



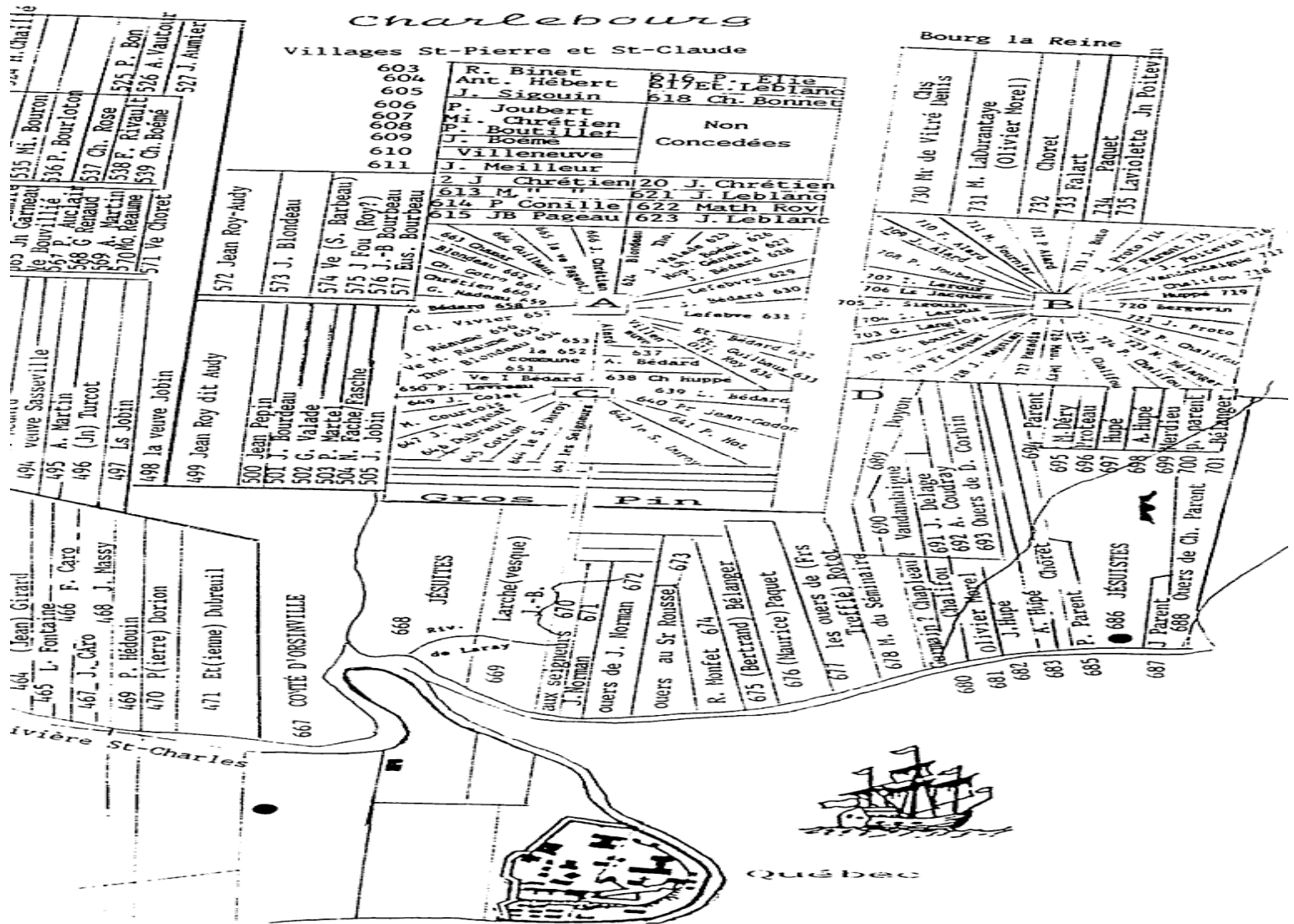
L'INFORMATEUR

Matte Association of America

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News bulletin

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The Trait-carré of Charlesbourg And of XVIIe century

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Matte Association of America

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Articles à vendre

The Association still have some promotional objects identified to the Matte Association for sale or as a gift (cups, pens, etc.) For more information, please contact:

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Winter 2017-2018



Words from your President

Welcome amateur history researchers young and old !

Our first issue of l'InfoMATTEur contained memories and news and a few surprises. More surprises await in this second issue. Our editor spends an enormous amount of time keeping up with news and trying to forge bonds between us all.

Many scoops will be unveiled during the 3rd Annual Reunion such as membership fees, website, trips, etc...

The more we get to know about the Mattes in the Montreal area, Lac St Jean, Maurice Florida, Mississippi and other regions the more people will talk about our association. Let's create links!!!

Whether you're a descendant of Laurent, Nicolas or Alexis, the team would like to include your anniversaries, and also offer sincere condolences when needed on the Association's website. Please don't hesitate to contact us as sharing this information creates bonds of friendship between us..

L'inforMatteur is a way to meet and get to know each other. YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED as expenses are unavoidable.

Thank you in advance for your help.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'Claude Matte'. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Claude Matte, president (Cap-Santé)

Word from the Editor

By: Jacques Matte (Pont-Rouge)

Since the release of the first edition of the InforMATTEur, we have received numerous praise and appreciation concerning our magazine. Your comments have been greatly appreciated and encouraging us to continue in this direction. Many thanks to our contributors. Without their participation our work would not be possible.

Have you noticed the new ISSN number on the top right corner of the front cover? In fact, the ISSN is an international code for permanent identification of serial publications like this magazine. The Library and Archives Canada assigned the ISSN number, The InforMATTEur is now included on the international list of publications.

A LITTLE HISTORY... The cover photo is of the Seigneurie of Notre Dame Des Anges, including among others the region of Charlesbourg et de Bourg Royal, which became Beauport at the end of the 17th Century. We chose this photograph because the 3rd Annual Matte Reunion was held there on August 5th 2017. Why Charlesbourg? It was in this region that we found the first mention of our ancestor, Nicolas Matte. He appeared in the first Quebec Census taken by Jean Talon, the Steward in the Winter of 1666. In fact, Nicolas Matte is listed as a resident of Notre Dame Des Anges. It is there where he carried out a 36 month contract as an apprentice farmer at the residence of another. Exactly where Nicolas completed his apprenticeship is not known at this time. Research continues...

You will find among others in this magazine, an article by Jeannine Matte-Richardson that is very interesting and answers the question of when some of the Mattes arrived in the United States. These are the first Mattes who arrived in Louisiana, and in the Northwestern part of the United States. Jeannine recounts in detail several missing links in the Matte family that will be of interest.

Another equally interesting article discusses a very talented artist with an international reputation. This is Mrs Anne-Marie Matte, a native of St Basile, Portneuf County.

Also, don't miss the story of Dina Belanger who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. The author is a member of Dina's family.

You have probably heard talk about **Rivière à Matte** in Neuville. There are many streams in Neuville. We also discuss the many mills from the early days of the colony.

So...Happy Reading!!

Matte Brunch at Ste-Thérèse

By: Jacques Matte (Pont-Rouge)

On April 30 2017, some members of the Matte Association met for a Spring Brunch at the Le Friand Restaurant d'Œuf, 190 Boul. Curé-Labelle à Ste-Thérèse). Claude Matte, President of the Matte Association enjoyed playing host to the members and their guests. In fact 15 Mattes and their guests enjoyed meeting and chatting with other members of the very large Matte family.

At the Brunch we had new members to the association. This year, the Mattes from the Ste Therese area welcomed us. Rolland Matte worked very hard to notify the Mattes in the Ste Therese region about the Spring Brunch. We give thanks to Rolland for his hard work. This was our third brunch since the founding of the Matte Association. Our first Brunch was held in 2015 in Quebec, our second in 2016 in Repentigny. Here are a few unforgettable moments from the this year's Brunch.



Matte/Matt

Voyageurs to the Northwest

By : Jeannine Matte-Richardson

(Merrimack, New-Hampshire U.S.A.)

There were four Mattes who ventured out to the Northwest in the early 19th Century. There were the brothers Louis and Joseph, the descendants of Jeremie Matte and Louise Beaudin and Pierre Matte, Jeremie's brother and Cyprian Matte. Cyprian headed West to Montana much later. Cyprian was a 2nd cousin of Louis and Joseph.

In 1838, **Louis** and **Joseph Matte**, two young men in their 20s traveled down the Mississippi to New Orleans. Their father Jeremie Matte may have even accompanied them as he had been a Voyageur since at least 1809.

They traveled to California under the employ of the American Fur Trading Co. It appears that Louis and his brothers initially headed out to California for the Gold Rush but in order to make the trip it looks like they might have signed on with the North American Fur Trading Company.

We do not know if they struck gold but we know that Joseph found himself a wife there and two of his children were born there. By 1860, we find Joseph and his wife Josette in St Paul Oregon.

Jeremie Matte's brother **Pierre Matte** also a Voyageur had settled in Louisiana around 1803 and may have gone along with his two nephews and then returned to Louisiana. Pierre Matte and his wife Ester Bellard are the founding couple of the Mattes in Louisiana.

Louis Matte/Matt

I believe Louis may have also had a wife in California. There are stories of his wife being named Charlotte Morrow. Now Louis' second wife Therese Gendron (daughter of Alexandre Gendron and Ester Morrow) was Metis and may have been related to Charlotte. We do know that Charlotte was never listed in a Census so she might have died and Louis remarried. He had 13 children and they might not have all been from Therese.

Louis and Therese eventually bought some land in Colville Washington where they stayed for some time with Louis working as a blacksmith.

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Sometime in the 1850s he was sent on to Montana and worked as a blacksmith at Fort Benton for the Hudson Bay Company.

Listed in the Hudson Bay Company archives:

1805 Louis Matte (Matt, Mat) Metis born between 1805-1810 Albany employed blacksmith Hudson Bay Company married Therese Piegan d-1844 Fort Benton.

This story of Louis Matte coming from Albany NY is not very likely because in the 1870 US Louis (listed his birthplace as Canada). Louis was the son of Jeremie Matte and Louise Beaudin of Ancienne Lorette, Quebec. Louis' father Jeremie Matte was also a Voyageur as shown in this record: Jeremie MATTE (descendant of Jean Baptiste Francois, Alexis, Nicolas).

Inscription of the notary Samuel ABBott (1806-1818)

In the material of archives, we find a photocopy of the index of the contracts of commitment (1807-1818) between "Fur Trade Companies" and their employees, in front of a witness: Abbott as public solicitor to Michilimackinac. Contracts concerned the business(trade) of these firms: the American Fur Co., Robert Dickson and Co., and Michilimackinac Co. on the Mississippi, the Missouri, and Saint Peter (Minnesota) Rivers, today the Wisconsin and the Minnesota.

To my knowledge, Louis Matte was not Metis but his children were. Some of Louis' descendants took to spelling their last name as Matt while others chose to use the original spelling. We do not know why.

Louis and his brothers are definitely descendants of Nicolas Matte and Madeleine Auvray. The brothers must have often traveled to visit each other as children of the brothers were born in Montana and Oregon and Washington. Louis Matte was a well respected citizen in his community. To learn more about Louis and Teresa Matt, purchase ***The Days of Our Grandfathers, "History of Louie and Therese Matt*** by E.M. Felsman, and Ken Robison, *Historian, Overholser Historical Research Center Box 262 Fort Benton, MT 59442 (from Britt Salois, 2013)*

Matt Creek

In the 1880 US Census, an Alexander Matte and Suzanne Prudhomme (although I have seen her called Finley) are residing in the Bitter Root Valley, Montana. Alexander was the son of Louis and Terese Matte and probably named after Therese's father, Alexandre Gendron.

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According to hookandbullet.com: Matt Creek is a stream located just 11.5 miles from Ronan, in Lake County, in the state of Montana, United States, near Post Creek, MT. Alex Matt was the son of Louis and Therese Matte and the grandson of Jeremie Matte and Louise Beaudin of Quebec.



Alex Matt near Matt Creek

Pete Matte Captured by Chief Joseph's Band at Lolo Hot Springs

According to the book, *Eyewitness to the Indian Wars 1865 – 1890: The Wars for the Pacific Northwest* by Peter Cozzens.

Two Stevensville lads not knowing the danger they were in had gone to Lolo Hot Springs on July 21st for an outing when Chief Joseph's band arrived. The boys were William Silverthorne and Pete Matte, a son of Louis Matte, blacksmith at Stevensville. The Indians wishing to stay at the spring undetected to recuperate for a few days feared that the boys would spread the alarm so they took them prisoner. Under cover of night, the boys crept out of camp and made their escape. They each stole a good saddle horse from the Indian herd. Matte's horse especially being a fine, large showy sorrel. The boys succeeded in arriving in Stevensville by noon the next day and gave the first definitive news of the location of the Indians. There had been an ongoing search for this band of Indians. Calls were sent out for help and the capture of Chief Joseph was made.

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Cyprian Matte

Cyprian was born Michel Cyprian Matte born in Cap Sante Quebec on Jan 17, 1833 to Laurent Matte and Marguerite Durocher. Godparents were: Michel Matte and Elisabeth Germain. He married Kills in the Brush, daughter of Kills in the Middle and Wolf Necklace, and settled in Montana.

Cyprian kept a roadhouse in the Teton valley in 1877 and worked as a Scout and Government interpreter for the Gros Vente Tribe. He was a veteran stamper as new mining areas opened up. Cyprian lived in Fort Benton working as a miner.

On September 18, 1877, Captain Williams, scarred and limping from his wounds, and Lieutenant Hardin returned to Fort Benton with 29 enlisted men of Company F including the wounded. In the early morning of September 21, Scout Cyprian Matte rode into Fort Benton carrying news from James Wells at Fort Clagett that the Nez Perce were heading north from the Judith Basin to the Missouri River. Major Ilges dispatched Lieutenant Hardin with thirteen men and two volunteer boatmen to set off down the river by mackinaw to Fort Clagett at the Judith. We do not know the names of either the soldiers or the boatmen with Lieutenant Hardin.

US Army Scouts

Note: Louis Matte and his sons Peter Matt, Alexander Matt and John Baptiste Matt were also Scouts for the US Army. Louis was one of the first registered voters in the Bitterroot Valley.

The Tale of Cyprian Matte and Slippery Ann

The Slippery Ann Wildlife Area in the Charles M Russell Refuge in Montana was named for Cyprian Matte. Cyprian owned a copper mine on the land known as "Slippery Ann Bottom" and also operated a trading post at Fort Belknap.

On Feb 6, 2004, I received the following information via email from a Shannon Heath from the Montana Fish and Wildlife Service:

"I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Education and Visitor Services Division. Part of my job is to assist staff at national wildlife refuges in MT, WY, & UT in developing interpretive signs. I am working on some signs for an auto tour route at Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge in Montana and the text for one of them mentions Cyprian Matte. I stumbled onto your web site when looking on the Internet to see if there was any more"

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information about this individual. I thought the brief information on the sign might be of interest to you: »

Title of sign: "Slippery Ann Bottom"

Beginning text: "The area surrounding you is known as Slippery Ann Bottom.

You might think that Slippery Ann was some sort of notorious outlaw. In truth, the area name was originally Cyprian, named after Cyprian Matte who operated a trading post northwest of here in the 1880s. Over the years,

Cyprian became Siparyann and finally Slippery Ann."

The Darker Side of Matte History

Like any family researched for almost 400 years, there is bound to be some "black sheep" in the flock.

October 1, 1875 from The New Northwest:

Large party of Flathead camped on the Big Blackfoot near Eureka, en route to Buffalo, "some days ago". Flathead chased and captured a released murderer. Louis Matte confiscated his horses, turned him loose a foot. "Tally one for the Flatheads." (Matte headed for Whoop Up).

Fort Whoop-Up was the nickname (eventually adopted as the official name) given to a whisky trading post, originally Fort Hamilton, near what is now Lethbridge, Alberta. During the late 19th century, the post served as a centre for various illegal activities. The sale of whisky was outlawed but, due to the lack of a police force in the region at the time, many whisky traders had settled in the area and taken to charging unusually high prices for their goods.

June 25, 1874 from The Missoulian:

Report from Frank Truchot of Warm Springs "A masculine personage, dressed in orthodox Indian costume, except that it has since transpired that he wore false hair glued on, appeared at his ranch and bantered him for a dicker." Truchot traded a saddle, bridle and money in the horse the Indian was riding, and "Lo" left. Subsequently left horse he'd obtained from Truchot up the creek, stole a third horse from ranch of Daniel Thomas, and escaped toward the Big Hole. It turned out to be Peter Matte, (the son of Louis Matte) "one of the parties who stole so many horses and killed Goodwin of Snake River last year and who, afterwards. Turned State's evidence against his comrades."

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October 06, 1875 from The Weekly Missoulian:

Some days ago a large party of Flatheads were camped on the Big Blackfoot near Yreka en route to Buffalo. Some white men haying on the river, noticing a party of them mounted and in pursuit of a single man on the foothills, surmised it was a thief they were chasing, and mounting their horses, joined the chase. Peter Matt got himself involved with the notorious Gash Brothers. He was finally run down and captured. His horses were confiscated and Pete was hung on a tree in Lolo on March 9, 1878

Joseph Matte

Darlene Martin provided this information. Darlene is the great-great granddaughter of Joseph Matte. Joseph Matte was born about 1820 in Ancienne-Lorette, Quebec. He was the son of Jerome Matte and Louise Beaudin. Joseph Matte went to the Oregon Territory in 1838. He had 13 children and worked for the American Fur Trading Company for one year and then settled on a farm in St Paul, Oregon.

It appears that Joseph might have gotten caught up in the California Gold rush of 1849 as he married there and his first two children were born in California.

Joseph & Harriet (Biscornet dit Caille) Matte are shown in the US Land Management Office records as having been granted land in Oregon on 12/14/1866.

Thomas Moisan who was traveling with them and probably also under the employ of American Fur Trading Company said the following:

From the Oregon Statesman Newspaper, Dated Friday, February 17, 1888 p.8 col.3

Mr Thomas Moisan, who departed.... was born and raised in St. Jacques, Canada, near Montreal...He left Canada in the year 1838, and in the company with Joseph Matt (who now lies at the point of death at Gervais) wintered in New Orleans. In the spring of 1839, they engaged with the North American Fur Company and crossed the Rocky Mountains, remaining in the employ of the company one year.

Joseph Matte died Feb. 18, 1888 in Gervais, Oregon. In the 1880 US Census, Joseph listed his occupation as a Hotel Keeper. He also stated that his parents had been born in Canada. His wife Harriet (her father was Pascal Biscornet dit Caille and her mother was Louise Kowitchin) claimed that her father was born in Canada but her mother was born in Oregon.

Harriet's father was one of the first settlers in Oregon. There were two other Mattes granted land during those years also. They were Joseph's brother Louis and his wife Therese (Gendron) in 1/18/1859 and their daughter Mary Ann Matte (Kendall) in 8/2/1875.

ANNE-MARIE, ARTIST

By: Clothilde Genest (St-Basile)

Thank you to Mrs Clothilde Genest, author of this article and the Société d'Histoire de St-Basile de Portneuf Inc., for approving the complete reproduction of this text published in the quarterly newspaper, 'La Raconteur' , in September 2002 .



Anne Marie was the daughter of Gédéon Matte and Éva Collette of St-Basile, Anne-Marie was born on March 13, 1907, she was married at Notre-Dame de Québec on August 17, 1942 to Dorilda Desrosiers, a widower. She died in Montreal on October 15, 1977. She lived at la Providence, St-Hyacinthe.

This talented artist's artwork is known in many places around the world. She began by painting followed by embroidery. Embroidery is a very feminine artwork where perfection is crucial. Her work is the only one of its kind in Canada. Her work was created using a linen background and embroidered with linen yarn or on a silk background embroidered with silk thread. She could use an embroidery needle as deftly as a pencil and with her spectacles on her nose could create anywhere (on a train, in a car, etc.) a landscape and even the head of her neighbor wearing a cap.

It was nevertheless necessary to have the sense of colors in the tiniest detail and also to possess notions of interior decoration. Her work quickly acquired, thanks to this technique, a world-wide reputation.

Here are some interesting details: her paintings are washable, taking the necessary precautions to avoid any deterioration. We know that this is a quality fabric from Lille in France; Hence also the threads. The green range extends up to 19 different colors; The range of browns up to 27 tones; That of the mauve 11 shades. As for the texture of the thread, it comes not from silk, as one might think, but from the bubble of linen cloth. We note the solidity and veracity of the tones which the weather does not alter in any way.

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Many important people are proud to have acquired her needle paintings. The Government of Canada has offered it to several illustrious persons, including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Countess of Athlone, Lord Alexander of Tunis, President Auriol of France, President Roosevelt, King Leopold, Shah of Iran as well as Mayor Drapeau. Usually offered as diplomatic gifts, I can quote the names of Ladies Gandhi, Michener, Vanier, Grace of Monaco, Queen Zita of Austria and so on ...

Canvas by Anne-Marie Matte

The Habitant going to market

Source: Gérard Julien



The Honorable Mitchell Sharp had two of her works at the Vatican. On May 23, 1951, the Mayor of St-Hyacinthe received a letter from Clarence House, a letter from Princess Elizabeth (who was not a queen) and Prince Philip, among other things. "Princess Elizabeth has asked me especially to thank you most warmly for the wonderfully woven paintings you have offered her. She is delighted and the painting will always have great value for her. "

Anne-Marie Matte received a gold medal from the Province of Quebec in 1952, a Washington International Art Medal. Everyone appreciates her work at their true value and we are happy and proud of the well-deserved honor that comes to an artist from St. Basile.

Here are a few notes from Anne-Marie Matte's personal diary that allows us to better know her beginnings:

12 novembre 1932- My cards for Eaton are finished, I still have 50 cards to make for M Co lombe. I am awaiting news from Morgan

20 novembre 1932- I'm addressing 252 cards to Montreal 1 dozen of each type

11 décembre 1932- I sent Mrs Bigman in Quebec a cargo of birch, 24 calendars, 2 bridge note books, 4 dozen necklaces , 2 cushions

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- March 1035 - Invited to exhibit at the Palais Montcalm. Interview with Mr. Morency for my paintings. The Public Institution buys two of my paintings.
- May 13, 1935- Les I prepared my collection for the "Petit Versailles" in Quebec City and at the Ecureuils Tourism Club, Mrs. Martel owner.
- April 19, 1936- I worked on my painting of Chateau Ramsay.
- May 21, 1936- Last week I created the portrait of Sir Lomer Gouin, linen on linen, it's prêt ty good. (This painting now adorns our salon).
- June 1936- I have goods placed at Hold Renfrew.
- November 20, 1936- A portrait of Duplessis for my Uncle Bishop de Portneuf.
- December 29, 1936- I created a Virgin for the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament. Currently, I created 108 tables of facts during the year. I worked on a painting in linen, 18 hours of work for \$ 8.00, that is reasonable.
- 1940- Anne-Marie Matte opens a handicraft shop in Neuville in Maison Béland.

We find some paintings by Anne-Marie in certain salons of St-Basile, her paintings are considered "crafts". At St. Basile, Anne-Marie lived in the house of Mr. Wellie Richard, in the Rue de l'Eglise.



Source photo: Gérard Julien

Référence: Hebdo de Portneuf

Journal de Anne-Marie Matte



Matte Cousins Meet

By: Murielle Leclerc (Pont-Rouge)

It was on June 27th that we gathered at the house of our cousin Lorraine Godin. Her home is an old home that belonged to the Godin family, in the 2nd rank of Ecureuils, now annexed to Donnacona.

We are all descendants of Siméon Matte and Marie-Louise Denis, who lived in the Rang du Bois-de-l'Ail in Cap-Santé. Our grandfather is a descendant of Nicolas Matte and a native of Neuville. They had 19 children, 15 of whom survived.

Unfortunately, we were unable to reach each of our cousins because some of them live outside our region and we could not communicate with them.

Among those present were the daughters of Germaine (who was the eldest of the daughters of Siméon and Marie-Louise and married to Albert Delisle), Marinette, Yolande and Diane; then the daughters of Gabrielle (who were married to Rosario Godin): Monique, Solange, Diane and Lorraine. There was the daughter of Ernest Matte (married to Carmelle Mercure) and Jocelyne; the daughter of Martin Matte (married to Gemma Petitclerc) and Hélène and the daughters of the youngest, Jeanne D'Arc (married to Julien Leclerc): Murielle, Rose-Anne and Louise.

In total, there were 12 of us, who took advantage of the day to exchange and remember memories, which were very different, depending on the age and the place that the parents held in this large family. It was a wonderful day for all of us that we hope to repeat.



Dina Bélanger (Marie Sainte-Cécile-de-Rome)

By: Claude Matte (Québec)

Dina Belanger was born on April 30, 1897 in Quebec City and died on September 4, 1929 in Sillery. Dina was a nun. She was beatified in 1993 by Pope John Paul II. As the only daughter of Octave Bélanger and **Séraphina Matte**, she spent her youth in the parish of Notre-Dame-de-Jacques-Cartier on Rue du Roi, which is part of the Saint-Roch district in Quebec City. She attended primary and secondary school at the convents of Saint-Roch, Jacques-Cartier and the Bellevue boarding school held by the Ladies of the Congregation of Notre-Dame. At the age of eight until 1918, she studied music with her religious teachers.

Father Omer Cloutier, pastor of the parish advised Dina's parents to have her study at the Institute of Musical Art in New York. From 1916 to 1918, Dina Bélanger attended this conservatory



while remaining with the Religious of Jesus Mary at the Our Lady of Peace Residence. She achieved brilliant successes in music, especially in harmony, which requires a mathematical spirit that she had inherited from her father. On her return to Quebec City, Dina Bélanger lived with her parents, giving brilliant concerts in support of Quebec charities and assisted her mother as a volunteer at Notre-Dame-de-Jacques-Cartier parish.

However, the call of Christ, which she heard from her youth, led her to leave everything to enter the convent of Jesus Mary of Sillery on August 11, 1921. On August 15, 1923 at the age of 24 he became a nun, under the name of Marie Sainte-Cécile-de-Rome, then went to Saint-Michel (Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse) near Quebec City, where she taught music. She remained there for only five weeks; because she contracted scarlet fever after having taken care of a sick pupil, and was forced to return to Sillery, where the disease degenerated into tuberculosis.

From that time, Dina Bélanger's life was filled with love and suffering, intermittently teaching music to young people, who discovered in her a privileged friend of the Lord. She died on September



4, 1929, at the age of 32, after eight years of religious life. Ten years after her death on September 4, 1939, thanks to his intercession, the little Jude Chiasson of Lamèque in New Brunswick will be cured of a hydrocephalus. On March 20, 1993 Pope John Paul II declared this mystic and musician, **blessed**.

The Dina-Bélanger concert hall in Quebec City, the Dina-Bélanger music festival and the Dina-Bélanger college in Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse are named in her honor

For more information : Centre Dina-Bélanger,
2049, chemin Saint-Louis, SILLERY (Québec) G1T 1P2
Téléphone : (418) 687-9260 Fax: (418) 687-1959
email : mprovjm@total.net

Dina Bélanger Ancestry

Dina



Dina's Parents and her birthplace on rue du Roi in Québec City

- 1 Octave Bélanger (1871-1952) **Séraphina Matte** (1870-1961)
- 2 Joseph Matte (1833-1908) Virginie Delisle (1836-1876)
- 3 Nicolas Matte (1799-1860) Anathalie Létourneau
- 4 Nicolas Matte (1770-?) Angélique Mercure Villeneuve
- 5 Nicolas Jean Baptiste Matte (1739-1802) Marie Josephthe Grenon (1743-1821)
- 6 Nicolas Matte (1707-1772) Marie Angélique Godin (1719-1791)
- 7 Nicolas Matte (1682-1760) Marie Angélique Cocquin dit Latournelle (1679-1741)
- 8 Nicolas Matte (1636- 1704) Madeleine Auvray (1650-1734)**
- 9 Charles Matte (1609-1680) Barbe Harache (1613-1699)

Séraphina and all of her ancestors were born in Neuville except for the first Nicolas and his father Charles who were born in Normandie.

A Little History

Neuville's Waterways and Mills

Here is an article published in 1973 concerning the history of waterways and mills in Neuville. In fact, reference is made to several rivers forming part of the territory of Neuville at the beginning of the colony, as well as some mills of the time. One of these is the Matte River that flows over the Matte Patrimonial Land. Our thanks to the Société d'histoire de Neuville for permission to publishing of this article.

At the beginning of the colony, the seigneurie of Sieur Dupont de Neuville was furrowed with numerous streams. This number has been reduced considerably because of deforestation. The drying up of small rivers and streams was caused by the disappearance of the forest. On the other hand, one cannot sow between the trees, in the middle of woods, in the center of a maple tree. Clearing is necessary. and it is thus that in nature, equilibrium can break. The forest keeps the soil moist; Excess water flows and rivers and streams provide abundant water. You replace the forest with a beautiful cultivated land: and the wheat you have planted will suffer from the lack of water. The balance is broken.

Three years in a row, you planted potatoes in this field; The last year, you have only harvested vegetables. The balance was broken. It was necessary to restore to the land what the first two harvests had taken from him. And so it is in all fields, even in biology. It is the nightmare of physicians sometimes who can not give a patient such a renowned remedy, for in the patient there will be developed another evil may be worse than that which he wishes to cure.

The two main rivers that make up the richness of Neuville and have long determined its limits are the **St. Lawrence River** and the **Jacques Cartier River**. I am able to speak of it, but there are also secondary rivers, many of which have completely disappeared, and which formerly were of great utility.

In the article "The Combat of the Atalanta," we have seen that Vauquelin had failed his ship in front of the convent, 20 fathoms from the mill, at the mouth of the **Ruisseau de Sœurs**.. The historical document speaks of it: there was, then, a mill whose great driving wheel was activated by the water of the stream. No doubt, the creek no longer exists and the mill has disappeared, Coming up from the north side, into the land, you could not find traces of the bed of

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this stream whose water supplied the wheel of the SAVARY mill. Thus, fixed on its exact situation, at least one plaque could be erected at this place indicating what existed 200 years ago. It's a suggestion.

The **Riviere aux Pommes** originates in the foothills of the Laurentians, borders the first-row lands to the north, flows southwesterly and flows into the Jacques-Cartier River north of Donnacona. It forms here and the waterfalls it has been thought, used the force of this current to establish a mill in the second row called the Gingras Mill which still exists. This mill was a real bargain for all second-tier owners! The molds were prepared with dexterity; Sarazin flour extracted from it was the best, and allowed the manufacture of the succulent cakes which are known; We saw the wood ... in short, we did everything with art and method. The reputation of the Gingras mill was re-established throughout the region and the clientele was numerous and sympathetic.

The Savary mill is not the only one that is missing. The Magnon mill is also a thing of the past. For a long time, the landlords of the upper part of the parish frequented this mill, always welcomed by a kindly owner. The young boys never missed a chance to pass by on the side where the grinds were prepared. For there was the door of the stove and the operator who was none other than the beautiful Albéniz, the miller's daughter. It was well worth the inconvenience of whitening your shoes with starch dust.

In 1909, the mill was already powered by steam. But, as I have been told, the brook, on the other hand, had a current strong enough to turn the wheel of the mill. At the bottom of the cellar you could see construction which had probably served in the past to support the shaft of the wheel which the water made turn. From the national road, a deep bed, called a cave, descended towards the river. Certainly the topography of the place has changed well over the last two centuries.

Near the house belonging to M. Philemon Emond, there flowed a small river, the flow of which was considerable in the spring. In the summer season, we went there to clean small fish that could be used to start our bottom lines when we wanted to catch mostly sturgeon. This stream flowed into the St. Lawrence towards the line of demarcation between the land of M. Napoleon Matte and that of M. Misaël Rochette. This river has practically disappeared.

But it is the **MATTE RIVER** that will have been the most useful without a doubt. The slopes of the Laurentians give birth to it, and its rugged course winds its way through the land, making for the St. Lawrence River, it goes without saying. It first operated the Tremblay mill, one of the most important in the region. At the bottom of the cavity dug by the river, the mill turned and rendered service; It was reached by a steep hill. It is astonishing to note that these rivers had considerable flows 150 years ago. When the mill ceased operations,

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The Leclerc house was rebuilt on the west side and by that time, the mill was inactive and abandoned. But the MATTE RIVER quickly swept down the shores towards the river and demanded action. The ruins of the Vanner mill are still visible near the beach. This famous mill was known for several miles around because of the quality of its grindings.

Schooners brought the grain at high tide and were discharged at low tide. The mill turned without stopping! When the railroad belonging to the Great North was built, they isolated the mill from the banks of the river, which wasn't inconvenient because already the prosperous days were over and silence had invaded the mill.

Finally, we might as well mention the card shop which was very prosperous at that time! Located in the vicinity of No. 686, West, Rte Nationale. Mr. Anaclet Turgeon was the great carder.

At the time of the seigniories, there were two kinds of mills: mills driven by water and windmills. There were very few windmills where there were no streams. They are found on the Island of Montreal, in Repentigny. In Verchères ... The island of Coudres is famous.

In the territory of Neuville, the old maps do not mention a windmill and this is understandable. This does not mean that there was none at all. The water-driven mill was much preferred because of constant availability and regular forces. The absence of wind sometimes singularly retarded the work. In more recent times, wind towers (windmills) were placed quite often in the right place and used to pump water for the farm.

It has always been the privilege of man to dominate the forces of nature and to use them for his good and that of society.

By J.-O. Lemont, La Prairie.

December 3, 1973

**The next Activity of the Matte Families of America
will be a Holiday Brunch 2017-2018**

Check information on Web site

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