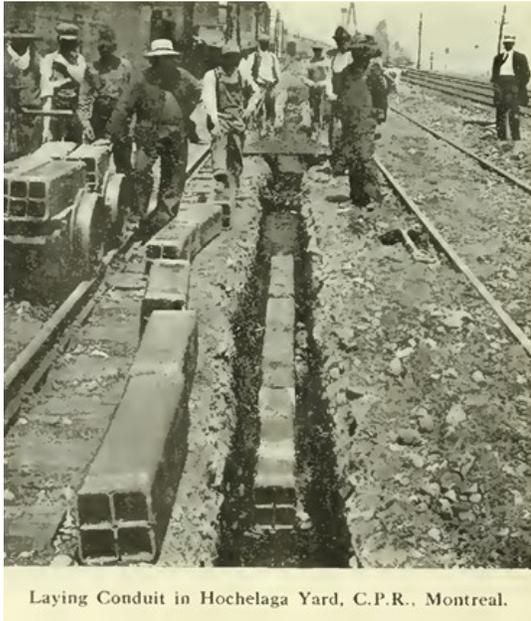


Figure 4

“Ceramic conduits.”

Source: Canadian Electrical News and Engineering Journal, August 1, 1913, p.38
Credit” Canadian Pacific

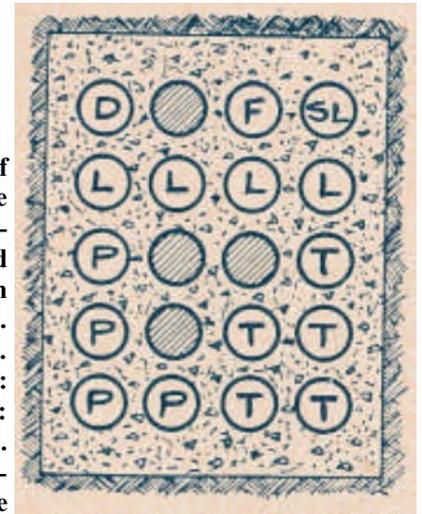
“In the conduits, spaces are reserved according to the type of enterprise that rents the ducts of the public municipal system.” (Figure 4) “There are two categories of electrical transmission ducts (“laterals”). First of all, the distribution ducts starting from the underground access shafts towards lamp posts, fire alarm and police call boxes or other installations or localisations situated within the street limits. There are also the distribution ducts destined for buildings and other installations outside the limits of the street.” Now days, there are no longer any fire or police alarm boxes on the street.” Figure 5 illustrates the arrangement of cables in a conduit, in 1925.

¹VM98 S1 SS1 : December 12, 1932

Figure 5

Example of one type of space assignment. The unidentified ducts designate unoccupied spaces. D: Dominion Electric Protection?. F: Fire Alarm Service. SL: Street Lighting. L: Lateral Ducts. T: Tramway Company?. P: Electrical Distribution Companies. Note that the communication service cables are at the top of the conduit and that those for distribution of electricity and for public transport (tramway) are on the bottom.”

Source: Templeman, 1925 Report, p.4 Figure 5 (VM98 S2 SS3 D1).



Shafts built on the sidewalks of the streets give access to the underground conduits or transformers. (Figures 6 and 7)

Figure 6

“How often while walking have we passed over an access shaft without even realizing it. On the covers we can read the words CONDUITS MONTREAL. Credit. Pierre Frigon



Figure 7

“Access shaft to a transformer chamber.”
Credit. Pierre Frigon



In the next bulletin, Saint Catherine Street, first street to benefit from the underground conduits.

Claudette Chevrette-Naud (126)



A short time ago, François Frigon, our treasurer, had the pleasure of receiving a newsy letter from Mildred (Millie) D. Frigon Burns (189) of Topeka, Kansas, a long-time member of our Association. We have happy memories of Mildred's visit to Quebec with her daughter Bernadine Frigon in 2001; they had come especially to participate in our annual gathering which took place in Saint-Paulin. "Millie" is happy to tell us that she is now 94 years old and that she is paying her current dues...perhaps for the last time, but then, maybe not, for "everyone says I will live to be 100!"

Mildred, whose first husband was the late Wilford Boniface Frigon, has always felt close to the Association of Frigon Families, particularly with Georges E. (93) with whom she has enjoyed a long friendship. When one feels close, it is natural to share not only the good news but the less good as well. In this spirit, Mildred gave us a heart-wrenching resume of that which she calls her "tragedies". "In 2009, I lost my leg in February and (then) my income tax man. As you know, I lost my daughter Bernadine Frigon Lentz, my nephew Ernest Fregon and my car, all in July 2009. My nephew was going to take me to see Bernie in Oklahoma for she was suffering from cancer and was not expected to live. He backed my car out of the garage and ran into the neighbor's house, completely demolishing my top-of-the-line 2007 Lincoln. I think you know that Ernest Fregon and Charlotte are both gone..."

Our valiant Mildred survived all these difficult events, bolstered by her strong faith that "the good Lord only gives you what you can take care of."

Dear Millie, we feel deeply your many losses and admire your strength of character and your courage. May the path leading to your 100th year (and more!) be a gentle one, blessed with serenity, deep peace and much happiness.

Thank you for your strong bond to the Association of Frigon Families.

Claudette Chevrette Naud (126)

A wisp of Millie's history ...

The Topeka Capital Journal
Published Sunday, September 9, 2007

Mildred (Millie) Frigon Burns



Millie Burns will celebrate her 90th birthday at a reception from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, at Aboud's at Western Hills, 8533 SW 21st.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. for family. Friends are invited to the reception. Cards are welcomed. No gifts, please.

DID YOU KNOW THAT... ?

<http://happeningtadoussac.com/>

A Painting Happening in Tadoussac

From Friday, September 7th to Sunday, September 9th, 2012 in the charming village of Tadoussac, one of Quebec's most beautiful towns.



As part of the 6th Edition of the “Painting Happening”, based on the theme “Oh, toits rouges de mon coeur! (Oh, beloved red roofs!), nationally-recognized artists who combine their talent and passion for immortalizing the beauty and richness of different places, painted Tadoussac in an array of bright colours!

The Honorary President of the 2012 Edition of the “Painting Happening” in Tadoussac was Gaétan Frigon, Executive President of Publipage Inc. and a former CEO of the Société des alcools du Québec and of Loto Québec.

This cheerful group of Côte-Nord artists and art-lovers who during one week converged on Tadoussac, took out canvas and paints and set up their easels in different spots in the village, a feast for the eyes and all the senses.

Honorary President of the 2012 Edition

Gaétan Frigon



A businessman with vision and marketing expertise, Gaétan Frigon is Executive President of Publipage Inc. and former CEO of the Société des alcools du Québec and Loto Québec. Gaétan Frigon is one of the five “dragons” of the successful television program “Dans l’œil du dragon” (In the Eye of the Dragon).*

**Gaétan Frigon comes from the line of Louis Augustin, branch of Sylvestre (gef)*