



THE FRIGONS

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

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MARIE-CLAUDE CHAMOIS RETURNED !

Pierre Frigon (4)

Marie-Claude Chamois was in New-France in 1704 and 1705. A document and a signature attest to this fact.

On the afternoon of October 15, 1705, Marie-Claude Chamois was "present" before the Notary Florent de Lacetière¹. She borrowed the sum of one thousand *livres* in "French money" from Nicolas Gillet, master wig-maker of Quebec, to buy provisions for her trip to France which she hoped would begin sometime soon. For the convenience of the reader, the following is a free translation of the "obligation" drawn up on that occasion. But first, here is a sample of Marie-Claude's signature, the only one we have:

Marie-Claude Chamois

It is important to note that she could not sign her name, or that she pretended not to be able to do so when she arrived in New-France in 1670. In fact, her previous marriage contract with Pierre Fortier, drawn up by Notary Ameau, was signed with an "X".



Fourteen-year-old Marie-Claude Chamois, a "fille du roi" (King's Ward), left France in 1670 for the New World.

As portrayed
Maude Richer-Lanciault
Canada: A People's History

The sum owed to Nicholas Gillet was to be "...paid to the said creditor or payable to him" by the next Saint John the Baptist Day...". That is, it had to be reimbursed by June 24, 1706 either in person or by means of a draft payable to Nicolas Gillet. We have not been able to find a quittance in Notary Lacetière's files. However, the "act of donation"³ that François signed on March 18, 1710 mentions the names of his creditors and the amounts he owes them. The debt to Nicolas Gillet is not mentioned. It should be, since at that time a husband was responsible for the debts of his wife. Therefore, it would seem that the debt was reimbursed before March 18, 1710.

We note that Marie-Claude Chamois "mortgages all her possessions in general, present and future". This was the standard formula for loan contracts at the time. For

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The sum of one thousand pounds was in "French money". We know that the French pound was worth 133.3% of the colonial currency. That rate prevailed until 1720². Therefore, Gillet was making a considerable loan.

1- A notary who practiced in Quebec from 1702 to 1728.

2 -Louise Dechêne, *Habitants et marchands de Montréal au XVIIe siècle, essai*, Boréal compagne, 1988, p.131

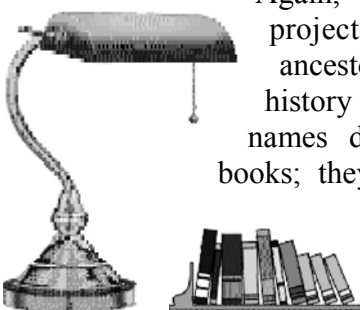
3 -By this document, François Frigon, who had been declared disabled, gave all his possessions and debts to his son Jean-François Frigon who assumed the responsibility of caring for him until his death.

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Gérald Frigon (116)

This issue of the newsletter deals with Marie-Claude's return to Batiscan, pursues the "Light on the Past" series and explains the "Frigon-Chamois Park" project.



Again, the newsletter and the project for a park on our ancestors' land wants to make history speak to us. Our ancestor's names do not appear in history books; they are forgotten explorers of Canada. We owe them respect and a special place in our collective

memory.

We also find in this issue a touching account of a funeral gathering, and a press review about a few Frigons, their occupations and hobbies. It is good to know and to keep alive the memory of who we are and of what we do. By believing that we are a family without a history, we risk losing it. The past lies dormant in our kitchens; we must revive it (by means of articles or notes in our newsletter), restore its lights and colours, like bright butterflies on the concrete of our cities.

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Announcement
New address

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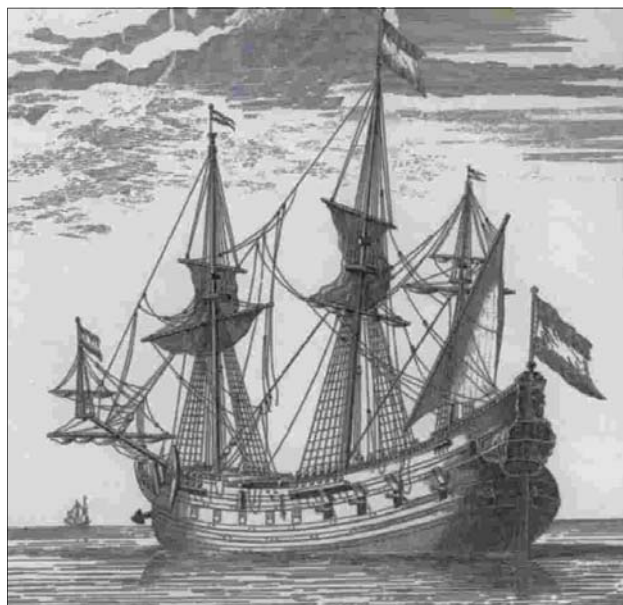
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lack of payment, the court gave a "limitation of payment" of thirty years. Should there be a default in payment, the court set a "limitation of thirty years"⁴. Hence, the creditor had a period of thirty years to recover his due. He could even be paid directly from the borrower's legacy.

Therefore, it would seem that Marie-Claude Chamois returned to France on one of the last ships to leave Quebec in the fall of 1705. This "return to France" shows that the question of her inheritance had not yet been settled despite the verdict of 1693 that definitively established her identity.

Marie-Claude Chamois returned to New France between 1693 and 1704. We are certain that she was there in 1704 since François Frigon visited Notary Lacetière "on the nineteenth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and four" to sign a procuration⁵ in favour of his wife permitting her to **return** to France. She must have been here at least since the summer of 1703. Probably even before then.

François Frigon's procuration of August 1704 shows that he supported his wife's struggle (for her inheritance) right to the end. Without a doubt, she needed that procuration to settle the inheritance business in France since the notary "gave it to her



immediately to use for her other particular needs..."

Thanks to the contract drawn up on March 18, 1710 by which François Frigon "gave himself" to his son Jean-François, we know that the

children renounced their right to their mother's inheritance: "By means of which the aforementioned children have declared that they renounce their rights to the dowry of their mother Marie-Claude Chamois..."⁶. This renunciation confirms the refusal to accept an uncertain inheritance, perhaps even one riddled with debts. Does this renunciation signify that they had already been informed of the death of their mother? In any case, it proves that, in 1710, the question still had not been settled with Jacqueline Girard.

Obligation Marie-Claude Chamois spouse of Frs Frigon to Nicolas Gillet	Before the undersigned notary of the town of Quebec, in the presence of the witnesses named below, was present Marie-Claude Chamois, spouse and procurator of François Frigon, resident of Batiscan, bearing a procuration passed before the undersigned notary on the 19 th day of August 1704 that she presented to us and that we returned to her immediately for her other personal affairs. Marie-Claude Chamois acknowledged of her own free will and accord owing Nicolas Gillet, master wig-maker of this town, the sum of one thousand French pounds, a loan that she accepts as correct and legitimate and that had been granted her to finance her expenses on a forthcoming trip to France that she hopes to undertake shortly. In accordance with the procuration, she assumes the responsibility of reimbursing the said sum by next St. John the Baptist Day. Should she default, she will pay the costs, damages and interest. She hereby commits herself to mortgaging all her present and future possessions (until the reimbursement of the debt).
and Jean Coustard surgeon Coustard (and initials)	Signed and passed at the notary's office in Quebec, on the afternoon of October 15, 1705, in the presence of the witnesses Sieur Cheze, practitioner, and Jean Coustard, surgeon, of Quebec, and of the debtor Marie-Claude Chamois.

4 -Louise Dechêne, Op.cit., p.19

5 -This document cannot be found in Notary Lactière's files.

6 -Files of Notary François Trotain, 18 March 1710, registered in Trois-Rivières on May 5, 1710, Pottier, registrar.

It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity, through this newsletter, to give you the details about our first steps towards acquiring a piece of the land of François Frigon and Marie-Claude Chamois, the first Frigon couple in New France. They had acquired this property around 1671. Bounded on one side by the Batiscan River, and on the other by the majestic St-Lawrence River, this parcel of land is situated on the Chemin du Roy (route 138), and bears the lot registry number 97-3.

It was during the Grand Gathering of the Frigons in Batiscan in 1996 that I began to dream of returning to the family this piece of land that was the cradle of all the Frigons of America. Indeed, we must become aware that this lot 97-3 was the first ever to belong to Frigons on this continent!

This fact is all the more important because, in spite of the research undertaken by Raymond Frigon (1), Robert Frigon (2), Gaetan Frigon (107), Françoise Lewis (124) and many others, we have not yet found a single document, either ancient or modern in the archives of the Old Country mentioning either a group or even a single family of Frigons, clearly identified as such.. In my opinion, obtaining this first Frigon establishment in America is urgent and should be a priority, so that future generations will know the site where their Frigon and Chamois ancestors settled.

Encouraged by Raymond (1), I undertook the first steps accompanied by Louise Frigon (83) and Jean-René Frigon (11). We met the current owner of the property, Mr. Hannes Tschanz. When we informed him that we were interested in acquiring a piece of the ancestral land of the Frigons of America, he willingly agreed to collaborate with us and sell us a parcel of the sought-

after land.

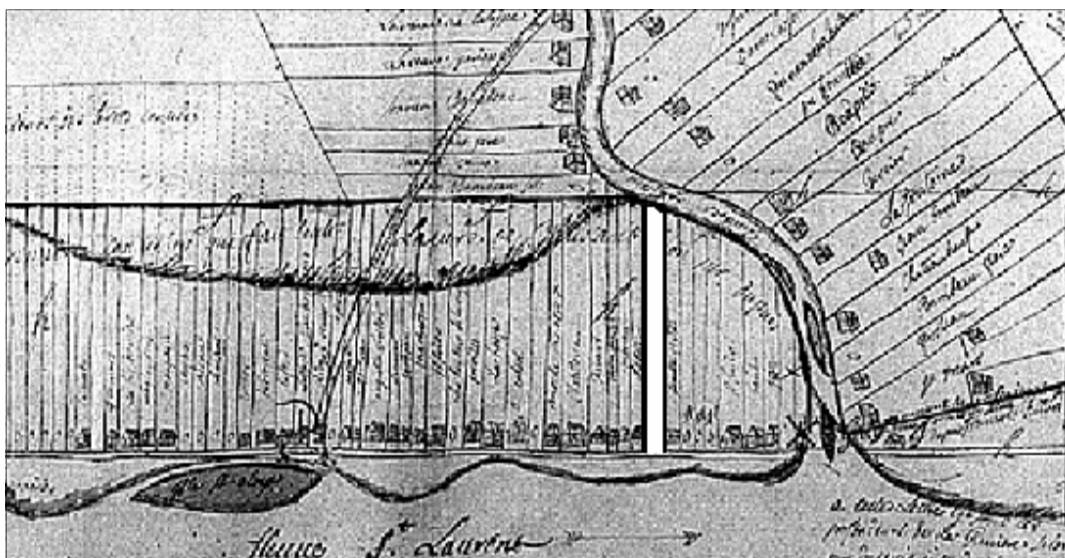
Since that first contact with Mr. Tschanz I have communicated with the municipality in question and with various provincial and federal government authorities with the intention of getting their support for our project.

At the last annual meeting on August 24th in Brigham, I informed the members of the steps I have already taken, as well as my concern that the land in question might no longer be available. But thanks to a telephone conversation I had with Mr. Tschanz in Batiscan on September 18th, I have the pleasure of telling you that he confirmed that the land is still available for the Frigons! On that occasion, I even obtained the permission to erect a sign along route 138, to facilitate the identification and access to the ancestral land. This permission was granted without any monetary expenditure.

Lately, the federal government confirmed a certain openness towards the financing of a feasibility study and the establishment of a Frigon Museum on the ancestor's land. But before reaching that stage, we must develop a plan for an organisation, choose our priorities, develop a research plan, and establish an organisation permitting us to realize our project financially as well as conceptually.

The Frigon-Chamois Park Project calls out to all of you. It would please me if five or six of you would join the present collaborators Gérald Frigon (116), Claudette Dupont (197) and Cyrille Frigon (180), to form a team or a work group to study the question. " We

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**This map shows the Seigneurie of Batiscan in 1709.
François Frigon's concession was the ninth on the left of the Batiscan River.**

THE FRIGON-CHAMOIS PARK, An Appeal to All

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must strike while the iron is hot! " There will probably never be another chance to restore part of the ancestral land to the family.

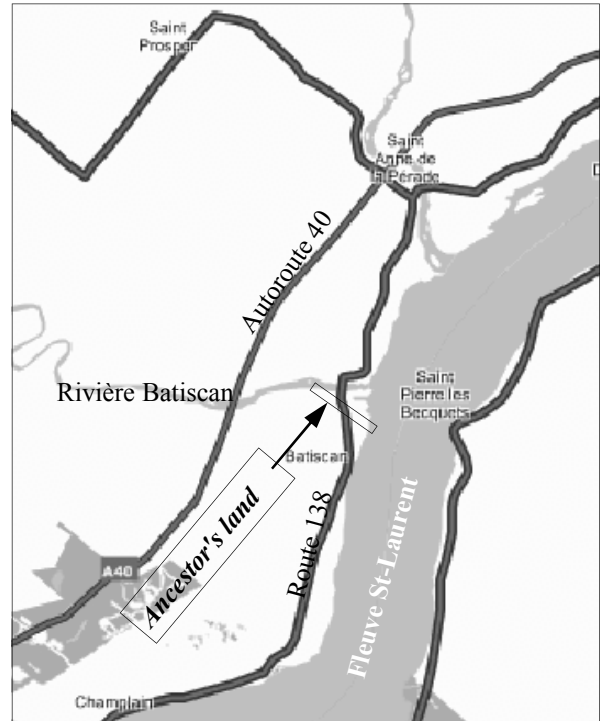
We would like to organize a first get together in the spring of 2003, and we count on your collaboration. So, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can give you all the details.

If you cannot attend the meetings on this subject, please give us your ideas and suggestions about how to pay for the installation of a commemorative plaque, and then for the purchase of the piece of land from Mr. Tschanz.

I will personally answer all questions concerning the Frigon-Chamois Park project, and keep you informed of developments! But please, give us a sign of life, if only to encourage us or to give your opinion! I can correspond with you either in French or in English.

Thank you in advance for your collaboration!

Ivanhoë Frigon III



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PRESS REVIEWS

Georges E. Frigon (93)

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

A young woman from Trois-Rivières, Mélanie Frigon, a member of the Air Cadets, was among sixty-odd participants from Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia who received the Gold Merit Award of the The Duke of Edinburgh's *A Challenge for Canadian Youth Award* during a prestigious ceremony at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, in the presence of His Highness the Count of Wessex, Prince Edward himself. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a program of individual recognition conceived to help young people to develop a sense of responsibility toward themselves and toward the community. This program has existed in Canada since 1963 and more than 300,000 youths have risen to the challenge.

On the photo, Melanie in company of Prince Edward and her mother, Louise Provencher.



Le Nouvelliste, October 16, 2002



cyberpresse.ca, August 28, 2002

Pretty fast on his skates, Alexandre Frigon, succeeded in obtaining a regular role in the new American television series *American Dreams*. All he has to do now is fill out a few formalities...so that he can work in the United States!



Maryse Frigon, (Camera Assistant) reloads in Daylight stock for our pick-up shots...

A member of the filming crew of the movie SAMHAIN.

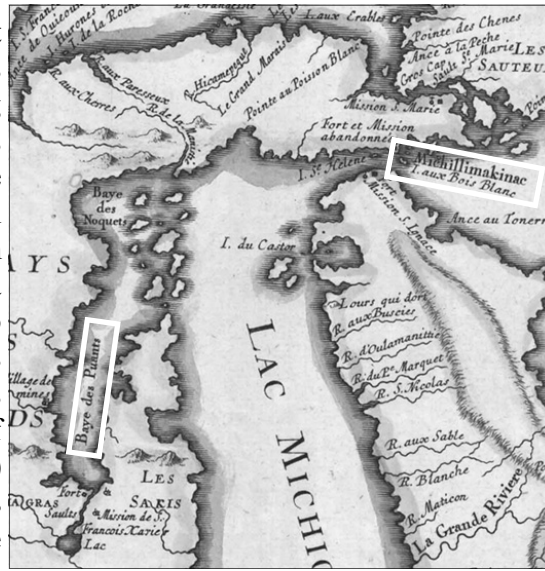
Louis Durand and Joseph Moreau (Cont'd)

Robert Frigon (2)

In our previous chronicle, we left Joseph Moreau (and his companion Louis Durand) during midsummer of 1696 at the gates of Fort Frontenac or de Buade (Mikillimakinac). Their situation was precarious having been stripped of their belongings by a despotic Cadillac and they had to ask for help from their colleagues to survive. We are pleased at this time to describe the shady side of Cadillac's (1658-1730) personality. He signed his marriage contract "**Antoine de Lamothe, sieur de Cadillac**". A little slip of the pen which portrayed him as a nobleman. He was born Antoine Laumet. He therefore started his career in New France under an assumed name. He already was in the habit of swindling.

Besides having confiscated all the merchandise, Cadillac had also opened the usually padlocked trunk of the two traders which contained their personal effects and precious documents. Amongst these personal belongings were two credit notes valued at 3,100 pounds which he transferred to his own name in order to profit from them. A credit note was issued by a merchant and authorized the bearer to withdraw money or obtain merchandise while guaranteeing repayment. This scamp, full of his power over the militia, seized the arsenal of the two traders, rifles and twenty pounds of lead, gunpowder and musket-balls, all their liquor as well as an undetermined quantity of bartering materials. According to the gossip of the time, these malevolent operations practiced by Cadillac were discussed by the traders among themselves and eventually reached the ears of the intendant who was responsible for justice, police and finances. But this rogue had a powerful protector, the **Count of Frontenac**, who was a little roguish himself.

As well as being dishonest, Cadillac was also crafty. A reconciliation could be foreseen as he was in need of the knowledge and experience of Louis Durand who had become his associate. Liberated from jail, Durand and his companion in misfortune **Joseph Moreau**, succeeded in equipping a few canoes with supplies



and merchandise and proceeded in the direction of Baie des Puants in Wisconsin (**Green Bay**), probably not reaching their destination until fall. As was the practice, a few Indians had to accompany the traders in their expedition. The Hurons had a solid reputation as guides and oarsmen, and **Louis Durand** who was the son of a Huron woman and grandson of a chief of the same tribe, must have been accompanied by a few companions whose language he spoke.

These expeditions had obvious goals: for the traders, to make money quickly if they were lucky; for the merchant, to generate exorbitant profits if he had enough influence to obtain "congés" or trading permits.

But was it not rather the taste for adventure which incited the trapper to go into exile for months, leaving the responsibility of feeding his family to others? In retrospect, that practice was not different from that which took place two centuries later when heads of families, along with their sons, spent the winter in lumber camps and returned in the spring. They "**went to the lumber camps**"! Regionally, economics won over social factors in determining the fate of the family.

Upon their return to New France in the spring of 1697, **Louis Durand** and **Joseph Moreau** discussed their misadventure with the intendant **Bochart de Champigny** who undoubtedly advised them to sue **Lamothe Cadillac**, something nobody had ever dared to do to this powerful individual. But the punishment did not measure up to the iniquity.

Summoned to the office of Intendant Champigny on September 14, 1697 to face the accusations of the two traders who were claiming two hundred pounds in salary, reimbursement of their credit notes, plus payment of the confiscated merchandise, **Lamothe Cadillac** and his wife **Marie-Thérèse Guyon** denied

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everything. Amongst other endless procedures, the advice of an independent observer was sought in order to study the case in depth. As his judgement favoured the two traders, the **Count of Frontenac** had him jailed. Wearing by these many proceedings which led nowhere, Louis Durand, on January 23, 1698, withdrew his complaints and settled for two hundred and fifty pounds, while Joseph Moreau accepted the one thousand six hundred pounds begrudgingly offered by Lamothe Cadillac. Joseph Moreau had threatened to take his case to France to plead his case before de Pontchartrain, Minister of the Navy and the Colonies. On October 1, 1698, two years later, Françoise Frigon's husband obtained some degree of satisfaction.

Quoting **Abbé H.A.Verreau**, an independent writer,

this fitting conclusion: "Regardless whether Lamothe Cadillac was motivated by unscrupulous political calculations, by the fickleness of his personality or by the motives of jealousy of which he was accused, the act was arbitrary; he deserved to be convicted and so he was, but the price for the poor victims was to have to endure long proceedings and for the governor of Michillimakinac, a certain display of shrewdness. (Bulletin des Recherches Historiques, Vol. 8, décembre 1902, No.12)

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- 1.-L'Histoire canadienne à travers les documents, 1534-1713. Guérin.
- 2.-Bulletins des recherches historiques et autres sources.
- 3.-French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan.



Farewell, Thérèse...

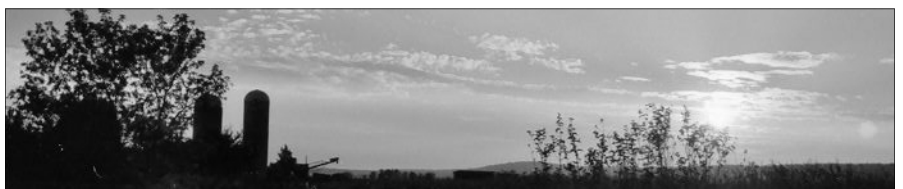
Odette Frigon (52)

How can we explain the need to return to our roots after so many long years of separation. On August 22, Thérèse Massicotte died at the age of 89, in Shawinigan where she had lived the greater part of her life. She was buried, according to her last wishes, in the cemetery of Saint-Prosper along side her father and mother. Relatives and friends gathered together; some meeting for the first time.

Some visitors were surprised to find in Saint-Prosper a well-landscaped cemetery with beautiful trees, a stream at the bottom of a gentle slope and birds singing.

Léontine's son and daughters, along with Léopold's daughter, Adrienne, Eudore's daughter, Alice, Annette's daughter Rachel and children, Jean-Pierre and Hélène Lusignan, accompanied Thérèse Massicotte to her last resting place. After , they gathered with other relatives and friends in the parish hall for lunch.

So often today, these are the circumstances in which we fraternize. Fortunately, each year we have our Association's annual meeting, where the extended family is always happy to meet.



GENEALOGICAL SKETCH

(Thérèse Massicotte)

François Frigon and Marie-Claude Chamois
 |
 Jean-François Frigon and Gertrude Perrot
 |
 Antoine Pierre Frigon and M.-Anne Trottier
 |
 Louis Augustin Frigon and Marie Lefebvre
 |
 Abraham Frigon and Joseph L. Dontigny
 |
 Abraham S. Frigon and Rose de Lima Cinq-Mars
 |
 François-Xavier Frigon and Zéphise Leduc
 |
 Annette Frigon and Josaphat H. Massicotte
 |
 Thérèse Massicotte

Australia (3)

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 John J. Fregon, Cannington, WA
 John Riddell, Nicholson, VIC

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 Denise Frigon, Sainte-Marthe-du-Cap, QC
 Denise Frigon, Sainte-Foy, QC
 Diane Frigon, Saint-Tite, QC
 Dominique Frigon, Saint-Prosper, QC
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Julie Frigon (Croteau), Sainte-Barbe, QC
 Gisèle Frigon (Forget), Rockland, ON
 Gabrielle Frigon (Gagnon), Saint-Eustache, QC
 Claudette Frigon (Giesinger), Longueuil, QC
 Anita Frigon (Guillemette), Montréal-Nord, QC
 Brigitte Frigon (Martineau), Amos, QC
 Sylvie Frigon (Naud), Cap-Rouge, QC
 Lucie Frigon (Ratté), Longueuil, QC
 Marie-J. Frigon (Ross), Forestville, QC
 Jeannine Frigon (Skulski), Saint-Aimé, QC
 Gisèle Frigon Adams, Sa Tuque, QC
 Louise Frigon cnd, Montréal, QC
 Irène Frigon Drandakis, Angliers, QC
 Rita Frigon Lacasse, Montréal-Nord, QC
 Thérèse Frigon s. p. , Montréal, QC
 Isabelle Frigon(Gravel), Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, QC
 Françoise Lewis, Montréal, QC
 Lise Mailloux Léonard, St-Sauveur-des-Monts, QC
 Rachel Massicotte-Lusignan, Plessisville, QC
 Brenda McLachlan, Sherwood PK, AB
 Hélène Morin, Montréal, QC
 John J. Pepper, Montréal, QC
 Kathleen Pepper Klein, Westmount, QC
 Josée Quenneville, Sutton, QC
 Sylvie Tranchemontagne, Montréal, QC
 Jeannine Vallée Boivin, Anjou, QC

United States of America (29),

Les Arseneau, Fountain Valley, CA
 Claire Baribeau-Graham, Waterbury, CT
 Ruth Baribeau-Hamilton, Stratford, CT
 Elaine-Claire Bessette (Smith), Bloomfield, CT
 Arthur R. Chevette, Plantsville, CT
 Doris Chevette, Southington, CT
 Eric Cockayne, Gaithersburg, MD
 Cynthia L. Fregoe, Massena, NY
 Donald C. Frigon, Glenrock, WY
 Edmond L. Frigon, Arvada, CO
 Gilles Frigon, Lahaina, HI
 Kathleen Frigon Caruso Frigon, Enfield, CT
 Marc Frigon, Wolcott, CT
 Merlyn D. Frigon, Colorado Spring, CO
 Norma Frigon, Enfield, CT
 Phil Frigon, Clay Center, KS
 Steven C. Frigon, Clovis, CA
 Teresa L. Frigon, WG Division FPO, AP
 Mildred G. Frigon Burns, Topeka, KS
 Martha Frigon Pascual, La Palma, CA
 Monique Frigon-Blanchette, Dracut, MA
 Marie-Claire Frigon-Doucet, Inverness, FL
 Elaine A. Frigone, Allyn, WA
 Bernadine Frigon-Lentz, Overland Park, KS
 Robert A. Harvey, Saint-Johnsville, NY
 Raymond F. Maynard, New London, CT
 Dave Pepper, Heber, AZ
 Pauline Pepper Hook, Shiner, TX
 Wanda P. Snyder, Allentown, PA



To forget one's ancestors is to become a brook without a source, a tree without roots.

Chinese proverb.

