



L'INFORMATTEUR

Matte Association of America

No. 4 - Summer 2018

News bulletin

ISSN 2560-872X



Reproduction of the Pelican (published in 1722)

The Pelican had a short and glorious life. He was under the command of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville. The Pelican sank in 1697 in Hudson Bay after a historic fight against three English ships and a storm.

Léonard Matte was part of the Régiment d'Iberville (see text, page 10)

TO SEE INSIDE

- Love letters
- Saint-François-De-Sales-Church in Neuville
- Leonard Matte and the Iberville Regiment
- Trip to France
- Your next Website
- The trades of our ancestors in the 17th century

Matte Association of America

<p style="text-align: center;">Matte Association of America 224, rue Dupont, Pont-Rouge (Québec), Canada G3H 1P1 Tél. 418-873-2337</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Web site: www.famillematte.org Web site: www.mattefamily.org Email: info@famillematte.com</p> <p>Board of directors :</p> <p>Member :</p> <p>President : Claude Matte 1 516, Route 138, Cap Santé Tél. 418-285-0383 matteclaud@hotmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer : Jacques Matte 3 224, rue Dupont, Pont-Rouge Tél. 418-873-2337 jacquesmatte23@gmail.com</p> <p>Administrator : Rolland Matte 22 950, Ch. Lac Écho, Prévost Tél.450-224-4074 rmatte9@hotmail.com</p> <p>Activities responsible : Murielle Chabot-Matte 3A 224, rue Dupont, Pont-Rouge Tél. 418-873-2337 muriellematte23@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">L'inforMATTEur is a news bulletin published biannually by Matte Association of America.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Words from the president 3 ◆ Words from the publisher 4 ◆ Love letters 5 ◆ Saint-François-De-Sales-Church in Neuville 6 ◆ The Neuville church Baldachin 8 ◆ Leonard Matte and the Iberville Regiment 10 ◆ Matte Association of America joins the FAFQ 13 ◆ Trip to France 14 ◆ Your next Website 16 ◆ Trades of our ancestors in the 17th century 18 ◆ Sponsors 20 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Thanks to these collaborators</p> <p>Translation: Mrs Jeannine Matte-Richardson</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Promo articles for sale</p> <p>The Association have some promotional articles, identified to the Matte Association for sale or as a gift (cups, pens, etc.) For more information, please contact: Rolland Matte: rmatte9@hotmail.com</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Notice:</p> <p>Take note that texts published in L'inforMATTEur are under the responsibility of authors who remain owners. Total or partial reproduction is forbidden without prior authorization of Matte Association of America.</p> <hr/> <p>Take note that the subscriptions of the members are renewable by post or web site any time and valid for a duration from one year to the date of contribution. Thank for you support to Association.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Subscription</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Matte Association of America"</p> <p><u>CANADA / U.S.A.</u></p> <p>Regular member (mail) 20\$</p> <p>Regular member in couple (mail) 30\$</p> <p>Regular member (web site) 20\$</p> <p>Regular member in couple (web site) 30\$</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sponsors for the Matte Association</p> <p>For any questions for a sponsoring offer, don't hesitate to contact Mr Claude Matte, our president Tel. (418) 285-0383 email : matteclaud@hotmail.com</p>



Words from the President

By: **Claude Matte** (member no. 1)

Me, I do not like big speeches and texts too long. Here is what awaits us as a group:
CHALLENGES:

Increase the number of members, from the Association Gatherings, at the Meetings, looking exchanges of information,

That we stop each of us from look for the same things and keep this for oneself,

Enrich the club's website: A site for exchanging news, news, everyone's daily life.

A site where the large MATTE family is visited. A dress up the newspaper: members participate, write an article, find funding (other than contribution)

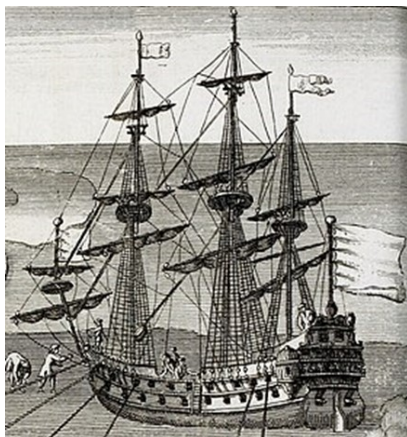
In a gathering, some people said : **When it does not work, tell a Matte**

We'll see if it's true or it's still just a word of politician. These challenges concern all members.

Photo of the cover page ... in a few words

The Pelican was a French warship built in 1693 in Bayonne, France. This 500-tons ship was originally equipped with 50 guns. It entered service in May 1693, when the war with England and Holland had been raging for more than three years.

In 1696, the Pelican crossed into North America and then Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, who was already considered the best defender of French Canada, embarked on the Pelican.



On July 8th or 9th, 1697, the Pelican sailed under d'Iberville, accompanied by four other ships. Reduced to 44 guns, the Pelican was the most powerful ship of the expedition. In the waters of Newfoundland and Hudson Bay, the French and British fought hard for control of the cod fishery and the fur trade. On August 3, 1697, he crossed the strait giving access to Hudson Bay. He was surprised by three English ships that appeared on the horizon to fight against the Pelican. The Pelican was severely damaged, but still survived the attack. Before a violent storm rose, Iberville anchored. The ship was about to sink, so Iberville forced the crew to abandon the Pelican. Eighteen men drowned. (Source: Wikipedia)

Words from the Publisher

Hello dear Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who once again, have collaborated to produce this Fourth Edition of the InforMATTEur. Without your collaboration, this newsletter could not have been published and we are very grateful.

In the coming weeks, we will undertake the preparation of the 2018-2019 Winter Edition. Your contribution is crucial in order to diversify and provide interesting stories and anecdotes that concern your loved ones. If you have been affected by a happy or unhappy event, no doubt that our readers will be interested in reading about you. If you have witnessed an achievement concerning a Matte or knowledge of a realization of a fait accompli by a Matte, let us know and it will please us if you wish, to help you in the writing of your article. If you are doing research on history or genealogy related to a Matte or one of his descendants, do not hesitate to publish the results of your research. Do not forget to attach in addition to your text, photo or copy of documents related to this event.

We invite you to send your text and photos to the following address: jacquesmatte23@gmail.com ... good reading to all!

By: Jacques Matte (member no. 3)

News from a member of the C.A.

The current CA of the Matte America Association is represented by few members, each of us must work hard to achieve the goals that each member of the Board has committed to achieve. The succession is therefore "welcome".

As the **Treasurer** and **Membership Officer**, let me remind you that it is very important for us that every member renews membership each year. By renewing, you greatly contribute to supporting the Association by ensuring its financial survival that I describe as very modest.

At the level of the **activities** and the **annual gathering**, I invite those who would be interested in getting involved in organizing one or other of these activities. We need to have your ideas for future activities that we could hold in the region. Your involvement is therefore essential. We must already begin the planning of the 2019 Reunion. Moreover, we plan to make the 2021 Reunion, a very special event, since this gathering will remind us that 350 years ago, the marriage of our ancestors Nicolas Matte & Marie-Madeleine Auvray took place in Nouvelle France.

By: Jacques Matte (member no. 3)

Love Letters



By: **Diane Matte** (member no. 73)

There are open, anonymous letters; letters of gold, of credence, of intention, of recommendation. There are badly addressed letters, flown to the four winds, fallen from the sky, left unanswered, and love letters that go astray ...

In a small village in the county of Portneuf in the early 1940s, two men with the same name had found an honorable job that allowed them to live properly.

One of them, a notable one, allowed himself to read with astonishment letters of love addressed to him by a charming stranger every week. The other, a simple workman, waited in vain to read those tender words that a pretty girl had promised her on a skating rink in the Saint-Malo district of Quebec City.

At the time, the mail was not precise; only the name of the person, the parish, and the county was written to find them. As the notable was well known in the area, the head of the post office, a shrew in search of news, gave him immediately all the mail bearing the name of the notable. During this time, the worker was constantly asking the post office about the shipments of his sweetheart.

In this period of war, sorties were very rare because of the distance; it was necessary to be satisfied with the train whose schedule did not necessarily coincide with the schedule of the said worker. Thus, two years passed during which the pretty girl constantly inquired if her beloved, now engaged, received her love letters. The fiance always had the same negative answer. Weary of vain research, both ended up believing that the mail had been lost.

Then the worker ends up leaving the village. Before leaving, he passed by the post office where he learned that a notable villager had the same surname and first name as him. Without knowing whether the notable had preserved the said letters, he did not dare to recover all those beautiful words of love which were intended for him.

A new life was waiting for this worker elsewhere. He continued to believe in this pretty girl who, despite herself, had declared her love to the notable of the place. He married well and, as in many stories of this kind, they lived happily and had many children ...

I'll never forget this story because it's my parents' story. True love is meant to last, no matter what life holds.

SAINT-FRANÇOIS-DE-SALES-CHURCH IN NEUVILLE

By: **Claude Matte** (member no. 24)

First Chapel and First Church

The first Catholic Chapel was erected in Neuville in 1669. It was located in front of the present sacristy, on the other side of the Chemin du Roy (current rue des Érables). At that time, Missionaries served the whole territory from Neuville to Batiscan. The first stone church was erected in 1696. It was demolished and then in 1781 a larger church was built on the same site...The sacristy was added to the current church in 1783 and then in 1854, the current nave was grafted from the transept. A change to the church in 1761 forced the builder to create an angle with the sanctuary to prevent the nave from entering the Chemin du Roy.

The Current Church



The current Saint-François-de-Sales-de-Neuville Church dates from 1854. It was built in stone by the mason Auguste-David Dussault and carpenter Toussaint Vézina. The shape of the vault of the church is low arch. Its floor plan is recentericircular, with a projecting choir, a semicircular apse and a nave with three vessels.

The choir of the church comes from the first church of Neuville.

The sanctuary of the Saint-François-de-Sales Church was classified as a historic monument in 1995. The canopy of the Saint-François-de-Sales Church in Neuville is carved wood named "Butternut" and was built in Quebec City probably in 1695 by Jacques Leblond de Latour, master sculptor and seminarian from France who was pastor of Baie Saint-Paul. (see other text)

Inside the church there is a collection of twenty-six paintings by the painter Antoine Plamondon, who lived in Neuville from 1851 and became its first mayor in 1855.

The high altar is the work of François Baillargé. It was built in 1801 for the previous church. The Napoleon Déry organ, made in 1885, is also classified cultural property. The Saint-François-de-Sales Church contains many other treasures, including works of the goldsmiths François Ranvoysé, François Sasseville, Lawrence Amyot, Guillaume Loir and Pierre Lespérance.

Near the church stands the chapel of St. Anne, which stands out for its imposing dimensions.

THE SAINTE-ANNE CHAPEL



The Sainte-Anne Chapel dates back to 1679. This chapel was built for another purpose - the celebration of Petite Fete Dieu.

In the center of the nave, four tombs rest there. These four tombs include that of the Lord Eugene LaRue (1828-1912), and his wife Lucille Grenier and two other people. This Chapel was renovated on several occasions and most recently by Lord Eugene LaRue in 1880.

The chapel was classified as a historic monument in 1965. It contains collector's items: the altar, the gilded wooden tabernacle, the lamp of the sanctuary, the way of the cross. To the right of the chapel, on the outside, on a base of field stones stands the Education de la Vierge statue attributed to Louis Jobin. This Quebec sculptor was born in Saint-Raymond and spent his childhood in Neuville. This statue was restored by sculptor Fabien Pagé of Donnacona in 2004.

The Sainte-Anne Chapel is now used for cultural activities and the celebration of civil weddings. The Sainte-Anne procession chapel is of heritage interest for its historical and ethnological values as a chapel dedicated to Saint Anne. Listed in 1965 and has been a protected area since 1977. The chapel is a national historic site of Canada since 1999.

This processional chapel is located a hundred meters east of the Church of St-François-de-Sales, at the top of the tennis court (which was then the cemetery). It was used for the procession of the Petite-Fête-Dieu. The procession took place on every July 26 and was accompanied by a mass in the chapel.

It was in this chapel that the vow was made to commemorate this day each year to remember what the population described as a miracle. On July 26, 1713, a violent fire broke out and the flames pushed by the wind threatened to burn the whole town (village). The priest was leading a procession to the Blessed Sacrament and lead the people to the Chapel to ward off danger. As the procession entered the church, the rain started to fall and extinguished the catastrophic fire. From that time on, every year the people of Neuville commemorate this miracle with a procession to the octave of la Fête-Dieu, the so-called the Petite-Fête-Dieu, .

The Lord Eugene Larue offered a bell for the chapel, and he asked to be inhumed under the pavement, with his wife, Lucille Grenier.

This chapel was renovated on several occasions and particularly by the Lord Eugène LaRue around 1880. It was the subject of restoration work in 1967, then in 1998 and 2004 when the City became the owner.

Source : Société d'histoire de Neuville

The Neuville Church Baldachin (Canopy)

By: Claude Matte (member no. 24)



The canopy is of heritage interest for its historical value. Preserved for more than three centuries, it is one of the oldest carved works remaining in Quebec.

Matte Association of America

This type of baldachin or canopy, intended to highlight a throne or altar, was used in the decoration of churches or important chapels in the seventeenth century. Built around 1695, the canopy was commissioned by Jean-Baptiste de La Croix Chevrieres de Saint-Vallier (1653-1727), second bishop of Quebec, to decorate the chapel of the Episcopal Palace.

In 1717, the canopy was exchanged with the parish of Neuville for wheat intended to feed the poor of Quebec suffering from famine.

Since then, the prestigious work has been located in the choir of the church of Saint-François-de-Sales. The transfer to Neuville contributed to its preservation, probably avoiding the destruction during the bombing of Quebec in 1759.

The other ancient canopies of Quebec, including those of the parishes of Notre-Dame de Montréal and the Immaculate Conception of Trois-Rivières, have in turn disappeared. The canopy of Neuville is today a unique piece reminiscent of the splendor of the interior decorations of certain places of worship in Nouvelle-France.

The baldachin is also of heritage interest for its artistic value. This monumental work, of a high quality of execution, testifies to the transmission of European models in sculpture in Nouvelle-France. The sumptuous decor of the baldachin of Neuville is characteristic of the Baroque current, particularly popular in the Italian and French art circles of the seventeenth century.

The torsos columns of the baldachin, its richly ornamented entablature, its scroll-shaped branches and the abundance of floral and plant motifs are elements associated with Baroque sculpture and architecture. The form and decor of the work have several similarities with the baldachin of the church of Val-de-Grace in Paris, created in 1669 by the architect Gabriel Le Duc (1635-1696), and with that of the Lycée du Mans designed at the same time. Inspired by European works, the baldachin of Neuville is however a local production. It is executed with butternut, a North American wood species favored by the sculptors of the French colony. Some authors attribute its realization to the painter and sculptor from France, Jacques Leblond de Latour (1671-1715). He arrived in Nouvelle-France in 1690, then practiced and taught his art at the Séminaire de Québec before becoming a priest in 1706.

The statuettes of Saint.John-the-Baptist and Saint.John-the-Evangelist adorning the upper part of the baldachin may have been created by a different artist, possibly in Europe. These statuettes date from the same period as the baldachin and their delicate modeling testifies to a certain artistic mastery. The baldachin, which compares in richness with contemporary European works, is an exceptional work in the history of art in Quebec.

Source: Québec Cultural Heritage Registry

Leonard Matte and the Iberville Regiment

Author: Jeannine Matte-Richardson (member no. 50)

Leonard Matte

Leonard Matte was born November 18, 1672 in Dombourg Quebec and baptised on November 28, 1672 at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Quebec City. He was the first child born to Nicolas Matte and Madeleine Auvray.

For many years it was believed that Leonard Matte had been killed by the Iroquois in Aug. 1698 and died at the Hotel-Dieu hospital. This record never matched up because the record listed for a "jeune Matte" stated the person was 20 years old. Leonard was 26 at that time. By coincidence, Leonard Matte seemed to have disappeared after January 1696 so it was long believed to be an error made on the age.. We have now discovered what happened to Leonard through the combined work of Claude Matte (President of Matte Families Association), a researcher in France and my research.

Who was Iberville?

The first French men to establish residence on the Gulf Coast were members of the Iberville Regiment. They first landed in what is now Ocean Springs, MS in 1698. The Iberville Regiment was formed on the orders of the King of France.

Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville (July 1661 – 1706) was a soldier, ship captain, explorer, adventurer and colonial administrator. He was the founder of the French Colony of La Louisiane. Iberville was born in Montreal of French colonist parents. He was the third child of eleven children born to Charles Le Moyne de Longueuil and Catherine Primot (both natives of Dieppe, Normandy in France).

Quebec Militia

Militia – All men in Quebec between the ages of 16 and 60 were expected to take part in protecting their village as part of a militia. Some time in 1696 Iberville recruited members of the militias in Quebec. Leonard was one of the militia men chosen.

Timeline:

January 31, 1696 Leonard Matte attends the Baptism of his niece, Marie Madeleine Laroche in Neuville, Quebec. As the oldest Matte child, Leonard attended several of his sibling's weddings and baptisms.

Matte Association of America

We cannot find any record of his attendance at other family events after this time.

- Aug. to Nov 1696 Leonard takes part in the Newfoundland Expedition. Iberville and his Regiment raided 39 settlements in Newfoundland and destroyed most of of the fishing villages of the English driving them out of Newfoundland* .
- March 9, 1697 Minister Pontchartrain, pleased with the outcome of the Newfoundland expedition and with Iberville and his men, instructs Iberville to choose from among the Canadians who accompanied him to Newfoundland those whom he thinks are best qualified for the Mississippi expedition. Leonard Matte is one of the 25 Soldiers chosen.*
- July 6, 1697 Iberville sends his brother Bienville to Quebec to choose recruits for the newly formed Iberville Regiment and to take part in the Mississippi expedition. Leonard Matte is listed as a Canadian recruit for the Iberville Regiment.
- June 25, 1698 Iberville questions Clement Begon (Canadian Intendant) why he has not given him the two Canadians who made the voyage with the late explorer De la Salle. The two Canadian boys mentioned were the Talon brothers Jean and Pierre (natives of Neuville, Quebec and sons of Lucien Talon and Isabelle Planteau). This is another very interesting story of people from Neuville, Quebec.
- July 23, 1698 The King awards the Mississippi Expedition to Iberville to explore the mouth of the Mississippi. He gives Iberville sole control.
- October 1698 Iberville leaves Brest (a city in Brittany) with four ships.
- December 17, 1698 Iberville Regiment arrives in Larochele, France. They will each be paid 30 pounds a month until their return to Quebec.
- March 1699 The Iberville Regiment arrives in Mississippi and Iberville orders a temporary Fort be built at Biloxi.
- May 3, 1699 Fort Maurepas. - Iberville leaves Fort Maurepas once the building is complete and sails to France, leaving a garrison of 81 men and returned to France. Leonard Matte returns to France with Iberville.
- May 5, 1699 Rochefort, France - Leonard signs to receive a payment of 40 pounds per month. Leonard must have re-enlisted.
- May 20, 1699 Iberville ordered that all Canadians who are at Rochefort to be shipped off. (No destination is listed but we must assume it is to Fort Maurepas)

Matte Association of America

- June 15, 1699 Iberville sends the King's Frigate, the Renommee with a store ship (supplies) to Mississippi.
- Aug 25, 1699 Larochelle, France – Leonard Matte appears on Iberville's Canadian recruits at Biloxi from the roll of August 25, 1699. The same day, Leonard signs up to sail on the King's frigate the Renommee with a pay of 30 pounds per month under the orders of Captain St.Denis for the second Iberville Campaign. Destination: Fort Maurepas on the Mississippi River (today it is Ocean Springs, MS).
- Sept. 17, 1699 The frigate Renommee leaves Larochelle, France with the Iberville Regiment on board.
- December 1699 The frigate Renommee arrives at Fort Maurepas (Biloxi).
- Fort Maurepas Census. Leonard Matte is listed as well as the Talon brothers Jean and Pierre. The Talons and Mattes certainly knew each other as the Talon's mother, Isabelle Planteau was Leonard's godmother. Madeleine Auvray (Leonard's mother) and Isabelle Planteau, were both Filles du Roi who sailed to Nouvelle-France on the same ship and married on the same day and were neighbors in Neuville. Isabelle was also the godmother of Madeleine's son Nicolas. They must have been very good friends.
- Jan. 8, 1700 The Frigate Renommee arrives at Fort Maurepas, Biloxi MS. This is the second Mississippi Expedition. Iberville orders a second Fort to be built 40 miles up the Mississippi River.
- May 1st, 1700 Leonard Matte dies. I have read Iberville's journals. Between April 28th and May 28th four men died. They were two Canadians, one buccaneer and one man from Larochelle, France. There was one drowning and the others died of dysentery and yellow fever but no names were listed.
- May 28, 1700 Iberville leaves Biloxi and detours to New York to sell some 9,000 pelts bought from Canadian trappers working the Mississippi Valley before returning to Montreal.
- October 18, 1700 Leonard is listed on the Rochefort Role of officers, Mariners, Matelots, Canadians and soldiers who died at Fort Maurepas in Biloxi (Document dates October 18, 1700).

Leonard Matte is now buried in a common grave on the grounds of the Biloxi Visitor's Center in Biloxi, MS with the 30 others who died at Fort Maurepas in 1700.

*It is assumed that Leonard was part of the Newfoundland Expedition based on a comment made by Minister Pontchartrain and the fact after January 1696 he was no longer attending family events.

Matte Association of America

In 1699, in Biloxi, Mississippi, we find a stone (memorial), engraved in the name of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, to proclaim the taking possession of the territory in the name of the King of France.



References:

Report on Canadian Archives by Douglas Brymnet

Canadian archives By Public Archives Canada

Iberville's Gulf Journals Paperback – February 28, 1991 by Pierre Iberville (Author), Richebourg McWilliams (Editor, Translator), Tennant S. McWilliams (Introduction)

Fleur De Lys and Calumet (Library of Alabama Classics) 1st THUS Edition

Acadian.org

Matte Association of America joins the FAFQ

Note that the board of directors of the Matte Association of America has decided to join the Federation of Quebec Family Associations (FAFQ). The Matte Association of America joins this umbrella organization, which currently has more than 165 member family associations, with more than 24,000 members in every region of Québec. The various services offered by the Federation have been the turning point in the decision to join the group in the coming weeks. Among the services offered by the Federation, our Association will benefit at low cost from a liability insurance that covers both civil, for the conduct of our activities, and also one that includes its directors. In addition, there are various services, including secretarial services, speakers, support for the organization of our activities, mail consolidation, printing, and access to the publication of the newsletter "Nouvelles de chez nous". We will have the possibility with this bulletin published several times a year, to make known our activities to come.

On a proposal from a member, we agreed to review the membership fee for 2019. Please note that as of January 1st, 2019, the annual membership fee to join the Matte Association of America will be \$ 25. for members residing in Canada. For members residing outside Canada, it will also be \$ 25 according to the currency of their country. Thus, there will no longer be a family member since the spouses will be recognized as full members of the Association. Another proposal that will be under consideration this fall is to apply a discount to the member in good standing (including his / her spouse) who will attend the next meeting of our Association. This proposal, if accepted, will be in effect from 2019.

Trip to France

By: Claude Matte (member no. 1)

As I said last year at the 3rd rally, it does not matter if the Association decides to go or not I go there, which was done last May. France enters three times in Quebec with almost nine times more population. This is the first time that a generation of French does not undergo wars. Terrorism, especially in cities, makes you live with the military protection. Visiting public places takes more time because of their checking point.

After a visit on Sunday, we returned with a guided tour by each of the mayors of Ste. Genevieve-en-Bray, Beaussault, Mesnil-Mauger.

We started with the birthplace of Nicolas. The church is in its oldest part, dating back to the 12th century, so it was there when the Matte family passed through the 17th century. To the mayor's knowledge, there is no Matte in the vicinity. We are talking about a commune (village) of 253 inhabitants. It's not big. Ste- Geneviève-en-Bray is 45 minutes from Rouen, to the east. No trace of Matte appears. The wars have not touched this village .



Matte Association of America

The cemetery is around the church. You will find only remains of 1900 and more. The graves are not dug, but placed under a slab, whose movements of the ground make that the stones and religious insignia come all the way. After a certain period of time, a place not maintained will, after a procedure of three years, put back to the use of the parish, that makes people fall into oblivion.



The maintenance of religious buildings depends on the state, so many churches are under repair according to the granting of government, regional and departmental.



Here is one of the beautiful houses of the village. So-called half-timbered houses, because of the pieces of wood that we see.

There are no more shops in this village. Like many villages in North America, urbanization, services and local recreation balances the municipalities.



In the next issues of your Association, you will see short texts and more photos.

Next publication: Beaussault

As soon as the capsules are transformed into html format, you will be able to see short videos on this place.





Your New Website

By: Michel Matte, member no. 76

It is with great pride that we present the new version of the website. This development is the result of a long volunteer work in which many people participated. And it is because the mission of the Association is important to us that we have participated. The techniques used presented a stimulating challenge. But now it's up to you to make the site thrive by bringing your content.

The Progress of the Project

The new site, commissioned by President Claude Matte, is the result of intensive eight-month work from November 2017 to June 2018. Following a review of the site implemented in 2014, a complete overhaul was recommended and undertaken.

Pierre Matte of Cap-Santé had already made a first draft of the site in the summer of 2017. The software used is Guppy, an open software for content management. Thanks to Pierre for the good ideas and the pioneering work.

Thanks to my wife Monique for her support and collaboration. Thanks to the directors of the Board and to everyone who commented on the website.

The transition to the new site took place on April 12, 2018. Since that time, several improvements have appeared including content additions, better access for mobile devices (phones and tablets) and a payment feature available in early July.

The Goals of the Project

The aims of the projects are those of the association, notably:

- refocus the site around the main objectives of the Association: the history and genealogy of the Mattes
- encourage members to update their family tree, example : [genealogical tree of Georges Matte](#)
- improve presentation, ergonomics and ease of navigation of the site
- improve the performance
- facilitate the indexing by the search engines (by gradually replacing the texts in pdf by html in the next months, example : [C1--The Story of Nicolas Matte](#))
- promote the goodwill

The Techniques Used

The choice of the Guppy software has improved the speed and simplicity of the site. The development consisted of adapting the functions of the Guppy software to the needs of the Association.

In the case of online payments, this is a brand new function. This program lists the fees to be paid by the member and then transfers the data to the Monetico-Desjardins payment server. Monetico-Desjardins is a leader in online payment in Canada, associated with Crédit Mutuel in France. All these transactions are secured. Under no circumstances will credit card data go through the Association's website. This is to ensure maximum safety.

What Remains to be Done

This website is yours. To make it dynamic, it requires the participation of the greatest number. You can participate in several ways:

- Update your family tree in the section provided.
- Add historical searches in HTML Web format. The HTML format makes it possible to search the texts efficiently on the Web.
- Add comments on the forums



Holiday Encounter

Decembre 9th, 2018 at 11h00

(To be added in your agenda)

Restaurant Mike's

7900, Bl. Henri-Bourassa, Québec

(Reservation not needed)



The trades of our ancestors in the 17th century

By: Murielle Chabot-Matte (member no. 3)

As early as 1667, according to Statistics Canada (statcan.gc.ca), the population of Nouvelle-France is 3918. When our ancestors arrived on these virgin lands, it was only through hard work that they managed to establish their home and farm in our beautiful but very rough country. Many of them brought their know-how and work experiences. Some trades were communicated from father to son. On the land, the colonists have axes to clear, hoes to turn the land and oxen to work the land and transport the carts. The horse was totally absent at that time.

So at the beginning of the colony, there were mostly carpenters. They used a hatchet necessary to clear the hardwood trees whose roots must be cut and an adze, a plane and a mallet to remove the trunk.

The **carver** makes various tools. There are nails. The latter forged nails and various hooks by hand. Given the high demand, they were still lacking raw material, iron, which was imported from France and then from Sweden.

Among other things, the masons were entrusted with the construction of the bread ovens. The strength of the work and its heat efficiency had to be guaranteed for a long time, we can be sure! The food was cooked: breads, pies. The flour was browned, made by the **Miller**.

The bread oven was also used as a smoking room for meat. Surprisingly, it disinfected feathers, useful for making pillows, cushions.

Weaver is the artisan of clothing and fabrics. He uses flax. Here is a brief overview of its manufacture: At maturity, it is torn off and then spread on the ground a few weeks in "audains" (buttes) to make it russet (retting) and then put in boots. After more or less two weeks, it will be beaten to the flail ("rack" wood) and then, there will be grinding (or scutching / darning). It is made of "tow," called the tow of linen, which once put in rolls, is used to seal



Hoes



Ax

Adze



Large bread oven

Matte Association of America

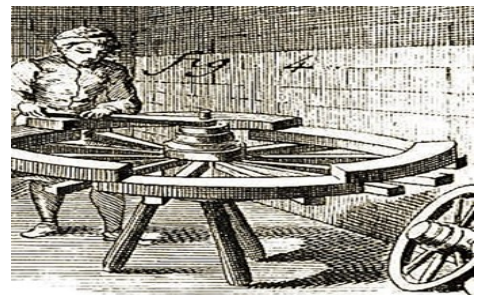
the joints between rooms on parts of the walls and to isolate the outlines of doors and windows of homes. It was then, an excellent thermal product. In addition, flax is a medicine and a food by its seeds. The fibers are removed to weave the clothes, which are cool in the summer in full sun and very resistant to wear. We make oil and ropes. Its cultivation was therefore essential, as are the wheat and oats produced by the **FARMER**.

The **Saddler** is the craftsman who works the leather and the flock (wool, big canvas) to make parts of coupling for the work of the horses. Horsehair was used to stuff the carts seats among others. He also manufactures mattresses, halters, harnesses, tarpaulins, aprons, shepherds' bags and cattle.



Saddler tools

The **Wheelwright** designs and repairs animal-drawn vehicles and coupling equipment. He has a good knowledge of leather. He makes sleds on snow, wooden wheelbarrows, coffins, wooden pulleys. The manufacture of wheels 50 cm (20 inches) in diameter required a full day of work. His workbench was called a mouillet.



Mouillet

The **Vanier** is the craftsman who weaves plants: rattan, wicker, straw, wooden sticks. His confections consist of objects mainly used in cooking, in the garden and for the transport of goods. Chests, baskets, fishing baskets, chicken cages, ropes, hats and brooms are some of his productions.



The vanier

Next edition of InforMATTEur

Article to read: DNA tests performed on Matte.

Do not miss it !

Matte Association of America

Mattefamily.org

For your information, we have an agreement with the institution of the Desjardins caisses for all monetary transactions made via our website "famillematte.org" or "mattefamily.org". From now on, you can become a member or renew your subscription directly from the website.

Thanks to our sponsors !

