

Jean François Frigon was hired on 28 July 1704 with about another 60 men by Dumontier for the *Compagnie de la Colonie* (in charge of the fur trade at Fort Pontchartrain since mid-1701, when word arrived from France). When the first convoy left, the king had sponsored it. Here is the signature portion of this contract:

[signed] Dumontier
 Joseph moreau **Jf frigon** edmon Roy J Hamelin
 Pierre morissau Louis fafart
 Pier Lebeuf Charles leSieur Jean horne
 Jaques De Pelicier
 Denoyon
 Paul dumouchel Robert Rivard
 Pierre dufort
 Julien Lesieur
 Adhemar notaire

This is a very interesting convoy because it was being sent for three reasons: one, to obtain the *pelletries* the Indians had allegedly refused to send down in the spring; two, to pick up and transport to the mother colony, Madame Cadillac and her children, who had, allegedly, willingly stayed as hostages when some other French women and Cadillac departed; and, three, to interrogate the inhabitants and Indians at Fort Pontchartrain in connection with alleged *malversations* by Antoine Laumet, *dit de Lamothe Cadillac*. He had left the fort after agents of the *Compagnie de la Colonie* arrived to investigate him, but not before throwing them in jail. He himself was then held in “house arrest” in the mother colony while the inquiry was conducted. Since he threatened to go to France to appeal any decision by those he said were not qualified to judge him; and since Pontchartrain had just granted him full control of the fort (letter sent in 1704 but pirated by the English, then resent in 1705); and since France and England were at war, the charges were essentially dropped. See notes below. He returned to Fort Pontchartrain in summer of 1706 with a large convoy of soldiers and the first real settlers of what became Detroit.

Also hired for this 1704 convoy was **Jacques Denoyon**, who married “**Abigail Stebbins** (John & Dorothy Alexander¹) [who] was born 4 January 1684 (N.S.) in Deerfield.² She married Jacques Denoyon 14 February 1704 (N.S.) in Deerfield.³ Abigail, her husband, siblings and two unnamed French Canadians remained in the control of the French raiders on the trip from Deerfield to New France.⁴ Prior to her baptism, Abigail appears in the baptismal records of her children as Gabrielle.⁵ She was baptized Marguerite on 28 May 1708 in Montréal.⁶ Marguerite’s godfather was Philippe de Rigaud de Vaudreuil, Governor General of New France.^{7,8}

When Jacques Denoyon went to Fort Pontchartrain in 1704, it was as a hired man. He received a cash advance on his pay (in a separate document), possibly to support his wife and outfit himself for the journey. Like the others, he was not allowed to trade during this voyage, and he was not yet a soldier in Tonty's company at that time; but Alphonse de Tonty served as commandant from summer of 1704 to January of 1706 in Cadillac's absence, and Denoyon most likely came to know Tonty then and later served under him.

I have imagined the conversations among the men of that July 2004 convoy! They would have wondered what they would find at the fort and why Madame Cadillac and her children had not descended with her husband. Jacques Denoyon must have talked about his experiences for the time he was at Deerfield and the return to the mother colony with the Indians and soldiers that attacked the settlement. How I wish I could time-travel!

Additional notes, not published

Beauharnois’s “calendar” of the *procès* against Antoine Lamothe Cadillac between July of 1704 and May of 1705 was not filmed until the 1960s, having been for some unknown length of time in the possession of Le Duc de Leuchtenberg (*sic*), according to the annotation on the microfilm. It has thus not been cited in any of the standard histories of Detroit. It appears on NAC film C-2925 and summarizes the legal steps taken. The author of the document is François de Beauharnois, the Intendant de justice. Spelling is as found on the document, dated 29 May 1705. The “Jugement deffinitif du proces” was to take place “dans huitaine.”

Beauharnois lists the following dates:

Information par nous faits 28 juillet; 27 aout; 17 octobre 1704

Ordonnance 19 juillet 1704 "aubas dune Requeste contenant la plainte des Srs Directeurs generaux de la Compagnie de la Colonie de ce pays contre le Sr Delamothe Cadillac"

Information faite **au dit fort Pontchartrain du detroit** le premier jusquau cinq septembre 1704 par **Sr de Vincelotte** subdelegue par nous par ordonnance 21 juillet 1704

¹ Jette 1057 and PRDH #210970

² March 18, 2004 e-mail to the author from Suzanne Sommerville stating that the date of Abigail’s marriage in the parish register is cited in both NS (14 February 1704) and OS (3 February 1704, the date that appears in the Deerfield records) Jette, p. 336 & PRDH.

³ Jetté, p. 336

⁴ Haefeli and Sweeney, pp. 132 – 133

⁵ PRDH

⁶ PRDH #210970

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ This passage from Diane Wolford Sheppard’s 2004 article in *MHH*.

Raport au procès verbal 3 septembre 1704

Jugement rendu 17 novembre 1704

Informations converties en Enquestes et jugement signifié au dit Sr Delamothe 8 janvier 1705 par Cognet, huissier [This signifies that it was no longer a criminal case.]

Reproches dudit Sr Delamothe contenant ses pretendue moyens de nullités recusation et evocation signifié aux dits Srs Directeurs par Marendeau, huissier, 19 janvier 1705

Reponse des d. Srs Directeurs aux dits reproches et moyens denullités signifiées au dit Sr Delamothe par Cognet, huissier, 7 mars 1705

Repliques dudit sr Delamothe aux dits Reponses signifiées aux d. Srs Directeurs par Marandeau 16 mars 1705

Request des dits Srs Directeurs aux fins destre le proces Jugé deffinitivement

Requisitoire de Procureur du Roy de nostre Commission 23 mai 1705

Witnesses who provided information or who testified include:

Etienne Radisson Volan [Volant]; Sr Nicolas Daillebout, Escuyer, Sr de Manthet; Élisabeth Couk [**Isabelle Couc de Lafleur de Cognac, later to be known as Madame Montour in the New York and Pennsylvania colonies**]; Chateleraud; Demeules; Jacques Croquelois *dit* Laviolette; les "sauvages" du Détroit et DeonKoet [note the different name. The DBC calls him Michipichy.] Chef huron *dit* Quarante Sols [at Fort Pontchartrain] Their testimony was recused.

Pierre et Michel Lemée [Lemay?]; Louis Julliet; Pierre Rivet; Sr de Tonty, Père Chasle [Constantin Delhalle, the Récollet at Fort Pontchartrain by 1702]; Claude Riviere Lorangé [I believe this is Claude Rivard *dit* L'Orangé]; Jean Baptiste Morisseau; Jean Richard; Pierre Gouvreau. Their testimony was accepted, even though some were employees of the Company of the Colony; and **Pierre Tichenet** (Isabelle's second husband), whose testimony was NOT recused. Pierre Tichenet and Father Delhalle died in the June of 1706 violence that broke out among the Indians in June. The final decision occurred after 29 May 1705.

I originally copied the document years ago from a microfilm, but it is now cited at Library and Archives Canada.

Item part of: Collection de la famille Beauharnois

1705, mai, 29 / Québec

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Document préparé par François de Beauharnois de La Chaussaye relatif à un procès intenté en 1704 par la Compagnie de la Colonie contre Antoine Laumet *dit* Lamothe Cadillac commandant du fort Pontchartrain.

REFERENCE NUMBERS: CALL NUMBER: MG 18 - G 6

REPRODUCTION: Microfilm of original, reel no. C-2925

CONSULTATION/REPRODUCTION: Textual records Original: Volume 2, p. 415-417

SOURCE: RC 58857