

J. - HECTOR GEOFFROY, priest

Nicolas Geoffroy

AND HIS DESCENDENTS

HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

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NICOLAS GEOFFROY

and his descendents

The parents of Nicolas Geoffroy were living in Dampierre, in the diocese of Langres, province of Champagne, at the time of the departure of their son for Canada. Embarked on the *Rubis*, at the port of La Rochelle, June 10th 1740, Nicolas Geoffroy arrived at Quebec City, August 7th 1740. Immediately hospitalized at the Hotel-Dieu hospital, he left on the 11 of August to reach the Forges St-Maurice¹, near Trois-Rivieres; this was the reason he was hired.

November....1742 at Lavaltrie, he marries Marguerite Grivault dit Boisjoly. Of this union were born twelve children. From a second marriage with Marie Frappier dit Bonnetterre, June 6th 1763 at Lavaltrie, were born six more children. About 1772, our ancestor left Lavaltrie for the parish of Berthier, where he died August 9th 1779, *at the age of about 64 years old*.

Spelling of the name

The spelling of this patronymic or family name never varied, nor in France since the Middle Ages, nor in Canada since its origin until today. The ancestor signed the majority of acts of baptism and of death of his children and his handwriting was good.

France in the 18th Century

Louis XV was king of France. The Utrecht treaty, which, in 1713, had put an end to the war of the succession of Spain, rendered to the colonies, including Nouvelle-France², one era peace and serenity, and for a period of thirty years. It is at the end of this period that Nicolas Geoffroy and many *Champenois*³ left France to come to Canada exercise their trade of Blacksmith, Hammersmith, Loader and Wheelwright at Les Forges de St-Maurice¹, near Trois-Rivieres. Their profession was quite in demand in the big industry of foundries in Champagne, Franche-Comte and Bourgogne⁴. The precarious situation of the finances of France, of which many giant industries were suffering, and the big hopes, which the Intendant Hocquart put in this recent industry in Nouvelle-France⁵,

¹ The St-Maurice Foundries.

² Canada

³ Citizens of the Champagne province.

⁴ Old provinces in France.

⁵ New-France

encouraged the arrival of a many of these excellent workers.

Champagne, old province of France

The ancient province of Champagne covered, on the whole, the four present departments of the Marne, the Ardennes, the Aube and the Haute-Marne, more some parts of the Aisne, of the Seine-et-Oise, of the Yonne, previously united under the sceptre of the Counts of Champagne. This old province, situated to north of France, between Isle-de-France and Lorraine, was always a place passage between the Rhine (Germany) and the countries of the north. Therefore, she paid a heavily her easiness of access that predestined her to be, of all times, ploughed by the murderous wars. More recent History has given us 1914-18 and 1939-45. One comes across evocative names charged with tragic memories: Sedan, Valmy, Verdon whose winner was Petain and the Marne were Foch was so illustrious. Two great cities are famous: Troyes, historical and political capital of the province in the days of the counts of Champagne, and Reims which can flatter herself to be the spiritual capital of France since 496. It was in Reims that Saint Remy baptized Clovis, king of the Franks and it is in its present magnificent cathedral that the Kings of France received their consecration.

The wines of Champagne

The name of this province is also known the world around, thanks to the big renown of its wines: the *champagne*. The culture of the grapevine goes back to the oldest times. The Roman Legions of Julius Cesar (59 before J.-C.) found grapevines there in abundance and contributed in developing this culture to the point of competing successfully the Italian wines. It is especially due to Dom Perignon, monk of the Benedictine Abbey of Hautevilliers, in the XVIth Century, if the Champagne wine has such fame. *Never a man was so skilful in the art of make wine*, wrote he connoisseur of his time. (...)

The Champenois in Canada

Few Champenois came over to Canada. According to Rameau de Saint-Pere¹, the number does not pass 175. Most came to work at the Forges of St-Maurice. According to the same author, there were 47 marriages celebrated in Canada whose bridegrooms were from Champagne. Champagne boasts itself, understandably, to have given to Canada, more precisely to Montreal, then Ville-Marie, the

¹ Historian in the 19th century specialized in the Nouvelle-France and Acadia history.

three most important figures of its history: Maisonneuve¹, original of Neuville-sur-Vannes, the Blessed Marguerite Bourgeois, original of Troyes, founder of the Notre-Dame Congregation, and Jeanne Mance, original of Langres, founder of the hospital L'Hotel-Dieu of Montreal. This was the country of origin of Nicolas Geoffroy, where he was born and worked at the beginning of his life, before his departure for Nouvelle-France.

Dampierre, the village Nicolas Geoffroy came from

This small village, quite typical in France, with its bell-tower and its manorial castle, present an aspect that must not be very different from the one that it had at the time of the departure of Nicolas Geoffroy. Its castle is lived in a great part of the year again by a descendant of counts of Montarby, Mr. Philippe of Montarby, great-grandson of the count Etienne-Louis of Montarby, Lord of Dampierre that, born December 29, 1729, was executed on the Guillotine with his wife July 12, 1794, at the time of the French Revolution. At this moment, the castle was emptied of all its peaces of furniture. It is furnished currently according to the style of the time. This small village counts about 340 souls. The village church was built in the sixteenth Century. The bell-tower and the sanctuary only date 1850. There is not any more priest resident since close to twenty years. Offices take place tow times a month. Restored with taste, this small church, thanks to the goodwill of its supporters, is very well kept, as well as its cemetery. The cleanliness of it is indeed remarkable.

May 14, 1970, I had the happiness to visit Dampierre where Monsieur Pelletier, the village secretary, welcomed us to the town hall and entertained us about his village where they raise cattle and make Gruyere cheese to accommodate the people of the village and neighbourhood. He made us see the civil registers of beginnings of eighteenth century, in particular 1715, time of the birth of our Geoffroy ancestor. The time not permitting us to make some research, Monsieur Philippe de Montarby promised to make it for us. He kept his word. August 18, 1971, we received the fruit of his research that proves, out of all doubt, that Nicolas Geoffroy was not born Dampierre to, although it was is the place of domicile at the time of his departure for the Forges of St-Maurice, in Canada. There are numerous Geoffroy families in the vicinity of Dampierre still, especially at Vitre-en-Montagne, almost everywhere in Champagne and even in Paris.

¹ Founder of Montreal

The reasons of his arrival in New France.

At the time of the arrival of Nicolas Geoffroy, the province of the Champagne produced in abundance refine wines and was part of the metallurgic centres of France: *LesForges du Royaume*¹. As most his fellow citizen and several members of his family, Nicolas Geoffroy practised a lucrative profession for the time that is why, very likely, few Champenois came to Canada. Besides, this province was distant of harbours of the Atlantic from where left colonists for the New France.

In 1739, one decided to add a new forge to the establishment of St-Maurice. At the end July 1739, the construction was finished and, since following October 10, the forge functioned, giving a daily output of two thousands of iron. During the raising of this second forges, François Olivier, sieur of Vezain, had passed in France to recruit new workers there in his province of Champagne and he recruited about fifteen of them. Nicolas Geoffroy was one of these good workers. The levee of these workers had led to difficulties. As for Simonet in 1737, the owners of *Forges of the Kingdom* complained about of what one removed them their better workers. The sieur of Cologne, master of Forges of Molay, notably, demanded that his master- smelter, sieur Olivier of Vezain had recruited while he was under contract, be returned or, at least that he be reimbursed the payment of 2,700 pounds that he had advanced to this worker. The minister of the kingdom had intervened and forbid the director of Forges of St-Maurice to break contracts of services that workers had passed with masters of Forges of the Kingdom.

The Forges St-Maurice.

Forges of St- Maurice were one of the first big industrial enterprises of North America. Intendant Talon, the manager, was interested a lot in to the discovery mines of iron and coal, but he returned in France (1672) without having launched the big metallurgic industry that he dreamed to establish for the needs of New France and for the wealth of the French kingdom. Mr. Frontenac was interested in the mines of Three Rivers to pursue project of Jean Talon, his predecessor, but without success. Heaps of mines stacked by Talon, a half century before, were still not transformed! They were so well hidden that everyone had lost the memory of their existence!

The population of Canada, toward 1700, didn't pass 20,000 souls. People dispersed on a vast territory, didn't have other means of communications than the waterway. Stretches of road, hardly

¹ Foundries of the Kingdom

practicable, joined the oldest parishes of the Saint-Laurent River. The launched enterprises had collapsed. Alone subsisted the small domestic industries and the parochial handicraft. For their subsistence, people had to count on products of the soil, of the fishing, of hunting... and on the good will of tradesmen. Blacksmiths, locksmiths, knife makers, etc. remained tributaries of the French suppliers. One imported everything from France and one was under the mercy of merchants that only cared of their fat profits. This situation could not last.

A Canadian born in 1692, François Poulin of Francheville, possessed the Seigneurie of Saint-Maurice, which had revealed the presence of important deposits of ore from previous excavations. His good fortunes in business had permitted him to accumulate a small fortune. Louis XV gave him the privilege of their exploitation with the obligation to open the Forges within two years. Works began at the spring of 1732. Iron seemed of excellent quality. The Intendant Hocquart appeared very favourable to this enterprise. Francheville dies in 1733. It was a stroke for the company. This is when Pierre-François Olivier, sieur of Vezain, was sent here by the minister of the Kingdom. After having made the inspection of the finds he was literally enthused and offered to enter in this company.

A new company was created and on March 14, 1736, a second master of Forges embarked with four other workers, it was Jacques Simonet, Sieur of L'Aubergemont, of Dampierre, in the diocese of Langres, where stayed Nicolas Geoffroy and his parents. Works progressed rapidly in spite of the numerous difficulties and failures. During the summer of 1737, Simonet came back from France with fifty workers. In spite of new fallbacks, they endeavoured to create in France a favourable impression by sending some samples of iron in small bars. Too many specialized workers were hire at a time. There was not enough work for all and this mistake repeated itself in 1740 when François of Vezain went to France to hire about fifteen specialized workers, Nicolas Geoffroy being one of them. The situation at the Forges still deteriorated. Too much had been spent. Besides, workers in France especially, would not tolerate the imposed discipline. The Intendant Hocquart made a statement that, writes Mgr Tessier, produces a very modern sound: "Inhabitants of Three Rivers and Pointe-du-Lac want to earn much while working little ". This is the situation Nicolas Geoffroy faced, at the summer of 1740.

En route to the Port of La Rochelle.

Nicolas Geoffroy probably leaves his family toward the end of April. It was certainly a real farewell to the full sense of the word, because the one leaving, could not maintain a lot of hope of returning. To go to the Port of La Rochelle, the easiest and shortest way was the following: Paris, Orleans, Tours, Poitiers and La Rochelle. It was a long and laborious journey, as one can note it by the narrations of the Blissful Marguerite Bourgeois.

Nicolas Geoffroy was part of a fifteen worker group (blacksmith, shipper, cart wright and hammersmith) to that the King had granted passage on " the Ruby ", at the spring of 1740. This levee of workers of 1740, as the one of 1737, led to quick protests on behalf of Masters of Forges of the Kingdom of France as detailed earlier. So, they were kept to view and constrained to embark on the *Ruby*, June 10, 1740, at the harbour of La Rochelle. In those days, passengers had to wait for weeks at their own expense until enough of them had purchased their fair and for the favourable winds needed to leave the shores.

The Ruby.

This ship, since the year 1732, was destined to make the trip France-Canada annually. It had almost perished two years before this crossing of 1740, by a mistake of navigation in grounding at Chapeau-Rouge, on the coasts of Newfoundland. The conditions of crossing the Atlantic were not better during the eighteenth century than at the previous century. One spent two good months of misery shut in a bad-floating box, without defence against the powerful waves of high seas. To dangers of ship wreck - and wrecks were then frequent - that ran those making this journey from France to Canada, was added the pestilential illnesses that burdened too frequently on the transatlantic vessels. Few examples of these illnesses surged on ships returning in France for the good reason that the number of passengers leaving Canada was never considerable. But on vessels in outbound of The Rochelle or of some French harbour for Canada, what crowding of passengers of all sorts: false-saulniers, some prisoners of state sometimes, soldiers, colonists, committed and emigrants of all conditions. A letter of Rev. Father Canot, Jesuit, passenger on this vessel, in date of August 30, 1740, give us an idea of the planning of the *Ruby* and the other similar ships affected to the transportation of colonists: « Imagine a place, big as our hovels (attics under roofs) where light penetrates hardly ever, and where hardly one can walk right, all full of mulched, above of which is canvases...attached by corners to nails...which served as beds... so that we were close to four hundred

in one such small space... Is it not surprising that in such promiscuity there was rarely a crossing exempt of travellers contaminating each other's illnesses, which in turn became real epidemics? One is astonished at the indifference for human lives and at the ignorance for basic hygiene precautions».

Father Nau tells the journey of Mgr Dosquet on the *Ruby* in the spring of 1734, relation brought back by Mgr Gosselin in *The church of Canada*, vol. 11, page 371: « The illness caused the death of several (...) a crowd of bedraggled, dirty and pestilential flooded the ship; the contagion exploded in the middle of these miserable poor and caused a certain number to perish ». So four times on five, an epidemic exploded among passengers. In most crossing, there always were recorded deaths, and corpses were thrown overboard at sea and survivors were left roughly broken. This was the fate of the passengers of the *Ruby* in 1740.

The voyage of the *Rubis* in 1740.

Nicolas Geoffroy, about 25 years of age, son of Nicolas Geoffroy and of Nicole Mercier, of the St-Pierre parish, Dampierre in Champagne, France, embarked on the *Rubis*, June 11, 1740 at the Port of La Rochelle. The ship offered its veils and moved away of strands of France. There is no doubt that this man fixed his eyes a long time on his native country. " The Beautiful and Soft France ". His soul had to be full of hope, but also of concerns, because one went in an unknown country of which "Les Relations¹", if they were promising future accomplishments, also foretold him the uncouthness of the climate and a life in Canada which will prove itself amply. As his mates of journey, he certainly had the hearth tightened to the thought that he probably left forever, without hopes of return, his parents, his friends, his native village, his homeland. Besides, he left an assured future at Forges of the Kingdom for an uncertain one at Forges of St-Maurice, which had been predicted by their last employers of France and which will reveal itself to be true. Indeed, hardly two months after their arrival, Nicolas Geoffroy and his mates were without a job, Forges stopping their activities, but let's not anticipate. Let's suppose that to the example of the famous passenger of the *Ruby*, the holy and young bishop Mgr of The Auberivière, and of missionaries, Nicolas and his mates " gave way entirely to the Divine Providence and their good Mother of Heaven ".

¹ Les Relations was a published report of the time by the Jesuit (religious order) on its missions in New-France and all over the world.

« The voyage was of happiest during the first three weeks: a favorable and always sustained wind swelled veils of the ship and the *Ruby*, left June 10 off La Rochelle, reached the Big Banks of Newfoundland July 3, Banks of Newfoundland are very often enveloped of mist and then the navigation, is there perilous. It doesn't have anything pleasant and when the *Ruby* appeared, the time was clear and serene, and, adds Father Canot s.j., this multitude of fisher-boats was a charming spectacle, of which most spent the season in these vicinities. As some of these boats got under way to return to France, number of passengers took the opportunity to send news to their families. Mgr of L'Auberivière didn't forget his mother: « The Lord favored us until now ». It is permitted to suppose that Nicolas Geoffroy also had the idea to send a word to his parents.

Sadly, this moment of happiness and joy was the last for this holy bishop and well of others of his journey mates. The remainder of the journey is going to continue in the middle of anguishes, desolation and sufferings of passengers as also of the crew. Here is the narration of it by the Rev. P. Canot, s.j.: « We were at four hundred leagues¹ of Quebec, when Father Joseph of Beugny fell very dangerously sick . . . and shortly after was convalescent, but his illness was only an imperfect omen of the one which all the vessel had to be infected. It was a very sad spectacle to see, these miserable people, some without movement, the others agitated of such a violent fever that some jumped into the sea, others pushed such awful howling that they were heard from all parts of the vessel. No prison that can give you an idea of misery where they were. There was close to four hundred of us heaped as sardines . . . several priests, headed by Mgr the bishop, who devoted himself without counting to these poor wretches. Facing such misery, us priests, could only devote ourselves to helping them! » And the good Father pursues this sad narration: " However the pain increased and we tried to get as close as possible to Quebec. The crew declined from day to day and hardly had could someone be found that could make the maneuver ».

" The news had spilled that the King's vessel was pestiferous and in vain pulled one of the cannon... Wanting to board with a rowboat, no one wanted to receive us... Finally, we had moved bit by bit and were not very distant of Quebec; but we were incapable to advance or to move back, not having a capable person anymore to make the maneuver; all were sick, chaplains, priests, officers, physicians, pilots, etc. At fifty leagues from Quebec (at Le Bic) we were all lost without resources. . The sky seemed deaf to our prayers . . . A few people, however, took a rowboat and decided to reach

¹ Lieue in French is a measure equivalent to 4 kilometers or 2 ½ miles...so they were at 275 miles of Quebec City!

Quebec in order to ask for help. They succeeded and, in a few days, we saw two vessels full of pilots and maneuvers. One of the vessels stayed with us and the other took back as many sick persons as it was able to carry; the chaplain who accompanied the rescuers fell sick the moment he boarded our ship and was obliged to return immediately...which put consternation all over Quebec city ".

July 27, 1740, the *Ruby*, was at the l'Ile-du-Pot-de-Vie¹ with 160 sick persons to its side. August 7 the *Ruby* passes the Gouffre and wet at Petite Riviere². The *Ruby* arrived to Quebec August 12, 1740. The sick persons, in big number, had been transported to Quebec thanks to the two vessels that had sent Mr. Hocquart of which one stayed with the *Ruby* and the other served to transport patients in a few trips. Several died on the way and were thrown in the river. It is on this emergency boat that Nicolas Geoffroy arrived to Quebec August 7 to immediately be hospitalized at the Hotel-Dieu³, as related in the registers of this hospital: "Nicolas Geoffroy, blacksmith, entered August 7, left August 11, gone to Les Forges". Only one trip had brought back 94 sick. August 11, the Intendant wrote Hocquart: " I received today 92 sick, I learn that, since July 27, died 20 to 30 people of this crew ". Father Canot, s.j., arrived to Quebec August 11, 1740 on this emergency vessel and the *Ruby* arrived the following day, 12 August " loaded with patients, carrying in its breast desolation and death. One carried sailors in full carts ", writes Thierry Hazeur. And Sister Duplessis, of Hotel-Dieu, writes: " I never saw so many patients here; the rooms, attics, outside parlors, all was full and could hardly move between beds. All become black as the Negroes, as soon as they die ".

After the arrival of the *Ruby* one summarized the situation in the following: " In spite of all the care that one took until now in hospitals, this illness persisted and removed up to today, either during the sea crossing, either on the ground, 42 men of the crew, 13 passengers; we have 147 passengers and soldiers afflicted by this illness, of which several are in danger ". And, October 8, Hocquart writes to the Court of France: "Died forty-seven on board men of the *Ruby*. Also died of this illness, contracted to devote themselves to patients, two nuns, the Father Boismilon, s.j., Mgr of De Auberivière, Mr. of Berthier, physician-surgeon." How many of Nicolas' fifteen mates, intended to the Forges St-Maurice, survived to destination? We don't know.

¹ This island is facing Riviere-du-Loup-en-Bas.

² Facing Baie St-Paul, where this river goes by.

³ Quebec's hospital.

Toward the Forges St-Maurice

Leaving the Hotel-Dieu August 11, Nicolas immediately traveled to Les Forges, for which he had signed an engagement at his departure of France. Robust boy and in the strength of his twenty-five years Nicolas could have surmounted the illness that had failed in to make one of these numerous victims. It is likely that he arrived to St-Maurice by rowboat, maybe on foot. A diligence also assured the service, a road having been drawn in the forest on the north strand of the Saint-Laurent River. The first journey had taken place August 5, 1734, with relays to equal distance between Quebec and Montreal the first relay was at about 45 miles of Quebec. This service had especially been established for the transportation of the postal mail; some passengers took room in the diligence.

One can suppose that Nicolas Geoffroy, having escaped an awful death, was very happy to be at Les Forges with a mate whose identity we find on the sick list of the Hotel-Dieu, Joseph Aubry, of the diocese of Dijon. He found several of his compatriots of which here are the names: Jean Mantenet, of the diocese of Langres; Jean Aubry, master-collier; Nicolas Chaput, Nicolas Champagne, clerk to Forges; Pierre Herard, arrived to Forges in 1737 with Simonet, this last is the ancestor of the Herards families of L'Isle Dupas. For the newcomers the situation of Les Forges was unfortunately, especially at the new comers, in disarray. Notwithstanding the effort for recovery, all had collapse into bankruptcy in the fall of 1740. Until then, it had produced only iron in bar, without having manufactured stoves or domestic utensils.

Accusations came from all sides. Were accused as responsible of the bankruptcy, one moment, the directors, in particular François of Vezain, and another time, the workers who were said to incompetent. Strange remarks, when one knows that Masters-Smelters of the Kingdom complained to the King of France of their removal, them their best workers.

In 1741, the entire installation was handed to the King, the first and only hypothec creditor. Work resumed in 1743, but then Nicolas Geoffroy was already in Lavaltrie where he had married in 1742 Marguerite Grivault dite Boisjoly. In 1752, the workload necessitated another contingent of 120 people by the Intendant Bigot. Did Nicolas Geoffroy return to Les Forges? It is likely. What carry us to believe it, is his absences from Lavaltrie at the time of the burial of some children and of his wife, whereas, otherwise, he always signed acts of baptism of his children. The mail, in those times, didn't

exist pretty much and it was terribly slow. Burials were carried the following day of the death. Births were foreseen, but not deaths. So, he was present to the baptism of his 12th child, June 13, 1761; but he is absent to his burial July 9 and to his wife's burial, the following August 10. Of the six children of his second marriage he is absent to the baptism of only one, but absent to the death of two. As we didn't find any contract of land purchase, we are inclined to believe that he returned to work at Les Forges of St-Maurice. It was far, but it was necessary to sustain his family. On eighteen acts of baptism, he is only absent two times. We can certainly conclude that he was an attentive family father.

People were rather poor in these times. By misfortune, in 1763, in « the state of the slips filled by the clerk Panet, to the No 79, one reads this: « Bordereau¹ of Nicolas Geoffroy, living in Lavaltrie, of the sum of eight hundred forty (840) pounds ». Bigot² had appropriated all the fortune of the country. Because of the conquest Louis XV had to have suspended the payment of letters of change, at the expense of the Canadiens. They were creditors for \$8,000,000.00 and their perspective of recuperating their due was bleak. After its defeat, France, not able to get the English to honor these recognitions of payment, did not pay the Canadiens. Speculators mingled themselves and Canadians lost practically everything. It was a hard blow to Nicolas Geoffroy, father of a numerous family, deprived of the earnings of several years of labor.

His family to Lavaltrie

What motive did drive Nicolas Geoffroy to Lavaltrie? On what property did he establish himself? These questions remained without answer in spite of the multiple researches done³. It is to Lavaltrie that he decided to establish his home and he needed to produce a certificate of liberty (to marry his first wife), asked by the missionary of this small locality, the R., Father Pierre-Baptist Resche, Recollet. Here is a copy of this certificate preserved at archives of the parish of Lavaltrie: « *J'ay soussigné, Prestre Recollet, ancien missionnaire des paroisses La Nauraye et de La Valtrie, certifie que sur les informations que jay faite aux forges de St-Maurice a plusieurs personnes digne de foy et*

¹ Pay slip.

² Bigot was the Intendant of New-France in the last years of the war with England and he was a crook and a cheat who emptied all the reserves of the colony.

³ We found two purchases of land by Nicolas Geoffroy. The first, on September 30, 1743 in the seigneurie of LaValtrie, from Francois Quay dit Dragon and Marie-Josophe Bourgaud, his wife. The second, piece of land in the seigneurie Dautray, south of Bayonne river, parish St-Antoine of Lavaltrie, from Francoise Legras, widow of Jean-Baptiste Neveu, seigneur of Dautray, to Nicolas Geoffroy of Lavaltrie.

sur le pouvoir de M. le Normant touchant les dites information. Je certifie que Nicolas Geoffroy nest poin marié en France ».

A La Nauray, ce 3 octobre 1742 Fr Pierre-Baptiste Resche¹.

First marriage, Lavaltrie 1742

« Nicolas Geaufroy, son of Nicolas Geoffroy and deceased Nicole Mercier, of the Saint-Pierre parish, diocese (unreadable word), on the one hand, and Marguerite Boisjoly, daughter of Jean Baptiste Boisjoly and of Marie Sigouin of Trois-Rivieres... .in the presence of Jean Baptiste Boisjoly, father of the daughter, and of Joseph Robillard, Pierre Robillard and Jean Baptiste- Michel Frappier ».

Signed: Boisjoly, J., Robillard, *Nicolas Geoffroy* Duniere, priest,

NOTE: The date and the month have been omitted, the act that precede is of November 7 and the one that follows is of December 13.

Second mariage : Lavaltrie June 6,1763

« In the year 1763, the 6 June...Nicolas *Geoffroy*, widower of Marie Grivaut (dite Boisjoly), son of Remis Geoffroy and Nicole Mercier, the father and the mother from the parish of Vitris, diocese of Langres... and Marie Frappier dite Bonneterre, widow of Claude Simon, daughter of deceased Michel Frappier and Marie Beaugrand. Because of the spiritual relationship² dispensation contracted between the both parties by Mr. the Great Vicar of Montreal, in presence of Jean Baptiste Geoffroy, François Geoffroy (his two sons), Jean Baptiste Robillard, father, Sulpice Frappier and Jean Baptiste Bonneville.

Signed: Nicolas Geoffroy Papin, vicar,

In the first act, the father's name is Nicolas, in the second, Remis. In the first act, it says of the Saint Pierre parish; in the second we have the name of the diocese. According to the Dictionary of dioceses, parishes and townships of France, published in 1727, only the parish of Dampierre, of the diocese of Langres, is under the name of Saint Pierre. These variants make it difficult to research in

¹ "I, the undersign, Recollet priest, formerly missionary of Lanauraie and La Valtrie parishes, certify that the inquest that I made at Forges of St-Maurice with many persons of good fate and on the power given by Mr. Le Normant about these matters. I certify that Nicolas Geoffroy is not already married in France" (Done) In Lanauraie, this October 3rd, 1742, Br(other) Pierre-Baptiste Resche.

² This spiritual relationship was contracted or caused because Nicolas had been the godfather for a child of Marie Frappier dit Bonneterre at her baptism. She was born in St-Sulpice, June 14, 1729. At this wedding she was close to 34 years old.

France. However it is permitted to believe that our ancestor left from Dampierre where lived his parents. Research made by Monsieur Philippe of Montarby proves us that he was not born there.

The family of Nicolas Geoffroy

From his first marriage he had twelve children, all born and baptized at Lavaltrie.

1st child: *Nicolas, born March 8, 1744, deceased following July 21.*

2nd child: *Jean-François, born and baptized June 21, 1745, married at St-Sulpice to Amable Laporte dite St - Georges, January 8, 1770, daughter of Nicolas Laporte dit St-Georges and of Marie-Angelique Pilotte. He died at Ste-Elizabeth, December 5, 1810, at 65 years, buried the following day. His wife died there also August 18, 1808, aged 59 years. Jean-François is mostly the ancestor of the families of Ste-Elizabeth, St-Ambroise, St-Jean-de-Matha and of those who immigrated to New England from these parishes.*

3rd child: Jean Baptiste, born and baptized March 14, 1747. Married October 30, 1771 at Lavaltrie with Marie-Françoise Morneau, daughter of Alexis Morneau and Françoise Caron. After having lived in Berthier where he had nine children baptized, he/it was going to settle to St-Vincent-de-Paul of Ile-Jesus (Laval), where he had four children baptized. He died in St-Martin (Laval) October 10, 1802, aged of 55 years and 7 months. One of his sons, Alexis, born in Berthier January 13, 1785, signed an engagement February 13, 1800 to go to the Riviere de la Petite Nation, in Ontario, June 16, 1809, he commits to go to Quebec. Two acts were passed before Maitre Chaboillez, Notary, where he is said to be of St-Vincent-de-Paul parish, Ile-Jesus. We don't know any descendant of this family. (???)

4th child: *Marie-Marguerite, born and baptized January 27, 1749, at Lavaltrie, November 16, 1772, she marries Claude Roman dit Lamothe, original of the parish of Lamothe, in the diocese of the Dauphine, France. She died in Ste-Elizabeth, August 6, 1821, wife of deceased Claude Lamothe, aged of 72 years and 6 months.*

5th child: *Nicolas-Simon, born and baptized November 6, 1750. – He first marries, in Berthier, February 12, 1776, Marie-Reine Henault, daughter of Nicolas Henault and Marguerite Piette. She*

died October 6, 1778, aged of 24 years, buried in Berthier. A son named Nicolas, was born November 27, 1776. - In Berthier, July 31, 1780, Nicolas-Simon marries Angelique Coutu in 2nd marriage, daughter of Jacques Coutu and Marie-Louise Brisard dit St-Germain. Eight children will be born of this 2nd union. The second wife died October 12, 1790, aged of 32 years. - To Berthier, November 25, 1799, Nicolas – Thirdly, Simon marries Angelique Levesque, daughter of Pierre Levesque and deceased Genevieve Genereux. The wife was only 16 years old, while he was 49. Seven children were born of this 3rd marriage. Nicolas-Simon was a churchwarden in Berthier in 1796, syndic at the time of the construction of the Ste-Elisabeth church in 1810, whereas the vicar was Messire Benjamin Keller. He was also Captain of Militia and he was the one that was fetching in Berthier the Vicar, Mr. Le Pouget or the priest Mr. Serrant to say Mass each Sunday in a chapel built at Ste-Elisabeth of Bayonne in 1797, this, until the arrival of the first resident vicar in 1802. Nicolas-Simon died in Ste-Elisabeth January 23, 1831; he was 80 years and 2 months old. He was buried in the crypt of the parochial church. His wife, Angelique Levesque died June 19, 1827, at the age of 44. Some four boys born of these unions, only one son, Ambroise, survived. He married to Rose Bourret, August 7, 1822, daughter of Henry Bourret and Marguerite Lafrenière, of Ste-Elisabeth. Ambroise died August 10, 1832, victim of the sadly famous epidemic of cholera, which made more than a hundred victims at Ste-Elisabeth, in the short period of two months. Two sons of Ambroise emigrated around Yamaska of whom he doesn't seem to have descendants there.

6th child: Joseph, born and baptized July 16, 1752, deceased following July 26.

7th child: Joseph-Alexis, born and baptized August 22, 1753. Died following November 30.

8th child: Elisabeth-Marie, born and baptized November 19, 1754; she had as godmother, Cecile Papin, wife of François Jolliet, grandparents of the Honourable Barthelemy Joliette, founder of the city of Joliette. In Berthier, August 16, 1774, she marries Louis Bonin, widower of Genevieve Beaugrand-Champagne, son of Jean Baptiste Bonin and Antoinette Houde. She died in Ste-Elisabeth October 2, 1820, at the age of 66 years, buried in the crypt of the parochial church. Louis Bonin died there also May 22, 1812; he was 70 years old. He was a churchwarden in Berthier in 1784 and Captain of Militia.

9th child: Augustin, born in January 1756, deceased following February 23.

10th child: Marie-Reine, born and baptized January 2, 1758, deceased following October 18.

11th child: Amable, born the 16, baptized, the 17 of September 1759. Cecile Papin, wife of François Jolliet, was his godmother. Deceased at Ste-Elisabeth, May 30, 1810, at the age of 51 years. According to the act of burial, he was a bachelor.

12th child: Antoine, born and baptized June 13, 1761, deceased following July 8. The mother, Marguerite Grivault dite Boisjoly, died August 9 1761, at the age of only of 35 years. She was buried the following day at Lavaltrie. One of the rare acts not signed by the ancestor Nicolas Geoffroy. It seems likely that he worked at Les Forges of St-Maurice at this time.

Of second marriage will be born six children, all born and baptized at Lavaltrie.

13th child: Remi, born and baptized October 30, 1763, married at Berthier August 20, 1787, to Marie-Angelique Rivet, daughter of deceased Louis Rivet and Marie-Angelique Goulet, of the St-Sulpice parish. Remi died May 17, 1797, at Berthier; he was 33 years and 8 months old. His wife, after having married Maurice Robillard, died April 18, 1813 at Ste-Elisabeth where she was buried; she was 48 years old. Remi Geoffroy is the ancestor of families of St-Felix-de-Valois and, evidently of those, who emigrated all over the province and to New England.

14th child: Marie-Marguerite, born and baptized April 26, 1765, bride to François Henault. She died at Berthier, January 29, 1834, at the age of 69.

15th child: Antoine, born and baptized June 5, 1766 and deceased in Berthier, 8 October 1774; 8 years old.

16th child: Jean Baptiste, born and baptized February 11, 1768. Married at Ste-Elisabeth of Bayonne, February 8, 1802 to Marie-Pelagie Boucher dit Desroches, daughter of Antoine Boucher dit Desroches and of Marie-Angelique Marion. He worked of the 1st vicar of Ste-Elisabeth, Messire Benjamin Keller. He died December 13, 1818, at the age of 50 years and 10 months. His wife died between June 10, 1824 and August 2, 1825. The act of her death doesn't exist. Jean Baptiste is my

ancestor and of the Rev. Father Maurice Geoffroy, o.m.i., of Massachusetts, in New England, ordained priest May 31, 1969, and of the Dr Moise Geoffroy, deceased at St-Ours in 1892, after having exercised medicine at St-Ambroise, Contrecoeur (1867-1890), then to St-Ours.

17th child: Monique, born and baptized May 18, 1769, deceased following July 16.

18th child: Michel, born and baptized June 17, 1770, deceased following July 16.

The place and the date of the death of Marie Bonnetterre, the 2nd wife of Nicolas Geoffroy, are untraceable. The ancestor had a family of eighteen children of which nine died young.