



# L'INFORMATTEUR

*Matte Association of America*

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**News bulletin**

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## **Next gathering**

**Guided cruise on the St. Lawrence River**

**June 15, 2019**

### **TO SEE INSIDE**

- Other places, other memories
- Trip to France... (2<sup>nd</sup>) part
- Matte DNA testing
- Coat of Arms for your Family

# Matte Association of America

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sponsors for the Matte Association</b></p> <p>For any questions for a sponsoring offer, don't hesitate to contact Mr Claude Matte, our president Tel. (418) 285-0383                  email : <a href="mailto:matteclaud@hotmail.com">matteclaud@hotmail.com</a></p>	

## **Words from the President**

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

Hello everyone,

Once again, I invite you to participate in the growth of your Association. Recently, we have started a Facebook application for the Matte Association of America. To date, more than 130 Matte have registered and we are very proud of it.

With Facebook, we celebrate the anniversaries of our members. In addition, you will be informed of what is going on at the Association, including upcoming events and will share with you what is important to the Matte. Mr Rolland Matte will keep track of anniversaries and events to come.

Despite the difficulties we currently face with our website, we are currently working on fixing it. As soon as our website becomes fully functional again, additional Matte information capsules will be added to keep you informed of the latest Matte findings. Hopefully, when you receive this newsletter of the InforMATTEur, everything will be restored.

The invitation to join us in meeting the needs of the Association is still there. Let us know your ideas so that the Matte Association continues to stand out. Looking forward to meet and fraternize at a future meeting.

**The 5th Gathering  
of the Matte d'Amérique Association will  
be held Saturday, June 15, 2019**

**On the program: Guided cruise on the St. Lawrence River  
Afterwards, visit of Place Royale,  
followed by a dinner in Old Quebec  
(for registration, see the form inside the newsletter)**

## **Other places, other memories**

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

My farmer grandfather owned a dairy farm in the country. His house, covered with shingles, was adorned with a beautiful front porch and surrounded by pretty groves. My Dad would often help him *faire le train* (chores), as we used to say. I followed him and I loved to watch them milking the cows by hands. I was fascinated by the melody of the jets touching the boiler, the same from one cow to another. The henhouse, the hay-filled hay, the stable for Nelly and Belly, two Percheron horses, the fields in cultivation and the large vegetable garden on the other side of the peaceful road - all this was his rural estate.

Grandfather lived in town, of course, in a house built along a road with heavy traffic. He had thought it good to rent this large house, adorned with an immense porch, which served as a platform where he could sit and suffer the noise of continuous traffic. Another family was renting the second floor. A tiny garden in the backyard was used as a playground, bordered by a sidewalk where sometimes bizarre people passed by, like the madman of the parish who spoke by himself grimacing. I went home quickly because I was scared every time.

My farmer grandfather was tough because he worked hard. He had the physique of the job. Plus, he was on his own every day. When he had the taste for a smoke, he took the time to sit on the porch and draw a good pipée of tobacco from the land he had previously cut with the chopper. My city grandfather was frail by nature. Every morning he traveled by bus with his lunch box under his arm. He went to work as a caretaker at the Quebec Museum, located on the Plains of Abraham. After a day of meetings with visitors not always cordial, he came home, stressed: he tended to speak little ...

Coming from these two worlds of differences, I heard all sorts of comments from my own parents, themselves of different education: a father raised on a farm, a mother raised in town. One loved the countryside, the other preferred the city. From a young age, I set myself with the task of finding out which of these two worlds suited me best.

On the one hand, at my farmer grandfather's farm, we were received warmly. In spite of their dread of children, my uncles and aunts showed such a touching interest that it made me thoughtful. The family meetings were very lively. At haying time and during the holidays, the scent of casseroles, pies and stews filled the air. The old wood stove sparkled at the sound of the Canadian accordion. We, the happy children, strung up the stairs to the rooms behind the red stove and watched the adults dance in a square set.

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My farmer granfather took the time to sing, listen and tell stories. As a pro of philosophy, it was natural for him to transmit us lasting values and sensible explanations. In the evening, he taught us to admire the beauties of nature: a starry sky, the crickets singing, the neighing horses, even the gleams of houses in the distance.

On the other hand, at my city grandfather's house, I felt a certain similar to how you treated each of the families scattered in neighboring parishes. The atmosphere seemed cold to me, without human warmth. For certain occasions, including the holiday season, he rented a parish hall, cold and lifeless. Sitting on rough wooden benches, they jabbed and learned to criticize or envy the "toilets" of others. In this dull and unhealthy atmosphere, we waited for tea and our gifts that were to break the monotony.

My city grandfather excelled in offering us a few coins which could be used to buy sweets the next day. In return, we had to spend long minutes combing his hair - sitting in front of his cuckoo clock, which was relaxing for, and for us a noisy disturbance. No need to tell you us kids had their heads elsewhere and were dreaming of sweets instead of peppermints.

Of these two schools of life who transmitted me their respective values, I'll leave it to you to guess which one showed me the best way.



**Grandfather's farmer house**



**Grandfather's city house**

# **Matte Reunion - 2018**

## **Tour of the Old Quebec area**

By: **Jacques Matte** (member no. 3)

The Matte Association of America held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual reunion during "Festival of Nouvelle-France" which took place on August 4, 2018, in the historic sector of the City of Quebec.. The invitation to attend was extended to all members, their families and friends. It was a unique occasion, as we were accompanied by a tour guide to discover the historical side of Quebec that many of our ancestors witnessed.

Thousands of tourists attended this happy event. All attendees enjoyed the beautiful weather and the activities that surrounded us.

To overcome the difficult access to the Château Frontenac, which was where we planned to meet our tour guide, a bus was chartered for the group. The main activity of this gathering was the guided tour of the attractions of interest that one finds in the sector of Old Quebec, so much appreciated by the tourists.



***Starting point for the participants at  
Lucien-Borne Community Center***



***Near the Château Frontenac  
and the Dufferin Terrace***

***Our guide, Mrs. Jocelyne Belleau***

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These places rich in history remind us that it is in these places such as Place Royale, were the first areas established by the first settlers who arrived in Nouvelle-France. All our ancestors arrived to Nouvelle-France by boat and had to pass through the Place Royale, the cradle of the City of Quebec today.



*Cannonball trapped in the bark of a tree*



*Photo taken inside the Ursulines Chapel*

After our the guided tour, the members who were present attended a meeting at the Centre Lucien-Borne. The members also took advantage of these moments to fraternise between them. Participants include members from outside Quebec, including Denise Matte-Burke of Massachusetts and her daughter, Virginia Burke-Smart, a resident of Virginia. Finally, the rally ended with a rich buffet.



*Murielle Matte, Denise Matte-Burke,  
Diane Matte and Catherine Burke-Smart*



# Matte DNA Testing

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

We have all seen the TV ads for Ancestry.com and the test to discover your DNA. Several Matte have tested their DNA at Family Tree DNA. The Matte Y-DNA haplogroup is R-M 269. This is the most common haplogroup in Europe.

## What is a Y-DNA Haplogroup?

A father passes a certain Y chromosome to his son from generation to generation with little changes for many generations. Females do not carry this chromosome; however they carry the mtDNA which is also passed down from mother to daughter from generation to generation with little changes. Because I could not participate in the Y DNA testing, one of my brothers was kind enough to indulge me and agreed to take the test. When the results came back we didn't match anyone in their database at the University of Phoenix. I was able to locate another male Matte who lived in Ontario Canada who is a descendant of Alexis Matte, the son of Nicolas and Madeleine, who also agreed to complete the test. My brother is a descendant of their son Nicolas. When his results came back it showed that he matched my brother 24 out of 25 markers!! This indicates that there is a 99.9% chance they are related in the last 10 generations!! This proves our theory that all Matte who have roots in Canada are descendants of Nicolas!!

## What does R-M269 Mean?

The frequency of the R-M269 Haplogroup is about 92% in [Wales](#), 82% in [Ireland](#), 70% in [Scotland](#), 68% in [Spain](#), 60% in [France](#) (76% in [Normandy](#)), about 60% in [Portugal](#), 53% in [Italy](#),<sup>[16]</sup> 45% in Eastern [England](#), 50% in [Germany](#), 50% in the [Netherlands](#), 42% in [Iceland](#), and 43% in [Denmark](#). It is as high as 95% in parts of Ireland. It is also found in some areas of [North Africa](#), where its frequency peaks at 10% in some parts of [Algeria](#).<sup>[17]</sup> R-M269 has likewise been observed among 8% of the [Herero](#) in [Namibia](#).<sup>[18]</sup>

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The R-M269 subclade has been found in ancient [Guanche](#) (Bimbapes) fossils excavated in Punta Azul, [El Hierro](#), [Canary Islands](#), which are dated to the 10th century (~44%).<sup>[19]</sup>

Like many of our Matte ancestors, pioneering is in our DNA. Matte were some of the first to have their DNA tested back in 2002. The following story appeared in the *Family Tree DNA Newsletter* in March 2003:

### Spot Light: Matte Surname DNA Project

*The Matte Surname Project started with testing 25 markers for two participants who represent two branches of a Matte Line. This Matte Line had been documented back to Charles Matte, who was born about 1610. Charles Matte and Barbe Harache had one son that we are aware of. This son was Nicolas, who was born Dec. 4, 1636 in Rouen, Normandy, France. Nicolas left France sometime before 1666 as he was listed as a resident of Quebec in the first Quebec Census. Nicolas' sons who had descendants were Laurent, Alexis and Nicolas, Jr. The two participants for the first step of the Matte Surname Project were a descendant of the son Nicolas, and a descendant of the son Alexis.*

*The results for these two participants are a 24/25 match, which validates their documented research to 1610. The next step of the Matte Surname Project is to find a direct descent male from the third son, Laurent, before proceeding to testing other Lines.*

Since that time several other Matte have been tested. Three were descendants of the son Nicolas and two descended from Alexis. They can all trace their ancestor back to Nicolas. I suggest that any Matte descendants who complete a DNA test should transfer their DNA results to GEDMATCH.com.

Gedmatch is free once you've been tested through familytreedna.com, 23andme.com or ancestry.com

### Editor's

### note

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the realization of this fifth edition of InforMATTEur. Without your cooperation, this newsletter could not have been published and we thank you very sincerely.

The invitation to participate in the next edition of InforMATTEur is launched. Send us now your text and photos for publication at the following address:

[jacquesmatte23@gmail.com](mailto:jacquesmatte23@gmail.com).

Happy reading to all

## Trip to France... (2<sup>nd</sup>) part

By: Claude Matte (member no. 1)

### Beusseault:

There are traces of Beusseault from the 11th century. The first known lord is Guillaume de Monceau, he participated with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hasting in England in 1066.



This old photo, (black & white) taken in the town hall, dismounts Beusseault seen from the sky in all its glory between two wars. Except an emergency landing by an American bomber on the northern hills of the commune, nothing affected this village. The carcass of the plane is still there, but this location is not memorialized. The US military never went there to recover it.



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There's an old part of the castle that still remains, called the dungeon tower, is original. This is located on the right, if we are facing the church.



Bessault or Beaussault is the village where Charles Matte, the father of Nicolas, is buried. Charles died on Friday, June 28, 1680. Nicolas's godfather, also named Nicolas, died on Wednesday, February 18, 1682. Nicolas Matte paid 60 pounds to be buried at the Chapel of the Virgin - Bessault. We will come back to this later in the article.



Beaussault is a small village located in the north of France. It is located in Seine-Maritime, Normandy region. Beaussault is located in the district of Dieppe in the district of Forges-aux-Eaux. The inhabitants are called Beaussaultois or Beaussaças. The population in 2017 was 417. This is also a small town.

There are some Matte found in its history:

Francois & Anette Feuillette Matte 1583 of Bessault

- 16.05-1622 Rouen Wedding at St. Etienne de Tonneliers Jean de Moy de Rouen, St. Nicaise Parish and Marie de Chrispophle and Anne Matte of Rouen, parish St. Etienne

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- 01.09.1631 Claude MATTE / BRASSEUR Colette fa Nicola and DESTALLIN (?) Suzanne of St Martin the Gaillard notary MORIN dimension 2 E 14/1968 C.M.
- 04.03.1647 MATTE Pierre of Paris St Sulpice / LOPPE Isabeau C.M.
- 28.04.1658 CHAPPERON known as FLEUR / MATTE Jacqueline fa Claude and BRASSEUR Colette notary DOYNEL St Martin le Gaillard - dimension 2 E 14/1971



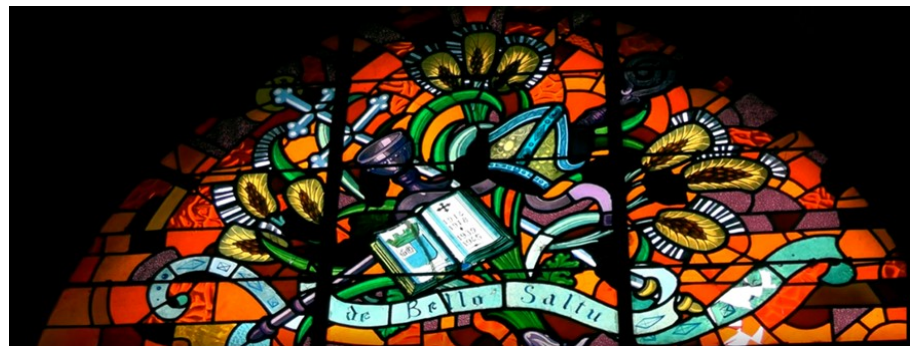
Thanks to the Mayor and his wife, this visit was the most informative of the trip. For more than two hours, we were able to view the church and the town hall. In addition we visited the cemetery.

Most towns, villages & communes have in front of their church a monument which says: In memory of the children of Beaussault died for France 1914-1918.

Let's not forget that this is the first generation of French people who have not had a war on their territory since the Middle Ages. Similar tributes are also given to those of 1939-1945.

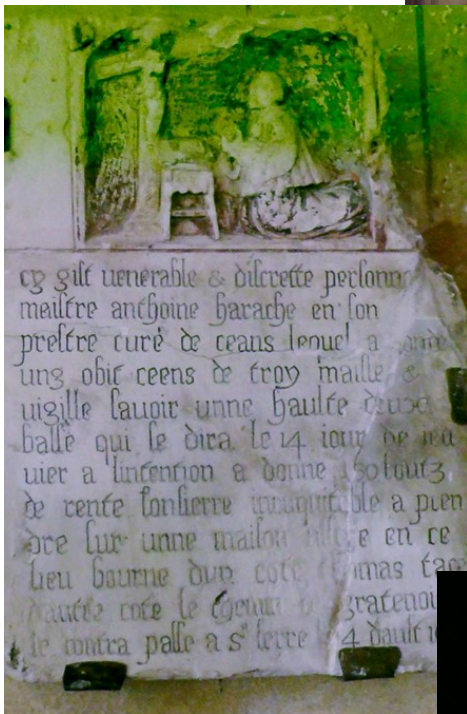


The Church is very ornate with its guilloché beams scattered with dragon heads. Beaussault means "beautiful little wood" in Latin " Bello Saltu " which are the words located in the stained glass above the main door.



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Let's go back to Nicolas (the godfather, not like the movie), buried under the chapel of the Virgin (see the third photo) in the left transept of the church. A plaque, you must know where it is, is located to the left of the altar.



For the translation from old French you should read 0-Q capsule on the Matte Association website.

The stained glass window behind the high altar and that of the birth of Jesus highlight the know-how of these craftsmen.



# Coat of Arms for your Family

**By: Marc Beaudoin, aih**

*The author is a heraldist, a founding member of the Heraldry Committee of the Quebec Genealogy Society and an associate member of the International Academy of Heraldry. The author responds to the concerns of several members of the association regarding the validity of the coat of arms attributed to the surname Matte, found on the Web and in commerce.*

Contrary to popular belief, the coat of arms has never been reserved for a particular social class and each can have a coat of arms and pass it on to his descendants. However, no one can appropriate the coats of arms of others, even if they bear the same surname, because these coats of arms are exclusive to a lineage that only members can use and transmit.

And yet, we find on the Web companies that reproduce the designs of coats of arms published in armorials, collections of coats of arms, such as that of Jean-Baptiste Rietstap to sell them by guaranteeing that they are the coat of arms of your family. But now, even if these coats of arms are authentic and are associated with your surname, there is not necessarily a relationship between you and this family, unless you draw up your complete genealogy going up as far as possible in Europe in order to prove filiation with the family holding the coat of arms.

## *Did Nicolas Matte have a Coat of Arms?*

At the risk of disappointing many, the vast majority of our ancestors who came to Nouvelle-France had no coat of arms in their wallet. Nicolas Matte, the first Matte in America, is the son of Charles Matte and Barbe Harache of Sainte-Genevieve-en-Bray (Seine-Maritime), a small village not far from Rouen, in Normandy. Baptized on December 4, 1636, he landed in Nouvelle-France around 1663 as engaged. He signed on October 10, 1671 a marriage contract with Madeleine Auvray, a "Fille du Roi" before the notary Romain Becquet. The couple moved to Neuville where their eleven children were born. Nicolas Matte is buried in the cemetery of Neuville on July 20, 1704. Finally, note that in the current state of research, we do not find a coat of arms concerning Nicolas Matte or his parents in the archives and sources consulted.

This does not prevent some traders from selling beautiful coats of arms that they claim to be those of our ancestors. And in this area, the bearers of the surname Matte are particularly pampered with no less than six coats of arms associated with it.

## *Studies of the six Matte coats of arms*

Let's now look at these six coats of arms proposals to see if it's possible that one of them has a connection to the ancestor Nicolas Matte. To analyze and compare the different coats of arms attributed to Matte, we consulted the Armorial General of Jean-Baptiste Rietstap, *The Plates of the Armorial of Rietstap* drawn by Victor and Henri V. Rolland that the Swiss heraldist Lionel Sandoz has colorized and which are accessible on the genealogie.com site, as well as The great French armorial of Henri Jougla de Morenas.

### First Proposal



Figure 1. Armoiries Matte,  
France  
thetreemaker.com



Figure 2. Armoiries Mathe, Touraine, France.  
Source genealogie.com

The coat of arms of Figure 1 shows an azure shield (blue) with two joined hands holding three garden lilies. We find similar coats of arms in the General Armorial of Jean-Baptiste Rietstap attributed to a Mathe family in Touraine (Figure 2). Henri Jougla de Morenas recorded in his *Grand Armorial de France les armoiries d'un Mathé*, adviser secretary of the king in 1696, who wore: *azure to a silver faith holding three branches of garden lilies of the same*. This Blazon corresponds in all respects to the coats of arms of Figures 1 and 2. Recall that Nicolas Matte was born in Normandy and he came to Nouvelle-France as a hired hand.

<sup>1</sup> RIETSTAP, Jean-Baptiste. *Armorial général, précédé d'un dictionnaire des termes du blason*, deuxième édition refondue et augmentée, Gouda, G.B. van Goor Zonen, 1884, vol. 2.

<sup>2</sup> <http://boutique.genealogie.com/blasons/noms-famille>.

<sup>3</sup> JOUGLA DE MORENAS, Henri. *Grand Armorial de France. Catalogue général des armoiries des familles nobles de France comprenant les blasons des familles ayant possédé des charges dans le royaume et de celles ayant fait enregistrer leurs armoiries en 1696*. Société du Grand Armorial de France, Paris, Édition héraldique, 1938, vol. 5.

<sup>4</sup> RIETSTAP, *Op.cit.*, vol, 2, p.171

<sup>5</sup> JOUGLA DE MORENAS, *Op.cit.*, vol, 52, p.13

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## Second Proposal



Figure 3. Armoiries Matte.



Figure 4. Armoiries Matt, Prusse, Bavière, Allemagne Source genealogie.com

The second coats of arms proposed by the merchants presents an ecu loaded with three lily flowers with inverted colors depending on the background (Figure 3). We find in the armorial of Rietstap these same coats of arms under the name Matt, in Prussia and Bavaria, with the following blazon: *golden chap-folded sand with three fleur-de-lis from one to the other. Crest a flight of sand each wing laden with a golden fleur-de-lis* (Figure 4). We are far from the region of Rouen, and even if Matt is a variant of the surname MATTE nothing proves that the Norman family is from Germany.

## Third Proposal



Figure 5. Armoiries Matte



Figure 6. Armoiries Mathias, Languedoc, France. Source genealogie.com

<sup>6</sup>RIESTAP, *Op.cit.*, vol, 2, p.174

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With a shield charged with three dices, with a stamped head helmet surmounted by a duke's crown and the precision to the effect that this family is of German origin, these arms attributed to the Matte are relatively rare in heraldry ( Figure 5). In the Armorial of Rietstap, we find the coats of arms of a Mathias family, in the Languedoc (South of France) wearing: *Gules three dices Argent, marked 5, 4 and 6.* (Figure 6) Jougl de Morenas confirms this blazon adding that the nobility of this family was maintained in 1688 on evidence dating back to 1541.

### Fourth Proposal



Figure 7. Armoiries Matte

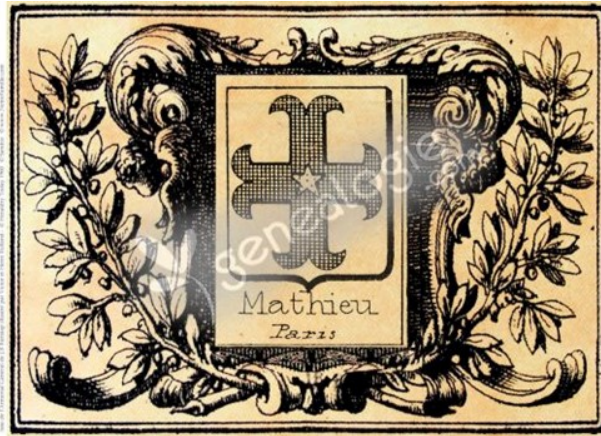


Figure 8. Armoiries Mathieu, Paris, France  
Source [genealogie.com](http://genealogie.com)

The fourth model of coats of arms attributed to Matte is a shield with a black cross whose ends end with two hooks with a yellow star in the center (Figure 7). Jean-Baptiste Rietstap is the only one to count a family Mathieu of Paris, who carries similar weapons, which we can emblazon: *of money to the cross anchored of sand, loaded in heart of a star of gold.* (Figure 8)

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<sup>7</sup> RIESTAP, *Op.cit.*, vol, 2, p.174

Timbre : A term used to describe describe the external elements placed above the shield, such as the helmet, the crown, the crest, & c.

<sup>8</sup> Tare : heraldic term that specifies whether it is front, three-quarter or profile.

<sup>9</sup> In our research on these coats of arms, we found only two French families carrying dice to play in their weapons, Mathias and Raffier. In addition, we find in the Armorial of Scheibler a family Von Spylbert of Bavaria who furnishes his coat of arms with three dice to play posed above three mountains

<sup>10</sup> RIESTAP, *Op.cit.*, vol, 2, p.173

<sup>11</sup> JOUGLA DE MORENAS, *Op.cit.*, vol 5, p. 14

<sup>12</sup> RIETSTAP, *Op.cit.*, vol 2, p. 173

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## Fifth Proposal



Figure 9. Armoiries Matte, France  
Source : thetreemaker.com



Figure 10. Armoiries Mathieu, France.  
Source genealogie.com

The fifth case submitted is a red shield charged with a chevron surrounded by three croissants. In his review of the French coats of arms, Rietstap identifies a Mathieu family which bears: *Gules a chevron Or, accompanied by three crescents Argent.* (Figure 10) For its part, Jougl de Morenas adds that this family of Flanders is at the origin of coal mines Anzin and is ennobled in 1789. In fact, this family of engineers played an important role in the history of the mining basin of Nord-Pas-de-Calais, thanks to the discoveries of Jacques Mathieu in Fresnes-sur-l'Escaut, in 1720, and of his son Pierre in Anzin, in 1734. Which takes us far away from the family of our pioneer in Neuville.

## Sixth Proposal



Figure 11. Armoiries Matte



Figure 12. Armoiries Matthew, Wales.  
Cathédral de Llandaff  
Source : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl\\_Landaff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_Landaff)

<sup>13</sup> RIETSTAP, *Op.cit.*, vol 2, p. 173

<sup>14</sup> JOUGLA DE MORENAS, *Op.cit.*, vol 5, p. 14.

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The last case of the coats of arms attributed to the Matte family presents a shield bearing a black lion, stamped with a helmet surmounted by a cock and the motto "Y fyn Duw a fydd". Now, we find in the armorial Rietstap that these coats of arms and especially this motto belong to the Mathew family, who bore the title of Earl of Llandaff created November 22, 1797 for Francis Mathew. The title expires with the death of his son Francis James, 2nd Earl of Llandaff, March 12, 1833. This Welsh family dates back to Sir David Mathew who died in 1484. She wore: *gold like the sand lion. The shield stamped with a helmet tarnished in profile surmounted by a black grouse on a terrace Vert. Supports: two unicorns natural necked and chained with gold. Motto: Y FYN DUW A FYDD (The will of God is made).*

### In conclusion

We have just studied the six coats of arms that some merchants attribute to the Matte family. In light of the analysis of these coats of arms, we find:

1. That they are authentic family crest of England, Germany and different regions of France.
2. That, unless there is extensive genealogical research, these families do not seem to have any connection with the family of Nicolas Matte or his parents.
3. That for lack of coats of arms for the surname Matte, it has been deliberately attributed the coats of arms of these families, justifying the operation by the different variants of the surname.
4. That we are in front of a very beautiful example of appropriation of the coats of arms of others for a mercantile purpose.

5. Abuse the good faith of customers especially when we go so far as to guarantee the authenticity of the coats of arms of an ancestor who has never had one. Even if it would be very interesting, we can not rewrite the story, nor invent a coat of arms for a person who did not have one during his lifetime. But without having ancestral coats of arms, there is nothing that prevents us from designing personal coats of arms, which reflect our personality, our values and our interests in an original composition, while respecting the basic rules of the heraldry. This is what we offer you at the Quebec Genealogy Society during introductory workshops on heraldry and at a mutual aid meeting to design your coats of arms.

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<sup>15</sup> *Earl Landaff* en anglais.

<sup>16</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl\\_Landaff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_Landaff) (consulté novembre 2018)

<sup>17</sup> RIETSTAP, *Op.cit.*, vol 2, p. 173



# HOLIDAY BRUNCH

By: **Jacques Matte** (membre no. 3)

Several Matte, accompanied by their spouses, have made an appointment for the annual holiday brunch on Sunday, December 9, 2018. This annual meeting took place in a private lounge at the Mike's restaurant in Charlesbourg, Québec, which is located near the Charlesbourg Square and the Moulin des Jésuites. What a pleasure to meet between Matte and take the time to fraternize. Here are some pictures of these precious moments spent in good company. We expect to repeat it next year !

