



ROBITAILLERIES

www.robetaille.org

Volume 31, Number 1

Spring 2019

3,00\$



This # 88 of the Robitaileries includes the three shipments sent to those who have an email address. We invite our readers to register for the 30th Anniversary Celebrations of the Association on June 8th and 9th, 2019, and those who have forgotten to pay their 2019 dues to do so. Good reading.

Inside This Issue...

A Word from the President	2	The Robitaille Family's Eldest Sky-Diver?	14
News from the Association	3	Notice of Meeting	17
A Hesdin Notebook (Part 6)	4	Visit the passage of the Hurons	18
Kristen from Massachusetts	6	The visit of Parc Robitaille on June 9	19
The Robitailles from Sillery, circa 1900	7	Program of the Annual Meeting	20
Notre-Dame de Paris : Yesterday I cried and prayed	12	Facebook Echoes	23
The Robitaille and Oklahoma Huron Wyandots	13		

A Word from the President

Dear members

After a harsh winter, I'm happy to meet you, parents and friends of the Robitaille family.

Our Association is 30 years old

It is during the weekend of June 8-9 that we invite you to participate in activities to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Association. We have prepared a program to help you locate your ancestors in places where they have grown, developed and gathered to help build the villages and cities we know today. You will find in this issue all the relevant information for this meeting to which we wish to welcome you in large numbers.



Novelty

Many of you with an email address may have noticed a significant change in the way we communicate with you. Indeed, since the beginning of the year, you receive every month by email a message from us with articles about Robitaille. For members who do not have an email address, we continue to contact you in writing 2-3 times a year. This new way of

doing things allows us to communicate with most of you more frequently and we hope you enjoy this new formula.

Membership

In recent years, we have seen a significant decrease in the number of members in good standing of our Association. Your Board of Directors is working hard to try to maintain your interest so that you renew your membership year after year. We also observe a decrease in availability among administrators and commanders due mainly to the disease. Many have been in post for many years and we are looking for a new generation to ensure the sustainability of your Family Association.

I wish you a happy 30th anniversary and look forward to meeting you on June 8th and 9th.

Marc Robitaille, President

Facebook Group : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/famillesrobitaille/>

Facebook Page : <https://www.facebook.com/FamilleRobitaille/>

News from the Association

Communications Governance Plan

On November 30, 2018, the Board of Directors has endorsed version 7 of its Communication Governance Plan.

Governance is a set of rules, roles, responsibilities and processes that serve to guide, direct and to supervise the way the Association Communications Committee works.

This plan supports the vision and supports continuity, the optimization and evolution of the Association.

The governance plan is not only a document, but an ever-evolving process that will keep going as long as the Association exists.

The updated version will always be available from the Association's website.

The most noticeable change by the members will be the new mode of communications of the Association regarding the Robitalleries. From now on as the items are ready for publication, they will be sent to those members who provided an email address. We expect to make eight to ten mailings per year. Members are invited to send us news and articles on their family.

René Robitaille, St-Lambert-de-Lauzon

As for those who choose to receive a hard copy version, the articles will be grouped together in two blocks distributed in May and November.

Annual meeting June 8 and 9, 2019

This year the Association innovates. The annual meeting spans two days to give a maximum information especially to those who come from afar to Québec City.

On Saturday, June 8, there will be three technical conferences on the historical trace of Robitailles in the three former cities of Sillery, Cap-Rouge and Sainte-Foy, today amalgamated with Québec City.

On Sunday, June 9, we will be visit Parc Robitaille with its family monument and its less-known pedestrian path. We will also visit the historic center of L'Ancienne-Lorette with its church and the remaining traces of the Huron Indians passage followed by a conference on Robitailles established in Oklahoma in a territory belonging to another branch of Hurons.

For more information, be sure to visit our website www.robitaille.org

A Hesdin Notebook (Part 6)

The Reconstruction of Hesdin (1554–1560)

*By René Robitaille, Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon
Translated by David Robitaille, Vancouver*

–Editor's Note: the first two notebooks dealt with the history of the Hesdin region before the year 1000, while the next two continued this history between the years 1000 and 1500. The fifth booklet included the continuation of the story up until the destruction of the city of Hesdin in 1553. This sixth book deals with the reconstruction of the city.

Source : Histoire d'Hesdin by Bruno Béthouard, et al.

Charles V, the destroyer of Hesdin

Charles Quint, or Charles V, was born in 1500 in Ghent, Belgium, then the capital of the county of Flanders. In 1519, he became the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, and the most powerful monarch of the first half of the sixteenth century. He inherited from Spain and its colonial empire (South and Central America, Mexico, Florida, territory west of the Mississippi), the kingdom of Naples (Italy), 17 provinces of the Netherlands (including Flanders and the Duchy of Burgundy), as well possessions of the Hapsburgs (Germany).

Charles was raised in the French tradition of Burgundy. During his reign, he was able to endear himself to his subjects by learning the languages spoken in his empire such as Spanish, Dutch, German, English, and a little Italian. But this did not prevent him from suffering many troubles and wars, in particular against the French kings, Francis I and Henry II.



Portrait of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, by Titian and Rubens

In the sixth Italian war, Charles V took over the Duchy of Milan in 1525. Francis I took the lead in a counterattack in Pavia, Italy, but was defeated and taken prisoner.

Detained in Madrid for a year he was forced to negotiate his release with onerous conditions: he lost the duchy of Burgundy, Flanders, and Artois; and his two sons Francis and Henry (the future Henry II) had to remain imprisoned in Madrid for four years.

Reconstruction of the City

Being now the ruler of Artois, Charles V razed Hesdin in 1553 knowing that the city had become indefensible because of its outdated fortifications. He undertook the reconstruction of a stronghold a few kilometres west at the confluence of the valleys of the Ternoise and the Canche rivers. From 1554 to 1560, the bulk of the work was done at great cost, and the place was named Hesdin the Strong. Later the town would be renamed Hesdin.

The new city was designed according to a pentagonal plan with five corner bulwarks. A first exterior wall and the bulwarks were built first. A ditch 120 feet wide and 25 feet deep was dug to surround the whole. Interior walls, called curtains, between the bulwarks of lengths varying from 440 to 900 feet complemented the fortifications. In the bulwarks, artillery pieces were installed on two floors so that they were invisible from the outside to possible invaders.

Inside the fort there was a castle surrounded by a ditch and a central square from which five streets led to the bulwarks, but only two led to the outside. This kind of “spoke” arrangement from a central point was common at the time. Even in the seventeenth century in New France, the Jesuits conceived this type of development for Charlesbourg near Québec City. Outside the town centre, where the church and the mill were located, the plots of land were granted in such a way as to reflect the triangular forms of the global plan. The purpose of this concept was to protect the town from Iroquois attacks. In case of danger, the warning bell was heard, the population could take refuge in the church and the defense organized. There were no walls and there were no attacks, the Iroquois being occupied elsewhere.



What was also original to Hesdin was the presence of the Canche River that crossed the entire city. The less important Ternoise ran along the fortifications and joined the Canche outside. Dams and reservoirs were used to store water and flood the ditch, thus hindering an army that attempted to lay siege to it. There was even an underground pipe between the Canche and the castle to flood, as needed, the ditch surrounding it. This ingenious hydraulic protection meant that, in addition to the more traditional defense facilities, Hesdin was able to withstand sieges for more than three quarters of a century.

To be continued.

Kristen (Robie) Robitaille of Massachusetts

Robie was a yoga teacher and a master's student at the University of Texas when she had to go back to live with her parents Robert (Bob) and Kathie Robitaille to cure a little-known disease. She had Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (EM), also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), a debilitating disease that mainly affects women and is difficult to diagnose. She spends most of her days in bed and almost never goes out of the house.



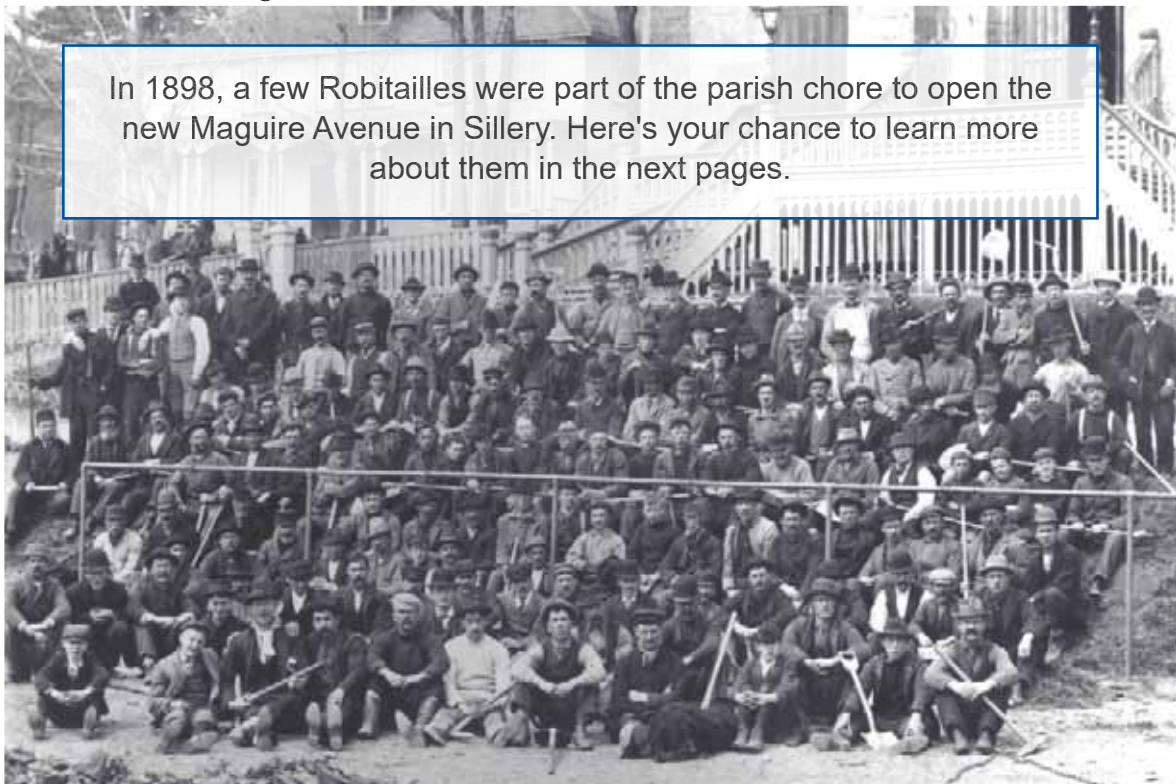
At the panel table, Robie is third from the left.

His father Robert (Bob) Robitaille came to Québec city last summer and met with several members of the Association to further his research on the genealogy and history of his family.

He and his daughter organized a support group for patients suffering from this disease. Recently, Robie participated in a panel at Northeastern University where 670 medical staff members attended. Here is a link to the video :

<https://www.mghihp.edu/students-hear-little-known-illness>

Robie's conversation begins in the 19th minute.



In 1898, a few Robitailles were part of the parish chore to open the new Maguire Avenue in Sillery. Here's your chance to learn more about them in the next pages.

The volunteers for the curé Maguire's corvée in 1898

The Robitailles from Sillery, circa 1900

By Jean Robitaille, Québec City

Editor's Note : In the last issue of Les Robitailleries (# 87), Jean Robitaille recalled an event that unfolded at the end of the 19th century : a corvee called by curé Maguire to open a new road between Sillery's St-Michel church and the parish cemetery. Many Robitailles took part of this corvee including Ignace's family. At our next annual meeting on June 8th, Jean will recall the history of this event and the genealogy of the seven Robitailles who took part. The descendants of those brave Robitailles will sure enjoy learning more of the accomplishments of those ancestors. .

From Farmer to Laborer

Ignace Robitaille was born in L'Ancienne-Lorette in 1804, son, grand-son and great-grand-son of farmer descent, he is already from the fifth generation since Ancestor Pierre Robitaille first planted his plow in Lorette soil.

One can imagine how much plowing occurred in Ancestor Pierre's land in all those years since 1670 and how many times the land has been divided between siblings from one generation to another. Ignace is the fifth child in the family of Jean-Baptiste Robitaille and Louise Drolet. Child

mortality is still high in those days. At the home of Jean-Baptiste and Louise, from their fourteen baptized children, seven are already dead by the time Ignace decides to marry in 1830.

On the 12th of January 1830, Ignace marries a girl from Sainte-Foy by the name of Rosalie Drolet. In the parish marriage registry, it is written: «Rosalie said Drolet, girl also living in Sainte-Foy». Her parents' names are not mentioned and it's a friend of hers, Jean-Baptiste Dorval, who acts as witness to the marriage. In the 1851 Canadian census, Rosalie declares that she was born in L'Ancienne-Lorette and that's all we'll get to know. All through her life, she will be called either Rosalie or Aurélie, depending on her mood, we presume.

So, we have two young adults born in L'Ancienne-Lorette but already both living in Ste-Foy that settle down to create a new family. They will have a lot of kids.

All along his life, Ignace will be a simple worker, a laborer working in the lumber yards in the coves along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. Since the early years of the 19th century, in Québec city, there is a boom in wood commerce. England needs a lot of wood and Canada is an easy, natural and cheap supplier. Many wood barons, mostly British, have established their business in the coves around Québec city and they are hiring vigorously. Work is tough but the pay is appealing for the children of poor farmers of the region.



Vue of the coves of Sillery, circa 1900
(Photo Livernois, BANQ)

So, Ignace and Rosalie (or is it Aurélie?) settle down in Ste-Foy, on the river shore, in what will become in 1854 the parish of Sillery. We know of ten of their children born and baptized between 1830 and 1847, the seven oldest being boys. Of the ten, only three will die in young age. Narcisse will drown aged 10, Marie-Joséphine will die 15-months old and young Aurélie will die at 10. The seven others will reach adulthood, marry, and have children of their own, most being Robitailles.

Father Ignace dies in Sillery on March 13, 1887, at the venerable age of 83. His wife Rosalie will live until March 26, 1890, she would then have been 88. Three sons of Ignace and Rosalie, Michel, Joseph and Jacques will volunteer in the corvee of the Maguire Avenue opening and will appear on the 1898 picture. We will come back to them in a minute.

The family of Agnès and Ignace

So, Ignace Robitaille and Rosalie Drolet settled their family in the coves of Sillery in early 1830. Their oldest son, Ignace Félix Robitaille, married Agnès Gignac in Ste-Foy on August 5, 1851 and they also settled there and started their own family. Between 1853 and 1875, we know of eleven children born to them and baptized. The first two were baptized in Ste-Foy, the other nine in Sillery. The parish of Sillery opened its registry on October 30, 1855; Agnès and Ignace registred their young Napoléon, their third child, in this new registry on November 29, 1856.

Of all those eleven children of Agnès and Ignace, only one died at a very young age: Honoré, their sixth, only lived a few hours. Eight of the children married and, of those, six married in Sillery.

Agnès and Ignace's oldest daughter was called Delphine **Joséphine**. At 21, she married Joseph Daigle and they too settled in Sillery. In 12 years, they begat eight children but three died very young. Joseph Daigle appears on the 1898 picture but one can guess by his looks that life was not easy for them. A few months after the corvée, Joseph and Joséphine took the road to exile with their children. They landed in



Joseph Daigle

Fall River, Mass. where the five children married between 1906 and 1909.

Agnès and Ignace's oldest son was **Joseph**, born in 1855. He married Aurélie Laroche in 1876. Between 1878 and 1893 they had eight children, all baptized in Sillery. They too flew to Fall River, a few months after Joseph and Joséphine. Curious fact: their son Louis, born in 1886, was working as a servant at Dr Arthur Lavoie house in Sillery at the turn of the century. This young fellow was still in Dr Lavoie's house at the 1901 Canadian Census while his family was already living in Fall River since 1900. Louis must have made the trip by himself because he reunited with his parents, in Fall River, at the US 1910 census.

The third, **Napoléon**, born in 1856, married Malvina Clavet en 1880. Three of their seven children died at the crib. Of the four surviving daughters, one, Alexina, stayed single, the other three married: Eva with Napoléon Drolet, Reine with Côme Laroche and Bernadette with Lorenzo Lessard.

The fourth, **Alfred**, had an eventful life. After his youth in Sillery, he left for Ontario where he met and married Eugénie Gagnier in Hamilton, in 1883. There, they raised many children. By 1915, they are living in Medicine Hat, Alberta and remain there for a few years then move back to Ontario around 1922. Their elder son Joseph Alfred married in Ontario in 1920 but emigrated to Detroit, Michigan soon after. The three youngest children also went south of the border to Detroit where they too married. Both Alfred and Eulalie died and were buried in Windsor, Ontario.

Louis, fifth child of Agnès and Ignace, stayed well anchored in the Québec City area. He married Joséphine Gignac in Sillery in 1883. Together they had nine children of which seven made it to adulthood. It seems that the family left Sillery around 1905 and moved in the Qué-

bec City parish of Saint-Sauveur. All the surviving children married in or around the St-Sauveur parish to found their own family locally.

The seventh child of Agnès and Ignace was called **Théophile**. He married Malvina Vermette in 1889 and they too took root in the region. Like Louis and Joséphine's family, they left Sillery around 1905 and fled to the nearby St-Sauveur parish. All their eight Sillery-borne children made it to adulthood and six did marry. Cyrille was the only one to marry outside the region when he tied the knot with Hélène Doré in Shawinigan but soon after they made their way back in the region, in the St-Jean-Baptiste parish of Québec City.



Tombstone of Agnès and Ignace, of their son Louis (Joséphine Gignac), of their grandson Joseph (Marie McCann), of their great granddaughters Cécile (J-B Pelletier) and Irène.

Genest dit Labarre in 1892. Their first two babies died at the crib. The third, Arthur, born in 1897, survived. Around 1900, the family, like the older ones, left for Fall River. Another son, Phillip, will be born in Fall River in 1908.

Elzéar, ninth offspring of Agnès and Ignace, born in 1869, appears in all Canadian Censuses up to 1891 then reappears in the 1900 American Census living in his oldest sister Joséphine's household, but then disappears from the charts.

The fate of **Jacques Emmanuel**, tenth of the family, born in 1872, is as mysterious. He appears in the 1881 and 1891 censuses but then vanishes without a trace.

He too probably migrated to the USA.

Léocadie was the eight child born to Agnès and Ignace and she married François-Xavier



Two of Agnès and Ignace's children appear on the volunteers picture of 1898: Louis et Théophile.

Louis (38 years old) has the privilege of sitting next to curé Maguire while Théophile (33) smokes his pipe a little further, in the next row.



The last one born in Agnès and Ignace's household was called **Philiias**. He was born in Sillery in 1875 where he lived all his youth. In 1898, he went to marry Joséphine Dionne in Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, Kamouraska County and then they both passed the US border. But typhoid fever caught up with him and he died in Berlin, New Hampshire April 24, 1901. His widow moved back to her Mont-Carmel village where she remarried.

All this time, Agnès and Ignace lived their life of joys and sorrows in Sillery where they died two months apart in 1902. They now both rest in the Sillery St-Michel cemetery.

Some other valiant volunteers

Upto now, we first met Ignace «the pioneer» and Rosalie Drolet, then Ignace «the eldest son» and Agnès Gignac.

Let's now meet some of the other sons of the founding pioneers who also lent a hand in the Maguire Avenue corvée.

■ Michel

Michel Robitaille was born February 22, 1836. He was the fourth son of the pioneer couple. As such, he is the oldest of the Robitaille clan who gave a hand to the chore and appears on the 1898 picture.

Michel had a life of hard work in the timber yards. He was 37 when he finally married Éliza Fréchette on the 23 of June 1873, in the St.Co-



Michel Robitaille

lumban church of Sillery. The couple had 3 children. Éliza, the first born lived less than three months. The second one, Zoé, was born in 1876. The third, Michel, only lived a few days. His mother died after giving birth on July 26, 1878 and the young Michel followed her soon after.

After a long mourning, Michel remarried in Neuville on May 22, 1882 with Madeleine Gignac. He was 46, she, 45.

At the time the picture was taken, Michel was looking good and one can guess from his half-smile that the old man is quite proud that his only daughter will wed Louis Deschênes, in a few weeks, on November 21, 1898.

Zoé and Louis will take great care of Michel. At the 1911 Canadian Census, Michel and his wife Madeleine are living in the Deschênes household. Madeleine will die soon after on April 26, 1912. Michel will outlive her for a few years and pass away on the 20th of September 1915.

■ Joseph

Joseph Robitaille, born in 1838, is the fifth child of the pioneer couple. He married Céleste Dubé, an adopted child, on August 20, 1874 in Sillery. In the 1901 Census, we learn that Joseph was *Helping in forge*, an assistant blacksmith.

Together, Joseph and Céleste will have 6 children: 4 girls and 2 boys.

The first, Marie Susan, only lived a few hours but all the others made it



Joseph Robitaille

to adulthood.

Marie-Anne, the second, married Léon St-Pierre and they raised a family of 15.

Georgina, third, wed William Bouchard and they had 4 children.

Joseph, number four, married Délima Ville-neuve in 1904 and they had many children in Sillery, but all the family moved to Montréal around 1916. Joseph died in Montréal in July of 1945 and his wife Délima died in Québec City in 1957.

The fifth, Léocadie, born in 1881, was living with her sister Marie-Anne in 1911. She apparently never married and died in Ste-Foy in 1948.

The last one, Adolphe, born in 1883, remained single and died in Baltimore, Maryland on February 20, 1926 and was buried in Sillery seven days later.

Father Joseph lost his spouse Céleste in 1913, he then passed away on August 27, 1927.

■ Jacques

Jacques Robitaille (1843-1917) is the seventh son of the pioneer couple. He first married Sarah Bergeron June 17, 1867. Sarah died in 1876 giving birth to her fifth child. Jacques remarried in 1879 with Marie Olympe Harpe but she died too in 1892, at the age of 43.

At the time of the 1898 picture, Jacques is then twice widowed.

At the following census in 1901, Jacques is living with his 31-year old son Jacques Jr. He also houses his daughter Philomène, 27 years old, with her husband Michel Gaboury and their 3 children. The enumerator stated that Jacques was head of the family, but one can wonder who houses who, in this household.

As soon as 1903, at the parish visit, we learn that the Gaboury family has moved out and lives two houses away but Jacques and Jacques Jr now house Sara, Junior's other sister, with her husband Jean-Baptiste Sévigny. Sara and Jean-Baptiste have been married since 1892.

With so many comings and goings in Jacques' household, it's no wonder that Jacques Jr has been slow to take wife. He was 48 when the wedding bells finally rang for his union to Léontine St-Pierre, a widow from the local parish, on January 14, 1919, a year and a half after the death of his father Jacques.

Jacques Jr also appears on the 1898 picture, curled up and apparently uncomfortable under his bowler hat.

Junior, 28, is then seated at the side of the mysterious Darbey Robitaille whom we shall talk about in an upcoming installment of this story of the Robitailles from Sillery.



Jacques Robitaille



Jacques Jr

Notre-Dame de Paris : Yesterday I cried and prayed

By Louise Robitaille, Beauport, Québec

Editor's note: On April 18, 2019, Louise wrote this cry from the heart in a major Québec City daily. For 15 years, she has been a director of the Board of our Association. As a tour guide, she traveled extensively around the world and enjoyed the existing heritage. The fire of the cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris has all challenged us especially that the mission of our Association is precisely the safeguarding and development of our family heritage.

Yesterday I cried and prayed.

Today, the cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris, which we have not yet had time to heal the wounds, exposes the face of the world its deep wounds.

I was very surprised by the great and deep reaction both visceral and emotional that I felt seeing the flames devour mercilessly the roofs of Notre-Dame and throw down her beautiful spire.

All the monuments that the faith of men has built bear in their stones, their stained-glass windows, their mosaics, their statuary, the spirituality of the people who raised them to heaven so that their soul, their spirit and their faith come closer of God.

Whether you enter a modest Romanesque church in Auvergne, in Istanbul's Great Blue Mosque, in Notre-Dame Basilica in Montréal or in our beautiful church of Neuville or climb the steps of the Mont-Saint-Michel; After the first aesthetic emotions, we can not help but think of their builders and all the people who have been

praying there for centuries.

How much faith, courage, and determination it took for such beauties to rise to heaven. Beauty carries with it its own spirituality; it elevates the soul.



Yesterday Japanese, Turkish, Americans were crying. They mourned the architectural work of course but also a monument marked by so many events that have marked the history of France and all Europe.

I have often seen tourists discreetly touching or laying their heads on the stone pillars of Notre-Dame as if they wanted to capture in their bodies and their mind the memory of their pas-

sage in Notre-Dame. Man is a spiritual being if not how to explain the great sorrow expressed by thousands of people from all over the world. The whole world did not mourn the destruction of a big hotel or department store or a famous bridge. Notre-Dame de Paris is Notre-Dame de Paris.

Last summer, I had the great joy of visiting Notre-Dame with my two granddaughters, I regret not having spent more time there. I have five other grandchildren it is also thinking that they would never see the real cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris



that I cried.

This morning a ray of hope inhabits me. I heard that President Emmanuel Macron wanted to rebuild the cathedral ... in five years.

My grandchildren will not see the 12th century cathedral, but the two towers and the big portals will be there, they will hear the great organ and the great bell Emmanuel will ring over their heads.

Long live Notre-Dame, long live Paris, long live France.

The Robitaille and Oklahoma Huron Wyandots

Come to Montana's Paul Robitaille's lecture on the links between the Huron-Wyandots of Oklahoma and Robitaille. These Indians living in the United States are of the same origin as the Huron-Wendat of Loretteville. Between 1640 and 1650, the Iroquois helped by the Dutch and the British decided to exterminate the Hurons who controlled the fur trade of the north. It was a real genocide because the Hurons had to flee to survive. A group of about 300 people came with the Jesuits to take refuge in Quebec City and form the Wendat group. Another similar group took the south-west route and formed the Wyandot group in Oklahoma.

One day an individual by the name of Robert Robitaille married an Indian princess and the couple had numerous descendants. Paul has done a lot of research to make history and genealogy of this branch of Robitaille. It's a surprising and interesting family saga.

Thereafter there will be a visit of the archaeological remains of the establishment of the Hurons for a quarter century on the site near the church and the library.

Do not miss this conference and visit on June 9, 2019 at 2 pm at the L'Ancienne-Lorette Library.

See the full program on June 8 and 9 on our website robitaille.org

The Robitaille Family's Eldest Sky-Diver?

*By Paul Robitaille, Montana,
representative of our Association for the United States*

My Uncle, Paul Robitaille, will be 90 years "young", as he puts it, in April 2019.

I vaguely recall when he visited us in Western New York when I was about 10. It was many years later, at a reunion of our branch of the Robitaille Family in Fairhaven, Massachusetts in the 1970s, before I saw him again. A picture from this reunion shows Uncle Paul with his brothers and sister. From left to right, my Uncle Paul, Hector, my father Wilfred, Beatrice, Leo and Raymond.



My most recent visit with him was a month ago, when I was "back east". My wife Samantha and I had a wonderful meeting and shared several tasty meals with my uncle and his daughter. Pictured left to right are Brian, my cousin Paula's husband; cousin Paula; Uncle Paul; and, just to add confusion, Paul Robitaille, the author of this story.

The background for this story begins with my Great Grandfather, Michel Flavien Robitaille. He was born in L'Ancienne-Lorette in 1850. He was the youngest member of his family. Around 1868 - 1869, Michel moved with his Mother Angèle Fluet and father, Jacques Robitaille, and his brother Thomas, from L'Ancienne-Lorette to Warwick in Arthabaska County, Québec. They were farmers. His father and mother died in Warwick in 1887 and 1895 respectively.

Michel Flavien married Zoé Cyr in Warwick in 1870. The couple had seven children, two of whom died young. One as an infant, and one at age 13, both in Warwick. Zoé also died in Warwick in 1880. Two years later, Michel married again, this time to Georgianna Gauthier. The couple had four children while living in Warwick. Around 1888 Michel moved to Central Falls, Rhode Island, where he worked as a carpenter in a textile mill. His family followed a bit later and their fifth child, Helena, was born in the United States in 1889. They were to have 13 more. Five more were born in Central Falls and nearby villages, and eight were born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, giving Michel a total of 25 children. They must have set a record for size of family!



The fifteenth child, Hector Joseph Robitaille, would become Uncle Paul's father and my grandfather. He was born in 1892 in Central Falls. He attended parochial school and felt he wanted to become a Jesuit Priest. He was a private man so many of the details of his early life remained secret. In this photo of the 1914 Fifth Grade Class of St. Aloysius School in New Orleans, Louisiana, you can see Hector Joseph in a cassock with cleric's collar, so it is possible that he was at least a seminarian at that point. My father told me he left the pursuit of priesthood to return home and help support his parents with their large family.



In 1917 Hector married Claudia Marie Dextraze in New Bedford. Hector served in the Army in WW-1 as a Staff Sergeant in the Medical Corps. He believed it was important to serve one's country. Later in his life, he opened the Campbell Business School in New Bedford and became the director. Hector and his wife had 9 children. Seven survived to adulthood. My Uncle, Paul Robitaille, and his twin brother Raymond were born in New Bedford in 1929. He had four older brothers, Louis, Wilfred (my father), Leo, and Hector Joseph junior, and one sister, Beatrice. The family was raised speaking French at home and the children learned English at school.



In the picture to the left, are Hector Joseph, his wife Claudia, Hector Joseph Jr, and Louis. In the front row are Raymond and Paul. It was taken at the family home in New Bedford in 1940.

When WW-2 came around, all of Hector's older sons enlisted in the Armed Forces. The eldest, Louis, in the Army; my father, Wilfred, and his two brothers, Leo and Hector served in the Navy. Following their father's sentiments about serving one's country, his two younger sons also joined the Navy Reserve in New Bedford while they were between the ages of 16-18.

At 18 they were able to enlist in the service of their choice. Uncle Paul served in the Army, and his brother Raymond joined the Coast Guard.

Following his time in the Army and college, Uncle Paul obtained a position with IBM in Fishkill, New York. He remained with IBM until he retired. His daughter Paula and her husband, Brian, also worked for IBM.

In 1951, Uncle Paul got married and six months later that year, so did his twin brother Raymond. Uncle Paul and his wife had a daughter and two sons, Paula, Peter and Dana. Their son Peter was born with multiple handicaps and has required full time care all his life. He has lived in a home with several others with similar disabilities. Peter is now 60 years old and is still in a nearby home run by the Greystone Foundation.

The Greystone Foundation is a not-for-profit organization and is classified as a 501-C charity. Greystone holds two fund raisers a year. One is a Wine Auction the other is a Sky-Diving Event. Last year, at age 89, Uncle Paul took his first parachute jump from an airplane. It was a "buddy" jump, meaning an experienced parachutist jumped with him with a common parachute. Uncle Paul has a serious fear of heights. This must be genetic as I have the same phobia. Nonetheless, he jumped and landed safely as you can see in the photo below.



This year, Uncle Paul decided to make his second jump an event that would benefit the organization who has cared for his son for many years. He has set an objective of \$5,000 for his

fundraising jump. To date he has done very well but is still just a bit short of reaching his objective. Readers of his story who may wish to donate to Uncle Paul's fundraiser can do so at the following website:

<https://www.givegab.com/p2p/leapforautism2019/paul-robaille>

Are there any other "Robitaille Family Sky Divers" who are older than my Uncle Paul?

■Who is Paul Robitaille from Montana

By René Robitaille, Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon

The first time I met Paul was in Québec City in 2003. He was a member of our Association and was already very interested in the genealogy and history of his family. I made him visit the Québec City area, the BANQ and the main sites related to the history of Robitailles. We continued to communicate electronically and exchange information about Robitailles.

In 2007, I met him in California and discussed his research projects on Robitailles. He wrote, in our Robitailleries, articles on the history of Louis Robitaille, a goldsmith from Québec who emigrated to Detroit and to various places along the Mississippi. A real family saga!

During a stay in Michigan, he found, along a road in Ohio, an historic sign about a Robert Robitaille who married an Indian princess. Intrigued, he undertook research on this subject and produced an important document of 150 pages. This Robert settled in the South of the United States and is the ancestor of a large descendance bearing the surname Robitaille. These Robitailles remain mainly in the Oklahoma Wandotte Reserve, a branch of the Hurons related to those of Wendake.

It is this other family saga that Paul will talk about during his conference on June 9 in L'Ancienne-Lorette. Members and non-members are cordially invited. See the complete program inside this mailing.

Notice of Meeting



Robitaille Families Association Inc.

The Robitaille Families Association inc. invite members and friends to the Thirty-first (31st) Annual General Meeting, June 9 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, in the Library Room at L'Ancienne-Lorette, 1635 Notre-Dame Street (Parking at the back by Saint-Jacques Street)

Agenda

1. Welcome at 1 pm
2. Reading and adoption of the agenda
3. Reading and adoption of the minutes of the 30th Annual Meeting held on June 03, 2018
4. President's report
5. Presentation and adoption of the financial statements for the year 2018
6. Appointment of the auditor for the fiscal year 2019
7. United States Regional Section
8. Amendment to the By-laws of the Association.
Decrease in the number of Directors to the Board from 7 to 5
9. Nominations for Directors for 2018 and 2019 and Election of Directors
10. Discussion on the projects and activities of the Association
11. Other topics
12. Closure of the meeting

P.S. : Non-members are invited, but without the right to vote

Visit the passage of the Hurons

The location of a portion of the chapel built by Father Chaumonot in 1674 is shown by the yellow lines on the parking lot between the church, the cemetery and the presbytery. This 40×20 foot chapel was built in bricks and was surrounded by 24 Huron longhouses. The Hurons remained there until 1697 and then moved to the Young Lorette.



To know more about these visits, see the program of the ANNUAL MEETING on pages 20 and 21

The visit of Parc Robitaille on June 9

What is there to see in the Parc Robitaille?

First there will be the monument erected as a tribute to our ancestors and their wives. It is a work of art consisting of four types of granite each cut into a different geometric shape. The design was done by the architect André Robitaille and the materials were donated by Granicor. Moreover, the owner and then president of this company, Paul Robitaille, will be present to explain the materials and construction of this magnificent monument. To the right of the monument, we can admire the oak planted during the 20th anniversary of the Association.

At the back of the monument is an amusement park and a playground for families in the surrounding residential area. It was also the site of the last house of Robitaille demolished by the city of Sainte-Foy at the end of the last century. But there are still beautiful ash trees on the property. It is lucky to see them still healthy because they will be attacked by the emerald ash borer, an insect that spreads and destroys all the ash trees of the province, unless we discover a miracle solution to save them.

Finally, we can see the St-Michel stream and venture on a trail that follows it for almost half a kilometer. This stream was used by first comers to bathe, wash and drink because the water was not polluted at that time. We can imagine what was the vegetation that our ancestors met because it was substantially the same as that which remains today.





L'Association des familles Robitaille 1989-2019

Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary

30TH

June 8 and 9 2019

Theme of the Meeting

THE ROBITAILLE OF SILLERY, CAP-ROUGE, SAINTE-FOY
AND WITH THE HURONS

SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2019

- 09:30-10:00 am Gathering and registration
1215, avenue du Chanoine-Morel, Québec, (Sillery)
Basement of the Saint-Charles-Garnier church, west entrance
- 10:15-10:30 am **Welcome**
- Historical conferences on Robitailles**
- 10:30-11:00 am 1) The chore of the construction of Maguire Street, by Jean
- 11:00-11:30 am 2) The historic corners of Cap-Rouge by Linda Even, Cap-Rouge Historical Society
- 11:30-12:00 am 3) The Robitaille of the region, the old church of Sainte-Foy and the Spiral of generations by Yvan
- 12:00-1:00 pm **Dinner in the basement of the church** (lunch box included)
- 01:00-5:00 pm **Visit of different sites** (With a school bus transport)

Note : Sophie Robitaille, with her knowledge the historical sites of Sillery and Sainte-Foy, will accompany us during the visit.

- 1) Maguire Street (from the cemetery to Saint-Michel church)
- 2) St-Michel Church of Sillery (Belvedere)
- 3) Samuel-de-Champlain Walk and the Jesuit House
- 4) Remains of the 1st establishment in America on the promontory of Cap-Rouge
- 5) Jacques-Cartier Monument, mural, Nautical Park and Jacques-Cartier Beach, setting sites of Robitaille families
- 6) Notre-Dame-de-Foy Church and work of art La Spirale in homage to the 37 first families of Sainte-Foy including Robitailles



L'Association des familles Robitaille 1989-2019

30TH

SUNDAY JUNE 9, 2019

- 1:00 pm Annual meeting at L'Ancienne-Lorette Library,
1635, rue Notre-Dame Street (parking at the back by Saint-Jacques Street)
- 2:00 pm Preamble on the passage of the Hurons in L'Ancienne-Lorette
- 2:10 pm Lecture by Paul Robitaille of Montana of the link between Robitailles and the
Hurons Wyandots of Oklahoma
- 3:00 pm Snack: appetizers and beverages
- 3:30 pm Visit of the vestiges of the Huron occupation and the church of L'Ancienne-Lorette
- 4:00 pm Visit to the Robitaille Park (weather permitting) and explanation of the monument by Paul-Eugène Robitaille
Walk along St-Michel Creek

5:00 pm ***End of the meeting of the 30th anniversary of our Association***

Reply coupon (before June 1st please)

Name of participants : _____

Number _____ x 30,00\$ = _____

To contact us : info@robitaille.org Our website : www.robitaille.org

For payment : Check payable to the Association, sent to the mailing address below or to a member of the Board

Association of Robitaille Families Inc.
C.P. 47007, Succ. Sheppard, Québec, QC, G1S 4X1

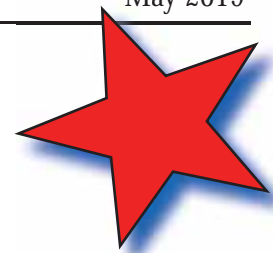
P.S. : One prize including all activities of the two days.
The Association sponsors part of the event.

For information

- ▶ Marc Robitaille, tel. : 418-661-4293; email : marc.robitaille0604@gmail.com or
- ▶ Nicole Robitaille, tel. : 418-570-2531; email : nicole.robitaille94@gmail.com or
- ▶ René Robitaille. email : renerobit@videotron.ca

**BE PROUD TO BE ROBITAILLE
AND PARTICIPATE IN LARGE NUMBER!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



- **L'Association des familles Robitaille inc.**
C.P. 47007, Succ. Sheppard
Québec, QC G1S 4X1

Family Name _____ First Name _____
 Adresse _____
 City _____ Province/State _____ Country _____
 Postal Code _____ Phone: (____) _____
 E-Mail : _____

Regular Member for 2019

Newsletter for 2019

25\$ for electronic version (by e-mail)

35\$ for paper (by mail)

Promotional Items - Order Form

Items	Quantity		Unit Price	Total
Ball Pen		x	3,00 \$	
Lapel Pin		x	5,00 \$	
Key Holder (with blue light)		x	3,00 \$	
Playing cards Blue deck		x	10,00 \$	
Playing cards Red deck		x	10,00 \$	
<i>Robitalleries</i> Back Issues (Specify #.....)		x	3,00 \$	
Greeting card with the last ancestral house		x	2,50 \$	
Hard-back Coat of Arms		x	10,00 \$	
Laminated Coat of Arms		x	20,00 \$	
Polo Sweater		x	25,00 \$	
Cap		x	12,00 \$	
Book marker with magnifying lens		x	4,00 \$	
Directory of marriages and baptisms on DVD		x	20,00 \$	
Directory of marriages and baptisms un USB stick		x	35,00 \$	
Sub-total				
Postage & handling (+ 20 %)				
Family Tree on Quality Paper (shipping included)		x	100,00 \$	
TOTAL				

Join a check for the amount of \$ made to **Association des familles Robitaille inc.**

Name

Address

Phone number (.....)

E-Mail

Facebook Echoes

Editor's note: From his survey of the Internet, Florent Robitaille suggests the following two links that refer to interesting articles on Pierre and Luke Robitaille. Good reading.

Pierre Robitaille, master puppeteer

The famous puppeteer Pierre Robitaille, lends his many talents to the Lascaux piece, presented at the Théâtre Périscope from Québec City. (CBC)

<https://bit.ly/2BQ7TBW>

The Final Round of AMS Who Wants To Be A Mathematician 2019

Congrats to Luke Robitaille for winning. (YouTube)

<https://bit.ly/2U89KsZ>

Some documents have been translated automatically and may contain grammatical errors or inaccuracies. Our goal is to make this content useful to you.

L'ASSOCIATION DES FAMILLES ROBITAILLE INC.
C.P. 47007, Succ. Sheppard
Québec, QC G1S 4X1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS :

Executive

Marc Robitaille, president	(418) 661-4293
Sonia Robitaille, vice-president	(418) 871-6379
Micheline Dussault, secretary	(418) 659-3361
Paul Robitaille, treasurer	(418) 687-1486

Members of the Board

Louise Robitaille-Roy	(418) 661-5712
Marjolaine Michaud	(418) 842-3664

Governors

Claire Robitaille-Gingras	(418) 522-0503
Florent Robitaille	(418) 655-6965
Nicole Robitaille	(418) 660-3002
René Robitaille (St-Lambert-L.)	(418) 889-0074
Yvan Robitaille	(418) 651-2533

United States Representative

Paul Robitaille, USA	(406) 586-3869
----------------------	----------------

Les Robitailleries #88 Volume 31 Number 1

PRODUCTION TEAM :

Jean, René and Henriette

TRANSLATION TEAM :

David, Jean and René

PHOTOS :

Jean, Paul and René

In these pages, the masculine gender is used without discrimination, but only for the purpose of lightening the text.

Legal deposit : 2nd quarter of 2019
National Library of Canada
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

2019-05-11