

## **COLONIST NICOLAS LEBLOND AND HIS CHILDREN**

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Original document in French  
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In the available genealogical records, very little is written about the colonist Nicolas Leblond. Other than the authors of a few notes published in the Bulletin of Historical Research and a few Research manuscripts on some of Nicolas' descendants, few people have involved themselves in getting to know this ancestor whose descendancy is relatively important in our own time. There are Leblonds scattered through the regions of Bellechasse, Beauce, Rimouski, Trois-Pisloles, Sherbrooke and Quebec. Nicolas Leblond is the ancestor of the vast majority of Leblond, LeBlond and Le Blond of the United States as well as Canada. I will therefore try to make this ancestor and his family better known.

### **OTHER EARLY ANCESTORS**

In addition to Nicolas Leblond, first individual to carry this name into New France, and his wife Marguerite Leclerc, there have been found in the researches done so far, at least three other Leblond ancestors whose descendants continue to the present time.

**JACQUES LEBLOND**, also known as Bellegarde:

Son of Jacques and Marie Roque (Roger?), of St Valerien in Beauce, married to Charlotte Merand, daughter of Pierre and Marthe Perier, at St Joachim of Pointe-Claire on 7 January 1761. Their offspring multiplied in the county of Deux-Montagnes, in l'Outaouais, and in the regions of Ottawa and North Bay in Ontario.

**ANTOINE LEBLOND**, day-labourer:

Son of François and Marie-Louise Chapelle of the Republic of Genoa, married to Marguerite Giguere, daughter of Pierre and Marie Sevin (also known as Latulippe), at Notre-Dame of Quebec on 25 July 1809. Their descendants may be found in the regions of Thetford-Mines, Plessisville and Senneterre.

**ROGER CASEY**, or Quessi (Quessy):

Yet another source of Leblonds is an Acadian who was a native of Ireland. Married around 1668 at Port-Royal to Françoise Poirier of France, daughter of Jean and Jeanne Chabrat. In the middle of the 19th century, some descendants used the surname Leblond, while others completely adopted the name and abandoned their original name of Quessy. They are well established around Batiscau, St Narcisse of Champlain, Pont-Rouge and Nicolet.

Other ancestors settled in Quebec but do not appear to have left descendants to propagate the family name up to the present time. Some of these ancients are:

Michel Leblond, also known as LePicard, master-carpenter, who married Anne-Charlotte Leroux on 25 September 1687 at Montreal.

Charles Leblond, also known as Lafortune, sergeant in the M. Raymond Company, who married Charlotte Gatien on 16 June 1749 at Notre-Dame of Quebec.

François Leblond and Marie Roland who had their daughter baptised at Château-Richer on 27 November 1664.

Pierre Leblond of Paris, who was married to Elisabeth Gervais on 17 April 1860 at St Timothee of Beauharnois.

A future article will acquaint us better with all these ancestors as well as other Leblonds who established themselves in or merely passed thru the province of Quebec.

### **ORIGINS OF NICOLAS LEBLOND**

Nicolas Leblond originated from the town of Honfleur, called Honnefleu in ancient times, of the bishopric and archbishopric of Lisieux in Normandy which is today part of the Department of Calvados. The parish from which he came seems to be the object of controversy in the existing literature. In the 17th century, there were four parishes in Honfleur: St Catherine, St Leonard, St Etienne and Notre-Dame. The "Old Register of Confirmations" (2 February 1660 at Château-Richer) and the Jetté Dictionary both indicate Nicolas came from Notre-Dame. The Drouin Dictionary says he came from Ste Catherine.

Even Father Archange Godbout could not clearly identify the parish of origin. Despite a recent sojourn to Honfleur, where I was able to review the registers of each of the four parishes, I found nothing concerning the baptism of Nicolas, his brothers or sisters, or the marriage of his parents in the records of Notre-Dame, St Etienne or St Leonard. Unfortunately, the registers of St Catherine are nonexistent for the period during which Nicolas was born, even though this parish was active from the mid-1400's, at which time the construction of the church itself was completed. Two unusual aspects make this church unique: it is built of wood, a rare choice of materials during this period; and the bell-tower, also of wood, is separate from and facing the church, with a base which serves as the house of the bell-ringer. A collaborator assures me that Nicolas was baptised in this church in 1637, and that his parents were married there in 1635. Sadly, there was not a single document that could be found to confirm these allegations.

Therefore we must assume that Nicolas Leblond probably came from the parish of St Catherine of Honfleur, and was the son of Jacques Leblond, burgher, and Françoise de Nollen. Based on the censuses of 1666 and 1667, he was born around 1637.

Many Norman emigrants of the 17th century who came from the Honfleur region did in fact sail from the port of Honfleur itself. It was this port from which Champlain sailed for Quebec in 1608. Andre Leloutre, who also used the name Berthelot, was born in 1633 at St Catherine; Guillaume Le Lievre came from Riviere-St-Sauveur (St Leonard); Nicolas Quentin was baptised at Gonneville-sur-Honfleur in 1633; Martin Guerard was baptised 11 September 1663 at St Leonard of Honfleur.

## **PARENTS OF THIS ANCESTOR**

All that we know officially, concerning Nicolas' father, is inscribed in the marriage contract between Nicolas and Marguerite Leclerc. We learn there that Jacques Leblond was a burgher of the village of Honfleur and that as of the date of the contract (11 September 1661), he was deceased, because Nicolas is called "heir". Was Jacques buried at St Catherine before 1659, the year in which the registers for this parish were begun? One rumor has it that Jacques was born in 1609.

Concerning Nicolas' mother, the current research causes much excitement regarding her lineage. In the Dictionary of the Nobility by De La Chesnaye-Desbois, we have found one Françoise de Nollent, daughter of Guillaume de Nollent and Anne de Bitot. Guillaume was Seigneur of Bombanville and Canappeville, and his wedding was celebrated in 1598. Bombanville is a hamlet north of Caen, and Canappeville is a township a few miles southwest of Honfleur. This Françoise is one of the youngest of a family of 15 children, and she was born in 1612. If Françoise is truly the mother of our ancestor, we can readily trace her genealogy back to Alexandre de Nollent, Seigneur of St Contest, who was married on 3 March 1408 to Jeanne d'Aigneaux. To verify this assumption, we would have to find one of the following documents: 1) The baptismal record of Françoise de Nollent, possibly at Canappeville; 2) The nuptial contract between Jacques Leblond and Françoise de Nollent; 3) The last will of, or the inventory taken at the death of, Guillaume de Nollent. Some very interesting research lies ahead.

## **ARRIVAL IN NEW FRANCE**

We do not know the exact date of Nicolas' arrival in New France, or whether he came as an indentured servant as was so common during this period. Nonetheless, we can say with certainty that he had arrived prior to 12 February 1655, the date on which he received a concession of land on the Beupre coast. Being son and heir of a burgher, perhaps he came over without indenturing himself? Why did he choose to cast his lot here?

## **MARRIAGE OF NICOLAS LEBLOND AND MARGUERITE LECLERC**

Nicolas Leblond and Marguerite Leclerc were married on 13 October 1661 at Château-Richer, with the ceremonies being celebrated by Father Thomas Morel "performing the curial functions". The witnesses were Claude Guyon and Jacques de Launay. The wedding was the third to be performed after those of Jean Boutin and Suzanne Rocheron on 22 September, and of Jean-Galleran Boucher and Marie Leclerc on 10 October, and just before those of Jean Caron and Marguerite Gagnon on 16 November and of Noël Simard and Marie-Madeleine Racine on 22 November 1661. Is it possible that Marie Leclerc, bride of Jean-Galleran Boucher, daughter of Jonas Leclerc and Marie Parmentier of St Remi of Dieppe, was related to our ancestor's wife Marguerite Leclerc? We learn also from this record that there had been a betrothal and that Nicolas was a plowman. Only the cleric Morel signed the record, the others declaring they knew not how to sign. This latter statement is false, since Nicolas Leblond had already affixed his signature on two previous documents; on the sales contract for his farm at Ste Famille in 1658, and on the marriage contract drawn up a month before the wedding ceremony.

The couple had made up a contract of marriage on 11 September 1661 before the notary Claude Auber, notary for the coast and seigneurie of Beaupre. In the contract, it states "son and heir of Jacques Leblond and Françoise de Nollen his father and mother burghers of the town of Honnefleur", and "living on and inhabiting the Isle of Orleans". Marguerite is described as "daughter of Jean Leclerc and Perrette Brunel her father and mother of St Remy bishopric of Rouen" and "living on the said Isle". The contract was drawn up in the house of Simon Lereau, second neighbor to the east of Nicolas' farm on the Isle of Orleans. The witnesses were, for the future groom, Claude Guyon, Maurice Arrive, Simon Lereau, and Martin Guerard (who originally came from St Leonard of Honfleur); and for the future bride, Jacques de Launay, his wife Catherine Besnard, Jean Leduc and Simon Lereau. The dowry of the future bride is six hundred livres, and she brings to the union three hundred livres worth of clothing, linen and other hard goods. Nicolas signed with a flourish, while Marguerite made only a simple mark.

### **WHO WAS MARGUERITE LECLERC**

As we have said, Marguerite was the daughter of Jean Leclerc and Perrette Brunel. Nevertheless, Father Archange Godbout in his "Origins of French-Canadian Families" affirms having read "Brunel" at the baptism of Marie in 1634, and "Brunet" at the baptisms of Jean in 1635, Marguerite in 1640 and Marie in 1642. Marguerite was baptised on 12 February 1640 at St Remi of Dieppe, bishopric of Rouen in Normandy.

Since there was no immigration of females in 1660, and between 22 August 1661 and 5 June 1662, dates of the arrivals of the first ships at Quebec, the name of Marguerite Leclerc is among the twenty new names to appear in our archives. We may therefore assume that she arrived in 1661. She was confirmed on 11 February 1669 at Ste Famille, Isle of Orleans.

### **SISTERS-IN-LAW OF NICOLAS LEBLOND**

Marguerite Leclerc seems to have been followed to New France by two of her sisters. One of them was Anne Leclerc, who married Vincent Chretien around 1668 on the Isle of Orleans. She was 36 years old at the time of the 1681 census, and passed away the 4th (buried on the 5th) of October 1716 at the age of 62, at St François on the Isle. Eight children were born of this union: Anne, Vincent, Catherine, Jean, Madeleine, Thomas, François and Jacques.

It has not yet been established with certainty that the following person is truly a sister of Marguerite Leclerc, but there are certain facts that lead us to believe it. We know that there was one Marie Leclerc, sister of Marguerite, who was baptised at St Remi of Dieppe on 7 February 1642. In our registers, we re-encounter one Marie Leclerc, of origins unknown, who died on the 12th and was buried the 13th of May 1681 at Boucherville at age 38. She had married, around 1676 at Sorel, to Claude Pastorel (also known as Lafranchise), soldier of the company of Saurel in the Carignan Regiment. Two children were born of this union: Anne (midwife) and Pierre. Considering the baptismal date of Marie, sister of Marguerite, and the age at death of this Marie Leclerc, it certainly seems to be the same person. Further research at Dieppe may clarify the origins of sister, especially if she spent her life in France.

### **LAND HOLDINGS**

Nicolas Leblond, in addition to being a farmer, also cleared a remarkable amount of land. Before establishing himself on the Isle of Orleans, he had received a concession of land on the Beupre Coast on 12 February 1655. This farm measured "2 arpents<sup>1</sup> 1 1/2 perche" fronting the river, by "126 arpents" in depth, for a total of some "270 arpents". He does not seem to have exploited this property, because it was passed on to Jean Verdon before March 1656. Verdon was buried on 25 August 1663 at Château-Richer, leaving no descendants, and his farm was remitted to the original owners, the Company of Beupre. Charles Aubert de la Chenaye made the concession for this same farm available to Noël Racine by contract before Claude Auber on 12 February 1665. This farm is identified as farm #82 of the farms of Sainte-Anne-du-Petit-Cap (Raymond Gariépy) and as farm #38 of the farms of the Beupre Coast (Marcel Trudel).

The farm on which Nicolas Leblond ultimately settled, and on which every one of his children was born, is situated on the Isle of Orleans, in the sub-fief of Charny-Lirec, parish of Ste Famille. It carries the number 145 in the Lands of St Laurent and the number 24 in the Lands of Ste Famille (RAPQ), and corresponds to the register of lands numbers 80, 81a, 81, lots 82 to 88. It was conceded by Charles de Lauzon-Charny to Louis Cote on 2 April 1656 before the notary François Badeau. It was bounded at that time by lands conceded to Maurice Arrive and François Guyon, and measured three arpents of frontage on the river and a depth "as far as the line that cuts the Isle of Orleans from end to end". Louis Cote seems not to have exploited this land, for he lived at Beauport until his marriage in 1662; perhaps he began clearing it?

Nicolas acquired the land by contract drawn up by the notary Jean-Baptiste Peuvret on 25 March 1658 for the sum of two hundred livres tournois (Tours currency, now obsolete) payable in two instalments "one half in peas when the river will be navigable" and the other half "in money or in beaver (pelts) the last day of May of the year 1659". As it was the custom in that era, in the aftermath of this transaction, Nicolas was probably indebted to his Seigneur for the obligations carried by the initial concession. He thus had to pay, every October on the feast-day of St Remy, twenty "sols tournois" land tax on each arpent of frontage. His neighbors were Maurice Arrive and François Guyon. The farmland covered an area of 207 arpents. The censuses of New France for 1666 and 1667 locate Nicolas, his wife, and his children at Ste Famille, almost certainly on this farm. In 1667 he had 30 arpents of land under cultivation, enough to make any man comfortable during this era. In addition, we can certainly qualify him as a great clearer of land, because in order to have 30 useable arpents after only 9 years of proprietorship, he would have had to work very hard. Did he engage some helpers? The census reports show neither a domestic nor a farmhand in residence. And it is certain that his living children were too young to help with this work.

After Nicolas passed away, the farm was divided among his heirs, and after several exchanges and sales, the land reverted entirely to Jean-Baptiste Leblond, son of Nicolas. By 1725, the area under cultivation had grown to 60 arpents.

### **THE CENSUSES OF 1666 AND 1667**

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<sup>1</sup>An arpent is 5/6 of an acre.

The census of New France in 1666, instituted by the Intendant Talon under orders from Colbert, took place between the beginning of February and the end of August. On the Isle of Orleans, the census was taken between 29 January and 27 February. The Isles' population was between 471 persons ("Our Roots") and 452 persons (Raymond Letourneau) divided into 96 households. What do we learn about our family from this census? It shows Nicolas and his family in two separate entries:

Household 67:	Nicolas Leblon, aged 29, farmer, Marguerite Le Clert, 24 years, Marie Leblon, 1 year, Anne Leblon, 4 months.
Household 93:	Nicolas Leblon, 29 years, farmer, Marguerite Lebel, 25 years, Catherine Leblon, 2 years, Marie-Magdelaine Leblon, 10 months.

A second census was ordered by Talon in 1667 because there were too many errors and omissions in the original census. The tally was made between the end of April and the end of October. On the Isle of Orleans, the census-takers made their rounds from 11 to 26 August: 426 persons were living in 89 households (Raymond Letourneau). Household 76 was comprised of Nicolas Leblond 29 years, farmer; Marguerite Leclerc 24 years; Catherine Leblond 3 years; Madeleine Leblond 2 years; Nicolas Leblond 5 months; 4 animals and 30 arpents of land in use.

Vincent Chretien and Anne Leclerc do not appear in the census of 1666, and only Vincent Chretien age 26 is recorder in the census of 1667.

### **THE FAMILY OF NICOLAS AND MARGUERITE**

Nicolas Leblond and Marguerite Leclerc had ten children, all born at Ste Famille, Isles of Orleans. The first four were baptised at Château-Richer; the parish of Ste Famille, though founded in 1661, did not maintain a register until 1666. The last six children were baptised at Ste Famille. The information relative to each child is as follows:

<u>Jean</u>	Born the 26th, baptised 27th August 1662 at Château-Richer. Buried 17 September 1662 at Château-Richer.
<u>Jacques</u>	Born on the Isle on 14 September 1663, baptised 2 days later at Château-Richer. Buried 11 November 1663 at Château-Richer.
<u>Catherine</u>	Born at Ste Famille on 4 October 1664, baptised 6 days later at Château-Richer. Marriage contract drawn up 26 December 1677, acknowledged by the notary Basset 7 March 1678. Married 10 January 1678 at Ste Famille to Jean Riou, 8 children: Nicolas, Jean, Antoine, Jean-Baptiste, Vincent, Pierre and Marie-Madeleine. Buried 1 December 1758 at Trois-Pistoles.

Marie-Madeleine

Born at Ste Famille on 17 December 1665, baptised 2 days later at Château-Richer.

Marriage contract by the natary Vachon on 17 November 1786.

Married 18 November 1686 at Ste Famille to Nicolas Roy, had 10 children: Angelique, Etienne, Alexis, Marie-Madeleine, Anne, Genevieve, Anonymous, Nicolas, Nicolas and François.

Buried 6 February 1722 at St Vallier.

Nicolas

Born 15 March 1667 at Ste Famille, baptised there the following day.

Marriage contract by the notary Etienne Jacob 17 February 1696.

Married 27 February 1696 at Ste Famille to Louise Baucher, had 5 children: Marie, Marie-Madeleine, Nicolas, Genevieve and Jean-Baptiste.

Buried 26 August 1734 at Ste Famille.

Jean-Baptiste

Born 31 December 1668 at Ste Famille, baptised there the following day.

Died probably in 1669 or 1670.

Jean-Baptiste

Born and baptised 13 December 1670 at Ste Famille.

First marriage contract by notary Jacob 5 April 1702.

First marriage 8 May 1702 at Ste Famille to Cecile Rocheron, no children.

Second marriage contract by Jacob 6 June 1703.

Second marriage 25 June 1703 at Ste Famille to Therese Letourneau, had 5 children: Marie-Therese, Dorothee, Agnes, Dorothee and Josephe.

Third marriage contract by the notary Chambalon on 19 August 1711.

Third marriage 30 August 1711 at St François to Marguerite Amaury, had 4 children: Jean, Jean-Baptiste, Jacques and Marguerite.

Buried 19 April 1719 at Ste Famille.

Joseph

Born 18 October 1672 at Ste Famille, baptised there eleven days later.

Marriage contract by the notary Etienne Jacob 5 October 1706.

Married 3 November 1706 at Ste Famille to Catherine Drouin, had 2 children: Michel and Joseph-Marie.

Died 7 October 1757 at Ste Famille.

Marie

Born 3 May 1674 at Ste Famille.

Marriage contract by notary Jacob 23 October 1691.

Married 12 November 1691 at Ste Famille to Pierre Martineau, had 13 children: Marguerite, Germain, Augustin (called Pierre), Jean-Baptiste, Marie-Madeleine, Marie-

Martin

Josephe, Charles-François, Claude, Veronique, Joseph, Marie-Josephe, Marguerite and Marie-Josephe.

Died 25 September 1729, interred next day at St François.

Born 29 November 1676, baptised next day at Ste Famille.

Marriage contract by notary Chambalon 14 November 1704

Married 24 November 1704 at Beaumont to Anne-Françoise Bissonnet, had 8 children: Marie-Anne, Marguerite, Martin, Jacques, Louis, Joseph, Marie-Charlotte and Marie-Anne.

Interred 29 September 1760 at St Vallier.

Certain publications have shown, erroneously, two other children to this couple. Tanguay and Drouin make Marguerite Leblond, married around 1700 to Pierre DuPaul, the daughter of Nicolas. This Marguerite is mentioned in the marriage contract of her son Augustin DuPaul and Marie-Ursule Bouvier drawn up by the notary Dubreuil on 3 February 1724 at Quebec, with no further details. Her name also appears in the marriage record of her son Augustin DuPaul of Kamouraska, and of Marie-Ursule Bouvier of St Augustin, on 9 February 1724. It is my opinion that this Marguerite can not be the daughter of our ancestor because no mention is made of a Marguerite in the deed of guardianship drawn up 15 November 1678, nor in the inventory of Nicolas' estate on 23 February 1679. We can only wonder who this Marguerite Leblond actually was.

The authors referred to above are again in error in giving our couple a son named Jean Leblond, spouse of Elisabeth Vallee. These two had baptised a daughter, Marie-Anne Leblond, on 24 December 1691 at Notre-Dame of Quebec. In the parish register, the name Leblond is clearly shown; but the parents are in fact Jean-Joseph Belon and Elisabeth Vallee, married at Quebec 22 May 1692. Jean-Joseph was a sergeant in the militia, part of the Company of Monsieur de Varennes. Because of Jean's exploits, he was commended on several occasions by Frontenac himself.

**REFERENCES IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS**

Very little is revealed of Nicolas Leblond and Marguerite Leclerc in those documents which have been handed down to us. Their names appear in only a few places in the parish registers or in the acts of the notaries.

In addition to the documents already mentioned earlier, Nicolas Leblond was godfather to his niece Anne Chretien, daughter of Vincent Chretien and Anne Leclerc, baptised on 30 May 1669 at Ste Famille, I.O.. Nicolas was also present at the marriage of Rene Cochon and Anne Langlois on 10 November 1670, again at Ste Famille.

Marguerite Leclerc acted as godmother at least six occasions:

- Marguerite Guyon, daughter of Claude Guyon and Catherine Collin, on 16 February 1662 at Château-Richer;
- Catherine de Launay, daughter of Jacques de Launay and Catherine Benard, on 3 January 1665 at Château-Richer;
- Pierre Allaire, son of Jean Allaire and Perrine Therrien, on 6 October 1669 at Ste Famille;



- Vincent Chretien her nephew and son of Vincent Chretien and Anne Leclerc, on 9 February 1671 at Ste Famille;
- Jean-Baptiste Riou, her grand-son and son of Jean Riou and Catherine Leblond, on 11 July 1687 at St François, I.O.;
- Marguerite Martineau, her grand-daughter and daughter of Pierre Martineau and Marie Leblond, on 2 March 1693 at Ste Famille.

The last time we find the name Marguerite Leclerc in our archives is at the marriage of her son Joseph Leblond to Catherine Drouin on 3 November 1706 at Ste Famille, where it is stipulated in the record that she was deceased.

### **A SHORTENED LIFE**

Nicolas Leblond died at "The Hotel Dieu<sup>2</sup> of Quebec in the year 1677 around the beginning of the month of September of the same year". This detail comes from the inventory of the goods of Nicolas Leblond and Marguerite Leclerc made on 23 February 1679 by the notary Vachon. The burial record could not be found in the parish registers of Ste Famille, of Notre Dame of Quebec, or in those of the Hotel Dieu of Quebec. Born around 1637, he was thus some 40 years old at the time of his death. Having passed away at the Hotel Dieu, did he succumb to a swiftly-growing illness or to an accident? We will probably never know.

### **INVENTORY OF HIS GOODS**

The official inventory drawn up by the notary Vachon on 23 February 1679 is somewhat deteriorated, making it difficult to decipher. It nonetheless provides us with interesting details regarding the minor children, the kitchen utensils, the personal property, the farming tools, the buildings, the grain in storage, the animals, and the titles of ownership.

Present in Nicolas Leblond's home on that day, were the following people: the notary Paul Vachon, the bailiff Etienne Jacob assisted by Jacques Perrot (called Vildaigre) and Louis Houde, Jean Rabouin (second husband of Marguerite Leclerc), Marguerite Leclerc guardian of her minor children, David Asselin deputy-guardian, and the witnesses Robas Constant (?) and Nicolas Metru. The text of the document also mentions the living children, each of whom was present: Catherine, aged approximately 15 years, wife of Jean Riou; Madeleine, aged approximately 13 years; Nicolas, aged approximately 12 years; Jean-Baptiste, aged approximately 9 years; Joseph, aged approximately 6 years; Marie, aged approximately 4 years; Martin, aged approximately 2 years.

Here is a partial listing of the objects recorded. In the house a pot-hanger, a pot, a bucket, a gridiron, a small saucepan, two guns, blankets, a scythe, sickles, a chest, cups. In the granary 25 minots<sup>3</sup> of wheat, 5 of green or white peas, 4 of rye, 3 of corn, 6 of flour. In the barn 2 minots of peas, 15 of wheat, a pair of new wheels, a bark canoe, a cart, an ox-sledge. There were other buildings: an old house, an old shed, and an old stable. On the land-grant we find recorded 28 arpents of cleared land.

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<sup>2</sup> The Hotel Dieu was a primitive hospital, tended by nursing nuns.

<sup>3</sup>Old French measure: a minot = 39 liters.

This inventory also reveals the existence of certain deeds and contracts, of which two have yet to be found: the deed for the land-grant of Charles de Lauzon-Charny to Louis Cote on 2 April 1656 (Badeau); the contract by which Nicolas Leblond acquired the land-grant on 25 March 1658 (Peuvret); the marriage contract of Nicolas Leblond and Marguerite Leclerc on 11 September 1661 (Auber); the official document on the land survey for the land-grant on 25 June 1662 (Jean Guyon lord Du Buisson); the deed of guardianship in which Marguerite Leclerc is appointed guardian and David Asselin deputy-guardian of the minor children dated 15 November 1678 (Etienne Jacob).

### **MARGUERITE LECLERC'S SECOND MARRIAGE**

With so many young children still to be raised Marguerite wasted little time before remarrying, which took place on 8 September 1678 at Ste Famille I. O.. The spouse was Jean Rabouin of St Pierre I.O., widower of Marguerite Ardion who passed away after 26 September 1677. He had fathered 8 children thru his first marriage, and their ages ranged at that time from less than one year up to 14 years. On 7 October, a few days after the wedding, their marriage contract was written up by the notary Gilles Rageot. Below is a list of the children<sup>4</sup> probably brought together under the same roof on that occasion:

LEBLOND CHILDREN : Marie-Madeleine 12 years, Nicolas 11 years, Jean-Baptiste 7 years, Joseph 6 years, Marie 4 years, Martin 22 months.

RABOUIN CHILDREN : Marie 14 years, Suzanne 12 years, Marguerite 11 years, Elisabeth 9 years, Anne 7 years, Marie-Madeleine 5 years, Jacques 3 years, Marie-Angelique 1 year.

The family wasted little time in expanding anew, for three more children were born of this union:

Marguerite	Born the 19th, baptised the 20th November 1679 at Ste Famille, and married to Noël Leroy on 27 April 1700 at Ste Famille.
Jean-Baptiste	Born the 6th, baptised the 28th October 1681 at St Pierre and buried 26 October 1698 at Ste Famille.
Jeanne	Born 31 December 1683, baptised 9 January 1684 at St Pierre, and married to Etienne Corriveau on 26 November 1703 at Ste Famille.

The census of 1681 shows our couple on the Isle of Orleans (Household 58) and numbering six Rabouin children, three of which are in fact Leblond children: Madeleine Rabouin (sic Leblond) 14 years, Marie Rabouin (sic Elisabeth?) 10 years, Marie Rabouin (sic Leblond) 7 years, Martin Rabouin (sic Leblond) 6 years, Anne Rabouin 9 years, Marguerite Rabouin 2 years. Jean Rabouin is a habitant aged 45 years, Marguerite Leclerc is 38 years. They possess one gun, 5 horned beasts, and have 5 arpents of cleared land. Were they living, at that time, on Jean Rabouin's farm at St Pierre?

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<sup>4</sup>Marie-Angelique: Not quite a year old, and may have already died.

Catherine Leblond, aged 18, was recorded in the census along with her husband Jean Riou, habitant aged 30, and their son Nicolas Riou aged 1 year (Household 185). Marie Rabouin, the oldest of the Rabouin children, is 17 years old and living in household 71 with her husband François Paris, shoe-maker aged 20. Suzanne Rabouin, aged 15, is a servant living at the home of the notary Romain Becquet (Household 23). Not a mention anywhere of the first Marguerite Rabouin who would then have been 13 or 14 years old.

### **DEATH OF MARGUERITE LECLERC**

Marguerite Leclerc passed away at Ste Famille I.O. at the age of 64, after a very full life. Her interment took place on 24 January 1705 and the witnesses were Jacques Asselin and Jacques Bilodeau. François Lamy, curate of Ste Famille, presided over the burial. She left behind her the seed that would produce, through the years, numerous descendants.

Jean Rabouin, widowed a second time, married for the third time on 6 July 1706 at St Jean I.O. to Marie Mineau, widow of Jean Morier. Another Rabouin child, Nicolas, was born and baptised 5 June 1708 at Quebec and was buried 6 September 1709 also at Quebec.

### **PRAISE WELL DESERVED**

Nicolas Leblond and Marguerite Leclerc, having arrived quite early in the colonization period of New France, may be considered justly as pioneers. They left behind very little of significance, but they are the Ancestors of a large French-Canadian family which, like them, has received but little notice. Research into this family has barely begun, and perhaps the discoveries to come will enhance the admiration owed to these courageous ancestors.

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