

The Life and Times of Francois Bibeau, Our Immigrant Ancestor

By

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(When Notarial and church records left by our immigrant ancestor Francois Bibeau are put together in chronological order they present us with a sketch of his life. For the purpose of simplicity we will use the most common spelling of the name **Bibeau** except where it is from a document).

Signed “f bibaud” and bibau” he was born about 1632. The census of 1667 lists him as 35 years of age, and the census of 1681 lists him as 43 years of age. **I have chosen to use the earlier record as more accurate due to the fact that it is closer to the time of his birth.**

Our BIBEAU FAMILY in France

The earliest information found to date of our Bibeau origins is in 1630 when the first known child of Francois-Jacques Bibeau & Jeanne Savignaux, Jacques, was baptised in the parish of Ste-Marguerite in La Rochelle, France. The next mention of them is the baptism of their son Nicolas, he was baptised at Notre-Dame-de-Lagord in 1635. Lagord is just north of La Rochelle. Three more children would be baptised at Notre-Dame-de-Lagord, Noel in 1639, Jeanne in 1642, and finally Catherine in 1647. The fichier origine lists the origin of Francois as Hure which is a hamlet within the parish of N.-D. of LaGord. No baptism record has been found for our Francois but is believed to have been in 1632. However, jumping ahead in time for a brief moment we see that Francois gives his place of origin as Verteuil in the province of Angoumois on a marriage contract with Jeanne de Merinne on 29 October 1665 in New France. The place listed in most such records is usually the place where they were baptised. Verteuil is now called Verteuil-sur-Charente. The Charente is a river. It is located about 150 km (about 93 miles) east of La Rochelle, north of the city of Angoumois. **Just a thought, but it is possible that our Francois actually had the same name as his father, that would make him Francois-Jacques or Jacques-Francois, so he could be the child Jacques listed as baptised in 1630 (but don't quote me on this, it is just speculation, I am staying with his birth being in the year of 1632).**

Pictures and history in French of La chapelle Sainte-Marguerite can be found at <http://racinesrochelaises.free.fr/larochellesm.html>

Pictures and history in French of Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption of Lagord can be found at <http://catholique-larochelle.cef.fr/Sr%20GABRIEL/LAGORD.htm>

And <http://www.mairie-lagord.fr/>

Many of the early travelers to New France (Quebec) traded their services as a laborer in exchange for passage, room and board, and wages. They accomplished this by signing a contract before a notary in France, which usually was for the term of three to five years. Thus on 10 April 1656 in front of notary Savin at La Rochelle, Francois Bibault, a farmer, living at La Fond near La Rochelle hired out to Arnaud

Pere for a period of three years as a laborer in New France (Quebec). We can assume that Francois boarded ship not long after and sailed across the Atlantic to New France.

FRANCOIS BIBEAU IN NEW FRANCE (Quebec)

Arnaud Pere was originally from ville Orthez, archeveche of Pau, Bearn (Pyrenees-Atlantiques). He was married in 1661 at St-Jean-du-Perrot, ville, archeveche & eveche of La Rochelle, Aunis (Charente-Maritime). Arnaud Pere was a "marchand" (a shopkeeper or merchant, we know not of what). We know his father was a marchand in France and that Arnaud's brother Jean who was also in Quebec was also a marchand. Records show that Arnaud Pere was in the city of Quebec on 5 January 1659 and 3 August 1665. Records show that Jean Pere was in the city of Quebec on 26 November 1656 and 14 October 1692. The Pere brothers were both married in France, and their wives remained in France, so we can assume the brothers traveled back and forth often. With this information we can assume that our ancestor Francois Bibeau either spent his first three years in New France at the City of Quebec, or that he traveled the St Lawrence River, in either case in the employment of the Pere brothers.

The first mention to be found of Francois Bibeau in New France is in an action against him for damages plus interest, brought by Quentin Moral on 15 September 1660 on behalf of himself and three other men, Pierre Trottier, Francois Duclos, and Mathurin Guichard. The cause for this action was Francois failure to provide his boat for transporting 200-300 sheaves of wheat. (arch. Quebec Prevote of Trois-Rivieres)

On 17 March 1661 at Trois-Rivieres Francois Bibeau was witness to a transaction between Jean Garnier dit Nadaut and Pierre Couc Sr de la Fleur. (Notary Herlin).

On 15 May 1662 at Cap-de-la-Madeleine Francois Bibeau was a witness to a concession by the Rev. Pere Allouez to Me. Michel Gamelin, & Me. Chirurgien. (notary Laurent).

On 27 June 1662 Francois moved to the city of Quebec, at which time he gave power of attorney to Jean Gladu to receive from his debtors the amounts due him, his debtors being – Pierre Boussoi, 19 livres and 10 sols; Elie Bourbeau, 40 sols and one new tie from Holland, estimated at 60 sols by the wife of Bourbeau; from Louis Lefebvre dit/called Lacroix, 100 sols for some work; and from Pierre Guillet dit/called Lajeunesse, 4 livres for some work. He also authorized Gladu to sell a pair of snow shoes, an axe, a hoe, a chain for towing and his furniture. (notary Laurent)

On 15 July 1662 Francois purchased land of approximately two acres wide and twenty acres deep at cote St-Marc from Pere Claude Aloue (Jesuit Priest). This land had a dwelling on it.

With the intention of founding a family in New France, Francois the son of tavern owner Jacques Bibeau, and of his wife Jeanne Savigneau from Vertheuil in the province of Angoumois, passes a marriage contract on Thursday 29 October 1665 at Cap-de-la-Madeleine with Jeanne de Merinne, daughter of Jean and of Marie de la Haye of St-Sulpice in the *faulbourg Saint-Germain* section of Paris. (notary Latouche) This marriage contract was annulled on Sunday 17 January 1666 (notary Latouche). Jeanne de Merinne arrived in Canada in 1665, she was a *fille du roi*, or daughter of the King. A *fille du roi* is not really a daughter of the King, but is the name given to many of the early women who were recruited to

go to New France, there being a shortage of marriageable women there. In return they were promised a dowry, by the King of France, to be given to their husband when they married. Young women in Quebec were so in demand for marriage that many were married by the time they reached 12 or 13 years of age. No other record of Jeanne de Merinne has been found.

Francois returned to the Trois-Rivieres area, where on 7 January 1666 he sold his dwelling and land for 100 livres to Guillaume de La Rue (it would appear that this is his property at cote St Marc purchased on 15 July 1662) (notary Latouche).

On 6 April 1666 Francois obtained a concession from father Fremin (Proucureur des Jesuites au Cap) of 2 habitations, each of 2 acres by forty. One of these at Batiscan, between Francois Lory dit/called Gargot to the S.W. and Nicolas Rivard to the N.E., and the second at Cote St-Eloi, between Francois Duclos to the S.W. and Jean Trotier to the N.E. (notary Latouche)

The sale of his dwelling and land at Cote St-Marc must not have taken place, because on a contract dated 21 December 1666 Francois Bibault, formerly from cote St Marc and living at St-Eloi and at Batiscan, sold it for a new proposition of 40 livres to Rene Blanchet. This contract mentioned the date of 25 December 1666 (effective date?) The neighbors were Pierre Menard to the S.W. and Benjamin Anseau to the S.E. (notary J. de Latouche, Trois Rivieres)

Although an owner of land Francois did not seem attracted to working the land. He was listed as a servant to Elie Bourbeau in 1667 at Trois-Rivieres. (census in Sulte's)

On 15 September 1668 Francois, of Batiscan, exchanged his dwelling at Cap-de-la-Madeleine and two acres wide by forty acres deep, for that of his neighbor Nicolas Rivard dit/called Lavigne of Cap-de-la-Madeleine, which is said to have been the same dimensions. (notary J. de Latouche, Trois Rivieres) (make sure the places aren't reversed)

On a contract dated 21 September 1668 Francois gave half of his land located at St Eloi, to Pierre Bourboux of St Eloi and of Batiscan. This contract mentioned the date of 25 September 1668 (effective date?). (notary J. de Latouche, Trois Rivieres)

On Monday 29 October 1668 Francois of Cap-de-la-Madeleine passes a marriage contract with Jeanne Chalifour. (notary Vachon)

On 15 January 1669 Francois of Batiscan and St-Eloi on the occasion of a journey west makes a will in case of his death in favor of his intended bride Jeanne Chalifour, leaving her all his furniture and 400 livres. (notary Vachon)

On 15 April 1669 Elie Bourboux, of Cap-de-la-Madeleine and of the seigneurie of Saint Eloi, as administrator and acting for Francois Bibaux, leased the Bibeau land located in the seigneurie of Batiscan for a period of three years, to Antoine Rouet (Roy) dit/called Desjardins. (notary J. de Latouche, Trois Rivieres)

Off to the West again our traveler signs along with Nicolas Perrot and Louis Jolliet on 14 June 1671, in a grand ceremony the taking possession of Sault Ste. Marie and all lands to the seas. Perhaps it is at this occasion that he formed at the Outaouais a society with the discoverer. (notary Becquet 4 October 1675) See Appendix 1 - The Pageant of St-Lusson.

Two months later he is back to Quebec where he is married to Jeanne Chalifour on 17 August 1671 at N.-D.-de-Quebec.

On 24 January 1672 Francois Bibaux and Jeanne Chalifou, his wife, sold their land and dwelling located in the jurisdiction of Batiscan for a price of 400 livres to Mathurin Guillet, with the consent of Pierre Guillet dit/called Lajunesses, his father. (notary J. Cusson, Trois-Rivieres)

6 August 1673 Concession of land 3 acres wide by one quarter league (about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile) in depth at St-Michel, by Michel de Godefroy of Lintot, **ecuyer**, to Francois Bibaut. (notary Ameau dit Saint-Severin, Trois-Rivieres)

6 August 1673 Concession of land fronting on the canal of the riviere St Michel by Michel de Godefroy of Lintot, **ecuyer**, to Francois Bibaud, from Trois-Rivieres. (notary Ameau dit Saint-Severin, Trois-Rivieres)

23 August 1673 an entry of an exchange between Francois Bibaud and Pierre Legembe. (notary Ameau) (still need to research this contract)

14 May 1674 Francois Bibaux received a Concession of land 4 acres wide at Batiscan, on the boundary of the seigneurie of Ste-Anne from Rev. Father Louis Nicolas, procureur for the Jesuites of Cap-de-la-Madeleine.

Francois lived at the seignary of Linctot (Becancour) from 1674 to 1681.

The only recorded child of Francois and Jeanne Chalifour, Marie Jeanne, was born 12 September 1674 at Linctot, Becancour, and baptised the same day at Trois-Rivieres.

16 August 1675 or 1674 Francois giving power of attorney to Etienne Landron (notary Basset, Montreal) (still need to research this contract) this is mentioned in the next contract below.

In front of Romain Becquet, royal notary, was present in his person the Sir Etienne Landron citizen of and living in this city (Quebec) – who in the name of the general procuror and special of Nicolas Dupuis farmer living at Nicolet River, Francois Bibaut and Pierre Bourbaut farmers living at the “Riviere” Puante, by proxy, passed in front of notary Basset in the Isle of Montreal the 16th of August last (1675) of which seemed to the notary and witnesses and to him given to the other matters of the said Dupuis, Bibaut and Bourbaut has recognised and confessed having had and received today cash from mister Louis Jolliet of presence in this city the sum of 107 livres (pounds) 17 sols and 9 deniers (cents) owed to the said Dupuis, Bibaut and Bourbaut by the said mister Jolliet to know to the said Bibaut the sum of 60 livre for balance of account in reimbursement of the goods by him delivered to the said mister Jolliet when they passed together a Society contract in the land of the Outaouais and to the said Dupuis the sum of 25 livres 18 sols 6 deniers left over from the sum of 43 livres 18 sols and 6 deniers to which amounts his share received that he had in certain lots of Beavers that the said Bibaut had left in the hands of the Sir LeBer, merchant about two years ago coming back from the Outaouais and the sum of 21 livres 19 sols 3 deniers also left over of the same some of 43 livres 18 sols 6 deniers to which amounts the share of the said Bourbaut to the said bale of Beavers as of which acquitting promising, obligating and this at the said name, renouncing and made and passed at the said Quebec study of the said notary the year MVI seventy five in the morning the fourth day of October in the presence of Sir Maximilien Chefdeville and of Gilles Dutartre living at the said Quebec witnesses who with the said Sir Landon and Notary have signed according to the ordinance.

Note: Riviere Puante is the Riviere Becancour near Trois-Rivieres.

4 October 1675 (notary Becquet) Discharge of Etienne Lendron, bourgeois (shopkeeper), of the village of Quebec, and name and friend attorney general and special of Nicolas Dupuis, resident of River Nicolet, Francois Bibau and Pierre Bourbaut, resident of Riviere Puante, and Louis Jolliet. [This appears to refer to the above document.](#)

20 January 1680 Promise by Mathieu Rouillard of Batiscan to Francois Bibault to furnish him with 20 bushels of wheat for the next St-Jean-Baptiste. (notary J. Cusson, Trois Rivieres)

Jeanne Chalifour, woman Bibeau died about 1679 as Boivinet held election for a tutor for her little girl Marie Bibeau on 10 April of that year. An inventory of her possessions was made by notary Adhemar on 20 March 1680.

Francois received a 1st concession on Isle St-Jean at St-Francois-du-Lac on 1 March 1680. (notary A. Adhemar dit Saint-Martin, Montreal)

Francois received a 2nd concession on Isle St-Jean at St-Francois-du-Lac on 31 March 1680, by Jean Crevier, Seigneur of St-Francois. (notary A. Adhemar dit Saint-Martin, Montreal)

The 1681 census places Francois at Becancour with 6 acres of toiled land (Nicolet area).

Francois a resident of St-Francois-du-Lac, signed a marriage contract on Thursday 9 October 1682 to marry Louise Esnard, who was born at Saint-Jean de La Rochelle on 6 October 1668, the daughter of Simon Enard & Marie Loubier. On this contract he states that he was born in 1682 in the parish of Coignes, city of La Rochelle, and that he is the son of the deceased Jacques, a tavern keeper living at La Rochelle, and of the deceased Jeanne Savineau (notary Aneau). The marriage took place at Trois-Rivieres on 17 November 1682.

Francois received a 3rd concession at St-Francois-du-Lac on 27 February 1684, by Crevier, Seigneur of St-Francois. (notary Adhemar, Montreal)

Pierre the first child of Francois and Louise is baptised at St-Pierre-de-Sorel on 6 October 1685.

An unnamed male child was born and baptised on 3 August 1687 at St-Francois-du-Lac, and oddly enough was buried the same day at Trois-Rivieres.

23 February 1688 (act concerning damages) Agreement on terms of employment between Francois Bibaut, in the seigneurie of St Francois, and Mathurin Alebert, carpenter. (notary S. Aneau dit Saint-Severin, Trois Rivieres)

Francois the third child of Francois and Louise was baptised on 7 March 1689 and while this is recorded in the registers of Trois-Rivieres it states that baptism took place at the home of his father in Nicolet.

Nicolas the fourth child of Francois and Louise was baptised on 17 May 1691 at Batiscan.

Jean Baptiste the fifth child of Francois and Louise was baptised on 12 October 1693 at Batiscan.

Simon the sixth child of Francois and Louise was baptised on 23 February 1696 at Batiscan. No further mention is found of this child and is assumed to be an infant death, due to another child being named Simon in 1699.

Marie Anne the seventh child of Francois and Louise and their only daughter, was baptised 24 February 1698 at Batiscan.

Simon the eighth child of Francois and Louise and the second named Simon, was born 18 July 1699 and baptised 28 August 1699 both at Cap-de-la-Madeleine.

23 March 1700 Francois Bibaud, of Riviere St-Francois-du-Lac St Pierre, ceded sale rights of personal movable and immovable property and one house located at Canardiere, in name and as administrator for Marie Bibaud, his adult daughter, to Paul Chalifour, her maternal uncle. Francois obtained for Marie 85 livres as a result of this action which was a settlement of the estate of the **grandfather of Paul Chalifour and and great grandfather of Marie**. (notary F. Genaple de Bellefonds, Quebec) ([check relationships](#))

Joseph the ninth and last child of Francois and Louise was baptised on 15 August 1702 at St-Francois-du-Lac.

29 January 1704 Francois Bibaut and Louise Esnard, his wife, of St-Francois, seigneur of St-Francois, stepped down from their land grant situated at l'ile St-Jean. (notary D. Normandin, Trois Rivieres)

There is a burial listed on 24 September 1708 at St-Francois-du-Lac, listed as a male "Bibo" on the burial record, no given name, parents, or age, is given on this burial record. There are only two "known" persons unaccounted for who could have died on this date. Because it is listed as a male I have determined that it should refer to Simon, son of Francois Bibeau & Louise Enard. The other person unaccounted for is Marie Renee Colette Bibeau daughter of Pierre and Marie Renee Madeleine Parenteau. **There is one other known male this burial could be for, that being the Immigrant Francois, however, because his estate was not settled until 1713, it is more likely that he died about 1711 or early 1712.**

It appears Francois ended his days about 1711 or early 1712 at St-Francois-du-Lac. A decree of sovereign Council 3 July 1713 said that Pierre Bibault would "be paid by preference on the possessions of his deceased father 300 livres (pounds) dowry of his deceased mother (**something is wrong here, Louise lived until 1716, didn't she?**) and other amounts he will justify having paid for the funeral of his father and the furnishings during his last illness.

20 January 1712 A grant of land to Francois Bibaut, located in the seigneurie of St-Francois is made by Joseph Crevier dit St-Francois, ecuyer and partial seigneur of the seigneurie of St-Francois, doing the same for his co-heirs. (notary D. Normandin, Trois-Rivieres) (**this would be Francois the son**)

20 January 1712 A grant of land to Nicolas Bibaut, located in the seigneurie of St-Francois is made by Joseph Crevier dit St-Francois, officer of a company of troops of the marine detachment and partial seigneur of the seigneurie of St-Francois, doing the same for his co-heirs. (notary D. Normandin, Trois-Rivieres)

While the two contracts of 20 January 1712 state "doing the same for his co-heirs", I can find no other record for his daughter by his first marriage or for the younger children. It is possible that they are mentioned in the decree of sovereign Council 3 July 1713 along with the oldest son Pierre. This will have to be researched further.

Appendix

The Pageant of St Lusson 14 June 1671

(the following is taken verbatim from Wisconsin Historical Collections volume XI pages 26-29. I have corrected some of the voyageur names using Jette as a guide, leaving them as printed and inserting the correct name in brackets following the entry)

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[Note 1: 1 Original in *Margry*, i., pp. 96--99; translation from *New York Colonial Docs.*, ix., pp. 803--4, with some errors of nomenclature corrected.--Ed.]

Simon François Daumont, Esquire, Sieur de St Lusson, Commissioner subdelegate of my Lord the Intendant of New France, to search for the Copper mine in the countries of the Outaouacs, Nespercez, Illinois and other Indian Nations discovered and to be discovered in North America near Lake Superior or the Fresh Sea.

On the orders by us received on the third of September last from My lord the Intendant of New France, signed and paraphed Talon, and underneath By My lord Varnier, with paraph, to proceed forthwith to the countries of the Outaouacs, Nespercez, Illinois and other nations discovered

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and to be discovered in North America near Lake Superior or the Fresh Sea, to make search and discovery there for all sorts of Mines particularly that of Copper; commanding us moreover, to take possession, in the King's name, of all the country inhabited and uninhabited wherever we should pass, planting in the first village at which we land, the Cross in order to produce there the fruits of Christianity, and the escutcheon (*éscu*) of France to confirm his Majesty's authority and the French dominion over it.

We having made, in virtue of our commission, our first landing at the village or hamlet of Ste Mary of the Falls, the place where the Reverend Jesuit fathers are making their mission and the Indian nations called Achipoés, Malamechs, Noquets and others do actually reside; we caused the greatest portion possible of the other neighboring Tribes to be assembled there, who attended to the number of fourteen Nations.

To wit; the Achipoés, the Malamechs and the Noquets, inhabiting the said place of Ste Mary of the Sault; and the Banabeouiks and Makomiteks; the Poulx teattemis, Oumalominis¹ Sassassaoua Cottons, inhabiting the bay called *des Puants*, and who have undertaken to make it known to their neighbors who are the Illinois, Mascouttins, Outtougamis and other Tribes; the Christinos, Assinipoals, Aumoussennires, Outaouois, Bouscouttons, Niscaks and Masquikoukioeks, all inhabitants of the Northern Country and near neighbors of the Sea, who undertook to tell and communicate it to their neighbors who are said to be very numerous, inhabiting even the sea coast; To whom in presence of the Reverend Fathers of the Company of Jesus and of all the French hereafter mentioned, we have caused to be read our said Commission and had it interpreted in their language by Sieur Nicolas Perrot, his Majesty's interpreter in that part, so that they may not be ignorant of it; afterwards causing a Cross to be prepared in order that the fruits of Christianity be produced there, and near it a Cedar pole to which we have affixed the arms of France, saying three times in a loud

[Note 1: 1 Qu? Oumalomins, i.e., Menominies.--Ed. N. Y. Col. Docs.]

voice and with public outcry, that In the name of the Most High, Most Mighty and Most Redoubtable Monarch Louis, the xivth of the name, Most Christian King of France and Navarre, we take possession of the said place of Ste Mary of the Falls as well as of Lakes Huron and Supérieur, the Island of Caientoton¹ and of all other Countries, rivers, lakes and tributaries, contiguous and adjacent thereunto, as well discovered as to be discovered, which are bounded on the one side by the Northern and Western Seas and on the other side by the South Sea including all its length or breadth; Raising at each of the said three times a sod of earth whilst crying *Vive le Roy* (**long live the king**), and making the whole of the assembly as well French as Indians repeat the same; declaring to the aforesaid Nations that hence forward as from this moment they were dependent on his Majesty, subject to be controlled by his laws and to follow his customs, promising them all protection and succor on his part against the incursion or invasion of their enemies, declaring unto all other Potentates, Princes and Sovereigns, States and Republics, to them and their subjects, that they cannot or ought not seize on, or settle in, any places in said Country, except with the good pleasure of his said most Christian Majesty and of him who will govern the Country in his behalf, on pain of incurring his hatred and the effects of his arms; and in order that no one plead cause of ignorance, we have attached to the back the Arms of France thus much of the present our Minute of the taking possession, Signed by us and the under named persons who were all present.

[Note 1: 1 Manitoualin.--Ibid.]

Done at Ste Mary of the Falls on the 14th June in the year of Grace 1671, in the presence of the Reverend fathers; the Reverend Father Claude Dablon, Superior of the missions in this Country, the Rev. Father Gabriel Dreuillettes (**Droierres**), the Rev. Father Claude Allouéz (**Allouez**), the Rev. Father André, all of the Company of Jesus; and of Sieur Nas Perrot, his Majesty's Interpreter in these parts; Sieur Jollier (**Louis Jolliet**), Jques Mogras (**Jacques Maugras**), an inhabitant of Three Rivers; Pierre Moreau, Sr de la

Touppine, a Soldier belonging to the garrison of the Castle of Quebec. Denis Masse, Fçois de Chavigny, Sr de la Chevriottiere, Jques Lagillier, Jeanne Maysere, Nas Dupuis, Fçois Bidaud (**Francois Bibeau**), Jques Joviel (**Jacques Joyal**), Prer Porteret, Robert Duprat, Vital Driol, Guillaume Bonhomme and other witnesses.

(Signed)

Daumont de Saint Lusson,
with paraph.