



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 16 - NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2009

A FARMING LEASE FOR TWO OXEN (3)

Pierre Frigon (4)

Seven and a half *minots*²⁴ of wheat per year, was that too much to pay?

In all the contracts of this type (it was usually specified that) "...the rent must be paid in kind, that is to say, in services or in goods of all sorts, from days of work to pounds of butter, or in cash."²⁵

The following are a few examples of modes of payment.²⁶

- "...several lessors require that the services of their oxen be paid in whole or in part in cash. The amounts vary from 8 to 60 livres depending on the duration of the rental and the number of oxen rented."
- "Sometimes the use of oxen is paid for in cords of wood."
- "Another very frequent way of paying was by days of ploughing.»
- "On August 29, 1717, Jean-Baptiste Bodreaux known as Graveline rented two oxen for 6 years and, at the end of the contract, he had to give the lessor, Barthelemy Sicar, 2 two-year old bulls and one 13 to 14 month old heifer."

24. Minot: an old measure equivalent to 3 bushels. Since one bushel equals about 13 litres, a minot is the equivalent of about 39 litres.

25. D'Amour and Cossette, p.224

26. Complementary information provided by Valerie d'Amour.

- "On August 26, 1688, the lessee Mathurin Jousset known as Lalouaire agreed to cart all the wheat of the concession into the barn of the lessor François Martin and to work for him with four oxen for four days."

Paying with wheat seems to be the exception. In effect, of the 213 contracts signed in Montreal, the authors found that none were paid in wheat. We shall try to estimate whether or not seven and a half *minots* of wheat was a reasonable price.

In 1681, the census recorded that François Frigon had 7 *arpents* of developed land. We presume that three years earlier, he had a bit less. Let us see if roughly 7 *arpents* of land could produce enough wheat to pay for the rental of the oxen.

(Continued on page 152)

CONTENTS

A Farming Lease for Two Oxen (3)	149
The Aims of the Association and Adhesion	150
Board of Directors of the Association and The team of the Quarterly Newsletter	150
A Word from the President	151
Augustin Frigon	
IV- Tribute (continuation)	151
Promotional Articles of the Association	153

Canada Post

Publications mail
agreement number 40069967

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Fédération des familles-souches du Québec
C. P. 10090, Succ. Sainte-Foy
Québec (Québec) G1V 4C6

PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

For the due date of your membership/subscription renewal,
please check the expiration date on the above mailing label.

150 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES ARE TO

- retrace the families bearing the surnames Frigon, Frigone, Frego, Fregoe, Fregone et Fregon
- recruit members and resource persons
- organise gatherings and annual reunions with a view to creating bonds of friendship
- collect genealogical and historical information from the members and other sources in order to favour the promotion, development and the spread of Frigon history, genealogy and other ties between generations
- publish a Frigon Family dictionary
- publish the newsletter *THE FRIGONS*
- publish and make available monographs, biographies, family albums, the results of historical and genealogical research
- assure the preservation of the family archives

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual: \$20/year \$50/3 years \$80/5 years

Benefactor: \$30/year

Lifetime: \$250 (55 years and over)

Corporate: \$250/year (includes an optional free half-page advertisement in *THE FRIGONS* for two years/8 newsletters)

Canada: Canadian dollar USA and other countries: US dollar

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES INC. (2008 - 2009)

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

(450) 563-1383 pfrigon@videotron.ca

Our Web site: www.genealogie.org/famille/frigon

Executive council

President:	Gérald Frigon (116), Laval, QC	frigon.gerald@videotron.ca
Vice-President:	Claudette Chevette-Naud (126), Montréal, QC	ccnaud@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Pierre Frigon (4), Saint-Hippolyte, QC	pfrigon@videotron.ca
Treasurer:	François Frigon (130), Laval, QC	francois.frigon@videotron.ca

Directors:	Claude Vaillancourt (151), Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade	frigvail@hotmail.com
	Hermine Trudel (240), Montréal, QC	herminetrudel@hotmail.com
	Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, QC	jeanrene@cgocable.ca
	Léonce Frigon (218), Laval	-
	Louise Frigon (83), Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, QC	frigvail@hotmail.com
	Marcel Guillemette (236), Montréal, QC	marcel.guillemette@sympatico.ca
	Raymonde Frigon (96), St-Jérôme, QC	raymondefrigon@hotmail.com
René Frigon (75), Trois-Rivières, QC	andree.rene@sympatico.ca	
Roger Frigon (131), Rimouski, QC	roger_frigon@cgocable.ca	
Sylvie Frigon (27), Cap-Rouge, QC	sylvie.frigon@videotron.ca	

In charge of the Committees

English Publications:	Claudette Chevette-Naud (126), Montréal, QC	ccnaud@hotmail.com
<i>Frigon History and Genealogy</i> Book:	Gérald Frigon (116), Laval, QC	frigon.gerald@videotron.ca
Genealogical Archives:	Georges E. Frigon (93), Trois-Rivières, QC	frigon.georges@cgocable.ca
Research: <i>The Frigons in France</i> :	Lucie Frigon Caron (56), Gatineau, QC	germain@videotron.ca
<i>THE FRIGONS</i> Newsletter:	Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, QC	jeanrene@cgocable.ca
Web Site:	Marcel Guillemette (236), Montréal, QC	marcel.guillemette@sympatico.ca

Legal deposit - 3rd Quarter 2009
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales Québec

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The team

Legal deposit - 3rd Quarter 2009
Library and Archives Canada

In charge of the Newsletter and composition

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

Edition and revision of the French texts

- Cécile Brunelle brunelle.cecile@gmail.com
- 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
 - Guy Naud guy.naud@sympatico.ca

The texts published in the newsletter are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Gérald Frigon (116)

During the summer of 2007, inflation and factory closings here and there brought about the problem of bank liquidity. In Quebec, Vincent Lacroix defrauded more than 50,000 small investors while in New York Bernard Madoff created more than 3 million victims. For 2008, Exxon-Mobil announced sales (income and assets) of 73 billion dollars and exploitation costs (adjusted) of 28 billion for a net revenue of 45.22 billion dollars. These profits are disproportionate to the risks incurred. Moreover, during the past three months, the governments of America and Europe have injected more than 1.2 trillion dollars to rescue the bankers and the big businesses. This is privatization of profits and socialization of losses. These are insane but legal situations. The year 2008 will have been worse than September 11, 2001. The terrorists are no

longer Muslims but financiers. The hegemony of “Wall Street” must be subjugated.

We have come to a crossroads. We must create a new reality: the earth’s riches must be better distributed among its inhabitants. A new world order must be established, one that takes into account the economy AND the environment. The Obama and Sarkozy presidencies nurture the hope of a new world, one that is more humane, more responsible, and more united.

Let us not remain passive before this choice. Let us use the weight of our wisdom and our experience to push our governments towards this change. The precariousness of our workers’ and retirees’ situation makes it imperative. It is urgent.

AUGUSTIN FRIGON**IV- Tribute (continuation)***Pierre Frigon (4)***Biography**

He was the president of the Montreal Electrical Services Commission from 1924 to 1935. At this post he was in charge of the construction and maintenance of the underground network of electrical conduits for the city of Montreal, which serves a number of public utilities.

Member of the National Research Council from 1923-39. During this period, the rudimental laboratories of this federal department, which were lodged in the centre of Ottawa, were set up in a new section on Sussex Street, built expressly for them.

Member of the Canadian Commission of Radio Broadcasting from 1928 to 1930, better known as the “Aird Commission.”

Member of the Lapointe Commission, presided over by the honourable Ernest Lapointe, which studied the conditions of sale of electricity in the province of Quebec and submitted its report in January 1935. As a result, the Quebec Legislature created the Quebec Electric Commission of which Mr. Frigon became the first president. In this position and assisted by Mr. Olivier Lefebvre and Mr. J.W. McCammon, he was called on to settle numerous cases of litigation over the years. The Commission dealt with rural electrification and problems dealing with the tariffs on electricity sales. He authorized the electric companies to put several hundreds of millions of dollars worth of bonds on the market.

Mr. Frigon left his role as president of the Quebec Electric Commission in 1936 to accept a pressing offer from the federal government that named him deputy director general of the newly created Radio Canada, November 2, 1936. Mr. Frigon was particularly responsible for all of the technical services and the general supervision of the interests of Radio Canada in Quebec. In 1944 he became the general director

(Continued on page 156)

(Continued from page 149)

“We have found a good number of pieces of information on the yield of the newly cleared fields and the picture we get is fairly consistent. Six minots of the wheat produced per arpent go towards paying the lessor, which means that each arpent gives a yield of 18 minots or 20,50 hl/ha.”²⁷

Attention! This is about recently opened land. The yield quickly diminished, for numerous “habitants” (settlers) used little or none of their animal dung (to enrich their land), despite the insistence of the authorities. The tendency was to do the same thing as the farmer who admitted “he had given the manure from his farm to his neighbour who spread it on his land, since he would have thrown it into the river just as all the others did.”²⁸

Even if our ancestor imitated this farmer, his land seemed to be able to easily produce 7½ minots of wheat per year. However, was that price excessive?

In the same period, the settlers listed below paid 10 minots of wheat annually for one pair of oxen:

- Robillard and Rainier, of Champlain;²⁹
- The surgeon Jallot, of Champlain;³⁰
- Louis Bercier, of Batiscan;³¹
- Roy and Lévesque, of Ste-Anne;³²
- Jean Lariou, de Champlain;³³
- Noël Carpentier, of Champlain;³⁴
- Vivien Jean.³⁵

Why pay at Christmas?

The *minots* of French wheat had to be delivered to Charles le Gardeur on the feast of Christmas. Was this exceptional?

“The payment dates are generally the feast of St. Martin and All Saints Day and sometimes Candlemas.”³⁶

The dates of these feasts are:

- St. Martin: November 11;
- All Saints: November 1;
- Candlemas (or Purification of the Virgin Mary): February 2.

Robert-Lionel Séguin, (pages 228 to 241), mentions nine payment dates for oxen rental, as follows:

- Christmas: 3
- Saint Martin: 3
- Candlemas: 2
- Last day of January: 1

We notice that the payment dates are in winter 6 out of 9 times. Why? In the case of the payment in wheat, the winter due date could be explained thus:

The sheaves of wheat were brought in at the beginning the first week of August and into September. They were generally threshed in winter when the grain separated more easily from the chaff.³⁷

(Continued on page 153)

27. Louise Deschênes, *Habitants et marchands de Montréal au XVIIe siècle* (Settlers and Merchants of Montreal in the 17th Century), Boreal, 1988, p.325.

28. Louise Dechênes, p.305.

29. Cited by Robert-Lionel Séguin, *La civilisation traditionnelle de l' "habitant" aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles* (The Traditional Civilization of the "Settler" in the 17th and 18th Centuries), Fides, Montreal, 1973, pp.228-229; A Farming Lease regarding the sale of a pair of oxen by the Sieur des Groseillers to Robillard and Raynier-January 3, 1677-Anthoine Adhémard, 232, Judicial Archives of Montreal.

30. Robert-Lionel Séguin, p.229, Rental of oxen by the Sieur Jallot from Pierre Dencouniers-September 18, 1678. Anthoine Adhémard, 353. AJM (Archives judiciaires de Montréal).

31. Robert-Lionel Séguin, p.229, The lease of a pair of oxen by the Sieur de la Jeunesse Dandonneau to Louis Bercier- November 8, 1678. Anthoine Adhémard, 367. AJM.

32. Robert-Lionel Séguin, 229, The lease of a pair of oxen by M^r deÉst Romain to S^r Roy and Levesque-February 20, 1679, Anthoine Adhémard, 394, AJM.

33. Robert-Lionel Séguin, p.230, The lease of a pair of oxen by Sieur Brisset to Jean Lariou known as La Fontaine Le Gascon- October 1, 1679-Anthoine Adhémard, 448. AJM.

34. Robert-Lionel Séguin, p.230, The lease of a pair of oxen by Professor Jalot from Madame des Groseillers to Noël Carpentier- November 16, 1679, Anthoine Adhémard, 465. AJM.

35. Robert-Lionel Séguin, p.230, The lease of a pair of oxen by M. de St-Romain to Vivien Jean, February 5, 1682- Anthoine Adhémard, 535. AJM.

36. Complementary information provided by Valerie d'Amour.

37. Lahontan, cited by Audet, p. 89.

(Continued from page 152)

Were the oxen too expensive?

First observation: “ It seems however, that the oxen were worth more in the first years of colonisation and that this reality changed around 1681 and into 1710, a period when we have noticed that the oxen were at their lowest price, that is, 30 *livres*.”³⁸ In 1715, the two draft animals of Jean-François, son of François Frigon also known as Lespagnol, together were worth 180 *livres*.³⁹ It would seem that the decrease in price had not yet been felt in Batiscan in 1715.

We also note in the following table⁴⁰, that for the period 1671-1680, the oxen were very expensive! Seven out of 15 oxen (53%) were worth 120 *livres*

Value of one ox in <i>livres</i>	1671-1680
0-39	0
40-59	0
60-79	1
80-99	0
100-119	0
120-139	7
140-159	1
Indeterminate	6
Total	15

or more! At 80 *livres* each, François Frigon thus enjoyed favourable conditions. Moreover, when he had to replace them, in 1682, he probably paid 80 *livres*, the market price.

Were the oxen cheaper because they were old?

That does not seem to be the case. The old animals could even be the most expensive. “*At first sight, let us say the animals seemed to be worth less when they were either young or too old. Thus, of the four animals that are worth between 1 and 39 livres, two are of an indeterminate age, but two are two years old. Nevertheless, a few examples contradict this statement: eight 7-year old oxen, the age group that includes a good percentage of the animals, are worth between 40 and 59 livres, while the old ones aged 9 and 10 years are worth between 60 and 139 livres.*”⁴¹

And the conclusion?

The contract was honest. It was drawn up according to the norms of the time and our ancestor had a good deal. The risk was relatively high, but, given the circumstances, having one’s own oxen, even if they were a bit old, was a significant advantage. The lessor assumed no responsibility in the case of death? He who risks nothing gets nothing. The (rental) period was long? It gave our ancestor more time to acquire two oxen of the same value to return at the end of the contract. All in all, he had a good strategy.

38. Complementary information provided by Valerie d’Amour.

39. Notary Trottain, *Inventaire de Jean François Frigon En 1715 le 27^e avril*

40. Extract of a complementary table provided by Valérie d’Amour.

41. Complementary information provided by Valerie d’Amour.

PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTIONAL ARTICLES

Association of Frigon Families



Association of Frigon Families Watches

Analog watches for men and women, with leather bracelets. Graphic concept based on the emblem of the Association as it appears on the first page of our newsletter.

On the dial face we find the “F” of François’ signature. *Frigon*

This “*F*” is superposed on the *fragon*, a medicinal plant that could be at the origin of our family name.

The inscription *Fragon Frigon Frigon* shows how this plant’s name could have become the Frigon surname.

Unit Price: 25,00 \$CAN
 Shipped within Canada: 35,00 \$CAN
 Shipped to USA: 35,00 \$US

(Continued from page 153)



LES FRIGON and THE FRIGONS Newsletter

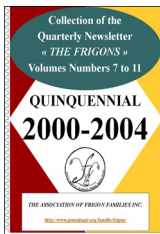
Unit Price: 1,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 2,00 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 2,25 \$US



Association pin (brass)

Unit Price: 5,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 6,50 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 7,25 \$US

A replica of the Association emblem,
bearing the names *Frigon Frigon Frigon*



Newsletter Collections "LES FRIGON" "THE FRIGONS", plastic-coated cover, spiral binding.

- French Quinquennial 1994-1999, 154 pages
- French Quinquennial 2000-2004, 170 pages
- English Quinquennial 1994-1999, 168 pages
- English Quinquennial 2000-2004, 170 pages

Unit Price: 20,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 25,00 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 28,00 \$US



Newsletter Collections "LES FRIGON" and "THE FRIGONS", on CD with an interactive index for quick reference.

- CD includes the French Quinquennial and English Quinquennial newsletters 1994-1999
- CD includes the French Quinquennial and English Quinquennial newsletters 2000-2004

Unit Price: 15,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 19,25 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 21,50 \$US



CD Inventory of Jean-François Frigon's Personal Property 1715 (Available in French only)

This annotated and illustrated 1715 inventory of Jean-François' personal property is complete and very well documented. A gem for researchers !

Includes a 44-page booklet which the narrator's comments and other information under the heading *Pour le lecteur plus curieux* (For the more curious reader).

CD and booklet
Unit Price: 17,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 21,75 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 23,25 \$US



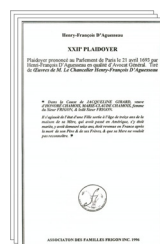
Traveling with Samuel de Champlain from Brouage to Quebec

Court music of ancient France, Aboriginal reminiscences, popular music of Saintonge, Normandy and Brittany. Tonalties that plunge us into the musical universe of the 17th century.

This recording is the first of several initiatives for the celebration of Quebec City's 400th anniversary.

Unit Price: 15,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 19,25 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 21,50 \$US

XXII^e plaidoyer, D'Aguesseau (*D'Aguesseau's 22nd Speech for the Defense*) (Available in French only)



A document taken completely from *Œuvres de M. le Chancelier D'Aguesseau* published in 1761, and reedited in 1787. D'Aguesseau was the Crown Attorney, which adds to the dependability of his speech in favour of Marie-Claude Chamois. In this plea, he proves beyond all doubt the identity of Marie-Claude Chamois who was accused by her mother, Jacqueline Girard, of identity theft when she claimed the inheritance left her by her father, Honoré Chamois, a king's secretary. 36 pages.

Unit Price: 3,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 4,50 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 5,50 \$US

(Continued on page 155)

(Continued from page 154)

**DVD THE ANNUAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS (1996-2008)**

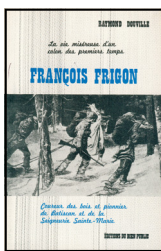
A DVD photo album of all the Annual Meetings and Gatherings from 1996 to 2008. 429 photos, 12 sound tracks, duration 52 minutes.

This album can be viewed on either a television screen or a PC.

To order this DVD "Photo Album":

Georges E. Frigon
165, rue Bélanger,
Trois-Rivières, QC, Canada, G9B 1Y4
Tél.: (819) 377-7918 E-mail: georges.frigon@gmail.com

Unit Price: 17,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 20,00 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 20,00 \$US

**François Frigon, Pioneer of Batiscan** (Available in French only)

Raymond relates the drama created by the absence of Marie-Claude Chamois who, accused of identity theft, was detained in France, leaving her family to fend for themselves.

Éditions du Bien public, 32 pages.

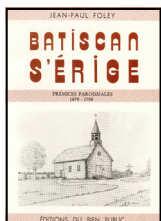
Includes an illustrated 20-page critical analysis by Pierre Frigon (04).

Unit Price: 3,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 4,50 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 5,50 \$US

**La santé au menu (ALCOA Federation Recipe Book)** (Available in French only)

This 183-page book contains 125 recipes requiring between 10 and 30 minutes of preparation time along with helpful tips. ALCOA offers this book to non-profit organisations. Enjoy good health while helping your Association financially!

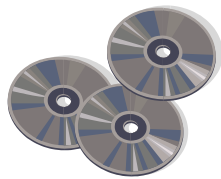
Unit Price: 10,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 15,00 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 18,00 \$US

**Batiscan s'érige (Batiscan Grows), Foley** (Available in French only)

History of the parish of Batiscan (*Saint-François-Xavier de Batiscan*), from 1670 to 1708. Contains documentation based on the records of that period. Among others is the story of the building of the church, a biography of its parish priests and the list of trustees from the beginning to 1708.

Éditions du bien public, 96 pages.

Unit Price: 5,00 \$CAN
Shipped within Canada: 8,00 \$CAN
Shipped to USA: 9,50 \$US

**Available to researchers, free upon request:**

- On CD, the Minutes of all the Annual Meetings and Meetings of the Board of Directors from the founding of the Association to 2006, inclusively.
- On CD, the archives of Augustin Frigon, given to the Association by his grandson, Paul Frigon (6); includes numerous photos.

Your Association has published several documents and produced some promotional articles since it was founded.

Unless otherwise specified, all orders for documents or requests for information are to be sent to:

Association des familles Frigon
1190, 37ième ave,
Laval, QC, H7R 4W4
450 962-1212 francois.frigon@videotron.ca

(Continued from page 151)

and, as such, he was in charge of the general administration of the national system of radio broadcasting. Under his direction, a large number of radio stations were installed across Canada, of which eight were high powered (50 kw); he directed the installation of short wave stations in Sackville, N.B. which are part of the International Service administered by Radio Canada. Several radio centres were organized under his direction, the most important of which is the broadcast centre in Montreal, located in the old Ford Hotel. It is undisputedly the most important radio broadcast centre in North America. Augustin was very interested in the transmission of programmes by FM (frequency modulation) and recently he was called upon to direct the television work undertaken by Radio Canada in Toronto and Montreal. The new Radio Canada building in Montreal, a model of its type, allowed the centralization in Montreal of national administrative and technical services, the headquarters of international service and gave a considerable impetus to French language radio broadcasting in Canada.

Following a lengthy illness, Mr. Frigon left his job as director general of Radio Canada to become project director, a post that he held from November 1951.

In 1946 His Majesty, King Georges VI named Mr. Frigon as a Companion of St. Michael and St. George for services rendered during World War II. This is the highest honour accorded to commoners outside of the United Kingdom.

Along with Arthur Surveyer and Edward Monpetit, Mr. Frigon published the "*Revue trimestrielle canadienne*" of which he was secretary for many years. This review, founded in 1913 and still in publication, is the oldest of this entire genre in the province of Quebec.

In 1908, as a student he became affiliated with the Polytechnique Alumni Association (now called "*l'Association des diplômés de Polytechnique*") of which he was secretary for many years; He became its president in 1928. From the time of its founding, this association has been one of the most prosperous of the University of Montreal.

He was a member of the Engineering Institute of Canada since 1907. In 1934 he was the president of the Montreal section and the recipient of the Julian C. Smith Medal, receiving it the first time that it was awarded in 1941.

In 1943 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Montreal.

From 1923 he was a member of the Catholic Committee of the Province of Quebec School Board
From 1929 to 1935 he held a seat as director of the Montreal Catholic School Commission.

From 1926 he was director of the French Canadian Scientific Institute

He was named Federal Director of the Canadian Information Service from 1945 to 1947.

Mr. Frigon was the Quebec Secretary for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for many years.

For several years he was also director of the Canadian Geographic Society.