

THE FRIGONS

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THE FRIGON IN SAINT-MAURICE

Robert Frigon (2)

In 1830, two investigators for the Government of Lower Canada, Mister Nixon and Mister Ingall, tabled a report to the Legislative Assembly which stated that " the territory of the 'middle' Saint-Maurice was barren, unfit for clearing and devoid of good wood ". Their knowledge of the natural resources of the Mauricie was obviously Their report was contested in the Legislative Assembly. The report also showed a misunderstanding of the nature of the soil: in fact, the surface hid veins of iron pyrites extending from the river to the Lower Laurentians. Fortunately, some enterprising individuals were aware of this wealth which received the attention it deserved and was operated for years by the "Forges Radnor" in the beautiful village of Saint -Maurice. Citizens

Ed.: 2003 "The following is an unpublished work of the late Robert Frigon (2)."

2014-Annual Meeting at the Museum of Religions in Nicolet, Saturday, August 16th Festivities for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Association of Frigon Families http://www.genealogie.org/famille/frigon/

were obviously more aware of the potential of their region than were the outsiders.

Another foreigner, who came from France, having traveled in 1844 through the uncultivated steppes extending north of Quebec City and Montreal, claimed "that the harsh and savage aspect of these regions would prevent any civilization ever to penetrate and colonization to establish lasting institutions in such an area." Almost at the same time, there was talk in the country of vehicules propelled by steam and railways chemins à lisses ." This short-sighted individual did not foresee the arrival of the railway through these wild steppes. The steel band opened the Saguenay and the Lac-St-Jean to settlers. It is also

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More information in the spring of 2014

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¹ L'événement, Novembre 21, 1895

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the railway which carved a northern path from Quebec and Montreal, thus allowing the clearing of agricultural land and forestry operations in Abitibi. Prosperous cities now stand in these realms. We should also recognize that our beautiful rivers, Batiscan, St-Maurice, Ste-Anne, and Richelieu served as pathways through the bush. Later, railways would slide along the streams and provide new areas for settlement.

The Champlain river, of lesser importance, is another of these small waterways used by Aboriginal people to carry their furs under the French regime. Its mouth widens at one of the first villages founded by the pioneers of the Mauricie area before flowing into the St. Lawrence River. Originating in the Lower Laurentians, it grows slowly as it receives the flowing waters of local rivers: Rivière-au-Lard, des Prairies Creek, La Fourche Creek, Pronovost Creek, Laborde Creek, Racine salée Creek and Picardie Creek. The small river Champlain catches a glimpse of the village of Saint -Maurice, cuts through the Grande Prairie Range, the Pays Brûlé Range, the village of Sainte-Marie, the Abouts and then St-Luc-de-Vincennes, a name borrowed from Jean- Baptiste Bissot de Vincennes [1668 - 1719] to arrive at its destination, the beautiful village of Champlain. As soon as 1632, Samuel de Champlain noticed this tributary of the St. Lawrence and identified it with his own name on the map. Quite an honor! He noticed also at the foot of the Laurentians, the flat sandy plains, ancient trees and riparian forage, excellent food for cattle

It is due to the audacity of the Saint-Maurice pioneers that villages were created around waterways or railways. Often, however, a village is born because of the creation of a business requiring many workmen: laborers, carters, saddlers, carpenters, bakers and cobblers; and to feed the people, there is also a need for farmers to settle in the vicinity, and a need for lumberjacks to cut, carry, saw and transform the tall trees in beautiful boards. Therefore there will have to be a sawmill closeby, and the good grains will be processed into flour at the nearest mill.

This kind of company provides a living for its inhabitants. For example, the village of Saint–Maurice included twenty families in 1851 and was twenty years later home to fifty families. Merchants settled there: Eugene Bistodeau and Joseph Frigon. They leave Trois-Rivières for a better economic situation in a growing village. Due to the "Forges Radnor," everyone lives well.

As early as 1854, the "Forges Radnor" manufactured railway equipment, particularly train car wheels. The driving force of the Rivière-au-Lard was used to activate the turbines whose energy was redistributed by a system of propeller-shafts, pulleys and belts. The environment provided the raw material. On site there was wood to make charcoal, iron pyrite, sand and limestone to make the molds, as well as refractory clay for molding bricks for the blast furnaces. Competition from larger centers and the decline of natural resources forced administrators of the "Forges Radnor" to diversify their production.

It was said that the Saint-Maurice village had a bright future. The village is located on a bed of rock beneath which lies a vast underground lake providing excellent water quality. Following the discovery of this groundwater in 1894 by the owners of "Forges Radnor" factory, it t was decided to exploit this resource on a commercial basis. After obtaining Canadian and U.S. patents, mineral water bottles "Radnor" were found on tables of stately homes in New York as well as on the British Royal tables. It is to be noted about this hidden source that "the pressure was such that it allowed it to deliver fifteen hundred gallons per hour without a pump for sixty years.³

Saint-Maurice was settled in 1743. The brave people who had "deserted" their plots were visited by priests of Cap-de-la-Madeleine. A hundred years later, it is a bustling village which requires a better structure. It demanded a resident priest. Although the clearing of wood started late, the village grew relatively quickly with its forges and its mills and

² "Héritage", March 1995.

³ "Héritage", March 1995.



Dears members

With the arrival of spring the Board of Directors resumes its regular activities. Is there anything special planned for this year? Yes! The Association is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its founding. This event will be feted during the Annual General Meeting which will take place on August 16th in the beautiful region of Nicolet.

Last fall, the Board Members began to elaborate a plan of activities for this meeting. Among others: a visit of the museum and of the church of Nicolet, and supper at the magnificent Auberge Godefroy.

There will be other activities as well and we have even decided to offer a small gift as souvenir to those present. As you can see, the committee is doing everything possible to assure the success of this special day.

We, the Frigon, are a large family with interesting stories to tell and wonderful memories to enjoy. You are cordially invited to participate in this event on next August 16th. Talk about it with your brothers, sisters, children. This is a day you cannot miss.

ERROR NEWSLETTER 2013 AUTUMN V20N3 P.91 bottom of page. Should read "Japanese Embroidery" rather than "macramé".

THE UTILITY POLES OF MONTREAL

6– Achievements during the mandate of Augustin Frigon (1926-1935) Pierre Frigon (4)

In this last article of our series, we will review the achievements of Augustin Frigon at the Montreal Electrical Services Commission. A map is worth a million words. Here we have a picture of all the sectors that were equipped with underground conduits during the first five years of Augustin Frigon's mandate, a mandate that lasted 10 years. The quadrilaterals also include the streets within them. The MESC uses the term "district" for a street (for example, Atwater Avenue) as well as for a quadrilateral (for example, quadrilateral #17) when it gives a contract to construct conduits.



The network of underground conduits constructed between 1926 and 1930,

-District 1B. Saint Catherine Street, between Papineau Avenue and Boulevard Pie IX (1926).

-District 11D. Bounded by: Chemin Saint-Sulpice on the north; Atwater Avenue on the east; Sherbrooke Street on the south; the limits of Westmount on the west (1927).

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- -Districts 12A and 12B. Bounded by: on the north, Pine Avenue, Redpath Crescent and Cedar Avenue; on the east, Park Avenue; on the south, Sherbrooke Street; on the west, Côte-des-Neiges. The two districts are separated by McTavish Street (1929).
- -District 14. Saint Denis Street between Craig (Saint-Antoine) and Bellechasse Streets (1928).
- -District 15. On the north: Saint Catherine Street; on the east by University Street and Côte Beaver Hall; on the south, Craig Street; on the west, Mountain Street (1926).
- -District 15A. On the north, Craig Street; on the east, Windsor Street (Peel); on the south, Saint Jacques Street, on the west, Mountain Street, between Saint-Catherine and Notre-Dame Streets (1926).
- -District 16. On the north, Sherbrooke Street; on the east, Saint Lawrence Boulevard; on the south, Saint Catherine Street and Dorchester (René-Lévesque); on the west, Guy Street (1927).
- -District 17, 17A, 17B. The quadrilateral formed on the north by Rachel Street; on the east by Papineau Avenue; on the south, by Sherbrooke Street; on the west, by Lafontaine Park Avenue. Rachel Street between Papineau and Saint Denis Avenues. Rachel Street, from Saint Denis Street to L'Esplanade Avenue (1927-1928).
- --Districts 18. 18A, 18B. Atwater Avenue from the north side of the Lachine Canal to the south side. Atwater Avenue from the south side of the Canal to the Municipal Aqueduct. Atwater Avenue from the north side of the Lachine Canal to Sherbrooke Street (1928-1929).
- -Districts 19 and 19A. Guy Street, between Saint Catherine and Saint Jacques Streets. Saint Jacques Street between Guy and Mountain Streets (de la Montagne) (1929-1930). The quadrilateral outlined in black delimited by these streets is not part of the underground conduit system.

Source. BAnQ, map 428455.

For the second quinquennial, because of the financial crisis, the commission considerably slowed down the cadence, as shown by the map for the period 1931-1935. Given the circumstances, the work is still considerable. We note a certain effort exerted in the east-end of the city.



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The network of underground conduits built between 1931 and 1935,

- -District 8B. Colborne Street (Peel) between Notre-Dame and Smith Streets. Smith Street between Murray and Nazareth Streets. Smith Street towards Wellington and Wellington Street to Bridge Street (1934)
- -Districts 20-1, 20-2. Park Avenue between Mont-Royal and Pine Avenue including L'Esplanade Avenue. Jeanne-Mance Street between Pine Avenue and Ontario Street (1932).
- -Districts 21, 21A. Park Avenue between Van Horne Avenue and Jean-Talon-Street. Jean-Talon Street between Grand (Marconi) and Durocher Streets. Beaumont Street from the limit of Outremont to Park Avenue. 21A: Park Avenue between Van Horne Avenue and Mont-Royal Avenue, including Hutchinson Street between Fairmount Street and Saint Joseph Boulevard and the streets between Park Avenue and the limits of Outremont (1932-1933)
- -Districts 22, 22A. Ontario Street between Pius IX and Saint Lawrence Boulevards (1932-1933).
- -District 23. Saint Denis Street between Bellechasse and Jean Talon Streets. Saint Hubert Street between De Fleurimont (Rosemont Boulevard) and Jean Talon Streets. Bélanger Street between Saint Denis and Saint Hubert Streets (1935).
- -District Viewmount. Near the Lac des Castors on Mount Royal. Access on Côte-des-Neiges. Includes Viewmount Avenue, Hill Park Road and Hill Park Crescent (1935).

Source. Templeman, report 1935-1936-1937.

Credit. BAnQ, map 428455.

Globally, if we compare the annual averages of progress accomplished during the mandate of Louis-Anthyme Herdt (1913-1925) with those of Augustin Frigon (1926-1935), we notice that even if the period of (economic) crisis had a greater impact than that of the war on the development of the network, there was a notable increase during Frigon's mandate in comparison with that of Herdt's due to the fact that the progress was very important during Frigon's first quinquennial (1926-1930). For the entirety of the mandate, we note a 6,8% increase of miles of streets where conduits were built; an increase of 34,5% of lengths of ducts installed; an increase of 24,1% of access shafts and transformer chambers installed; and a 16,3% increase of poles removed.

Table 8.5

	Length of streets in miles	In km	Length of ducts in feet	In km	Access shafts and transform- er chambers	Poles removed (exluding Bell Telephone Co.)
1913-1925 incl.	27,50	44,27	3 962 510	1 208	1 831	3 371
Annual average	2,75		396 251		183	337
1926-1935 incl.	41,53	66,86	4 440 656	1 354	2 045	3 527
Annual average	4,61		493 406		227	392
Comparison of annual averages between the periods 1926–1935 and						
1913-1925	67,80%		24,52%		24,1%	16,25%

Comparison of progression under the mandates of Louis-Anthyme Herdt and that of Augustin Frigon.

The period 1913-1925 includes 10 years of work only. No construction of conduits took place in 1917, 1918 and 1919 because of the Great War.

The period 1926-1935 includes 9 years of work only. There was no construction of conduits in 1931 because of the economic crisis.

Furthermore, in the light of the information we have in hand, we observe that in general, the contractors succeeded in doing the work at a lower cost than that originally submitted, regardless of the period. We see that the company Gest ltd obtained most of the contracts under the Herdt administration (1913-1925) and that the competition was more intense later on.

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seemed to attract many workers from neighboring villages; for forty years, cousins lived there. In consulting family registers, we find that members of different branches of the family tree Frigon have found refuge and worked there between 1850 and 1910; thirty toddlers by the name of Frigon were born there, more than twenty died there and mariages were celebrated. What were they all doing in Saint-Maurice?

We know that a descendent was almost a bourgeois. Joseph Frigon [Joseph Frigon Hermine Walker- Gagnon] leaves Trois-Rivières to settle in Saint-Maurice. On January 7, 1863, he married Dorilla Turcotte in the parish church. It is said that Joseph Frigon, husband of Hermine Walker, was a merchant in Trois-Rivières. He was also a lawyer. The grandparents of Dorilla Turcotte were also merchants on the south shore. It is no surprise that the couple's two children were working in the trade. And François-Xavier Turcotte, father of Flore Adelaide, aka Marie-Louise Dorilla Turcotte, was a lawyer and Clerk of the Peace in Trois-Rivières. The grandfather of Dorilla, Joseph Turcot, was a merchant in Gentilly. In this branch, we find Joseph-Edward Turcotte, lawyer, court advocate for patriots, owner and editor in chief of the "Journal des Trois-Rivières" and a director in the "Forges Radnor". Joseph

Frigon was therefore part of this prestigious Turcotte family. No wonder he established himself in Saint-Maurice where his relatives and their business thrived.

We also know that Joseph Frigon, husband of Dorilla Turcotte, was a large landowner in Saint-Maurice. On May 23, 1857, he sells to Eugène Bistodeau a piece of land located in the center of the future village of Saint-Maurice. The business of Joseph Frigon must have been located near the parish council because at a special meeting of the churchwardens, held on February 1, 1880, the following resolution was adopted: " Be it resolved that the surplus of the amount collected to pay the church be used to purchase a home that will serve as a convent for the education of young people of the parish and the property of Mr. Joseph Frigon is acquired for such a useful work." Thereafter they acquired the Frigon home for \$500.00 "which was not expensive because the construction of the store and of the private residence had cost over thousand dollars including outbuildings". The house became the convent and was operated by the Sisters of the Assumption of Nicolet. Quite a gift made by a descendant to the village where he obviously became wealthy. Afterwards Joseph Frigon left Saint -Maurice to settle in Montreal.

Enclosed: genealogical data.

Charny, March 10, 2003. Robert Frigon (2) (continuation on 103)

Family of JOSEPH FRIGON		Family o	of: ANTOINE FRIGON	Family of: HUBERT FRIGON		
DORILLA TURCOTTE		LOUISE L'HEUREUX		PHILOMENE DARGIS		
Year	Individual	Year	Individual	Year	Individual	
1837-09-22	Jean Henri Frigon	1818/11/26	Antoine Frigon	1857/01/10	Hubert Frigon	
Birth	Louiseville (?)	Birth	Ste-Geneviève	Birth	St-Narcisse	
	Parents: [Joseph Frigon]	Parents: [Antoine Frigon]		Parents: [Antoine Frigon]		
	[Hermine Walker]	[MAnne Frigon]		[Louise L'Heureux]		
1863-01-07	St-Maurice	1846/07/14	St-Stanislas	1881/04/25	St-Maurice	
Mariage	Dorilla Turcotte	Mariage	Louise L'Heureux	Mariage	Philomène Dargis	
	Parents: [FX Turcotte]	Parents: [Godefroy L'Heureux]		Parents: [Thomas Dargis]		
	[Adélaïde Pépin]	[Marie Lizée]		[Marie Hélie]		
Death	Unknown	1893/10/16	Burial St-Maurice	Abt 1937	Western Canada	
					Descendants in Alberta & BC	

	of JOSEPH FRIGON OORILLA TURCOTTE	Ганшу	of ANTOINE FRIGON LOUISE L'HEUREUX	Fam	ly of: HUBERT FRIGON PHILOMENE DARGIS	
Year Individual		Year	Individual	Year Individual		
	-					
1864/08/06	(1) FX Edouard	Abt 1847	(1) Vitaline	1882/04/03	(1) Emile	
Birth	St-Maurice	Birth	St-Stanislas	Birth	St-Maurice	
	No other data	1880/10/04		1884/01/18	St-Maurice	
		Mariage	Isidore Trépanier	Death		
			Lac-à-la-Tortue			
		Death				
1866/07/01	(2) Sara Berthe	Abt 1849	(2) Alvina Malvina	1883/12/13	(2) Joseph Arthur	
Birth	St-Maurice	Birth	St-Stanislas	Birth	St-Maurice	
		1869/07/21		1907-06-24	St-Maurice	
Mariage	Frs Lefebvre	Death	19 years old	Mariage	Rose Anna Longval	
1914-07-21				1943-09-23	Roberval	
				Death		
1868/01/01	(3) Maurice Geo.	1851/05/05	(3) Emma	1886/02/05(3)	Albert Maurice	
Birth	St-Maurice	Birht		Birth		
1869/12/07	St-Maurice	?	St-Stanislas	1888/11/16		
Death		Death		Burial		
1869/03/31	(4) Juliette Joséph.	Abt 1852	(4) Anna	1888/01/02	(4) Telesphore	
Birth	St-Maurice	Birth	St-Stanislas	Birth	St-Maurice	
1872/03/10		1870/05/24	St-Maurice		Know as "Emile"	
		Death	19 ans		Mariage Isabelle Paradis	
Note: concern	ing (4) Télesphore "Emile", he	would have m	narried Isabelle Paradis in Des	jarlais, Alberta. Tv		
a) Philomène	Marguerite and b) Joséphine. V	would have m	narried Isabelle Paradis in Des e more data on this family		o known children:	
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(Continuation on 104)

THE FRIGON IN SAINT-MAURICE

Family of: JOSEPH FRIGON		Family of:	ANTOINE FRIGON	Family of: HUBERT FRIGON		
De	ORILLA TURCOTTE	TE LOUISE L'HEUREUX]	PHILOMENE DARGIS	
Year	Individual	Year I	ndividual	Year I	ndividual	
1874/05/01	(9) Lucien	1861/07/13	(9) Télesphore	(???)	(9) Marie-Anne	
Birth	St-Maurice	Birth	St-Narcisse	See note #3	(///)	
		1887/05/09	Césarie Cadotte	1917-09-21	Arthur Fontaine	
Mariage	P. Grenier	Mariage	St-Maurice	Mariage	St-Paul, Alberta	
		Immigrated to New England		Death ± 1974	Edmonton	

Note: for Hubert Frigon and Philomena Dargis, I have in my notes: Joseph Frigon, B.: abt 1888 dcd. September 28, 1973 (St. Paul, Alta). We know he was the father of Josephine Frigon - Warholik. Also: a girl, Alhonsine [Hubert + Philomena Dargis] born and dcd around 1892 or 1893. Marie -Rose, wife of Antoine Fontaine had an unhappy life, she lost her husband in the war in Europe and also lost twins to the Spanish flu. She returned to Quebec alone and desperate and then returned to Alberta. Another note: there is a lack of data on the children of Joseph Frigon and Dorilla Turcotte. It seems that the family left St-Maurice for Montreal. The data on the children of Hubert Frigon and Philomena Dargis is totally confusing. Fortunately Dr. Jean Dargis [Dargis Fund] from Trois-Rivières did some research, otherwise we would have had nothing to write. Notes added by Gerald Frigon based on the last entries in BK: Note # 2: Alphonsine, born 1892/09/19 and died 1893/12/23 in St-Maurice. Another daughter, born 1894/07/19 was also named Alphonsine but we do not have any further data.

Note #3: Marie-Anne did not exist. It was Rose-Claire who married a Fontaine of St. Paul des Métis, Alberta

1875/11/06	(10) Marie-Jos	1866/06/20	(10) Nazaire	1899/11/10	(10) Thomas
	Arthur-Julien	Birth	St-Tite	Birth	St-Maurice
Birth	St-Maurice	No other dat	ta	Abt 1957	Edmonton
No other data	a	see note #2		Death	57 or 58 years

Note 1:

About Télesphore Frigon: [Antoine Frigon + Louise L'Heureux], husband of Césarie Sara Cadotte, whose parents are Louis Cadotte and Delima Lahaye. Télesphore Frigon died on July 11, 1946 (or 47) in Smithfield RI and was buried on July 13,1946 (or 47) in Attleboro Mass.

Note 2:

Two daughters of Antoine Frigon + Louise L'Heureux: a) Joséphine Frigon, born on July 15, 1863 [St -Narcisse] and b) Reine Frigon, born about 1865, married William Côté in St-Maurice on January 8, 1889.

Our records show a son of Joseph Frigon and Dorilla Turcotte who, it seems, would have had descendants. However we do not know to which extent. Maurice Frigon, husband of Naomi Souris-Casot or Casault, had a son, Maurice Frigon, who married Estelle Robichon, daughter of Xavier-Arthur Robichon + Flore Salvage, in St-Raphael, Montreal, on November 1, 1944. Note 4:

Another family, from a branch of St -Prosper, also took up residence for a time in St-Maurice . François Frigon, son of Olivier Frigon + Virginia Vézina, born in St -Prosper on November 24, 1864, married Mélanie Drouin, widow of Jean-Baptiste Legendre, in St-Maurice on October 5, 1896 . This couple lived out of the ordinary afflictions. Of their nine children, only two daughters apparently survived. a) Diana Frigon, born on December 22, 1901 in St-Maurice, marries Prosper Jacob also in St-Maurice on October 19, 1925 . And b), Véronique Ferdinande Frigon , born on November 11, 1906 in St-Maurice, became the wife of Achille Taillefer on September 12, 1927. The wedding ceremony took place in Amos in Abitibi. The fact remains that François Frigon and his wife Melanie Drouin died in St -Maurice around 1926 before their daughter would move to Abitibi. This developing region attracted many Frigon.

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THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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