

1721 Census of Laprairie, Quebec

Maybe 1729

And on the 23rd of the said month of February, we aforesaid commissioner left, accompanied by our clerk of the city of Montreal, to go to the parish of La Magdelaine located in the side known as La Prairie de la Madeleine where have appeared in front of us at nine o'clock in the morning Mr Paul Armand Ulric, regular priest of the said parish made by R. P. D'Heu, (aka Dheu) Superior of the residence of the Jesuit Fathers of Montreal and managing the affairs of the R. P. Jesuits of Quebec, Seigneurs of the said place of La Prairie de la Madeleine, Mr. **Clement Leriger de la Plante**, officer in the troops of the Navy detachment in this country, **Francois Le Ber**, Lieutenant of militia of the said place, Antoine Boyer, ensign of the said company, Mr. Guillaume Barrette, notary of the Seigneury, Charles Mercier, Jean Gervais, Toussaint Trudeau, Etienne Trudeau, Mathieu Gervais, Joseph Robidou, Charles Diel le Petit, Laurent Surprenant, Antoine Rousseau dit LaBonte, Louis Baron, Jean La Roche, Jean LaFontaine, Jean Poupert, Jacques Hertault dit St Pierre, Rene Longtin, Pierre Caille, Pierre Dumay, Michel Ste Marie, Pierre Brosseau, Benoit Plamondon, Pierre Senecal, Pierre Gagnier, Francois Gagnier, Jacques Dumay, **Rene Bourassa, Jean Lefort dit Laprairie, Jacques Poissant, Pierre Herve**, and Jean Lafetiere, all inhabitants of the said place of La Prairie de la Madeleine, doing both for them and for the other inhabitants of the same seigneury who could not come in this group to which we have outlined the subject of our committee, and have interrogated them to tell us they are present of this parish, the number of heads of families who compose it, and of us declare whether they or any of those who did not come to this assembly are inconvenience to come to the church of this parish, either by the difficulty of the roads or by remoteness, on which they told us that the present extent of the said parish is two and a half leagues or so along the St. Lawrence River which is the from the front of this seigneury for about four leagues deep, the said extended divided, know, five quarters of a league or so to take from the coast down to the line which separates this seigneury from that of Longueuil going up to the church of this parish, and that the first dwelling which is of this seigneury, joining the line which the separate one from Longueuil belongs to Joseph Robidou, resident of the said seigneury of Longueuil, that from the church of this parish going up the river up to the line which separates this seigneury from that of Sault St. Louis, there is also about five quarters of a league, that below the church of this parish at the distance of twenty acres, there is the St. Jacques river which comes from the depth, along which at the height of about half a league there are inhabitants established, that there is also at above the church at a distance of forty acres a river called the Tortue, on which there are some establishments, that there are twenty nine inhabitants from the bottom of this seigneury to the church of this parish, that above the church of this parish to the lands of the seigneury of Sault St. Louis there are thirteen inhabitants; that in the St. Jacques river side there are fifteen inhabitants of the other concessions belonging to eight inhabitants of the Fort of this parish and that at the height of one

league or about on the river there is still one inhabitant, that in the Tortue river there are three inhabitants and other concessions not yet established, than the said seigneurie of Sault St. Louis was granted to the Jesuits to place their mission for the Iroquois savages and contains three and a half leagues abreast by leagues deep, the said front has take the coast below from the line that separates it with this seigneurie, going up to the seigneurie of Chateaugay (49) which belongs to Sieur Lanoue who is the last of this coast of the river and is three leagues abreast by two leagues deep and that on the said last seigneurie there are ten heads of families, and the domain of the said Sieur Lanoue who are served by mission, by the missionary of said Savages of Sault St. Louis, and on the convenience or inconvenience of coming to the church of this parish the so-called inhabitants told us that they are all very happy to be parishioners of this parish having nothing more convenient than the distraction that we wanted to make it from the bottom of this seigneurie to Charles Diel, he understood what forty acres of expanse does, does not seem reasonable, all the more so since these inhabitants there like the others have contested in the church building of the presbytery and of the house of the Sisters of the Congregation, which they have always been of this parish and that they have their relatives and friends there, and are all of the same seigneurie, that the inhabitants of Chateaugay cannot be served otherwise than they are, there being no parish nor establishment beyond. Which sayings, declarations and representations we have drawn up the present verbal process which reading and have the said Sieurs Ulric and **Laplante** and the said **Le Ber**, Gagnier brothers, Barrette, **Bourassa**, Dumay, Jean Francois Dumay, and Brosseau sign with us, the others before named having declared to not know how to write or sign of this interrogation and following the ordinance made in the presbytery house of the said parish on the day and year that above, also signed Ulric, parish priest, **Laplante**, **Le Ber**, Pierre Gagnier, F. Gagnier, P. Brosseau, **Bourassa**, Pierre Dumay, Francois Dumay, G. Barette, Caille and Boucault.

Note: Both my Poissant and Bourassa lineages that I Bolded began in Laprairie, and the others were related somehow. Great to see them all together in this document from the ARCHIVES DE QUEBEC.

Note: French League = 2.75 miles

Note: Seigneurie = group of tenant farmers; owned by a Seigneur or Lord

Note: The census commissioners were Collet and Boucault

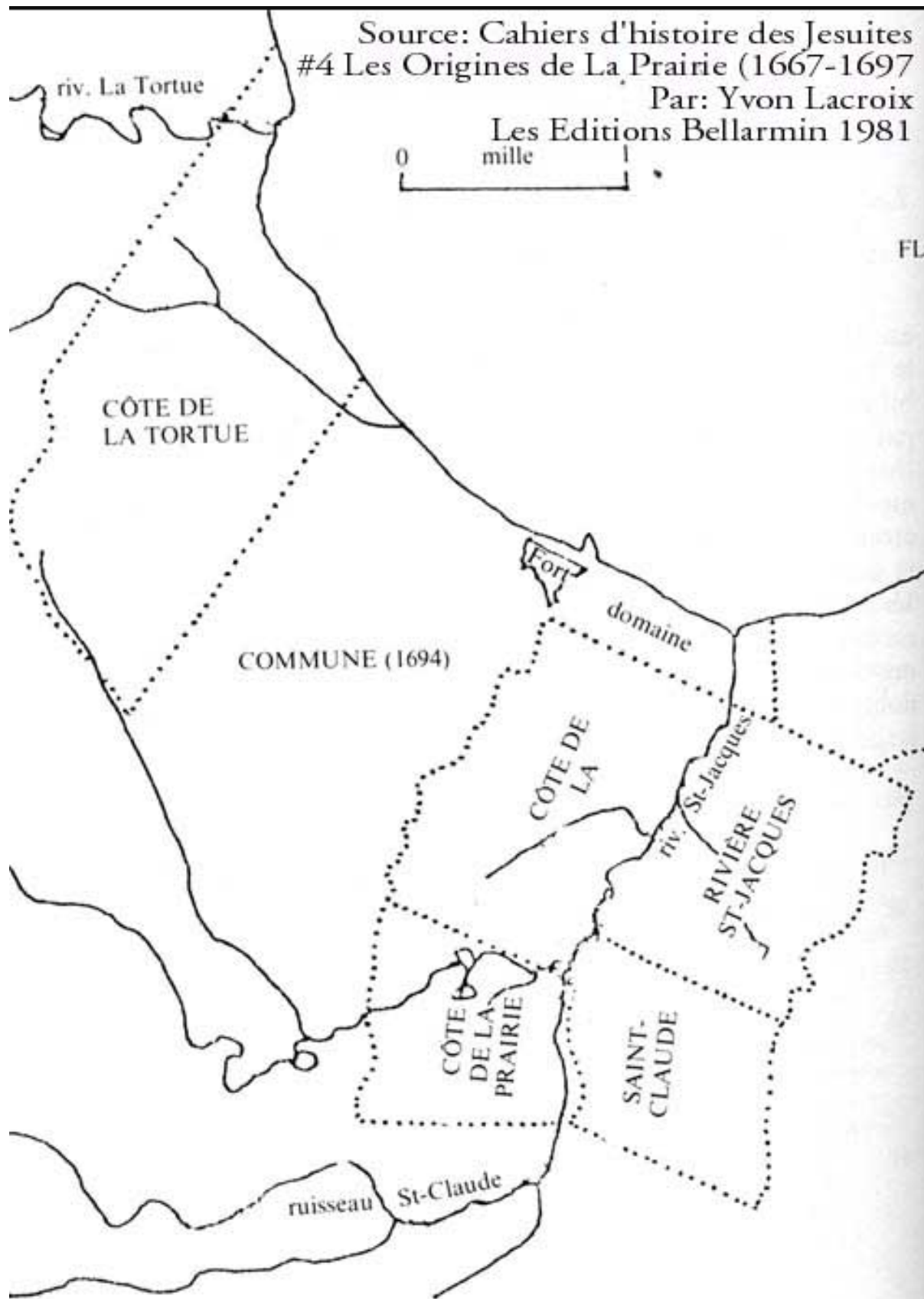
Note: Many surnames were misspelled; I corrected them.

Note: Father Jacques D'Heu was a missionary among the Onondagas in 1708 ; and in 1709 among the Senecas; he is said to have drowned in 1728. However he was Superior at Montreal in 1729. Also known as Father James De Heu when with the Senecas.

Heu (al. Dheu), Fr. Jacques d'; Province of Lyons. Born at Moulins, June 27, 1672; entered the Order, Sept. 7, 1690; arrived in Canada in 1708; died at Quebec (al. Montreal) in January, 1742.

Source: Cahiers d'histoire des Jesuites
#4 Les Origines de La Prairie (1667-1697)
Par: Yvon Lacroix
Les Editions Bellarmin 1981

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Carte 4 – La seigneurie de La Prairie (1697)