



THE FRIGONS

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

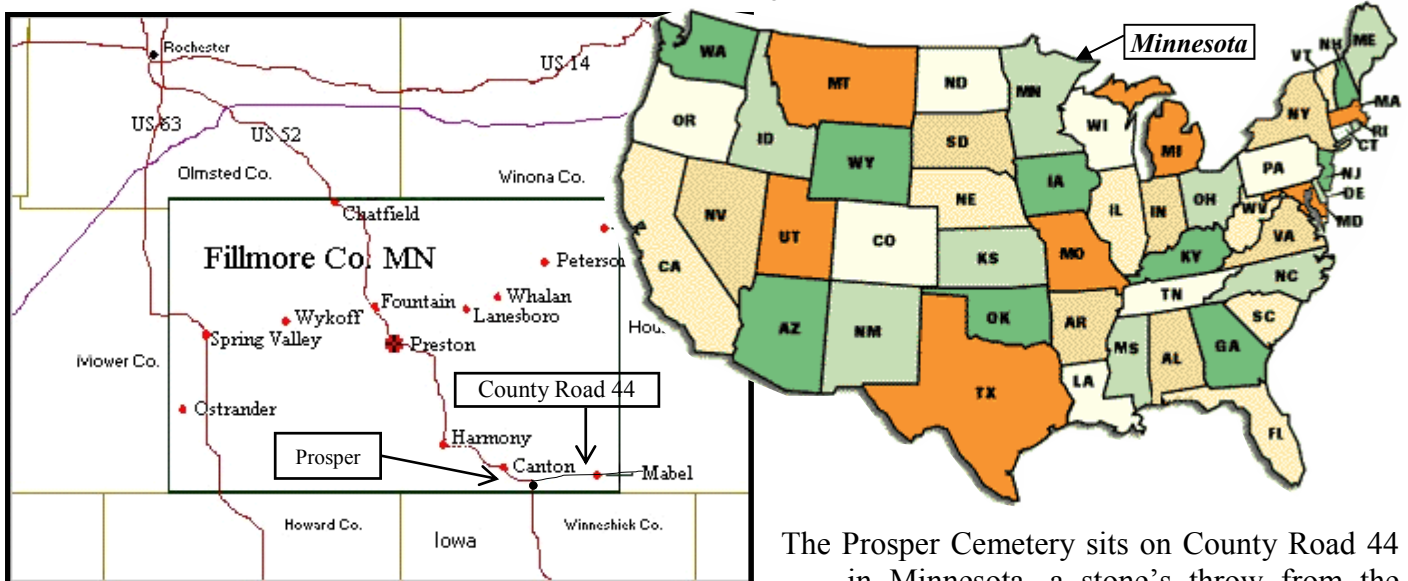
French Quarterly Newsletter: ISSN 1703-4167
Bilingual Quarterly Newsletter: ISSN 1703-4140

VOLUME 12 - NUMBER 1

WINTER 2005

MINNESOTA FREGO FAMILY

Rebecca Jansen Frego



The Prosper Cemetery sits on County Road 44 in Minnesota, a stone's throw from the Iowa border.

So small and unimposing, if you were not looking for it, it would be easy to drive

(Continued on page 3)



CONTENTS

Minnesota Frego Family.....	1
A word from the President	2
Board of Directors of the Association	2
The team of the Quarterly Newsletter	2
Madeleine Frigon, Ursuline	7

Canada Post

Publications mail agreement number **40069967**
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Fédération des familles-souches québécoises inc.
C. P. 6700, Succ. Sillery, Sainte-Foy (QC) G1T 2W2

PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

To renew your membership/subscription, please check your (renewal date) on the mailing label.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gérald Frigon (116)

You have probably noticed a few changes in the format of the first page of your Newsletter. This issue is the first to have been printed and distributed by the Fédération des familles souches du Québec (Federation of Founding Families of Quebec). It is a bulk mailing and Canada Post insists upon certain information appearing on the cover. We take this opportunity to call to your attention the renewal date that appears after your name on the mailing label. May we remind you that annual membership cards are no longer issued, as adopted at the last annual meeting.

The Board of Directors decided at its last meeting to honour two of our members for the services they have rendered to the Association: Louis-Georges Frigon for his recruitment efforts during the early years of the Association, and Georges E. Frigon for his painstaking research and management of our genealogical database. They will be awarded certificates at the next annual

meeting in Batiscan in August 2005.

Recently, an index of the articles published in our newsletter since 1994 has been added to our Web site. It is an excellent tool for finding the publication date of articles on a certain subject. The upkeep of our Web site is done with a double intention: that of keeping our members informed about their association, its activities and its ancestors, and secondly, for the benefit of non-members who might be interested in learning more about us and our activities.

I take this opportunity to announce the publication of our second quinquennial collection of newsletters during the summer of 2005. In it will be all the newsletter articles from 2000 to 2004. It will be available on CD as well as in book format. The first quinquennial collection (the newsletters published from 1994 to 1999) will also be available on CD at the Grand Gathering of 2005.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES INC. (2004 - 2005)

Secretariat of the Association: 84, 570^e avenue, Saint-Hippolyte, QC J8A 3L2

(450) 563-1383 pfrigon@videotron.ca

Our Web site: <http://www.genealogie.org/famille/frigon/english/index.html>

Executive council

President:	Gérald Frigon, Laval, QC	frigon.gerald@videotron.ca
Founding-President:	Raymond Frigon, Ottawa, ON	rayfrigon@aol.com
Vice-President:	Nicole Frigon (191), Montréal, QC	-
Secretary:	Pierre Frigon, Saint-Hippolyte, QC	pfrigon@videotron.ca
Treasurer:	René Frigon (75), Trois-Rivières, QC	andree.rene@sympatico.ca

Directors:

Claudette Chevette-Naud (126), Brigham, QC	ccnaud@hotmail.com
Cyrille Frigon (180), Louiseville, QC	-
Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, QC	jrf@cgocable.ca
Léonce Frigon (218), Laval, QC	-
Louise Frigon (83), Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, QC	frigvail@hotmail.com
Luc O. Frigon (03), Saint-Martyrs-Canadiens, QC	franluc@ivic.qc.ca
Raymonde Frigon (96), St-Jérôme, QC	raymondefrigon@hotmail.com
Roger Frigon (131), Rimouski, QC	roger_frigon@cgocable.ca
Marcel Guillemette (236), Montréal, QC	marcel.guillemette@sympatico.ca

In charge of the Committees

English Publications:	Claudette Chevette-Naud (126), Brigham, QC	ccnaud@hotmail.com
<i>Frigon History and Genealogy</i> book:	Gérald Frigon, Laval, QC	frigon.gerald@videotron.ca
Genealogical Archives:	Georges E. Frigon (93), Trois-Rivières, QC	frigon.georges@cgocable.ca
<i>THE FRIGONS</i> Newsletter:	Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, QC	jrf@cgocable.ca
Web Site:	Pierre Frigon (04), Saint-Hippolyte, QC	pfrigon@videotron.ca

Legal deposit - 1st Quarter 2005
Bibliothèque National du Québec

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The team

Legal deposit - 1st Quarter 2005
National Library of Canada

In charge of the Newsletter and composition

- Jean-René Frigon (11) jrf@cgocable.ca

Edition and revision of the French texts

- Cécile Brunelle (181) cbrunelle@igt.net
- Pierre Frigon (4) pfrigon@videotron.ca
- Guy Naud guy.naud@sympatico.ca

Edition, translation and revision of the English texts

- Claudette Chevette-Naud (126) ccnaud@hotmail.com
 - Assisted by:
- Mary Frego Coates (139) coates@tnt21.com
 - Nicole Frigon (191) -
- Raymond Frigon (1) rayfrigon@aol.com
- Guy Naud guy.naud@sympatico.ca

Revision: authors of manuscripts are free to accept or reject the corrections, remarks or suggestions proposed to them by the revisers.

(Continued from page 1)

right by and not even notice the final resting place of it's 270 inhabitants. But if you were looking and found this small plot of land with its wrought iron arch proclaiming its name and a small white storage shed sitting at the back, you would immediately notice a row of stones off on the right, going up a slight rise, all bearing the name Frego.

The stones at the front are made of granite; the engravings sharp and clear. The tall one at the back is made of limestone, weathered with age, and colored brown and green with algae and fungi. The inscription is faded, and the cemetery transcriber wasn't sure what it said. But if you know what you are looking for, you can make out the names Godfrey Frego, and Mary Elizabeth Bates.

Godfrey was my husband Ronald's great-great grandfather. Dad (Lauren Frego) didn't speak a lot about his family. The only story we consistently heard was that Godfrey had changed his name from Fregeau to Frego when he came to Minnesota.

Dad said he didn't know a lot about his family since his father was raised by his stepfather Anton Erickson after his father's death when he was 2, but "maybe there was some cousins in New York", he didn't really know. Dad told us a bit about his childhood, but that was about it. Dad died from leukemia in June of 1994. At that time his Aunt Lucille was still alive, but she was in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's disease and didn't know anyone. That left Uncle Murray as the last one of that generation who might know anything about the family. It was about this same time, I really got "into genealogy".

Actually what really happened is we took a good look around and said, "If someone doesn't capture what information is known, it is going to be lost forever," and since no one was actively doing so, we stepped up to record the

information. Since the Frigon Association is dedicated to research, no one will be surprised to hear that recording information quickly developed into active research, with the word "active" being used very loosely since I work full time.

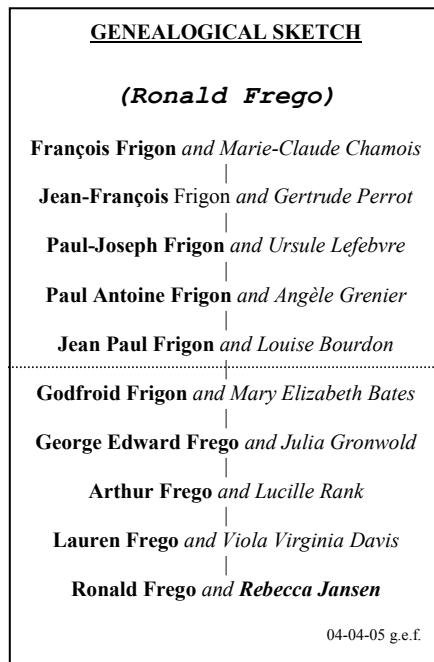
Uncle Murray took us on a whirlwind trip thru Fillmore county Minnesota, stopping at all of the cemeteries where family members were buried. We repeated it the following year, marking the locations on a map. The information the family "knew" was put into a database and we started looking for source information.

The Fillmore County Historical Society in Fountain, Minnesota was very helpful, as well as the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, Minnesota. Marlene Simmons from Dunham was able to provide useable transcripts of documents that I have been able to verify by other means. And finally there were microfilms and census records from Quebec, in French, from the local LDS center.

One of the documents the family gave us was a copy of a page from the book " A History of Fillmore County" published in 1882 while Godfrey was still alive. It was found while doing a research paper on family history around 30 years ago. In it is the following:

" Godfrey Frego is a Canadian, his birth dating in Maskinonge, Quebec, on the 17th of February, 1840."

So we knew if we were going to find Godfrey's birth family we would need to go to the church and census records but since we also knew they would be in French, we put this off, since we know NOTHING of the language "of the Frigon family". Finally, armed with a "Most Common Terms Used in French Genealogy" cheat sheet, we ordered the tapes and went on a Saturday morning



04-04-05 g.e.f.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

to look at the Maskinonge church records.

It took us about 45 minutes to find the right location on the tape. We thought the best way was to look for his name close to his date of birth. Finally we were in the correct year, then month, but where was Godfrey Fregeau? Then the light bulb came on. Here it was! Godfrey's name was Godfroid Frigon, father Joseph Frigon, and mother Louise Bourdon! The census records from 1851 verified our findings. And there were siblings listed!

At home that night, I decided to look at the Frigon message board on Rootsweb. There I discovered a message from Georges E. Frigon. "If you are looking for Frigon Family information go to [http:.....](http://.....)" and, as they say, the rest is history.

Georges was able to place this "Godfroid Frigon" into the right location in the family tree. He has our undying thanks, but I know it was through the work of many that this connection was made possible.

Godfrey Frego as we know him, or Godfroid Frigon was born in Maskinonge, Quebec, on the 17th of February 1840, the 10th of 14 children to Joseph Paul Frigon and Louise Bourdon. He was baptized on Feb 26, 1840 in the Catholic Church in that parish. When he was 14, he left home, and supported himself by

working for farmers. He went to Dunham, Missisquoi County, Quebec, where he met Mary Elizabeth Bates, an "English-Methodist girl". Since Mary was the only surviving child of George Bates, and Cynthia Call, perhaps Godfrey



worked for George for a time. Mary and Godfrey married on May 2, 1860 in the Methodist church serving Dunham. They attended a Methodist church the rest of their lives.

" From the registers of the Methodist Church serving Dunham, Quebec Circuit, first register for the year 1860 on the front of folio 10, Quebec National Archives microfilm # 124.10: (Please note I preserve the spelling and punctuation quirks of the original.)"

On the second day of may in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty godfrey Frego, Bachelor, of the Township of Dunham, being in the Twenty first year of his age, and Mary Elizabeth Bates, Spinster of the township of dunham, aforesaid, being also a Minor, were by License United in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony in the Presence of the subscribing Witneses By me

*(signed) John Tomkins
Wesleyan Minister*

*This Marriage was solemnized between us
(signed)
Godfrey Frego
Mary E. Bates*

*Witnesses (signed)
Edward Manry his mark x
Mary Manry*

At the time, if his family had known he married a Methodist girl, would they have disowned him? Perhaps... but it is obvious that George Bates considered him "his" son and that they had a very close relationship until George died.

The "History of Fillmore County" says he purchased land on which they lived for 4 years. In

(Continued on page 5)

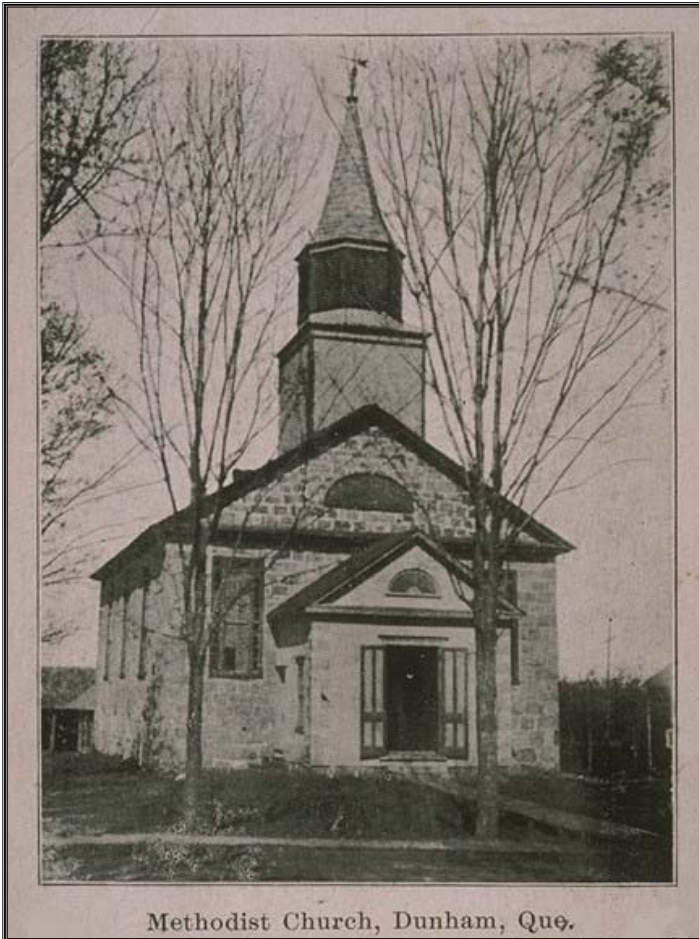
(Continued from page 4)

Canada, 2 children were born, Eliza Jane (March 17, 1861) and William C. (sometime before 1865). In 1864, after the death of Mary Bate's

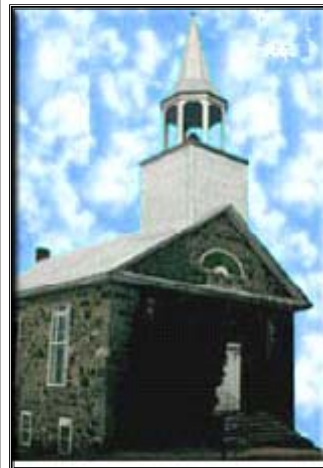
grandmother, the entire family, George and Cynthia Bates, and Godfrey and Mary "Fregeau" moved to Prosper in Fillmore County, Minnesota. Soon after arriving in Minnesota Godfrey changed his last name to Frego.

Godfrey bought a farm next to George Bates, containing 336 acres, part cultivated, part in timber. He rented out his farm for 2 years, and was engaged in buying and shipping livestock, after which he worked his farm himself. He applied for naturalization (to become a U.S. citizen) in March of 1867 in Preston.

Over the years he bought several parcels of land recorded in country "plat maps." It appears as if he was speculating in real estate.



Methodist Church, Dunham, Que.



George Edward (some records have it as Edgar, but the family referred to him as Eddie.) was my husband's great-grandfather. He was born in 1869.

Godfrey and Mary had another little girl, Ida Mae, who died May 27, 1869, aged 3 years 5 months. Before 1870 William died. Murray

The Methodist Church in Dunham still exists today; see <http://www.routesreligieuses.osbl.ca/>

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

Isaac was born Feb. 2, 1873. Hiram William was born May 27, 1875. This brought the family to 6 children, 4 living.

Mary's mother Cynthia Call died March 20, 1877 of "insanity caused by typhoid fever." George Bates moved in with the Frego family and stayed with them until he died Jan 2, 1881 of "asthma". *Their stone sits in the Prosper Cemetery in the next row, next to Godfrey and Mary.*

Sometime during this time the railroad came thru and bypassed the local town of Elliota. So the town relocated to the railroad, and renamed it Canton. The city of Canton was platted in 1879. Godfrey sold his existing farm and bought another on the

railroad line just outside of Canton.

In May of 1880 the Chattfield Bank (Fillmore County, MN) was organized by "O' Ferrall and Frego." O' Ferrall was probably Ignatius Francis Falker O' Ferrall, an Irishman born in Maryland, lawyer and eventual Mayor of Chattfield. The 1882 version of the History of Fillmore County said the bank "occupies a corner brick block on Main and Third Streets. It has ample capital for the transaction of all business that offers." The bank still occupies that location. Godfrey and O' Ferrall sold the business 3 years later.

Godfrey died on August 9, 1887, at the age of 47. His death record says he committed suicide. Family

(Continued on page 7)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.	
State of Minnesota, } COUNTY OF <u>Holt</u> } ss.	
<i>J. Godfrey Frego</i>	
do declare on oath, that it is bonu fide my intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to all and every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and especially to the Reigning Sovereign of the Kingdom of Great Britain of whom I was formerly a subject.	
Sworn and subscribed before me, this <u>20th</u> day of <u>March</u> A. D. 18 <u>67</u> at <u>Preston</u>	<i>Godfrey Frego</i>
<i>W. H. [unclear]</i> CLERK	
Of the District Court of Minnesota in and for the County of <u>Holt</u>	

*** Soon after arriving in Minnesota Godfrey changed his last name to Frego ***
*** He applied for naturalization in March of 1867 in Preston ***

I have never personally seen a document with the name spelled that way "Fregeau", but Uncle Murray says when he was in high school, the teacher brought old documents from the courthouse for the students to look at, and he said one of them was the name change for Godfrey from Fregeau to Frego.

I believe Godfrey probably could not read or write when he was married, but his father-in-law taught the first school in the area they moved to in Prosper, so he would have taught his son-in-law. In Dunham there were Fregeaus of fairly high standing, one was a doctor, so George probably believed that was the correct way to spell his daughter's married name and "corrected" Godfrey's spelling.

Pierre Frigon (4)

One of the daughters of Jean-François and Madeleine Moreau was baptized in Batiscan and given the name of Marie-Madeleine on August 15, 1711. Her godparents were Jean Moreau and Catherine Rivard. Madeleine took the name Sister Saint Joachim on August 12, 1734 and took the veil permanently as a lay sister on May 12, 1736. She died in 1780 at the Ursuline Monastery in Trois-Rivières where she had spent her entire life. Robert Frigon (2) reproduced the text of her Act of Religious Profession in a monograph entitled *François Frigon de Batiskan*¹, Charny 1991, 138 pages, p.44.

It is customary for the Ursulines to write a brief obituary when a member of their community dies.

René P. Dessureault, the author of the remarkable novel on the pioneers of Batiscan entitled *Ceux de la rivière* (Those From the River), published by Aricot² in 2003, sent us the following document which he obtained from a friend, an Ursuline nun from the monastery of Trois-Rivières. We thank him very sincerely for sharing it with us. The following is the text in its entirety; the document bears the archive number II-C-2.13-34-1.

(Continued on page 8)

1. This document can be obtained from the author. (418) 832-4924

2. This novel can be obtained by communicating with the author at the following e-mail address: rdessureault@videotron.ca or via the Web site: <http://pages.infinit.net/aricot/>

MINNESOTA FREGO FAMILY

(Continued from page 6)

stories say he was killed because of a horse race. The family story says he found out about some underhanded dealings about a horse race and threatened to expose them, and was killed because of that. The inquest documents paint a slightly different picture. He apparently was very angry with a Dr. H. H. Haskins, the local pharmacist and coroner. So angry, in fact, that Godfrey was arrested in December the previous year for threatening him. The reason why has not been discovered. On August 8th Godfrey went into town, told some of his friends he probably would not be alive the next day, not to let Dr. Haskins touch him, and that he probably would be dead of heart trouble. He left them and headed off. Later they heard a shot and found him bleeding to death from a single head wound on the railroad depot platform. He was brought to his home where he died about an hour and a half later on August 9, 1887. Two of his children testified to his "strained" state of mind. His family marked his grave with the limestone post, and when Mary died in Jan 16, 1916, she was laid to rest next to him.

Mary and Godfrey's youngest daughter, Myrtle May was born Aug 30, 1887, 22 days after Godfrey died.

As the word spreads amongst the known descendants of Godfrey of their Canadian and French origins, the Minnesota Frego Family wants to thank all of those who have worked so hard to preserve that information, and your generosity in sharing it. Robert asked in February for someone to write about "this Godfroi Frigon, and how he lived and prospered." It is very poor repayment for all you have shared with us.

Beaucoup grâce à nos cousins Canadiens français!



Laura, Ronald Frego and Rebecca Jansen

**Obituary
Of
Sr. Madeleine Frigon - Sr. St-Joachim
1711-1789**

*Ursuline Monastery
Trois-Rivières*

Marie-Madeleine Frigon, baptized in Batiscan on August 14, 1711³, was the daughter of Jean-François Frigon and Madeleine Moreau, married in Batiscan, on February 6, 1700⁴.

Anxious to give herself to God in the religious life, Madeleine Frigon spoke to the Mother Superior, requesting the favour of being accepted among her daughters as a "soeur de peine", a term in use at that time to refer to lay sisters. She did not feel qualified to become a teaching sister. She was accepted with joy and her entrance was set for the following August 14, her birthday. On the eve of the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the doors of the Ursuline Monastery were opened wide to receive this postulant full of promise and good health, and then closed. From then on, Madeleine Frigon would be cloistered at the Ursuline Monastery in Trois-Rivières.

After a few months spent in adaptation, Sister Frigon was allowed to don the holy habit and from then on, she would be called Sister St-Joachim. After two years of noviciate, in the spring of 1736, she had the joy of pronouncing her perpetual vows in the Ursuline Order; she was 25 years old.

Blessed with good health and accustomed to work, Sister St. Joachim served our community by looking after the housekeeping and caring for the sick in our hospital, expending her energy and expertise with simplicity and without counting the cost.

On May 22, 1752, the Ursuline Monastery in Trois-Rivières was destroyed by fire. There were only 12 sisters, two of whom were novices. Sr. St. Joachim took part in this ordeal. That night, in the course of a few hours, all of these religious women learned the meaning of the word 'homeless'.

The convent of the Récollets, which still exists today, was close to our monastery and served as a refuge. During eighteen months, the good priests left their convent to the sisters and found lodging elsewhere. We can only surmise to what point Sr. St. Joachim, who was used to giving of herself, must have taken this opportunity to use her energy and her know-how in these difficult circumstances. Her joy was great when, on November 21, 1753, the sisters were able to return to their restored monastery, and saw that the old walls had been saved. These same old walls still harbour us today (1978). In our Annals, the name of Sister Saint Joachim appears on the list of sisters who lived through those heroic days.

Sister St. Joachim's career went on for many long years. In 1786, she had the great joy of celebrating the golden jubilee of her religious profession, the Reverend Vicar General St-Onge presiding at the event.

Our good Sister St. Joachim, the most senior of our lay sisters, a true model of simplicity and goodness, rendered her soul to God in the arms of her Lord, in 1789. Her passing away was keenly felt by the sisters who kept a very touching memory of her.

3. The Register of Baptisms, Marriages, Burials and censuses of ancient Quebec states August 15, 1711.

4. The Register of Baptisms, Marriages, Burials and censuses of ancient Quebec states February 8, 1710.