



# THE FRIGONS

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

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## MEETING AND FAMILY GATHERING August 19, 2017

J-A Lesieur Community Center  
Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan  
Theme « Country »



This year's annual meeting was in line with the Association's efforts to recruit new members and ensure its continuity. The President announced that Basse-Normandie had been identified as the region of origin of our ancestor. More information will be provided to us in the fall or next winter. It was also a special occasion to offer our thanks to Aurèle (272) for his involvement and dedication to the Association. The lively encounter of music, conferences and games as well as the draw of art works offered by Lucie Gravel (275) and Ursule Frigon-Couture (111) took place in a warm and relaxed atmosphere enjoyed by all. There were more than 62 registered participants. Of these attendees, 27 members and non-members participated in the general meeting. In 2017, the Association's database identified 11,502 descendants of François Frigon said Lespagnol, and 6,157 spouses. The outgoing president, Gérald Frigon (116) was re-elected una-

nimously while Jean-René (11) returned to the board of directors. Aurèle did not wish to run for office. The other members of the outgoing council were re-elected. The Board will once again consist of 12 members.



*Our next annual meeting will be held on August, 2018. Date and place will appear in the Winter 2018 bulletin and on the website [frigon.org](http://frigon.org)*

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PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

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

Pierre-Léon Simon-Ayotte, better known as Jaquette-à-Simon, labourer and legendary figure, was born in 1842 or 1845 in Saint-Stanislas-de-la-Rivière-des-Envies (Saint-Stanislas, Québec). He is the son of Pierre Ayotte (Ayotte, said Simon), farmer in Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, and of Marguerite Lapointe, said Tousignant of Saint-Stanislas<sup>1</sup>. According to the burial register, Léon Simon-Ayotte died on February 27, 1907, and was buried on March 1st in Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan. His nickname « Jaquette à Simon » comes from the fact that he wore a kind of nightshirt buttoned up like a cardigan. « He never wore trousers or breeches ». According to the legend, his pants were ripped by the devil.

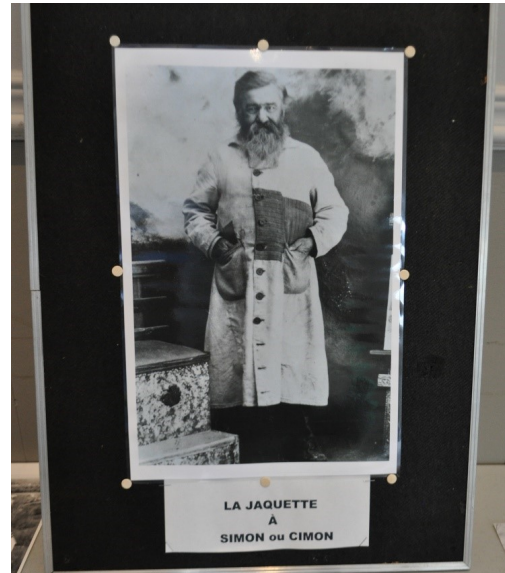
Pierre-Léon Ayotte spent most of his life in the Rang des Forges, in the parish of Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan.

Here are a few excerpts from the work of Edouard-Zotique Massicotte in 1929<sup>2</sup>.

### BIZARRE AND CRAZY

- According to the legend, « Jaquette-à-Simon » became possessed by the Devil following an unfortunate incident. In his early childhood, he cried so much that his mother was totally exhausted. One evening, she was so tired that she asked her husband to rock the baby while she would try to rest. The father took over but being quite tired himself, he frequently dozed off. Nervous and impatient, he shouted “The Devil rock your cradle!” And from that moment, the cradle started to rock on its own and the child slept soundly.
- A man named Hubert Trépanier sensing there was money to be made, persuaded Pierre-Léon to follow him on a tour of the United States. Some sceptics, who did not believe in the devil’s intervention, gambled a large sum of money to the effect that Léon himself could free his hands and re-

move his clothes. They dressed him in a white suit, blackened his hands, and shut him in a room. When he emerged a few minutes later, the familiar phenomenon had happened but shreds of blackened trousers proved that Pierre-Léon himself was the cause of the phenomenon, not some satanic spirit.



"He often worked for J.A. L'heureux, a tombstone sculptor and photographer. Mr L'heureux must have taken his picture and gave it to me later, when I became his neighbour following my marriage."<sup>3</sup>

He lived in the rang des Forges next to the maternal grandparents of Laure Massicotte-Chouinard (grandfather Théotime Magny). Here is a fact related by Annette Magny, Laure's mother:

« His *patois* was “saké dâné”. He had a coleric temperament and got mad quickly. It is said that he liked women. This is why my grandfather did not want his daughters to wander on the side of the house overlooking Léon Simon's home. During the course of his life, many have taken him for granted and had him work for nothing»<sup>3</sup>.

More to come in the next bulletin.

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/ayotte\\_pierre\\_leon\\_13F.html](http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/ayotte_pierre_leon_13F.html)

<sup>2</sup> Bulletin des Recherches Historiques, no 35, avril 1929. pages 231, 232, 233

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Laure Massicotte Chouinard send to Raymond Rivard in 1995. The source was Annette Magny, daughter of Théotime Magny.





## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

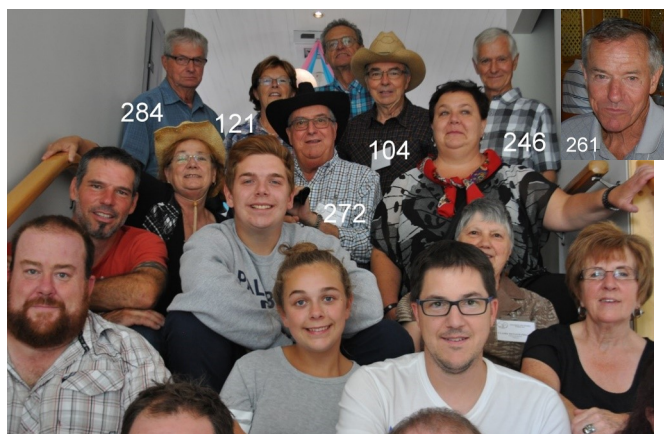
*Gérald Frigon (116)*

67

The Third Age is the time for travels: on one hand, geographical travels where one visits countries that arouse one's curiosity, on the other hand, interior travels such as souvenirs. Let's get rid of unpleasant souvenirs, self-pity and unnecessary grievances. Better to get involved in something useful.

Although we can be conscious that we are in the latter part of our life, we should not be spectators but actors. So many things left to do... So many projects to realize... For us, for our children and grandchildren. For our community, for our Association.

For a second consecutive year, the family of Henri-Paul came in large number (thirty). The children of Henri-Paul and Florina are all members of the Association. Normand (246), Marcel (284), Ghislain (261) absent, Jacques (104), Aurèle (272), Denise (121).



Aurèle, your short presence on the Board of Directors was noticed and appreciated. For health reasons, you had to leave the board. You deserve our congratulations for the three meetings that you organized: Nicolet on August 16, 2014 (57), Batiscan on August 27, 2016 (125), and Ste-Geneviève on August 19, 2017 (65 participants). THANK YOU, AURÈLE, FOR GIVING A NEW BREATH TO THE ASSOCIATION.

Thanks to Raymond Rivard of Ste-Geneviève for his presentation on "Jaquette à Simon", the house of Maurice Frigon in the Rang Jacob, the story of the relocation of the Calvary and the name of the J.A. Lesieur community center.



Thanks to the 4 organizers: Aurèle (272), Denise (121), Francine (271) and Lucie (275).

**Fall 2017**

In the fall, light is fading, but will shine again if we open our spirit and our heart. During 40 or 50 years, you have gained lots of knowledge and experience. We should ensure that those around us benefit from this life experience. It is gratifying to know you are making people happy. When we remain active, the more we age, the more we are in love with life.

Life's great!...

(inspired by aunt Eva (04666))

### WINNERS OF DOOR PRIZES OFFERED BY Lucie Gravel (275), inks on paper



From left to right:  
Guy Naud,  
Claire Renaud-  
Frigon (279),  
Lucie Gravel  
(275) donator,  
Sylvie Frigon  
(27)

From left to  
right:  
Geneviève  
Frigon (287)  
Lucie (275)  
Ursule Frigon-  
Couture (111)  
Réjeanne (177)



Annie Frigon daughter of Marcel (284), Ursule Frigon-Couture (111), donator of the Japanese embroidery, Réjeanne Frigon (177) vice-président of the Association and animator.



We mentioned earlier the salt granary at Senlis, the Watch, and the taxes raised for the repairs of the fortifications.. These activities might still interest the curious minds of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Therefore, I will dwell on a few activities that went on during or close to the years when Pierre Frigon served as alderman.

### The salt granary



Former salt granaries of Redon, near Nantes, 500 km southwest of Senlis.

Source : [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenier\\_%C3%A0\\_sel](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenier_%C3%A0_sel)

Salt was essential for the conservation of meat and fish at that time. No one could do without it and the one who controlled it possessed great power. Salt was under the authority of the king who controlled its sale and taxed it heavily. This arbitrary and unpopular tax was called the *gabelle* or salt tax. Salt granaries were warehouses "where the subjects of the king were obliged to buy their supplies. [...] The tax (*gabelle*/salt tax) amounted to five to ten times the value of the salt. . Salt duty (*devoir de sel*) did not exist, and the inhabitants could buy the quantity they desired in the granary of their choice. They were simply issued a receipt proving that the salt duties had been paid »<sup>18</sup>.

At Senlis, the salt warehouse would supply the city and surrounding villages. Granted by the king, that was a right coveted by the cities because it produced good profits. " [...] The town of Senlis has had frequent trials with neighbouring cities, which enjoyed the same advantage, they argued over the villages they would supply in order to increase the products of the granary". When King Charles VII [sic] restored a salt granary in Senlis in 1404, he granted the town the salt trade for four years, that is to say the right to provide salt during this time assuming all responsibility and risks. The inhabitants first attempted to operate the trade for their own account; they borrowed a thousand pounds<sup>19</sup>, bought salt and even tried to obtain salt from Guérande in Bretagne. They bought a large amount for the sum of 1400 pounds, and had the salt transported by sea to Harfleur on a chartered ship shared with the town of Meaux. A clerk was designated to keep the key of the granary and monitor the royal controller; the salt was sold at the price set by the ordinances. They withdrew the tax imposed by the King for his benefit and the remainder belonged to the city, which, after having deducted the purchase price, still had a handsome profit. But the trade fluctuated, since the benefit depended on the purchase price of salt which could rise or fall depending on the circumstances, and costs for the monitoring were high. This is why, in 1406, the city leased<sup>20</sup> (*affermer*) its rights, for an annual fee of 200 *écus*<sup>21</sup>. Thus, the entrepreneur who took over the salt granary annually pays 200 *écus* to the city and takes full responsibility for the granary. History does not say whether he got any profit from it.

### The watch

During this period, we are in the midst of the Hundred Years War which opposes the dynasty of Plantagenets and that of the Valois from 1337 to 1453, and through them the kingdoms of France and Eng-

(Continuation on page 69)

<sup>18</sup>Jean Stocker, *Le Sel*, Paris, 1949, Presses universitaires de France, p. 100.

<sup>19</sup>Currency at the time.

<sup>20</sup> *Affermer* : lease to someone who takes full responsibility of the good (land, salt granary, etc.).

<sup>21</sup>Flammermont, p. 148 and Comité archéologique de Senlis, 1879, p. 390 +.

On salt granaries, see also: J. F. Broisse, *Recherches historiques sur la ville de Senlis*, Senlis, 1835, imprimerie Desmarests, 239 pages. [https://books.google.ca/books/about/Recherches\\_historiques\\_sur\\_la\\_ville\\_de\\_S.html?id=soNj8KDYGC0C&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.ca/books/about/Recherches_historiques_sur_la_ville_de_S.html?id=soNj8KDYGC0C&redir_esc=y)



(Continued from page 68)

land. Skirmishes between the nobles to seize power and attacks from the kings of England claiming the throne of France are common. This is a dark period for the people of Senlis. In these troubled times, the watchtowers needed in peacetime are even more critical, especially during the night.

« All the inhabitants, priests or simple clerics, religious or secular, had to contribute to the defense of their city; they were listed on the controls of the watch service and served in turn. Ecclesiastics occasionally complained against military obligations imposed on them, but it should be noted that during the siege of 1418 and during the whole time the city was seriously threatened by the Armagnacs, that is to say until Meaux was taken by the English in 1422, they completely carried out their duty but a little later they solicited privileges»<sup>22</sup> to be exempted from the night watch.

In **1386**, there were seven watch points in Senlis: **Bellon Street, town of St Vincent, Vitel, Parisie Street, the Chatel, Place aux Charrons and the Marché des samedis**. In fact, watch points corresponded to neighborhoods; they were in a strategic position for the defense of the city, and also served in the collection of direct taxes, the "*taille*". To perceive the *taille* tax, the general assembly of townspeople elected collectors who were to report the amounts received. The watch in fortified cities was still very present and the watchmen were better and better armed. So, "a census in 1512, at Senlis, mentions a total of 983 armed men, divided into ten watch services. But already, the *fire guns* were taking an important place in the army and many companies abandoned the bow and crossbow to upgrade to the *rifle musket* »<sup>23</sup>.



24 Bellon Street in Senlis<sup>24</sup>

### **Charles VI called the Mad (1380-1422), the war against England**

In the Middle Ages, with a few exceptions, war strategy mainly consisted of avoiding pitched battles and confrontation in open country. It was a war of skirmishes. Nowadays we are accustomed to armies that are well equipped, well trained, and composed of career men. But in the Middle Ages, the soldiers were recruited amongst common people « *sans feu, ni lieu* », poorly trained and attracted more by greed than by patriotism.

« Towns were not only obliged to assist the king with their counsels and their money, they also had to send men to his army. [...] The king would ask for a certain number of well equipped and armed archers and crossbowmen although the inhabitants sometimes allowed themselves to provide a little less. In **1382**, instead of raising ten archers as requested, the city provided six and royal officers accepted; examples of similar facts abound in our registers during the whole reign of Charles VI. Besides, the king most frequently asked the cities only to send as many archers and crossbowmen as possible to the army »<sup>25</sup>.

(Continuation on page 70)

<sup>22</sup>Flammermont, p. 121.

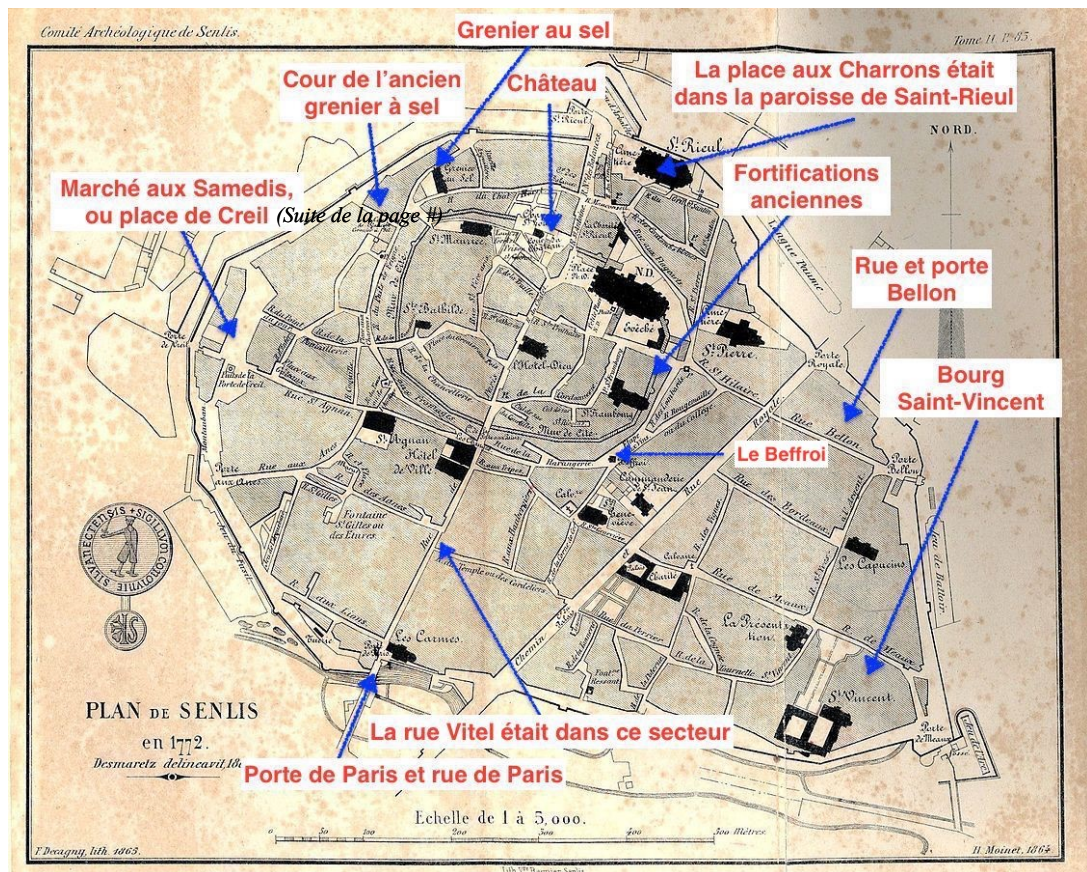
<sup>23</sup>Comité archéologique de Senlis, *Comptes-rendus et mémoires, deuxième série, tome 5, année 1879*, Senlis, 1880, imprimerie de Ernest Payer, p. 229.

<sup>24</sup> 24 Bellon Street, source: <https://www.google.ca/maps/place/24+Rue+Bellon,+60300+Senlis,+France>.

<sup>25</sup>Flammermont, p. 112-113.



(Continued from page 69)



Map of Senlis, in 1772. You can still identify the location of seven guets de Senlis lookouts at the time of Pierre Frigon and location of the Belfry and a former salt granary.

Sources : <http://www.bmsenlis.com/sitebmsenlis/galerie/picture.php?3583/category/218>

And Abbé Eugène Muller, *Monographie des rues, places et monuments de Senlis*, Senlis, 1880, Imprimerie Ernest Payen. <http://www.bmsenlis.com/data/pdf/shas/muller3.pdf>. See also part 1.



Hostages during the siege of Senlis, June 14, 1418, among them Master Jehan de Beaufort, alderman elected at the same time as Pierre Frigon, ten years earlier. Four of the six hostages were decapitated, but Jehan de Beaufort left the area unscathed.

Source : <http://www.bmsenlis.com/sitebmsenlis/galerie/picture.php?8369/category/299>

See : Vatin, *Senlis récits historiques*, Senlis, 1876, imprimerie Ernest Payen, p. 166-167.

See also : *Comptes rendus du Comité archéologique de Senlis*, 1880, p. 123-124. <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k486450b>

In the next issue : The war.





La Petite Maison des Enfants Soleil, a neighbourhood-based community organization, has been created 25 years ago.

At the annual general assembly of the Corporation held on May 24, 2017, the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly of Québec was presented to Sister Louise Frigon, founder of the organization, by Manon Massé, Provincial MP for the riding of Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques in Montréal.



From right to left: sister Louise Frigon cnd,  
Manon Massé Provincial MP

The general assembly was held at the Marguerite-Bourgeoys school, a few steps away from la Petite Maison; approximately thirty members were present. « Today we are honouring a very committed citizen who stood on the side of children and of vulnerable and marginalised woman. She wanted to work in solidarity with all services in the neighbourhood, be they educational, school, social, medical or commercial, said Manon Massé.

*N.B. To learn more about Sister Louise Frigon, see the article published in the Summer 1996 Bulletin V03N3<sup>2</sup>. On our web page (frigon.org) under the Recherche tab, type 02463. Another article on the Sisters of the Congrégation Notre-Dame will be published later under the theme “Frigon sisters and their families”.*



From left to right: Sister Louise Frigon, Manon Massé MPP,  
Mrs Jeanne d'Arc Fortin

Former beneficiaries who are now members of the Corporation, and who went through a very difficult childhood gave a personal account of the personalized accompaniment and educational services that helped them become who they are today.

**«To help, we must look to the  
bottom of the heart »**



Inspired by these words, the Petite Maison des Enfants Soleil opened in 1991 in the Center-South district. During these 25 years, the Petite Maison des Enfants Soleil welcomed on a daily basis and accompanied more than three hundred children and their parents.

**CONGRATULATIONS DEAR LOUISE, DEAR  
JEANNE D'ARC !**

Thank you for attending the meetings of the Association of Frigon Families since 1996.

<sup>1</sup><http://cnd-m.org/fr/nouvelles/article.php?id=1960>

<sup>2</sup>[http://frigon.org/uploads/document/louise\\_frigon\\_c\\_n\\_d\\_of52.pdf](http://frigon.org/uploads/document/louise_frigon_c_n_d_of52.pdf)

*GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 50 YEARS*

Ursule Frigon and Théo Couture celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 28, 2001. They would have celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 4, 2011 but unfortunately Théo died on May 9, 2011. Ursule Frigon member (111) is the daughter of Xavier Frigon and Annette Houde.



1st row: Christiane, Ursule, Théo.  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: Yvan, René, Danielle, Lise, Sylvie, Jocelyne.

Photos: Ursule Couture-Frigon member #111, BK02925.



Ursule Frigon (02925) married to Théo Couture on August 4, 1951 in Saint-Prospère-de-Champlain.

Ursule has 7 children, 12 grandchildren et 10 great-grandchildren.

She is from the lineage of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Souleine.



Xavier Frigon (03015) married Annette Houde (05023) on June 5, 1911 in Saint-Prospère-de-Champlain. They had thirteen children including Ursule Frigon.



Photos taken in 1902. Jean **Frigon** (02673) Ursule's grandfather. He was born on January 26, 1851 and died on June 26, 1905.

## FOR ALL THOSE YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR FIFTY YEARS AND OVER SINCE 2010

Send your wedding anniversary photos to the Association, your own, those of your parents or those of your grandparents.

Let all the members share the descendants of our Frigon families  
Please get in touch with me. I will be happy to send you the details.

*Sylvie Frigon*

I can be reached

by telephone: (418) 651-3948 or by e-mail: [sylvie.frigon@videotron.ca](mailto:sylvie.frigon@videotron.ca)

