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Matte Association of America

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**Souvenir photo taken on May 15, 2016, during a lunch activity
at the Grenache Rôtisserie in Repentigny**

Next gathering: August, 2021

Matte Association of America

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Subscription</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matte Association of America</p> <p><u>CANADA</u></p> <p>Member: 25 \$ CAN</p> <p><u>ÉTATS-UNIS</u></p> <p>Member: 25 \$ US</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">***Novelty***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(payable by check, money order or Interac.)</p>	<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>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">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>	<p style="text-align: center;">Please note that membership fees are renewable by post or via the website at any time and are valid for one year from the date of membership.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your support to the Association!</p>

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President's words

In the present situation, first of all, how are you? We have often seen the rainbow drawn, printed, mapped, presented on windows, walls, doors, cars, linen and on masks. May this sign is the silent message of our resistance and our hope in this curious change of life.

The Association has changed its annual meeting to be better in 2021 with you guys, but don't worry, we'll be going back to St-Zotique. With a little more time, we managed with the 4 generations of Matte. From those who stayed in Europe, up to the 3rd generation concerning us. For that I offer you a small quiz, with as price a paid presence at the next meeting. Answer: As written with the capsule number.

- 1- I am the author of the photo that features the capsule 2- 4?
- 2- How many are we under the political heading?
- 3- I am the highest ecclesiastical dignitary?
- 4- Have I ever called myself "the little red bridge"?
- 5- Matte's DNA is?
- 6- Me, Nicolas, what page of the 1666 census am I on?
- 7- I got married three times?
- 8- I went to Fort Beauharnois?
- 9- We are each with 14 children as descendants?
- 10- I was appointed on February 21, 1731?
- 11- We are buried under 2 flags at?
- 12- I was paid \$ 1600 in \$ 24,000 in \$ 275,000.... in ?
- 13- There are 4 of us with the same first name?
- 14- I am the mayor in 2018 of Nicolas' native parish and what am I talking about?
- 15- I am the father of everyone's mother, did I die before she left?
- 16- How many envelopes are there that wrap information?
- 17- I am Nicolas' daughter who lived for 4 days?
- 18- Did I have the reputation of a saint?
- 19- Do I have number # 37?
- 20- How many descendants has the 3rd generation reached?



If you give it a try and think you have all the answers, send this one to me at my personal address: matteclaudio@hotmail.com, as even board people except the president can participate. If more than one have all the correct answers, a drawing will be made at the rally with the presence of these competitors.

Quiz ends: June 2021, good luck !

By: **Claude Matte**

Editor's note

By: **Jacques Matte**

It is with pride that the Association des Matte d'Amérique presents the 7th edition of the newsletter l'InforMATTEur. Once again, as editor, I would like to sincerely thank all those who have collaborated in the production of this newsletter. It is important to clarify that because without the participation of the authors of the texts that you will find in the following pages, the publication of this edition would have been postponed until the winter of 2021.

Take note that as an editor, I have given myself as parameters to publish texts concerning the Matte, subjects relating to the Association of Matte or texts related to the history of time or our ancestors have lived. The text on the clothings of the Filles du Roy is a good example, because our ancestor Madeleine Auvray was a part and lived as the Filles du Roy.

We plan to publish the 8th edition of InforMATTEur in winter 2021, as we will have texts that will support the next publication. You are invited to send us your text and photos as per now to the following address: jacquesmatte23@gmail.com.

You have an anecdote concerning a Matte, you have heard of an achievement of a fait accompli by a Matte, then let us know and it will be our pleasure, if you wish, to help you in the drafting of your text. If you are doing a research on history or genealogy related to a Matte or one of his descendants, let us know the results of your research. Do not forget to attach, in addition, your text, photo or copy of related documents... happy reading everyone!

As you know, due to the pandemic, we were forced to cancel our 6th annual gathering which was to take place on August 9 in St-Zotique. Several members had confirmed their presence and there is no doubt that the event would have been a success. Despite everything, thank you to Gaétan Matte for organizing this gathering and all the planned activities. We intend to postpone the holding of this gathering until later.

I will not hide from you that we are considering the preparation of the next meeting which could take place in August 2021. The theme will revolve around the 350th wedding anniversary of Nicolas Matte and Madeleine Auvray. Watch our website and our Facebook site. Depending on the restrictions imposed by Public Health, we will assess over the coming months whether our team has sufficient means to ensure full compliance with the required health measures and make this large-scale gathering a resounding success. We will keep you informed.

Souvenirs from Grand-Bois-de-l'Ail

The generations of Matte, from the first ancestor Nicolas, date back to the early days of Neuville and Pont-Rouge where the tumultuous Jacques-Cartier river flows, well known for its rapid flow, high eddies and winding course.

The steep Déry hill, so named by allusion to the house of this family at the exit of the bridge, led to what is today the rank of the Bois-de-l'ail, opened to colonization in 1739. At that time, only a village of Amerindians was installed in Pont-Rouge, a little north of this coast protected by mountains, which reduced the force of the wind. They then came to fish close to the Déry house, built in 1804 by the carpenter Jean-Baptiste Bédard, and enlarged in 1864. The first toll collector was François Pommereau. In 1816, he was replaced by Joseph Déry - hence the current name of the place.

Déry Falls, deep and choppy, was bordered by imposing rocks in the shape of immense pebbles, giving the shivers the shivers of their appearance, the very dense woods, and the infernal noise of the fall. A place both magnificent and sinister, it was known for its salmon pools.

When the Déry family left the area around 1936, their house was occupied by the toll collector. Until 1910, you had to pay a fee to cross the bridge. Around 1946, the place was acquired by the Donnacona Paper company, which became Domtar in 1974, which has since ceded the Déry house, two outbuildings and the land for the Déry site to the Corporation du Vieux Moulin Marcoux. Nowadays, the place is reserved for pedestrians.

In the past, the inhabitants, then with little education, pronounced so badly that the compound word became Bod'lail. To my childish ears it sounded weird - an Indian word maybe, that I said to myself. For my parents too, we would visit the relatives at Bod'lail... Later, around 7-8 years old, I understood that this row between Pont-Rouge and Cap-Santé was in fact called Bois de l'Ail . I had finally learned the real name!

My father, named Matte, was the favorite nephew of a consanguineous aunt and uncle. The latter gave birth to several children affected by consanguinity, but three of their children, who entered religion, were exempt. I present them.

Their only daughter, a nun, was a teacher. Naturalized American, she made a career in the United States. Dressed in a black suit and wearing a veil of the same color, she came to her family only in the summer in Bois-de-l'Ail. Retired, she ended her life in the convent in the village of Pont-Rouge; she was 95 years old.

Another, who became a priest, spent his life teaching at a renowned college east of Quebec, where he was director for several years. He was also director of the François-Pilote Antiquities Museum he founded. In the summer, he came regularly to celebrate Sunday

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at Lac-Sergent. We celebrated his 50 years of sacerdotal career at Pont-Rouge. He died in Quebec in 2011, he was 85 years old.

The third went on a mission to Tahiti as a young secular priest. First, vicar in Notre-Dame-de-Foy, he was chaplain in Sainte-Foy, then parish priest in Pont-Rouge and Grondines, among others. I was amazed by his cassock buttons, which, when I was very young and being rocked by him, I had fun unbuttoning and re-buttoning with patience and precaution.

These three religious are not Matte, they were related to my paternal grandmother. As my father was often present in this family where the bonds were tight, I grew up going often to Bois-de-l'ail. When we were there, visiting to see the three religious, it was like going to my "third" grandparents. I used to follow my father there to garden, but when the animals were slaughtered in the fall, I was loath to see chickens running around without heads ...

The only priest, who became parish priest, celebrated my father's funeral. These two, first cousins, looked as alike as identical twins. One day, in Pont-Rouge where they were well known, they exchanged their clothes before going to visit a few people. My father wore the black cassock with multiple buttons and the priest, my father's clothes. No one made the difference, everyone received the blessing from a simple worker ... The parish priest told this anecdote at my father's funeral in Pont-Rouge - a well-chosen way to relax the atmosphere of the occasion.

At Bois-de l'Ail, breathing serenity, I have only lived happy days. I would have liked to have acquired this two-story family home, full of memories and also of my ghosts, but fate decided otherwise. I will always remember the roar of the Déry Falls and the smell of wild garlic.

By: **Diane Matte**





Fille du Roy's clothing

By Raymonde Fortin,

(alias Catherine Dupuis, Fille du Roy)

with the kind collaboration of Mrs. Catherine Pinsonneault



Source : Raymonde Fortin

The clothing of the Filles du Roy

On September 22, 1663, boats carrying 36 young women left the Golden Eagle off the coast of Quebec and landed on the shores of Nouvelle-France. This will be the case each year until 1673. In total, they will be 764 to fulfill a royal mission, that of marrying, founding a family, building a nation.

But what do these Filles du Roy bring? What are their holdings?
In fact, very few things: a box, a thin dowry and their clothe .

After 111 days of crossing, confined in the Sainte-Barbe, exposed to very precarious sanitary conditions, they are not far behind: they all suffer from nutritional deficiency, weakness, drag lice and ticks; some have been affected by dysentery, fever and scurvy. As for their clothes, they are in poor condition. The humidity of Sainte-Barbe has made them sticky, the mold is in the game and they are more or less in tatters. As soon as they landed and taken care of by Madame de La Peltrie, the Ursulines and the good ladies, they regained, in addition to their health, with new clothing.

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In the middle of the 17th century, the clothing of these women, who came to settle in Nouvelle-France, was similar to that of common women worn in Holland, Flanders, Spain and France. The fabrics are probably all imported. Because the oldest looms listed in Quebec date only to the beginning of the 18th century. Among these fabrics, the inventories of goods after death mention silk, cotton, linen, several imported fabrics such as the fabric of Rouen, Normandy, Meslies, Morlaix, various woolen fabrics such as cloth, serge, fabric coarse, stamen, and hemp.

As for the colors of the clothes, they are not very varied: a lot of red, blue, gray and a little brown; sometimes, we find richer colors such as crimson, aurora (salmon-orange), azure blue, purple, gold color (yellow).

The typical costume of the girls to be married, later named Filles du Roy by Marguerite Bourgeoys, includes:

- **Stockings**, cotton or wool of a solid color (white, beige, gray, brown, red, pale or dark blue) rising to the knees and held by garters under the knees, woven or braided woolen ties, or a ribbon.
- **The shirt**, of white or raw cotton, of fine, medium or coarse linen, very ample and provided with straight sleeves little or not gathered at the forearm. Neckline close to the neck and slit at the front to the birth of the chest; cords allowing it to be tied around the neck. Note that at the time, there were no panties for women or men.
- **The pockets**, fabric pockets, slit vertically and mounted on a ribbon tied at the waist, constitute a garment in itself, independent of the skirt. Thus, to save money, very often only the bottom of the soiled skirt and the widely used pockets are washed.
- **The corset**, taking the place of a bra, in tightly woven coarse fabric, laced in front and, surprisingly, quite supple. Most often equipped with straps, it must be adjusted directly on the body in order to conform to the shape. Two ribs inserted at the lacing allow it to keep its shape. The corset being an undergarment, a woman should not appear dressed only in her corset, she must wear a mantle over it.
- **The skirt**, in cotton, linen or wool, long but showing the foot. Worn from mid-calf to ankle. Made of two very wide panels mounted on cords, gathered at the waist. Tie front back panel and tie back front panel. On each side, a slot provided to access the pockets. Sometimes two skirts on top of each other and in the winter a third is added to the first two. We call them: the secret, the rascal and the modest.

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- **The mantelet**, bodice or camisole, always lined, looks a bit like a jacket with a broadly rounded neckline and fastens at the front with hooks or lacing. It conforms to the shape of the body, is adjusted at the waist and gains width on the hips. The wide sleeves are gathered behind the shoulder and sometimes at the forearm, they always cover the elbow.
- **The skirt and mantelet** are made with medium cotton, medium linen or fine woolen linens. The mantlet is intended to be a solid color and the skirt can be a solid color or, infrequently, with wide stripes. The colors of the two garments are coordinated.
- **The collar handkerchief**, made of a large square folded diagonally, in white cotton, is worn tied in front, pinned by letting the points hang down or inserting them inside the bodice.
- **The cap**, or cornette, of white cotton, with cords tied on the top of the head, is worn at all times.
- **The cap**, a white cap with two long tips, is added to the cap or the cone.
- **The apron**, work clothing of cotton or linen, white, natural or colored. Gathered at the waist, tied at the back with cords. Protects a good part of the front of the skirt, being able to cover the hips and even part of the buttocks.
- **The shoes**, different according to the circumstances and the place. We go from leather shoes with flat or medium heels, open at the sides, to clogs and ox shoes.

Here then is the clothing of the Filles du Roy who, once nipped, choose a husband and adopt this new country that is Nouvelle-France. Over the years, the need to acclimatize, contact with the Indians, each other's wardrobe, is enriched with new practical and simple clothes.

NOTE: The reconstruction of the clothing of the Filles du Roy in 2013 was inspired by paintings by Dutch, French, Spanish and Flemish masters such as: Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch, Johannes Vermeer, Louis Le Nain, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, David Teniers .

Where do our members come from ?

By: **Jacques Matte**

When the Association des Matte was incorporated with the Registrar of Companies, the choice was made at that time to include the territory of North America, hence the name " Association des Matte d'Amérique ".

Going back a few years, despite the fact that the structure of the American Matte Association took shape in the fall of 2013, membership began in 2014 and grew slowly. From 2014 to date, 101 people have at one time or another become members of the Association. You will tell me that 101 members in seven years of existence is not much, I grant you. But the lack of participation is not unique to our Association, but rather it is a reality shared by the vast majority of family associations in Quebec. Worse still is that every year several family associations like us end their activities, mainly due to the lack of management succession and the constantly declining number of members.

I am not here to announce the closure of our Association, but rather to ask you the following question ... in which region do the members of the Association of American Matte reside? Have you ever asked yourself this question?

From the outset, one might tend to think that the vast majority of those who are members of the Association, either bear the surname Matte or who have a particular link (spouse, close or distant family link) etc.) live in Quebec and more precisely in the region of the county of Portneuf.

Region where our ancestors Nicolas Matte and Madeleine Auvray settled there to found a family on a concession of 80 arpents, acquired on May 31, 1672... concession which became the heritage land of the Matte in America.

In fact, the Matte are far from being all regrouped in Quebec and even less in the region of the county of Portneuf. Only a few generations later, several Matte descendants settled in various places in both Canada and the United States and abandoned the language of our ancestors.

Despite the fact that new members are added each year, the number varies little from year to year as many forget or put off the desire to renew their membership. On the other hand, some make it their duty to renew their membership each year, which makes us very happy.

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The territory of the province of Quebec is divided into 17 administrative regions. In Table 1 below, six regions are absent since no Matte member lives there.

Table 1:

We note that 79 members (equivalent to 78%) live within the province of Quebec. Of this number, 53 members (52%) Matte reside in the Quebec City region, including 29 in Quebec City and 24 in the county of Portneuf. In fact, for the province of Quebec, 53 members out of 79 (or 67% of the members) live in the region of Quebec and Portneuf.

Another interesting fact is that 41% of the members are female, while 59% are male.

Table 2:

We have 22 members (22%) who live outside of Quebec, of which 7 members reside in Ontario, 14 members (14%) live among the 7 states listed, as well as only one member originally from Quebec, resides in Australia. Besides Quebec and Ontario, no Matte member of the Association resides either on the Atlantic coast or in Western Canada.

In terms of gender, there are more female members outside Quebec, ie 13 (59%) compared to 10 men (41%) who are members.

In conclusion, out of 101 members of the Association, 44 are women and 57 members are men.

Distribution of members			
Region / County	Woman	Men	Total / Cumulatif
Centre du Québec	1	0	1
Estrie	1	1	2
Lanaudière	2	1	3
Laurentides	4	2	6
Laval	1	0	1
Montréal	1	2	3
Montréal	1	3	4
Outaouais	1	1	2
Québec	18	35	53
Saguenay / Lac St-Jean	1	0	1
Chaudière / Appalaches	1	2	3
	32	47	79

Table 1

Distribution of members / Region				
Outside Quebec	Location	Women	Men	Cumul
Ontario	London	0	1	1
	Ottawa			
	Orléans	1	2	3
	Toronto			
	Mississauga	2	0	2
	Sudbury	0	1	1
	Total		3	4
United States	California	1	0	1
	Florida	0	1	1
	Louisiana	0	2	2
	Massachusetts	1	1	2
	Michigan	0	1	1
	Minnesota	0	1	1
	New Hampshire	4	0	4
	Virginia	1	0	1
	Texas	1	0	1
	Total		8	6
Outside Canada	Australie	1	0	1
Grand total		12	10	22

Table 2

HOLIDAY BRUNCH



By: Jacques Matte



From year to year, if there is a strong unifying tradition that we wish to perpetuate, it is indeed the meeting of the **Fêtes des Matte**.

Our 4th holiday meeting took place on Sunday, December 22, 2019 at the Mike's restaurant in Ancienne-Lorette. Several Matte, faithful to this meeting taking place during the holiday season, arranged to meet together with their spouses. Some participants from as far away as the Metropolis and its surrounding region did not hesitate to join the group and fraternize.

Here are a few photos of these precious moments spent in good company. See you next year for the 5th edition!



Recommended reading

By: **Jeannine Matte-Richardson**

All books listed are available through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), unless noted otherwise.

Books available in English only

Helene's World (Helene DesPortes of 17th Century Quebec) by Susan McNelley

Helene Desportes was the first child born to parents in Quebec in 1620. The author puts together a story of the life of Helene Desportes through records and other sources to recreate what life was like in 17th Century Quebec.

If you have wondered what life was like in the early days of Quebec you would enjoy this book.

The Allards - The New World

The Allards is an series of eight books series that begins with a young girl's journey from Rouen, France to Nouvelle-France as a Fille du Roi through marriage, children, grandchildren continuing through eight generations of Allards as they journey from Quebec to Detroit.

PS: Our ancestor Madeleine is mentioned in the first book.

Books available in French and English

Books written by Jacques Lacoursière

Jacques is an author, Canadian TV host and historian from Quebec. His books have been translated to English.

Books available in French only

Mythes et réalités dans l'histoire de Québec

Par Marcel Trudel

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The history of women in Quebec for four centuries

By Le Collectif Club

Memberships and Clubs

The Society of the Filles du Roy and Soldiers of Carignan

This group is dedicated to these women and men who played a major role in the growth and settlement of Nouvelle-France. They are a French-Canadian Heritage Association.

To learn more about this organization, visit <http://fillesduroi.org>

Index to French Canadian Revolutionary War Patriots

If you have a French Canadian patriot in the list on this site, and you are a woman interested in joining the Daughter of the American Revolution (DAR) or a man interested in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) contact Debbie Duay at debduay@yahoo.com

The list of French Canadian Patriots is available at www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/frenchcanadianpatriots.htm

Next activities

Holiday Brunch 2020

Date to be confirmed - December 2020 (Québec region)

6th Annual Gathering

Date to be confirmed - August 2021 (Cap Santé)

(The information will be available via the WEB site and Facebook)