



THE FRIGONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES

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LIGHT ON THE PAST - IV

Robert Frigon (#2)

It was on July 3rd, 1671 that our ancestor *François Frigon dit l'Espagnol* was granted a property by the Jesuits in the *seigneurie* in Batiscan, not far from the two rivers, the St. Lawrence and the Batiscan, that he no doubt knows very well from having travelled quite frequently on both by canoe. That day, in the offices of notary Cusson, in the presence of Father Richard, Superior in charge of the Jesuit Missions at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, and witnesses, François takes possession of a small uncultivated property of 160 *arpents* (4x40) on which he is to settle. The deed is in notary Jean Cusson's hand-writing not noted for its legibility. Below is this document transcribed and freely translated from the handwritten original:

"Before Jean Cusson royal notary in the *seigneurie* of the Cap-de-la-Madeleine and undersigned witnesses, was present in person the Reverend Father Richard of the *Compagnie de Jesus*, superior in charge the mission's residences of the Cap and procurator of the said *Compagnie* which wanting to put to use the properties not already allocated located in the said *seigneurie* de Batiscan and seen the power conveyed to him by the Reverend Father François Lemerrier head of all missions in the country to award contract to all who have homes in the said *seigneurie* and the said Reverend Father Richard gives and grants by these presents to François Frigon at this presence and accepting for him and his descendants and having cause a property four *arpents* in frontage on the Batiscan River and forty *arpents* in depth up to the line which separates the seigneurial lands of the said Fathers from those of Sainte Anne's, bounded as follows that is from the west side to Anthoine Roy's concession and is separated from it by a line running north-east to north-west, and from the east-side to the conceded properties and is separated by a line parallel to the former and from the south side by a thirty-foot road which borders the said river, and from the other end from the north-west to the

properties of the said Reverend Fathers end ...from the north-west to the properties of the said Reverend Fathers Seigneurs and is separated by a line parallel to the said road to the above said property being about forty *arpents* in depth as described above for the said Frigon's and inheritors and having cause fully and peacefully and in perpetuity and as a commoner and under the following conditions that is he will pay yearly to the said Reverend Fathers at the Cap on the day and winter feast of Saint Martin eleven November a bushel of French wheat as a loan and a "bail d'héritage" not redeemable and two live chickens or equivalent value in currency and two "deniers de cens" and "rentes" non-redeemable for the said property, "portant le tout lots de rentes saisines" and penalties, when required, will be in accordance with the "ville vicompte et prevote de Paris tenue en ce pays", and further the said Frigon will be obliged to use the flour mill of the said Reverend Fathers, and not elsewhere for all the grain used in his house and if he farms out the property, the farmer will be obliged to do likewise; the above dues are payable at Cap-de-la-Madeleine until the said Reverend Fathers build a seigneurial manor in Batiscan or Saint Eloy when the dues will be paid at the said manor, further said Frigon is obliged to build on the said property and to have "feu et lieu", settle and to work continually on the said property so that the said dues can be paid⇒

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every year, failing which the said Reverend Fathers Seigneurs will be entitled to repossess the abandoned property without further recourse; also the said Frigon will allow the opening of roads as required by the Reverend Father's officials, will be obliged further to fence the property to prevent damage by cattle under penalty to pay for such damage, also said Frigon will be obliged to provide a wide road on the said Batiscan River for use of his neighbours of at least thirty feet wide to use during high waters, to all these things the said Frigon and his descendants are obligated and having cause finally the said Reverend Father Richard gives and concedes to the said Frigon right to hunt on the said property and on the banks of said river jointly gives fishing rights and all on it; the said parties having agreed, promised, obligated and renounced...done and agreed at said Cap in the office of the said notary in the morning this today third of July sixteen seventy and one signed by said Reverend Father Richard and by said Frigon (Witnesses: Maurice Rene and Adrien Mailhot). Signatures: Richard Frigon Cusson Rene.

The location of François' property cannot be determined from reading this confusing document. **Anthoine Roy** lived further west in the Saint-Éloi seigneurie; it was possibly another of his properties. For a while, the village of Batiscan was divided into two seigneuries, which accounts for the mention of **Saint-Éloy** in the property deed. This problem was eventually solved.

The name of his future wife, Marie-Claude Chamois, is not mentioned in the deed. It may then be supposed that he was not yet married as at July 1671. Let us suppose that he was contemplating marriage and, anticipating additional obligations as a husband, decided to acquire the property. **François** was in the process of joining the Batiscan pioneers, **colons** he undoubtedly knew as this small community had to help one another and be ready to deal with difficulties

¹ Church records in Batiscan start in 1679. Certain records of Cap-de-la-Madeleine for this period are known to be missing.

Translation: RAF

Sister Veronica Roy, CSJ - 1939 - 1995, Our Kansas Genealogist

Raymond Frigon (#1)



Sister Veronica Roy, good friend of the Frigons, died suddenly, on November 15 last, in a head-on collision on a highway near Concordia to where she had recently moved. Her sister Linda Roy Cross, informed us of the tragic accident from her home in Reston, Virginia. Age 56 and recently promoted to the leadership team of the *Sisters of St. Joseph* in Concordia, Sister Veronica was among the youngest of the 250 sisters. She was proud of being a Frigon even if from afar! With her usual fine sense of humour, she once maintained that this kinship qualified her for membership in the Association! The scope of her genealogical and historical research is evidenced in two splendid family histories which she authored and published: *Our Saindon Cousins 1718-1990*, and *Ma Famille - Hébert - Frigon - St. Peter Morin - Sénéac 1639-1994*. The chapter on the Frigons contains a page of "publicity" which Sister Veronica had generously offered the Association and brought a half-dozen new members from the Mid-West! A copy of *Ma Famille* will be deposited shortly with the library of the Société généalogique canadienne-française in Montreal. Also, we plan to review it in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter.

Who was Sister Veronica Roy? She was born Ila Mae Jean Roy on December 28, 1939, to John Roy and Olive Morin on a farm near Damar, a village in Kansas which, in memory of its past, calls itself: "*The French Canadian Settlement*"! Olive Morin was descended from Léon Hébert (1841-1926) born in St-Laurent near Montreal and Louise Morin (1845-1933) born in Louiseville near Trois-Rivières, married in 1869 in Beaverville, Illinois. Though our acquaintance with Sister Veronica was very recent, it was evident to us that she was an unusual woman. We fully understood Sister Virginia Pearl's eulogy *Who is this valiant woman, this woman of prayer, this Martha and Mary, intertwined in balance? Who is this woman, this blend of quiet presence with informed action...?* Sister Veronica was not alone in the devout Roy family to have answered God's call. A brother, Father Duane Gary Roy, of the Order of Saint Benedict, has lived in Brazil since 1971. Father Duan celebrated mass at his sister's funeral service in the Convent Chapel in Concordia,

Marie-Claude Chamois, wife of François Frigon, heiress to Honoré Chamois - II

Pierre Frigon (#4)

A New Life in Nouvelle-France

Marie-Claude arrives in Quebec in a contingent of Filles du Roi. Anne Gasnier, widow of Jean Bourdon, highly respected for her honesty and generosity, is responsible for the recruits. Between 1663 and 1773 she was responsible for 304 Filles du Roi marriage contracts of the 540 listed by Sylvio Dumas. In the same period, Talon took on only 66. Anne Gasnier is the central figure in the management of operation "filles du roi". It is she who greets the 134 recruits of the year 1670.

These recruits, as were those who came before, are highly supervised by members of the clergy who watch over their conduct and virtue. In fact, in New France the religious authorities exercise very strict control over the recruits. For example those who arrive pregnant are returned to France. Girls who at departure are considered not meeting required morality standards are put aboard, often by force, as workers, for the Antilles rather than New France. In New France, girls are wanted for founding families and not as ordinary labourers. That is why so much care is put into selecting recruits.

Thus it is that in the summer of 1670, Marie-Claude is in New France. She first signed a marriage contract under notary Ameau with Pierre Forcier, a Breton. She had the contract cancelled to sign one with François Frigon dit l'Espagnol. This was not unusual. In fact: *"The measures adopted by the authorities to hasten the process of marrying bachelors in New France may have had their good side, but were not always favorable to those who had to conform, which could force prospective partners to make hasty decisions. Thus, it is not surprising that from 1663 to 1673, seventy-nine "filles du roi" signed two contracts of which one was cancelled, that six had signed three with two cancelled and that twenty-two contracts had no follow-up (...)"*¹

In 1671, François is granted a property bounded by the Batiscan River at one end and at the other possibly the St. Lawrence River.

Fifteen years go by. The couple's eldest son, Jean-François, is about 11 years old. There is also Marie-Madeleine, about 9 years, Marie-Louise, about 7 years, Marie-Françoise, 4 years (born March 30, 1681) Marie-Jeanne, 2 years (born August 15, 1683) and Antoine, a few months (born July 28, 1685).

Having learned that they are heirs to the fortune of Honoré Chamois, Marie-Claude and François take a decision that will set the course of their lives forever. On November 2, 1685, François signs a proxy before notary Genable de Bellefonds allowing Marie-Claude to travel to France to claim the inheritance.

She boards one of the last ships to leave Quebec before winter sets in. No doubt she expected to be back by spring 1686. A small sacrifice that would be quickly forgotten after her return home. It is easy to understand that there was no question of the family going over together. Imagine their landing at night, all eight of them, without lodgings and money. Unthinkable! Without taking into account the rigours of the voyage the children would have to endure. On the other hand, would Jean Talon have let them leave when he was pressing Colbert and the King for *colons* to people the country. Talon was undoubtedly happy at the prospects of Marie-Claude returning with a fortune to invest in New France. It is thus with the blessing of her husband and the authorities that Marie-Claude left for the mother country. What was to have been a simple formality turned rapidly into long saga of proceedings in the courts.

- ¹ Cahier d'histoire #24, *Les filles du roi en Nouvelle-France*, Étude Historique avec répertoire bibliographique, Sylvio Dumas, Société historique du Québec, Québec, 1972, pages 37-38

- Next issue: III - Return to France and trials
- Translation: RAF

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: NEWS ON FAMILY REUNION IN AUGUST

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The committee planning the family gathering in August is hard at work. Our next issue will give full details of this event. Meanwhile, please be sure to mark your calendar to remind you of this important event!

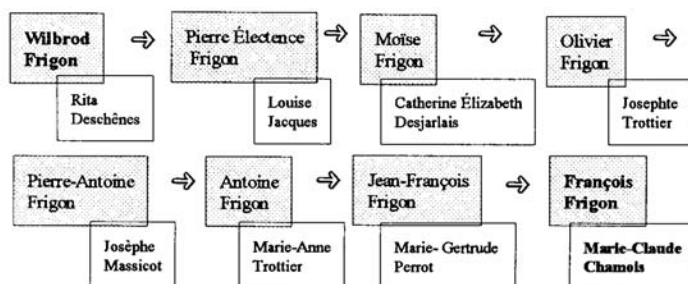
In the next issue we will also tell you of our publishing plans, and will take the occasion to survey your preferred topics. The questionnaire will cover a number of topics related to genealogy, history, anecdotes, family news... Your answers will serve as a guide in selecting the newsletter's content and planning our publications program.

Of course, we still need all sorts of stories, current news, family events and accomplishments, to titillate the interest of our readers. You are cordially invited to send us your contributions to *la petite histoire* - to the little *history sidelites* of the adventurous family that we are!

Raymond Frigon

FAMILY NEWS

■ **Died, Wilbrod Frigon, father of Pierre Frigon (#4),** our Secretary, on February 15 in Hôpital Jean-Talon in Montreal, at age 90 and 8 months. **Wilbrod Frigon** was born June 8, 1905 at Saint-Narcisse and leaves Rita Deschênes, his wife, and Pierre, Jacques and Hélène, his children, and François, Benoît, David, and Gabrielle his grand'children. His parents were Pierre Frigon and Louise Jacques, a Franco-American. Here is his link to our ancestor:



■ **Anniversary:** Rita Frigon will be celebrating this coming April 15th, the 60th anniversary of her marriage to Rosaire Fraser. Rita, daughter of **Joseph-Xavier Frigon** and Marie-Anne Cloutier, was born October 18, 1908 in St-Prospier, Champlain County, and married April 15, 1936 to Rosaire Fraser, born August 8, 1904, also in St-Prospier. They currently live in Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade. They had six children. We owe this information to Lucie Frigon Caron (#56) of Hull.

Association des familles Frigon inc.

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Bulletin LES FRIGON

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Le membership se
chiffrait à 95 au
15 février 1996