



THE FRIGONS

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

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FALL 2022

ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 27, 2022
Centre communautaire Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan
Theme "Succession Planning"

François₁₃₀



The 2022 Annual General Meeting was a modest meeting following the cancellation of the annual general meetings scheduled for August 29, 2020 and for October 2d, 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.

dedication of the Board members and the Association's resource persons allow us to look forward with optimism.

Held at the J.-A.-Lesieur Community Centre, the meeting was attended by only 27 participants. It was essentially limited to the administrative aspects of the meeting (approval of the minutes of the August 24, 2019 meeting and the various reports of board members). Members approved three financial reports (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020; April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021; April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022) as well as the three reports of the auditor Gilles Bergeron. We thank Odette₂₉₇ Frigon for having chaired the meetings of the Board of Directors since June 1, 2021, as well as the General Assembly of August 27, 2022. We thank her warmly.

THANKS TO THE SIX OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Here is a brief history of the involvement of **CLAUDE₂₅₆ FRIGON** in the association

Claude joined the Association of Frigon Families on July 14, 2008. He attended our annual general meeting in Neuville on August 16, 2008 and several other annual meetings. He accepted to be elected as a member of the Board of Directors at the General Assembly on August 28, 2010 at the Notre-Dame-de-Montréal Basilica and was appointed as Secretary at our Board of Directors meeting on October 16, 2010 and remained so until

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The annual meeting was marked by the departure of 6 members of the Board of Directors, and the election of 7 members, including the president-elect Gérald₁₁₆ Frigon.

After 11 years of loyal service, auditor Gilles Bergeron is not renewing his mandate to audit our financial statements. We are most grateful to him. The association's finances are still sound and the

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August 27, 2022. During his 12 years as Secretary of the Association, he has assiduously participated in the Board meetings and the annual meetings.

Yes, Claude is a persevering and meticulous person, and was faithful to his commitment as secretary. Members who have met with him and the board members who have worked with him would like to thank him for his dedication to the Association.



Claude₂₅₆ at the AGM in Terrebonne on August 24, 2019 in his role as secretary.

Here's a little story from the life of Claude₂₅₆ and François₁₃₀

Claude and François were born in Sainte-Genève-de-Batiscan in the Village Jacob road. They were in the same class until grade 6. During these years, four children were in daily contact with each other: Claude₂₅₆, François₁₃₀, Aurèle₂₇₆ and André Gravel (Claude's nephew). After the seventh year, their paths separated. François continued his studies at the Maison Saint-Joseph in Pointe-du-Lac as a boarder, and Claude at the Séminaire de Trois-Rivières. Claude and François started their families and lived in Laval without meeting each other (1962 to 2000). Thirty-eight years later, their paths crossed again at the annual general meeting on September 2, 2000 at the Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade community



François₁₃₀ with his daughter Geneviève at the annual meeting, on September 2nd 2000



Une partie de la famille de Joseph Frigon et Rose Belleville

Claude₂₅₆ with some of his sisters and brothers on September 2nd, 2000

Thanks to the Association of Frigon Families, Claude and François have renewed their exchanges and meetings. What beautiful memories they have recalled! THANK YOU, CLAUDE, for your presence on the board of directors as secretary during these 12 years

Thanks to Murielle₂₉₇ Dubois-Frigon

Murielle became a member of the Association on December 4, 2018 and was elected as a member of the board at our annual meeting on August 24, 2019. Even before becoming a member, she was available as a volunteer greeter at general meetings. A task she performed again at the AGM on August 27, 2022. Thank you Murielle for your availability and your generosity towards the Association of Frigon Families.



Murielle₂₉₇ at the AGM on August, 18 2012 at the Manoir Montmorency.

Thanks to Réjeanne₁₇₇ Frigon

Réjeanne became a member of the association at the Annual General Meeting on September 2nd, 2000 at the Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade Community Centre. She accepted to be a member of the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on August 22, 2015 in Kingsey Falls. Réjeanne was our

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In the past, several articles in the newsletter dealt with the Frigons of the last century. Many Frigons of this century are surely just as enterprising and just as exceptional.

Are you proud of your children, of their achievements? Share their accomplishments with us in the newsletter. Be proud of your genes.

They are part of the large Frigon family.

The 2023 annual meeting will probably be held in the greater Montreal area. For 2024, we would like to hear your suggestions for a meeting place, either in your area or in a region you would like to visit. Your suggestions could include activities you would like to share.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES INC. SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

The next annual meeting will be held on August 26, 2023 at the Montréal Botanical Garden under the theme “A day at the botanical garden” which also includes access to the Biodôme, the Insectarium and the Planétarium. Details will be published in the Spring 2023 Newsletter.

Secretariat of the Association: 107, rue Nadine, Saint-Jérôme, QC J7Y 4S6
To contact the Association: apelandre99@gmail.com Website: frigon.org

Board of directors 2022-2023

President:	: Gérald Frigon ₁₁₆	Laval, QC
Vice-Presidente	: Odette Frigon ₂₉₁	Saint-Jérôme, QC
Secretary	: André Pelletier ₂₉₀ ,	Saint-Jérôme, QC
Treasurer	: François Frigon ₁₃₀	Laval, QC

Board of directors

Claire Renaud-Frigon ₂₇₉	Ottawa, ON	Jacques Frigon ₁₀₄	Ottawa, ON
René Frigon ₀₇₅	Terrebonne, QC		

Note from the editor: listing of board members since 1994: <https://frigon.org/a-propos-de-nous/administration>
Click on « Historique des conseils d'administration et des équipes du bulletin »

In charge of the Commitees

Facebook:	We are looking for someone interested in this position	
Genealogical Archives:	Jean-René Frigon ₀₁₁	Trois-Rivières, QC
	Chantal Frigon _{nnn}	Mont-Saint-Hilaire, QC
Membership base:	François Frigon ₁₃₀	Laval, QC
Research: The Frigon in Europe:	Gérald Frigon ₁₁₆	Laval, QC
THE FRIGONS'S Newsletter:	François Frigon ₁₃₀	Laval, QC
Web Site:	Jean-René Frigon ₀₁₁	Trois-Rivières, QC
	François Frigon ₁₃₀	Laval, QC

In charge of the Newsletter and Editing

- François Frigon₁₃₀

Edition and revision of the French texts

- Gérald Frigon₁₁₆
- Pierre Frigon₄

Edition, translation and revision of the English texts

- Claire Renaud-Frigon₂₇₉
- Jacques Frigon₁₀₄

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president from August 24, 2019 until her resignation for family reasons in June 2021. All members of the board appreciated her presence and leadership. Our most sincere thanks.



Réjeanne₁₇₇ at the AGM in Terrebonne on August 24, 2019 before her nomination as chair of the Association.

Thanks to Rita₁₇₈ Frigon

Rita became a member of the association at the Annual General Meeting on September 2, 2000 at the Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade community centre. She became a member of the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on August 22, 2015 in Kingsey Falls and left on August 27, 2022. Her involvement was not limited to her presence on the board. She helped with greeting members and compiling attendance records at the annual meetings. Thank you, Rita, for your help and presence on the board.



Rita₁₇₈ at the dinner in Lanaudière on August 25, 2019 for the 25th anniversary of the Association.

Thanks to Francine₂₇₁ Frigon

Francine became a member of the association on November 31, 2013 following her attendance at our August 31, 2013 meeting at La Bissonnière in Saint-Prospér. She was elected Treasurer at our October 6, 2018 meeting and served in that capacity until August 27, 2022. During her 4 years as Treasurer, she met the challenge of the tasks she had to perform.



Francine₂₇₁ at the AGM on August 24, 2019 in Terrebonne in her role of treasurer.

Thanks to Lucie₂₇₅ Gravel

Lucie joined the association on October 10, 2013 after attending our August 31, 2013 meeting at La Bissonnière Farm in Saint-Prospér. She was elected as a member of the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on August 22, 2015 in Kingsey Falls. She resigned on August 27, 2022. She contributed to the annual meetings by donating some of her artwork. We thank Lucie for her generosity and involvement with the Association of Frigon Families.



Lucie₂₇₅ On August 24, 2019 at the Annual Meeting and Gathering in Terrebonne (presentation of a sculpture representing a genealogical tree)



Lucie₂₇₅ and Claude₂₅₆ at the AGM on August 27, 2016 at the Vieux Presbytère de Batiscan (Lucie donated four paintings as door prizes)



THE FUR TRADING EXPEDITIONS OF THE FAMILY OF FRANÇOIS FRIGON 69

Gérald Frigon¹¹⁶

In the 1600's, by tradition, Aboriginal people met to socialize and exchange goods, such as furs, tools, shells, etc., in Tadoussac, Cap Rouge, Batiscan and the Island of Montreal, among other places. On Île St-Éloi de Batiscan, the Attikamek, Abenaki and Algonquin nations used to meet every year. These meetings consisted primarily of games, skill contests and dances, as the chiefs discussed alliances and common projects. Afterwards, exchanges were made and they parted for a year.

The Whites, starting with Samuel de Champlain, saw the opportunity to participate in these exchanges. They imported cloth, metal tools and trinkets from France to trade with the natives for furs. For more details on the whole process of the trade, go back and read the beautiful series of fifteen articles that Pierre Frigon⁴ published in our newsletter between the spring of 1998 and the summer of 2002 under the title "François Frigon voyageur". The tradition continued after the settlement of whites in Batiscan, the Batiscan river being used by many natives coming from the north. White settlers became familiar with these meetings and participated in them. They learned to judge the value of the skins while learning the methods of trapping. Some of them started to go up the river in order to come back with better catches. In fact, around 1670, Laurent Lefebvre established a fur trading post¹ on the Batiscan River about 3 kilometres from the river's mouth. In addition to his servant, Michel Dallaux, he hired two occasional trappers, François Dessureaux and Pierre Reborel. This allowed him to trade furs continuously with all those who travelled up the Batiscan, rather than just participating in exchanges for two weeks a year. No need to wait for the natives to come down, the white men went to get the furs themselves. With their tools (knives, guns, etc.), they became more efficient than the Amerindians.

It is certain that many of the inhabitants of Batiscan were involved in trapping. If we analyze the 1681 census, we see that 13 families out of 52 cultivated enough land to trade, either in grain or livestock. Furthermore, notarial records between 1671 and

1690 show that 29 inhabitants of Batiscan had made between 1 and 7 trading trips. In 1685 alone, 14 agreements between voyageurs were notarized. The act² between Antoine and Joseph Trottier, Julien Rivard and Ange Lefebvre includes the mention "...as they are accustomed to do since their adolescence...". Batiscan was more a village of trappers than one of settlers and, in 1681, Batiscan was more populous than Trois-Rivières. Moreover, in October 1677, 28 days before marrying Madeleine Grimard of Batiscan, Pierre Morand bought³ a piece of land east of Île St-Éloi for 650 livres^{NDR} which he paid on the spot at the notary's office, in good beaver pelts. After a few years, the exhaustion of the northern rivers forced the trappers to travel west.

François Frigon was surely among those who took part in these trapping and hunting trips up the Batiscan River. Indeed, he must have learned to judge the value of the skins before undertaking his first trading trip to the Ottawa River in 1683. He signed a partnership treaty with Jacques Babie, a merchant from Champlain, to be in charge of the three-canoe team. François and Jacques Babie were each to keep 25% of the profits and the surplus, if any, after having paid the 8 paddlers hired at 300 livres each. They brought 6,026 pounds of merchandise to be traded. Because he was not familiar with the west, François hired, among the paddlers, Vivien Jean who accepted the responsibility to serve as guide in exchange for the right to bring 300 pounds worth of goods to trade on his own account. Traditionally, paddlers were entitled to 100 pounds of merchandise, either for their own use or to trade on their own account.

All these trappers traded a huge quantity of skins and the local authorities saw this windfall pass them by without them making any profit. They urged the King to control the situation. He decided to impose a limited number of trading leaves (permits) initially 25 days per year. Very quickly, these leaves were limited to one canoe, although the number of leaves greatly exceeded the 25 authorised by the King. The voyageurs improved the techniques of the natives and lengthened the canoes

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¹See «Nos ancêtres» in the bulletin of the Association des familles Dessureaux.

²Notary Adhémar in May 1685.

³Notary Adhémar in October 1677.

NDR: *The livre française was equivalent to a pound of silver*

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to carry more skins per expedition.

In 1685, François Frigon took part⁴ with about twenty Frenchmen in an expedition to the west led by Nicolas Perrot. The latter had just been appointed Commandant-in-Chief of the West⁵ and was travelling to his post at the Baie des Puants (today Green Bay) west of Lake Michigan, among the Fox nation and the Pouteouatamis. Perrot exerted great influence on the Amerindians of the region and traded large quantities of furs. However, he did not become rich. In 1687, his warehouse burned down with 40,000 livres worth of furs.

In 1686, François Frigon partnered with the brothers Jean and Antoine Desrosiers of Champlain and they obtained two trading permits from the merchant Jacques Defay of Quebec City for 1,600 livres. These trading permits were signed by Cavalier de LaSalle. They hired three other paddlers and bought 7,109 livres of goods to trade with the Illinois nation in Fort St. Louis. With the merchant retaining 33% of the profits, François expected to earn about 12.5% of the profits. Assuming a full load of furs (2,000 lbs. per canoe) and 10% of greasy skins, this represented about 500 livres of profit for François. The voyage began in late September or October 1685 and lasted about 8 months. He was back in the spring of 1687. According to some, the voyage lasted 2 years, but according to notary Normandin, he served as an arbitrator in a dispute between Jeanne Guillet and Antoine Trottier in early November 1687.

In 1691, Joseph Moreau, Mathurin Rivard and others were hired by Henri Tonty for a trip to Fort St. Louis, Illinois, for 500 livres each. Joseph Moreau married Françoise Frigon in February 1700 and Mathurin Rivard married Jeanne Frigon in February 1710. They will thus be sons-in-law of François Frigon.

In 1692, Joseph Moreau, Mathurin Rivard and 16 others signed up with Tonty for a trip to Fort St. Louis, Illinois. They received 450 livres each.

In 1693, Joseph Moreau and Mathurin Rivard and others signed up for a trip to the Outaouais for 150

livres each. It should be noted that wages varied greatly, depending on the distance to be covered. Michilimakinac in the Outaouais was 1,000 km from Batiscan. Detroit was 1,150 km from Batiscan, but if you went through Michilimakinac, then the route was 1,450 km. The Illinois was between 1,750 and 1,900 km from Batiscan, depending on which Fort you were heading for, St. Louis or Contrecoeur. It is likely that both were visited if the trip was sponsored by the Compagnie de la Colonie. How were the arms and back after having paddled all that distance!

In 1694, Joseph Moreau signed up with Lamothe-Cadillac for a voyage to the Outaouais for a total of 350 livres. It was up to him to find and pay another paddler.

In 1695, François Frigon organized a trading trip to introduce his son Jean-François to these expeditions. The two signed a partnership contract with Charles Lesieur junior and Pierre Trottier, son of Antoine Trottier, a Batiscan merchant, who sold them a trading permit for 1,050 livres and sold them 6,966 pounds of merchandise for the trade. François was 46 years old; this would be his last trading trip in the west. In the days that followed, François sold a cow and a calf for 267 livres and made a commitment to compensate Antoine Trottier who, as a merchant, would support the livelihood of his family who remained behind.

In 1696, Joseph Moreau and Louis Durand committed themselves to bring to Lamothe-Cadillac 7,000 francs worth of trade goods to Michilimakinac⁶. For this trip, Joseph Moreau brought a few hundred pounds of merchandise instead of the 100 pounds allowed for trading on their own account. Once there, they settled in a cabin. In the following month, Durand killed a dog that wanted to bite him. He was arrested and imprisoned. Not accepting his fate, Durant told Lamothe-Cadillac that he wanted to withdraw from his commitments and wished to return to Quebec. Since Moreau did not want to hold the deal alone, Lamothe-Cadillac had him imprisoned in turn and had all their goods seized. Among these goods, he found a pouch containing the proof that Moreau had purchased more than 100

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⁴Le Nouvelliste, 13 October 13,1979, p.19, reported by Hélène Bizier.

⁵Wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas Perrot.

⁶From an article written by Raymond Douville entitled *Un associé de Lamothe-Cadillac: Joseph Moreau de Batiscan* and published in the memoirs of the genealogical society.

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pounds of goods. Cadillac used this proof to justify his imprisonment. When they got out of prison, Moreau and Durand had to borrow money to survive. Moreau initiated a lawsuit which he took to the Sovereign Council and won; the court then ordered Lamothe-Cadillac to pay Moreau the sum of 3,420 livres. The next day, Governor Frontenac declared the judgment null and void and ordered that the trial documents be sent to Paris, despite the fact that the Sovereign Council had full power in matters of high and low justice. What could a poor little *coureur des bois* do against the powerful contacts of Lamothe-Cadillac...

In 1697, Mathurin Rivard, his brother Nicolas and their cousin Robert Rivard partnered with Jean-Baptiste Crevier and Jean Baribeau and signed a contract with the merchant François Hazeur of Quebec City for the purchase of trade goods.

In 1698, Joseph Moreau partnered with Thomas Lefebvre and Louis Chambalon of Québec for a voyage to Acadia. This trip was not very successful and Lefebvre sued his two partners in court to obtain a larger share of the furs. After these last two unsuccessful expeditions, it is not surprising that Joseph Moreau was tempted to settle down. Fifteen months later, he married Françoise Frigon in Batiscan.

In 1701, Jean-François Frigon in turn started to travel west. Indeed, Jean-François, Mathurin Rivard and 32 other people signed a contract with Lamothe-Cadillac to build the fort of Pontchartrain, the first settlement in the city of Detroit. They were paid 300 livres each. We can see that, year after year, the remuneration of the paddlers decreased.

In 1702, Jean-François Frigon, Mathurin Rivard, Joseph Moreau and fifteen other people from Batiscan and Champlain signed up with the Compagnie de la Colonie du Canada for a trip to the west for 200 livres each.

In 1703, Mathurin Rivard and 44 other people signed up with the Compagnie de la Colonie for a voyage to the west for 200 livres each.

In 1704, Jean-François Frigon, Joseph Moreau and 57 other people, mostly from Batiscan and Cham-

plain, signed up with the Compagnie du Canada for a voyage to the west for 200 livres each.

That same year, Mathurin Rivard joined Michel Roy for a trading trip to the west with 2,040 pounds of goods aboard the canoe.

In 1705, Jean-François Frigon, Jean Prime, Joseph Moreau and 35 others, mostly from Batiscan and Champlain, signed up with Lamothe-Cadillac for a voyage to the west for 150 livres each. Jean Prime had married Madeleine Frigon in 1695. Since his marriage, he had been farming in Batiscan the land of Pierre Lemoine, who died in 1704. In June 1706, Jean Prime obtained a concession at St-Pierre-les-Becquet.

In 1706, Jean-François Frigon and Mathurin Rivard partnered for a trading trip to Michilimakinac in the Outaouais. They brought 2 376 pounds of merchandise, payable in beaver pelts the following August.

In 1707, Jean-François Frigon, Joseph Moreau, Jean Prime and others signed up with Lamothe-Cadillac for a convoy of 14 canoes for a trip to Michilimakinac and Detroit. They were paid 300 livres each. Some claim that Joseph Moreau did not return from this trip, but he signed up again the following year.

In 1708, Joseph Moreau joined his brother Jean and François Fleury for a trading trip to Acadia, sponsored by Thomas Lefebvre⁷ of Québec. Joseph signed two credit purchases of 175 and 234 pounds for goods. This trip turned out to be fatal to him. A trial in Quebec City on February 20, 1713 obliged Thomas Lefebvre to pay the debts of 1019 livres of Joseph Moreau to Master Louis Chambalon. We know that Françoise Frigon, Joseph Moreau's wife, had requested and obtained a separation as to property from her husband in 1704. At his death, Moreau must have been insolvent and his heirs refused to pay his debts.

That same year, Mathurin Rivard transported 4,702 pounds of merchandise for the trade westward with his cousins Joseph and Robert Rivard, with the permission of the Compagnie de la Marine.

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⁷BANQ, Pistard, cote TP1, S28, P9250.

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In 1712, Mathurin Rivard transported 4,560 pounds of merchandise for the westward trade with his brother Claude Rivard. They each received a 33% profit, with the final third going to François de Laforet, commander of the Compagnie de la Marine, who provided the trading permit.

In 1713, René and Mathurin Rivard carried 3,210 pounds of trade goods (including a maximum of 15 cauldrons) to the west. They each received a 33% profit, with the final third going to François de Laforet, commander of the Compagnie de la Marine, who provided the trade leave. At the same time, they were bringing the Company's correspondence to the commander in Detroit.

In 1716, Jean-François Frigon, Jacques Rouillard, Mathurin Piccard, François Duclos, Pierre Gouin and Claude Lepelé dit Lahaye signed a contract with J. T. de Montigny of the Compagnie de la Marine for an expedition to the west. The details of this expedition are unknown, because the original act of the notary J. B. Adhémar cannot be found.

Thus a total of 37 trading trips were made by the members of this sole Frigon family. If we add what could have been trapped on the Batiscan River, that makes more than 40 tons of furs for one family. This shows the importance of the fur trade at the beginning of the colony.

Other Frigons made trading trips to the west. Joseph Frigon in 1729, Antoine Frigon in 1740, 1744 and 1746, Pierre Frigon in 1745 and again in 1761. Louis Frigon made a trip in 1738, but from 1748 to 1757 he hired voyageurs for the West almost every year and he kept a fur store on St-Paul street in Montreal.

And to think that Louis XV had the possibility, in 1750, to leave the Mississippi and Louisiana to the English and to keep, forever, all the lands north of the 45th parallel. By refusing this proposal of the English⁸ ambassador, he found himself in 1764 with the St-Pierre Miquelon Islands as the only access to cod...

⁸See the article by Gérald Frigon¹¹⁶ in our newsletter, vol. 28, no. 3, page 44.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

In 1899, Jean-Baptiste Monfette made a donation¹ to Alfred Frigon of Sainte-Victoire d'Arthabaska. We do not know if it was a gift or real estate or a cash donation.

Between 1901 and 1905, Alfred Frigon was active in real estate. The Arthabaska Registry Office (Septembre 9 to 21, 1901, p. 454) recorded an exchange of goods with L. Guillemette².

Four years later, he sold real estate to Paul Tourigny³ (Arthabaska Registry Office, July 13, 1905, p. 454).

¹Mutations entrées au bureau d'enregistrement du comté d'Arthabaska, du 28 septembre au 5 octobre 1899, p. 453. L'Union des Cantons de l'Est, 6 octobre 1899, p. 2. Donation. <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/2684344?docsearchtext=A.%20P.%20Frigon>

²L'Écho des Bois-francs, 28 septembre 1901, p. 2. Échange. <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/3690223?docsearchtext=A.%20P.%20Frigon>

³L'Écho des Bois-francs, 15 juillet 1905, p. 4. Bureau d'enregistrement. <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/3690418?docsearchtext=A.%20P.%20Frigon>

