

## Poissant Signatures in France and New France (Quebec)

One of the great opportunities that genealogists have is finding the signatures of our ancestors. Many times it is difficult to even find the signatures of our deceased parents and grandparents; but we can easily see those of our French Canadian ancestors on the many Church and Notary documents that they produced in their lifetimes. The most obvious are the Baptism, Marriage and Burial Acts in the parish records, but the most numerous are the many Land Concessions, and Land Purchases and Sales and Transfers, Wills and Inventories, and Obligations and Settlements between people. The first Poissant family in New France, consisting of Jacques, Marguerite and 7 of their children, generated about 84 Notary documents in their lifetime. See the chart of these notary documents at my website:

[http://www.johnfishersr.net/Poissant\\_Notary\\_Transaction\\_Table.html](http://www.johnfishersr.net/Poissant_Notary_Transaction_Table.html)


Look at the signatures of our Poissant Ancestors in France! You can tell immediately that they were all educated and were professionals in their areas of work, and the men and women could all write their names with a flourish. They were Huguenots and they belonged to the Reformed Church or Temple in Marennes, France.


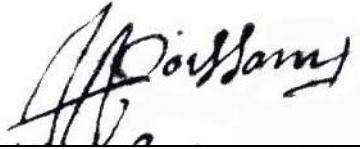
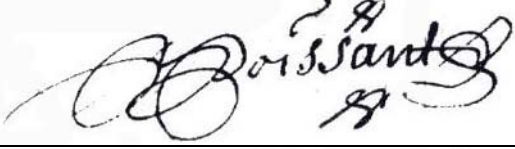
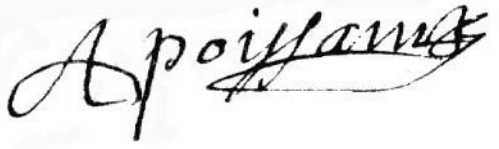
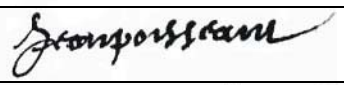
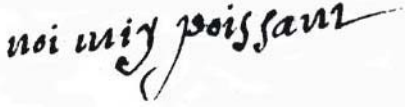
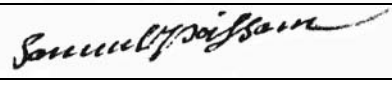
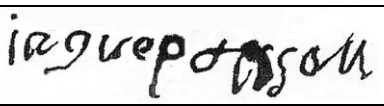
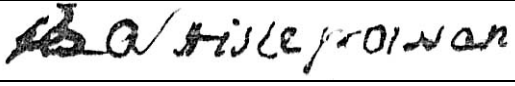
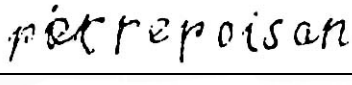

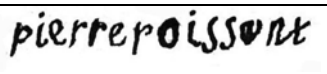
Jacques, the first Poissant in New France, was born in 1661 and baptized in Marennes, during this time when his father, brother and cousins all had great signatures. Since his mother died when he was 9 years old, and his father had already died sometime previously; he must have lived with one of his uncles for some time. He then joined the French Army about 1684 at age 23 and was sent to New France to defend the Colony from the marauding Indians, which were constantly attacking and killing the settlers.

I have not yet found a document that Jacques signed. There is no record of his 1698 or 1699 marriage to Marguerite Besset, probably at Fort St Louis. He never signed his land concession in 1694 or any of the many family land concessions that followed. He did not sign his Will in 1734, but since it was just 5 days before he dies, he may have been too weak to sign, if he knew how to sign.

The first Poissant signature that I have found in New France or Quebec was that of his son Jacques Poissant on his marriage to Marie Monet, and then Baptiste Poissant in the year 1735, and then the next year Pierre also signed his marriage contract to his wife Marie Angelique Giroux.

This same Pierre and his son Pierre, both of whom are my direct ancestors, signed the 1762 marriage contract of the younger Pierre with Marie Catherine Monet at La Prairie by printing their name in a basic fashion. It would take several generations for the family to get back to the education level where they could sign a document, as had their previous ancestors in France.

	Jacques Poissant (father) on his 1653 Marriage Contract with Elizabeth Magord.  Sergeant Royal in Marenne's Courts	France
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	Raymond Poissant (son by 1 <sup>st</sup> marriage to Suzanne Guichard) on Suzanne's Burial record in 1670  Clothing Tailor	France
	Pierre Poissant 1674 Master Shoemaker	France
	Elizabeth Poissant 1674 female	France
	Abraham Poissant 1682 Master Glove Maker	France
	Jean Poissant 1675 Sailor	France
	Nohemy Poissant 1675 female	France
	Samuel Poissant 1675 Master Clothing Tailor	France
No signatures found on many land concessions or his Will.	Jacques Poissant (son by 2 <sup>nd</sup> marriage ) 1661-1734 Soldier & Farmer	New France In 1684
	Jacques Poissant on his 1730 marriage 1 <sup>st</sup> Poissant signature in New France	New France
	Baptiste Poissant 1735	New France
	Pierre Poissant on his 1736 marriage	New France
	Pierre Poissant Sr 1762 Farmer	New France
	Pierre Poissant Jr 1762 Farmer	Quebec