THE FIRST TOUGAS IN NEW FRANCE

Condensed version

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Edited by Luke Tougas

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Prologue

Rémi Tougas, who wrote in 1979, *Le Premier Tougard en Nouvelle-France*, a book tracing the origins of the Tougas lineage in North America, is my second cousin. His father Rosario was my grand-father Hormidas Tougas' brother.

The idea of translating Rémi's book had never crossed my mind. I had read it with great interest and enthusiasm and was extremely grateful that Rémi had undertaken the task yet it remained a precious book in my bookcase for my son to read and, one day, maybe, my grand-children.

This wasn't counting on my English speaking cousins' - the descendants of Hormidas' children who had immigrated to the United States – and their children's frequent reference to Rémi's book and to the fact they would indeed like to read firsthand about their Canadian roots.

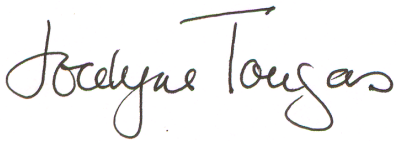
Thus, I decided to go ahead and take on the task. I didn't expect to find the experience as fascinating as I did nor did I expect to be as touched as I was.

Guillaume Tougard wanted to make a better life for himself when he decided to enlist and come to Canada. After all, he was risking a lot. Fighting Indians in North America wasn't a typical career choice even in the late 17th Century. His three years of service finished, he decided to settle in New France. That he should decide to marry Marie Brazeau, an inn-keeper in Montreal, twelve years older than he was, who already had four children and a "reputation", is an indication that Guillaume cared little for gossip and wasn't afraid of taking on family responsibilities. He was quite convincingly a hard working man. In addition to being a wheelwright, he worked a plot of land, maintained an orchard and supported Marie at the inn.

As for Marie Brazeau, the least one can say is that she was a woman of character. Her path is atypical. She wasn't yet 20 years old when she traveled to New France with a newborn baby and without her husband. She acquired property in Montreal and managed her own affairs, signing her name firmly at the bottom of numerous contracts. She enjoyed the company of men and married four times. She had twelve children, three of which were out of wedlock. A keen businesswoman, creative, independent and strong willed, she did what she needed to ensure her family's well-being. We can follow the lineage of Guillaume and Marie's sons, Guillaume, Gabriel and Charles. I can't help but wonder whatever became of their daughters once they were married. Marie-Anne died giving birth, but what about Marie and Pélagie?

The story Rémi wrote brings to life Guillaume Tougard and Marie Brazeau in times of hardship yet of tremendous hope. It uncovers traits that have been transmitted from one generation to the other to help shape who we, their descendants, are. One can sense the heartbeat of a country and of a people being born, a people keeping alive and vibrant the French culture in North America.

For all to enjoy and share.



FRANCE

Guillaume TOUGARD

1. Guillaume

CANADA

1. Guillaume
2. Gabriel
3. Joseph
4. Jean
5. Nicolas
6. Antoine
7. Joseph

8. Rosario
9. Rémi
10. Lyne
    Louis
    Michel

8. Hormidas
9. Ernest
10. Jocelyne
    Ronald

Guillaume Tougard

Guillaume Tougard, son of Guillaume Tougard and Marie Labbé, was born August 19, 1674 in Fatouville, a small town in Normandy about 8 kilometers from Honfleur. At that time Honfleur was a major trade port at the mouth of the Seine River. Like Dieppe, La Rochelle, Le Havre, Bordeaux and other French ports along the Atlantic Ocean, Honfleur was a harbour to frigates and other vessels that sailed regularly to Canada and the Caribbean Islands. The young Guillaume Tougard no doubt saw all the activity at the port, and heard the stories told by the sailors and adventurers who travelled the sea to a faraway land called Canada. It was said the winters there were long and harsh, and that the *Amerindians (1)* were sometimes hostile and ferocious. But, for those who had courage, the land was generous, and the settler could make a living comparable to, if not better than that of a lord in France.

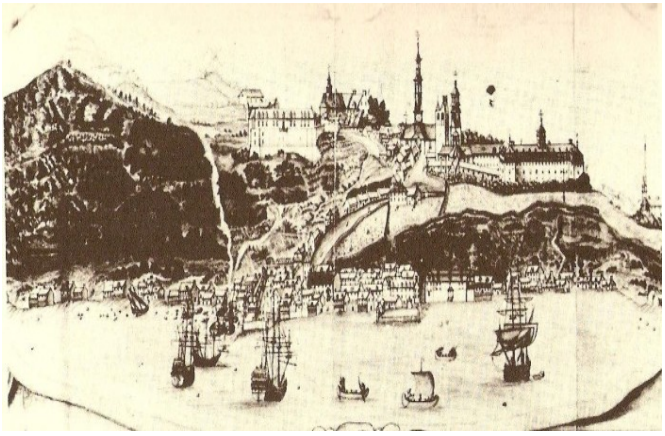
Guillaume, as a hungry 20-year-old, was confused and desperate. Life in Normandy since 1692 had been difficult. In addition to suffering the extravaganzas and misconduct of the French monarch Louis XIV, a strong increase in wheat prices had caused an economic collapse. In fact, 1694 was called the Year of the Famine. Of course, in 1695 Canada was also full of uncertainty but it seemed hard to believe that life could be any worse there than it was in Normandy. And so Guillaume was easily convinced to enlist as a soldier by the alluring promises of the recruiter: he would have money and enough to drink and eat, he would travel the world, go to bed on a full stomach, flirt with lovely ladies, cultivate land, grow crops, etc. Guillaume probably didn't know what a soldier's life was really like: very low wages (three times less than that of a tradesman), practically unbearable living conditions, and being looked down upon by the common people, the officers and even royal officials.

Compagnies franches de la marine soldier in summer campaign dress (artist: R. J. Marrion. Canadian War

Off to Canada

On July 15, 1695 (or there abouts), Guillaume Tougard embarked as a soldier with the *Troupes Franches de la Marine* under Monsieur de Louvigny, on one of eight vessels of a fleet commanded by the

(1) *Ameridian* is a term that designates North American First Nations People



Profil de Québec, 1691— Musée de la civilisation du Québec

Chevalier des Ursins sailing to Newfoundland, Acadia, Quebec and the Caribbean Islands. After three-and-a-half perilous months at sea the fleet arrived in Quebec City on September 30, 1695.

Glad to be alive, once Guillaume Tougard and his mates finally set foot on solid ground, they were welcomed by a delirious crowd of children, women and men who were sorely lacking of supplies, and were beginning to think they would never be rescued. This was also Guillaume's first experience with "Indians". The Huron people silently observed the fleet's arrival and the chaos it created. After a few days of rest, a recovered Guillaume and a few other companions departed for Montreal by canoe, row boat and barge.

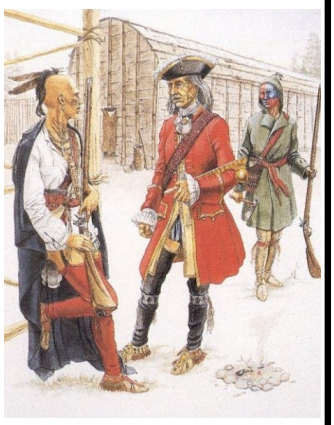
They traveled upstream, sleeping under the stars, and arrived eight days later, setting foot on the banks of the St. Lawrence River just west of Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours chapel. The residents of Ville-Marie (Montreal) were happy to welcome these newcomers from France, who wasted no time discovering the sights of the town, particularly a tavern, owned by a certain Marie Brazeau, located close to the chapel, where one could have a drink, play cards and have fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

Campaign against the Iroquois

In Canada, the war that started in the early 1600s between the French and their Indian allies (Hurons, Algonquins, Montagnais and Indian tribes in the Great Lakes Basin) and their enemy, the English and their Indian allies (Iroquois) was still raging. In 1696, a few months after arriving in Montreal, Monsieur de Louvigny launched an expedition against the Iroquois. Though documentation does not exist to confirm this, Guillaume Tougard very likely participated in this campaign. Another major campaign was launched in July of 1696 by Frontenac. Because Louvigny was serving as one of Frontenac's captains, Guillaume likely engaged in this expedition

The largest French attack on the Iroquois was mounted in 1696

Under the leadership of Governor Frontenac, who at the age of 74 was carried through the woods in a canoe by bearers, the army of more than 2,000 men went to the heart of Onondaga country, setting fire to their villages and destroying their crops. The success of this attack, on the heels of the other French victories, led to some rather sad conclusions for the Iroquois: the French had completely mastered the art of attacking sites far from their bases, and the English colonies had done nothing at all to help the Amerindians, even though they were allies. Furthermore, the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697 put an end to the war between England and France. Discouraged and exhausted, the Iroquois negotiated a final peace, which they signed in 1701 as part of a broader agreement with the French concluded with many Amerindian nations around the Great Lakes. (http://www.cmhg.gc.ca/cmh/page-89-eng.asp)



Amerindian warrior, first half of the 18th century

in which two thousand men, soldiers, militia and allied Indians marched against and defeated the Iroquois.

Victorious, France obtained control of the territories up to Lake Superior. In recognition of this major accomplishment, Louis XIV awarded Frontenac the Croix de l'ordre de Saint-Louis. This honour was also bestowed on all of the participants, including Guillaume Tougard.

Guillaume Marries Marie Brazeau

Having served his three-year term as a soldier, Guillaume chose to stay in New France to share his life with Marie Brazeau, the bubbly innkeeper who owned the tavern he often frequented Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours neighbourhood. On November 9, 1698, Guillaume and Marie signed their marriage contract before the notary in the home of Marie's parents, Nicolas Brazeau and Perrine Billard. The contract stipulated separate ownership of their respective personal assets. Interestingly, Marie's father voluntarily agreed to teach his art and trade, that of a wheelwright, to Guillaume. The next day, November 10, Guillaume, age 23 was married to Marie, age 35. The wedding was witnessed by Antoine Bidal, a soldier who served in the same company as Guillaume and Nicolas Brazeau, Marie's brother. It is unclear to what extent Guillaume understood how exceptional Marie

Brazeau was or whether he was aware of her complicated personal history. However, Marie and Guillaume cared for each other and decided to go forward in life together. As for Marie's past, Guillaume apparently was not concerned.

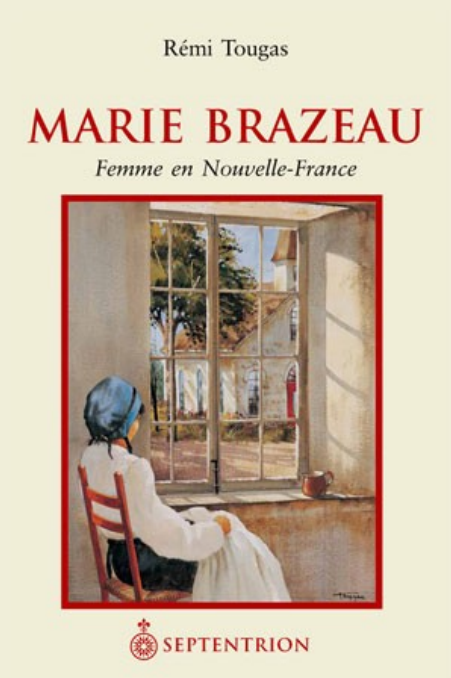
Who is Marie Brazeau

Marie Brazeau was born around 1662 in Paris, where her parents Nicolas Brazeau, a wheelwright by trade, and Perrine Billard lived. The couple also had two sons, Nicolas, born in 1669, and Charles, born in 1674. Life in Paris, due to an uncertain social climate and economic hardships, was difficult. Nicolas aspired for a better life for his family so he moved to Amboise, in Touraine, where some members of his family were already established. That is where Nicolas and Perrine, in 1679, married off their 17 years old daughter Marie to 20 years old Sylvain Guérin, a shoemaker by trade. Marie gave birth to her first child, a daughter they named Marie, on October 17, 1680,

Life was much more difficult in Amboise than Nicolas Brazeau had expected so, having heard of the possibilities offered in Canada to whomever had ambition and was willing to work, and despite the perilous trip awaiting them, he decided to sign up for three years with the Le Ber and Lemoyne Merchant Company to try his luck in the New World. The Le Ber and Lemoyne Merchant Company gave the family an advance of 400 pounds to cover their trip and other expenses. Surprisingly, Marie Brazeau and her newborn daughter accompanied her father, mother and two brothers, on the voyage in the summer of 1681, without Marie's husband Sylvain. The true reasons for Sylvain remaining behind became apparent later on.

Marie Brazeau was an exceptional woman. In a series broadcasted on Radio Canada (Public Broadcasting Radio) on the remarkable yet unknown people who make up our history, the anthropologist Serge Bouchard draws a fascinating picture of our illustrious ancestor. (http://ici.radio-canada.ca/radio/profondeur/RemarquablesOublies/brazeau.htm)

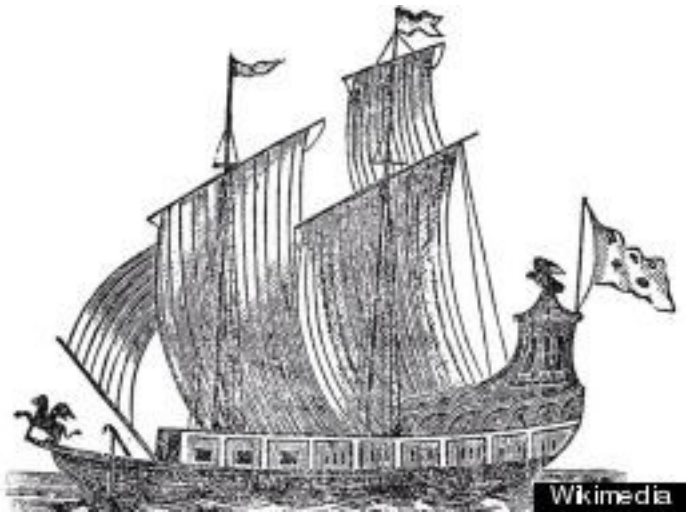
In addition, Rémi Tougas wrote a book on Marie Brazeau, highlighting her importance with respect to



Off to Canada without Her Husband

The Brazeau family traveled from Amboise by wagon and carriage to reach La Rochelle, the port from where they would leave for Canada. In modern times, it is

difficult to imagine the tribulations and dangers of crossing the Atlantic in the 17th century on a small wooden boat approximately 30 meters long with an open bridge. The crew, the passengers, the cargo, the animals and the vermin were all crammed under the deck, with the trap shut tightly when hitting bad weather. The crossings were long and terrible. A ship captain from that period, who had sailed across all seas, is quoted by the historian Marcel Trudel as claiming that it was after crossing the North Atlantic that "all of his hair had turned to white".



Woodcut of Le Griffon (wikipedia)

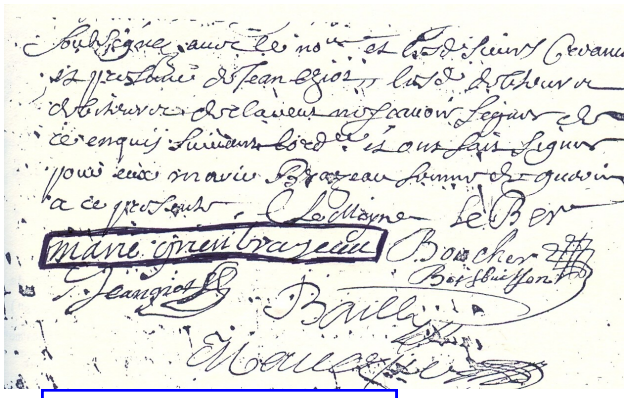
After weeks of suffering from inaction, boredom and hardship on the merchant ship, darker waters, a calmer sea and the flight of birds announced their arrival at the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The ship entered the great St-Lawrence River and made its way to Quebec City, where it anchored. After a few days of rest, the Brazeau family took a small boat and traveled up the river to Montreal. Finally, after eight days, of staying overnight with settlers or sleeping outdoors in their boat or on the banks of the river in the wilderness, so far from Amboise and its majestic castle on the Loire, the Brazeau family arrived in Montreal.

Life in Montreal for the Brazeaus

Montreal, rapidly becoming the trade capital of Canada, was a booming and somewhat anarchic town of settlers, local merchants, fur traders, Indians and soldiers. There reigned altogether an atmosphere of excitement, fear and violence as the Iroquois frequently launched raids in the surrounding areas. At the same time, the religious order of the Sulpicians held a firm grip on the population. The Fathers of the Sulpicians Order were the Seigneurs (Lords) of Montreal. They

distributed the land and built the churches, the hospices and the convents. In those days, Montreal was a military garrison, a trade post and a religious center.

Upon arriving in Montréal, Nicolas, his wife Perrine and their daughter Marie went to the office of the Le Ber and Lemoyne Merchant Company to sign papers acknowledging their debt of 400 pounds. The merchants, fully aware that the family would not be able to survive in the colony under the clauses of the contract, freed them from their obligation on the condition that they repaid their debt on a schedule of 100 pounds a year over four years. The Brazeaus also agreed to hire out to the company Nicolas, their 12 year old son for five years, and Charles, who was nine years old at that time, for seven years, as the expenses associated with their crossing the Atlantic had not been included in the advance of 400 pounds. Interestingly, at the bottom of the official paper was Marie Brazeau's signature because she was required to sign in the absence of her husband. That a woman was able to sign her name in the late 1600s was unusual.



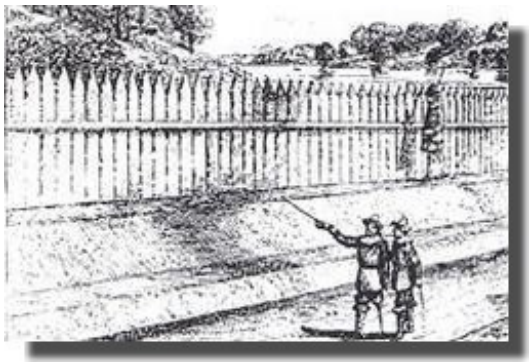
Signature: Marie Guérin Brazeau

In 1683, the Brazeau family were living on the Island of Montreal, in Côte Saint-François, near Ville-Marie. Marie was living with her parents and helped out financially by doing domestic chores for the residents of her neighbourhood and surroundings. She was apparently well-liked and possessed an outgoing personality, for within just a year or so of her arrival in Montreal, families started asking her to be godmother to their newborn children. Marie rapidly settled into her new life and engaged in the social fabric of the small and bubbling frontier town.

Marie Brazeau and Sylvain Guérin Reunited

Sylvain Guérin finally reunited with Marie in the fall of 1685 after four years of separation, as of yet unexplained. Marie left her parents' home in October of that year to move in with Sylvain in a rented house on Saint-Paul Street. A few days later, on October 10, before the notary, they pledged to reimburse in one year's time the 132 pounds advanced by a merchant in Quebec City to pay for Sylvain's passage to

Canada. As collateral, Marie and Sylvain each mortgaged "all of their present and future assets". They were young and optimistic about their future prospects.



Typical wooden wall built around a settlement in the middle of the 17th century to protect the residents from Indian raids

Sylvain was a shoemaker by trade but in order to live more comfortably, the couple decided to operate an "illicit" tavern and inn, a tolerated occurrence in those days. Indeed, there was a lot of money to be made selling liquor, and feeding and lodging the soldiers. In 1685, there are five military companies stationed in Montreal. Such a strong military presence was necessary because the war with the Indians was still raging; life in Montreal was very dangerous. To protect the town, a wooden palisade was built around Ville-Marie. The bailiff has issued and order and posted it on the door of the church requiring "all houses be armed for defense and that the head of the family, his servants and his sons aged 14 years and over each own a musket and not be allowed to surrender their weapons". To see the Iroquois coming, the trees from the shore of the St-Lawrence River to the foot of the mountain were cut down.

Life wasn't easy of course, but with the combined income from the "tavern" and Sylvain's shoemaking business, the small Guérin-Brazeau family was living relatively comfortably. In October 1686, Marie gave birth to her second child, Raphaël, who was baptized on the 19th in the parish church of Ville-Marie. In August 1688, she gave birth to her third child, Antoine.

Sylvain Guérin Returns to France

Sylvain Guérin must have been quite a convincing young man. In 1681, he had convinced his young wife and in-laws that he needed to delay his departure to Canada so they left without him, and in 1688, he convinced them he needed to return to France. Marie's father, Nicolas loaned him the 100 pounds for the voyage and even tasked him to collect debts owed him back in France. Sylvain kissed his wife and three children goodbye and left Marie, age 30, in the autumn of 1688, to fare on her own for her family. Because Marie was strong, energetic and optimistic,

Lachine Massacre, Pierre Legendre, 1901

she planned for the future when Sylvain would return. Her belief gave her courage to carry on in a violent, rambunctious and insecure environment.

The danger of the area was underscored when, on August 5, 1689, during the early hours of the morning the village of Lachine was attacked under the cover of violent rains by 1,500 Iroquois. After crossing the river and landing on the banks of Lake St-Louis, they killed more than 100 people and burned down their homes (2). Having taken place only a few miles from Ville-Marie, the attack left the inhabitants in a state of astonishment, dismay and horror.

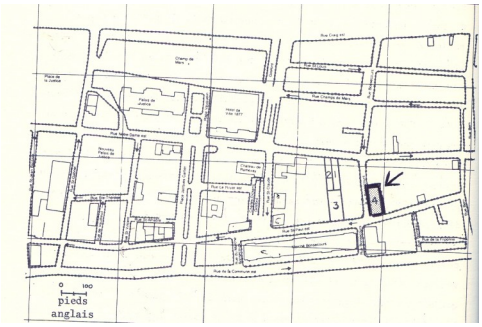
Anthoine Beaujean Enters Marie's Life

Sylvain had been gone for over a year and still Marie had received no news from him. In spite of this, Marie worked hard to make ends meet and support her young children by operating the tavern. In Sylvain's absence, every day she met many young men all too happy to protect and court her. Lonely and distressed at the thought her husband might be dead and never return, in a moment of depression, she even considered becoming a nun. But one day, a young ploughman named Anthoine Beaujean, a client of the tavern who was living in nearby Côte Saint-Martin showed up and convinced her not to take such a drastic step. Instead, to the Brazeau family's shame, Marie took him as her lover. Anthoine pledged to marry her if her husband never returned.

During this time, Marie was working hard to earn a living and ensure the well-being of her three children. With Sylvain gone, her responsibilities and family obligations were numerous and she did not hesitate to bring customers to court for not paying their bills. However, she was unable to pay back the 132-pound debt for which she and Sylvain had mortgaged their assets to cover his initial passage to New France.

(2) In all fairness to the Iroquois, this raid was in retaliation to treachery on the part of Denonville, the French Governor, who under the guise of a peace conference held at Fort Frontenac in August 1687 captured about forty Iroquois and sent them to the galley in France. Ref. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lachine_massacre

Marie was forced to turn to her father for help, and despite his humiliation and shock at Marie's behaviour, he agreed to pay the debt for his daughter.



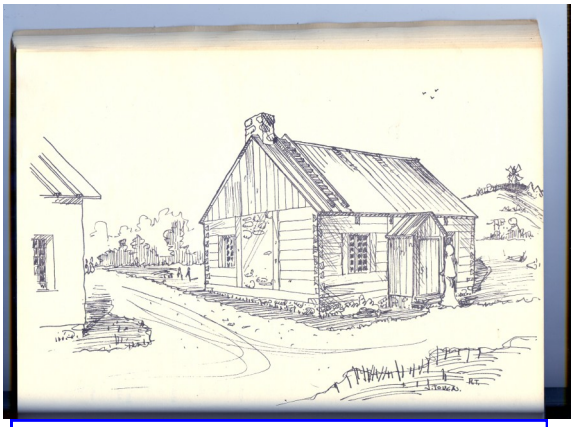
Still without news from her husband Sylvain, and despite Anthoine's promises of marriage, Marie felt she needed to financially establish herself more securely. So she applied, as she had done the year before, for a parcel of land located near the chapel of Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours. This time her application was accepted and, on July 20, 1690, she signed a contract in her name and that of Sylvain Guérin for a lot next to those of her father and of her brother Charles. For unknown reasons, in this instance, Marie declared she did not know how to write and sign her name, which had never been the case before, nor was it ever after.

Marie's relationship with Anthoine Beaujean continued. In August 1690, Anthoine Beaujean's sister asked Marie to be her newborn daughter's godmother, an indication, if any, that she waswell accepted by the Beaujean family. Unavoidably, Marie became pregnant and, on July 7, 1691, she gave birth to Anthoine's son, Antoine.

Soon, two somber events altered the course of events in Marie's life. On July 22, baby Antoine died and stories of Sylvain Guérin's death in France began to circule in Montreal. It was rumored that Sylvain had been condemned for bigamy and hung in Amboise. This brought shock and shame to Marie and her family!

This rumor, the death of his son and no doubt family pressures must have put off Anthoine Beaujean, whose presence became increasingly rare. And so Marie Brazeau found herself once again alone without her husband or a lover. But Marie had no time to feel sorry for herself. Surviving in Montreal in those years was difficult enough. This was made no easier when, humiliated by Marie's general behavior and her affair with Anthoine, Marie's father estranged her form the family.

Nicolas saw that she was borrowing a lot of money to repair the new house built on the lot next to his and to buy supplies for her tavern and other businesses. Indeed,



Drawing of Marie's house (Jacques Tougas, arch.)

during a four-day period, he discovered that Marie had borrowed over 385 pounds, all the while not reimbursing him the 132-pound debt for her husband's passage to New France. In January 1692, Nicolas decided to demand, before the bailiff, immediate repayment of his loan. A sheepish Marie recognized her debt to her father but requested that she be allowed to delay payment until Sylvain's return to Montreal. This was a crafty response on her part because she knows quite well that Sylvain will probably never return from France. However, to show her good will, she agreed to immediately pay interest on her father's loan.

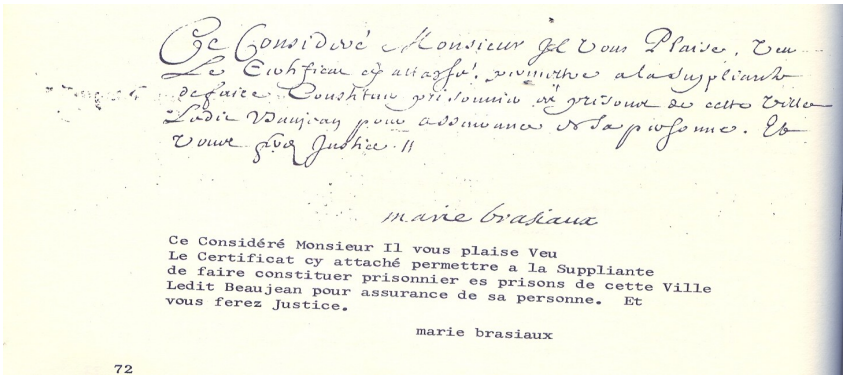
That summer, Anthoine Beaujean started visiting Marie Brazeau's tavern again and publicly courted the young woman. She was no doubt still quite taken by him and his promise of marrying her as soon as her husband's death was confirmed. Anthoine liked to party with his friends at the tavern and Marie extended him credit. In love, lonely and estranged from her family and friends so she allowed him in her bed again. In July of 1692, she tells him that she is pregnant. He pressed to undergo an abortion but she refused, all the while continuing to try to please her Anthoine by extending him and his friends wine, liquor, food and shelter. Again, in late August, after making love, she reminded Anthoine that she was pregnant and that he needed to take responsibility for their child. At this time, he told Marie that he could no longer wait until the fate of Sylvain Guérin was known so he was going to marry someone else. Marie was devastated. Anthoine Beaujean had been her hope to re-establish herself and start over again.

To add to her misery, she received tragic news in the fall of 1692, news that disrupted her life completely. Philippe Pasquier, an apprentice hatmaker from Quebec, who had just returned from France, informed her that he had met Sylvain Guérin's mother in Amboise and his wife - yes his wife! – a woman he had married in Germany some time before coming to Canada in 1685. After spending three years with Marie Brazeau in Montreal, Sylvain had returned to Germany and then to Amboise with his German wife. Knowing that he already had a wife in Canada and

because she was ill-treated, Sylvain's German wife reported Sylvain to the local authorities. Pasquier told Marie that Guérin had been condemned to hang in Amboise for bigamy. He was appealing his sentence but his chances of being successful were few. This brought further humiliation and shame to Marie.

At this point, old Nicolas Brazeau was furious. He could no longer just sit still and wait. He wanted to find out for sure what was happening with his son-in-law, a rumoured fast-talker and womanizer, whom he was beginning to fear had cheated him out of a lot of money. The honour of Nicolas and that of his family were at stake. Angry, Nicolas sailed to France in the late summer of 1692 with the intention of learning the truth about Sylvain Guérin. Also, because he now saw Canada as his home country, he wanted to take this opportunity to settle any outstanding affairs.

Marie Brazeau was equally furious and was not about to take her ex-lover Anthoine Beaujean's betrayal laying down, especially after receiving a notice from the bailiff that her assets were to be seized for having failed to pay her numerous creditors. On August 27, 1692, Marie was dispossessed of her modest home. She could not turn to her father for help because he was away in France. So, she turned to her two brothers, Nicolas and Charles, who agreed to lodge and feed her three children and herself. Marie was proud and would not accept charity so she pledged to pay them back. But for the time being, she was with child, deep in debt and had no way of ensuring her family's subsistence.



Ce Considéré Monsieur Il vous plaise Veu
Le Certificat cy attaché permettre a la Suppliante
de faire constituer prisonnier es prisons de cette Ville
Ledit Beaujean pour assurance de sa personne. Et
vous ferez Justice.

marie brasiaux

72

Marie Fights Back

However, Marie Brazeau, was a resourceful woman. She conceived of a strategy that would at least help her support Beaujean's child when he or she was born. After seeking council, she decided to appeal to the courts even if it meant exposing her

private life to all. She prepared her case and, on October 30, 1692, she submitted a request to the bailiff explaining that, through a weakness of her sex, she was unfortunate enough to have let herself be seduced by Anthoine Beaujean under the belief that her husband was dead and that Anthoine would marry her. As a result of this belief, a child has been born of this union the previous year but had lived only 15 days. She went on to explain that her husband Sylvain Guérin, whom she married in Amboise in 1679, had married another woman in Germany before joining her in New France where he had lived with her about three years, before sailing back to Europe to reunite with his German wife. Marie Brazeau further explained that, since Anthoine Beaujean repeatedly promised to marry her as soon as official news of her husband's death came, she let herself be seduced once more by him and was again with his child. She concluded by saying that because Anthoine persisted in not fulfilling his promise of marriage and now intended to marry someone else, she had no choice in order to recover her honour but to sue him for breach of promise of marriage.

During the ensuing interrogation by the judge, Beaujean denied he was the father of the baby Marie Brazeau was expecting. He even had his mother speak on his behalf and insinuated that Marie "knew" other men. However, the judge was not convinced. When Marie gave birth to her son Joseph on March 17, 1693, the court ruled that Anthoine would have to pay 60 pounds in child support for his son. Unfortunately, the payment never came because he was killed on May 23, 1693 by the Iroquois.

Marie Brazeau owed a lot of money to her brothers, to merchants, to tradesmen and to her father, who had since returned from France with confirmation of Sylvain Guérin's death. She worked hard to feed her four children, yet she was forced to declare bankruptcy. Marie's house was auctioned off to reimburse all of her creditors (3). However, the sale still left her with a substantial amount of debt. Although Marie was courageous, hard working and honest, she was dispossessed of her belongings, loaded with family responsibilities, at odds with her family, and had to face the hardships of living in Montreal in the late 17th century. So, not

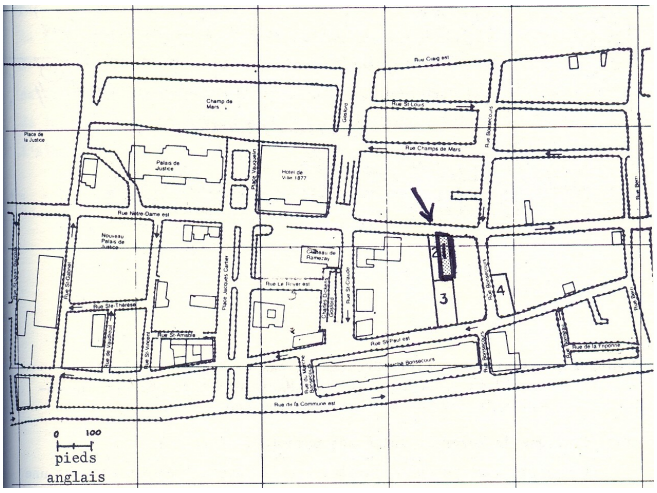
(3) Interestingly, her father Nicolas ends up owning the house as partial payment of Marie's debt

surprisingly, for comfort no doubt, romance and love, she had another affair that led to another pregnancy. This time, with her father's complicity or perhaps under pressure from him, Marie decided to leave Montreal for some time in order to hide her third pregnancy out of wedlock. She gave birth to a little girl, Angélique, on March 1, 1695 in Québec City.

Marie's Father Disinherits Her

This latest development was beyond what Nicolas Brazeau could endure. On December 1, 1695, he had the notary draw up a deed to disinherit his daughter who has brought so much shame to his family. Heavy-hearted, Charles and Nicolas, Marie's brothers signed the document as well.

However, having slept on his decision and likely regretting his harshness, the very next day, old Nicolas went back before the notary with his wife Perrine, and their daughter Marie. Nicolas wanted to donate a parcel of land to Marie, contiguous to the family properties in Bon Secours parish. But Marie, perhaps in a moment of pride refused and chose instead to sign a nine-year lease for a very low rent.



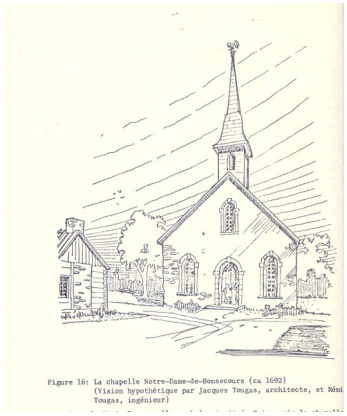
In spite of Marie's choice to rent the property rather than receive it as a gift, Nicolas donated the lot to Marie as was indicated in a counter-letter saying that " the truth, nevertheless, is that the said parcel of land belongs to said Marie their daughter as they have donated it to her". In all appearances, by officially and publicly disinheriting his daughter, Nicolas wanted for all to see his anger and rejection of Marie's behaviour and his great resolve to protect his family's reputation, while privately, still supporting his daughter. On the other hand, Marie, having already lost a house to bankruptcy, knew hardship can happen. Thus, by refusing to own a parcel of land, she was actually protecting her family's heritage.

Over the next two years, Marie worked hard at rebuilding a more stable and financially viable life. She decided, as was custom in New France in the 17th century, to "hire out" for six years her son Antoine (Sylvain Guérin's child) then nine years old, to a said Roy, who would provide her son room and board and teach him a trade. In addition, in the spring of 1697, she married off her daughter Marie Guérin. Finally, in September 1697, she was able to pay off the last of her debts to both her father and brothers. What a relief!

Guillaume Tougard and Marie Brazeau

Years of Happiness

Guillaume and Marie, the newlywed couple loved each other deeply and looked to the future with hope. Christmas 1698 was no doubt one of the happiest Christmases in many years for Marie. The couple's relationship with Marie's father and mother had also become quite close again. Out of affection for Perrine, Marie's mother, and asking for nothing in return (although there might have been an inheritance issue as we'll see a bit further on), in the presence of the notary, on February 9, 1699, Guillaume Tougard and Marie Brazeau committed to "feed and care for Perrine Billard in her old age whether in good health or in illness". The old woman moved in with them, whereas Nicolas father, who was still able to work and fare for himself, moved in with his son Charles (who also signed a deed to care for his father in his old age). On the same occasion, Guillaume and Marie promised to have a low mass said for the repose of Perrine's soul, each year, for perpetuity, on the anniversary of her death. This was a touching and costly gesture (20 pounds goes to the parish) however it was in line with the religious customs of the times.



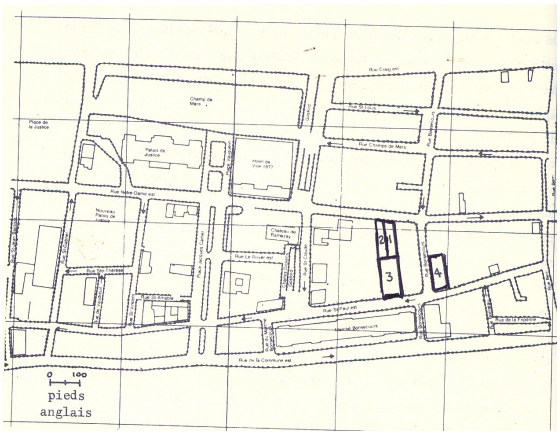
Drawing of Marie's house across from Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours chapel (Jacques Tougas, arch.)

Guillaume and Marie's "Family Life"

The same day that Guillaume and Marie committed to caring for Marie's mother, the couple bought from Marie's parents a long list of common household items. In addition, Guillaume bought from his father-in-law a log house, twenty-two feet by

eighteen, covered with wooden planks and with a lime-stone fire place located on Saint-Paul street just across Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Secours Chapel (4). Guillaume Tougard paid cash for all of this, which indicated that he had plenty of work in those days and was making enough money, not only to support the couple's livelihood, but also to acquire property and invest. Thus, Guillaume and Marie became the proud owners of a house, albeit small, but their own. Marie, abandoning the frivolous lifestyle she had led just a few years previously, became the wife of a young stable "homesteader" who assured her of a normal family life.

Once she had settled in as a model wife and that she was expecting Guillaume Tougard's child, in February 1699, Marie's parents, who obviously approved of Guillaume and appreciated his good influence on their daughter proceeded to revoke the December 1, 1695 deed that disinherited Marie and reinstated her status as their heir along with her two brothers.



A few months later, on Tuesday April 28, 1699, Guillaume Tougard was back in the notary's office, this time with his brother-in-law, Charles Brazeau, to officialise the sale by Charles to Guillaume of a parcel of land in Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours (# 2 on the map) contiguous to Marie's leased lot (# 1 on the map) and property owned by Marie's parents (# 3 on the map) and across the street from the couple's small house (# 4 on the map). It is surprising to note that Marie Brazeau was absent for the signing of this deed. It was not her practice to miss such events. She must have a good reason to stay home. Perhaps her pregnancy was beginning to show. In fact, seven month later, on September 29th, Guillaume's and Marie's first son was born and christened Guillaume.

A year later, on November 5, 1700, Marie Brazeau met with her parents Nicolas and Perrine in the notary's office to officialise an exchange of property they had been contemplating for some time. Interestingly, Guillaume was absent so Marie promised to seek and obtain Guillaume's signature on the contract. With what we

(4) This is in fact the house Marie had built on the lot acquired in 1690, that was auctioned off to repay her debts and ended up belonging to her father Nicolas (#4 on the map).

know of Marie Brazeau by now, it's quite obvious that this would not be difficult for her. Thus, Marie's father exchanged half a parcel of land (part of # 3 on the map), a house, a shop and other buildings in return for the house Marie and Guillaume Tougard bought from him two years before. (# 4 on the map). Marie's father planned to use the small house for his trade. This property exchange allowed Nicolas to leave his son Charles' home to move into the bigger house now owned by Guillaume and Marie and reunite with his wife Perrine.

The winter of 1700-1701 had been a difficult one. The bills were piling up and Marie was expecting Guillaume's second child. On March 14, 1701, the Tougards acknowledged that they owed 205 pounds and 18 sols to Jean Soumande, a merchant. In June, when their daughter Marie-Anne was born, they asked Jean Soumande's wife to be godmother. Was this to give themselves a bit of respite in paying back their debt? Did the merchant's wife accept to make sure her husband would be paid more promptly? Or were they simply friends? The motivations of both parties were unclear.

Probably for the same financial reasons Marie had "hired out" her son Antoine Guérin a few years before, she decided to "hire out" her eight year old son, Joseph, (Anthoine Beaujean's child) to Jacques Gobe. As she had done for Antoine, she ensured that Joseph would be "humanely" cared for and be taught a trade.

Though Marie's father had reinstated Marie back in February 1699 as one of his heirs. However, the issue of the leased/donated parcel of land was still pending (5). So, on November 2, 1701, Marie's father went back before the notary with his wife Perrine and Guillaume and Marie to officially register the donation. The relationship between Marie and her parents, following her marriage to Guillaume, had clearly turned around and brought them very close to one another. On August 17, 1702, the notary was invited to Guillaume's and Marie's home to write up a new deed in

(5) Refers to the counter-letter mentioned previously.

which Marie's father committed to spending the rest of his life living with his daughter and son-in-law Guillaume Tougard all the while "practicing his trade as wheelwright and any other activity". For their part, Marie and Guillaume pledged to "feed and care for Nicolas whether in health or in illness until his death", as they did previously for Perrine, Marie's mother. In addition, Nicolas bequeaths to the Tougards all of his furniture indicating, however, that they may dispose of it only after his death. The father is fully aware of his daughter's venturesome personality.

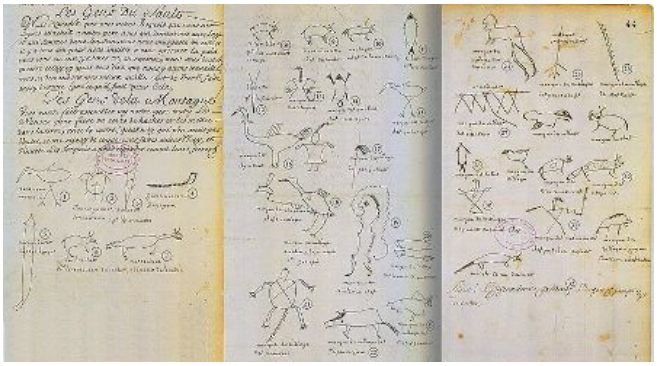
Wheelwright shop (Witheridge historical archive.com)

Guillaume, the Wheelwright

As stated in Marie's and Guillaume's marriage contract (November 9, 1698), Marie's father was to teach his trade to his son-in-law. However, little progress had been made over the last four years in Guillaume learning the trade. Nicolas pledged once again to teach Guillaume the trade of wheelwright until he mastered it. They agreed that at the end of each work week, Nicolas would receive 50 sols for his training and when working together as wheelwright, any income earned by Guillaume would be shared equally between the two men. Guillaume committed to supplying the wood. It was quite obvious that they both took this contract seriously and that Guillaume really wanted to learn the trade.

So it was settled. Nicolas Brazeau and Perrine Billard would spend the rest of their lives living with their daughter Marie, their son-in-law Guillaume and their grand-children. The days when Marie was disinherited by her parents for her questionable conduct were far gone, to say the least.

French Roots - the Tougas in America

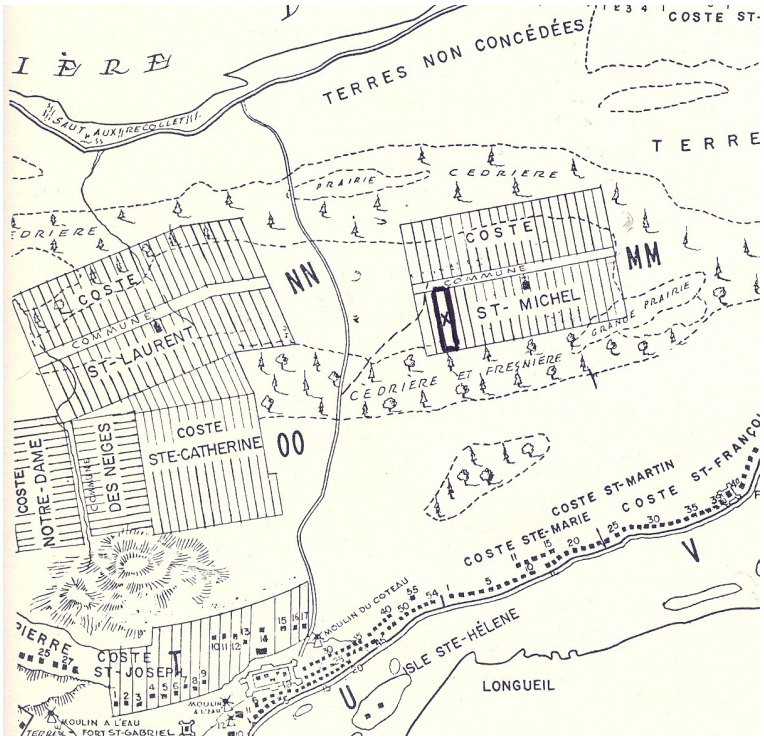


Copy of original treaty with pictograms (Wikipedia)

At Peace with First Nations People

On august 4, 1701, a general peace treaty was signed between the French and the First Nations. The residents of Ville-Marie, now the political center of north-eastern America, paused to witness this grand event. The great assembly planned by Callière and Vaudreuil opened on July 25. More than 1300 Amerindians representing all First Nations (Abenakis, Hurons, Outaouais, Iroquois, Miamis, Sauteux, etc.) camped on the outskirts of the city for ten days. All went well—the Peace Treaty of 1701 was a triumph.

The peace treaty facilitated homesteading, trade and exploration by the French. From March to September 1700, the religious order of the Sulpicians had granted 19 homesteads west of the mountain in Côte Saint-Laurent. That part of the island of Montreal was fast becoming a settlement of farmers whereas the first population clusters to settle on the island had been outposts and trade posts.

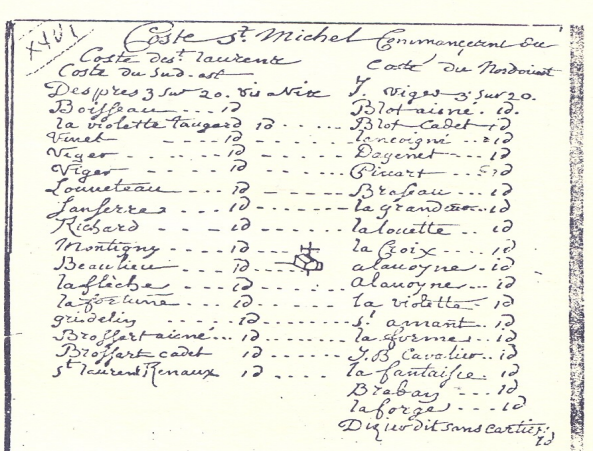


Guillaume's land marked with an X on the map

Marie and Guillaume discussed it, talked to the Brazeaus' about it and on September 15, 1702, Guillaume Tougard applied for and was granted a homestead in Côte Saint-Michel (6).

(6) Today, this piece of land would be locaded in Saint-Michel neighborhood, just south of the Metropolitain boulevard between 15th and 17th avenue in Montreal.

Farming, in addition to practicing his trade, would allow for a better and more stable living for both his wife and children and Marie's parents. Because he was a hard worker, enterprising and encouraged to do this by his wife Marie, Guillaume was ready to take on the challenge of clearing and farming a plot in Côte Saint-Michel.


Coste St. Michel Commencement du
Coste des St. Laurents
Coste du Nord-ouest
Coste du Sud-est
Despres 3 sur 20. dit Nitre
Boyseau ... id
la violette Tougard id
Viger ... id
Viger ... id
Louveteau ... id
Lanferres ... id
Richard ... id
Montigny ... id
Beaulieu ... id
la fleche ... id
la fortune ... id
griselin ... id
Broffart aisné ... id
Broffart cadet id
St Laurent Renaux id
J. Viger 3 sur 20.
Blot aisné id
Blot Cadet id
Lenoigné id
Bogenet id
Picart id
Brasseau id
la grandeur id
la louette id
la Croix id
alauoyne id
alauoyne id
la violette id
St armant id
la ferme id
J.B. Cavalier id
la fantaisie id
Brabay id
la forge id
Dix arpents dit sans cartier

On October 15, 1702, precisely a month after the homestead was granted, a map of the homesteads was drawn up at the request of the Lords of the Island of Montreal. The names of Guillaume (Tougard dit Laviollette) and of Nicolas Brazeau, his brother-in-law, both appeared on it. Guillaume's land was the third from the left on the south side of the common and measured 3 X 20 arpents (7).

Good but Difficult Tmes

Life in Montreal in the early 1700s was full of hardship. Money was tight and food expensive, and there were frequent epidemics. Yet, the Tougards had a good life. Marie was happy. She was working hard, of course, but her husband Guillaume was there to support and encourage her, and her children were healthy. The couple owned a house in Bon-Secours neighbourhood, they were clearing farm land in Côte Saint-Michel and, while Guillaume was practicing his trade as wheelwright with the help of his father-in-law, Marie did the household chores for family members and strangers, all the while raising her children and running the tavern.

The Tougards were working hard and long hours and, because times were difficult then, they often found themselves in court to settle debts or before the notary to write up agreements between family members, sign deeds for the sale of land, or register a newborn child. These official documents have provided an idea of how ordinary life was then for our ancestors.

(7)A [unit of land] area equal to about 0.845 acre, traditionally used in France, Quebec and Louisiana. Also a unit of length [equal to] approximately 191.8 feet (180 old French 'pied', or foot).

Marie Brazeau and Guillaume Tougard's third child, Marie (named as Marie's first daughter with Sylvain Guérin) was born February 13, 1703, only a few weeks after an outbreak of a smallpox epidemic that killed over 1 000 people in Montreal. Fortunately, the Tougards were spared for which they thanked God, Religion was an omnipresent part of life in New France in the early 1700s. The prominent role of religion is demonstrated bay a July 10, 1703 declaration drawn up by the notary in the Tougard home on St-Paul Street in which Guillaume and Marie solemnly pledged to have two low masses said every year for perpetuity, one on the day of the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene and the other on All Saints Day, for the repose of the souls of Nicolas Brazeau's father and mother (8) as " they are awaiting in purgatory their entry into Heaven". And to ensure the perpetuity of these masses, Marie's father had the notary record that upon his own death these two masses would apply for the repose of his own soul. This declaration, it was mentioned, was "in consideration of the deep friendship" the Tougards held for the Brazeaus. Was it not for the final short sentence mentioning that Marie's father was giving them fifty pounds to "seal the deal", this would be a pure example of Christian charity.

On November 21, 1704, Marie Brazeau gave birth to her fourth child with Guillaume, a son, they named Gabriel. Unfortunately, Marie's father passed away before meeting his grand-son. Although, no official record of his death in New France was found, one can conclude, from a May 23, 1704 court appearance by Guillaume and Marie regarding an outstanding debt owed to Marie's father, that Nicolas Brazeau had passed away at some point before then.

The outstanding debt involved a woman named Jeanne Bardet who owed Nicolas Brazeau sixty pounds in Old France currency, as recorded on January 15, 1693 by a notary in Paris. The debt was still pending, so the judge ordered that the contents of a deposit box belonging to Jeanne Bardet (not present at the hearing) be sold and that Guillaume Tougard and Marie Brazeau, who had been assigned Nicolas' rights, be awarded the profits up to the amount owed Nicolas.

(8) Marie's grand-parents

Devastated by the loss of her husband and although she was loved and cared for by Marie, Guillaume and their children, on August 20, 1705, Perrine Billard, who was in her seventies, died. The passing of Marie's mother greatly saddened the family. The children missed their grand-mother and all her little attentions. However, the family could not be swayed too long by the sense of loss they felt. Life had to go on.

Save for a brief appearance in court to settle a debt on March 30, 1706, it was only when their son Charles was born on October 14, 1706, that the archives mention Guillaume Tougard and Marie Brazeau again, and a few more times, in November and December that year, to settle other financial disputes.

Because the practice of his trade in Montreal was taking more and more of Guillaume's time, he had decided the year before to sell his homestead in Côte Saint-Michel to Antoine Bourg. He had done a lot of work on it in over the last three years. Despite all of his occupations in Montreal, Guillaume had found time to clear the land, plow the soil and seed it, and to fill the attic of the rustic house he had built with wheat. The contract to sell the homestead was signed on November 13, 1705.

Guillaume had a lot of work but money was rare. The couple needed to borrow for their subsistence and despite their good faith, found it very difficult if not impossible to reimburse their debts. In order to make and supply their own cider for the tavern Marie still operated, they signed a perpetual lease for a site in an orchard belonging to Gedéon de Catalougne on July 15, 1708. They agreed to pay perpetual annuities of 7 pounds and 12 sols or an aggregated amount of 152 pounds.

Times were hard for everyone in New France. In fact, the colony was going through a monetary crisis exacerbated by an economic crisis caused by the collapse of the Compagnie de la Colonie and the resulting disorganisation of the fur trade, a vital industry in New France.

Death of Guillaume Tougard

Unexpectedly, Guillaume Tougard died in the fall of 1708. He was only 34 years old. He left behind his wife Marie Brazeau, who would always remember the ten years of stability and happiness she had shared with him, and six young children all in good health: Guillaume (9 years old), Marie-Anne (7 years old), Marie (5 ½ years old), Gabriel (4 years old), Charles (2 years old) and Pélagie (8 months old). He was buried after receiving the sacraments in the parish cemetery on September 23, 1708.

Guilaume Tougard dit Laviolette, baptized in Fatouville, Normandie, on August, 1674, had passed away. In 1695, to flee poverty and hunger, the young man enlisted as a soldier with the Troupes Franches de la Marine and came to New France. He fell in love with the country and with the vibrant and hard working Marie Brazeau. After ten years of wedlock and six children, everything came to an end; or rather, this is where it started.

Humble pioneer, his name and his bloodline live on today, more than 300 years after his death. Thank you Guillaume Tougard, the first to carry our name in Canada.

Life Goes On

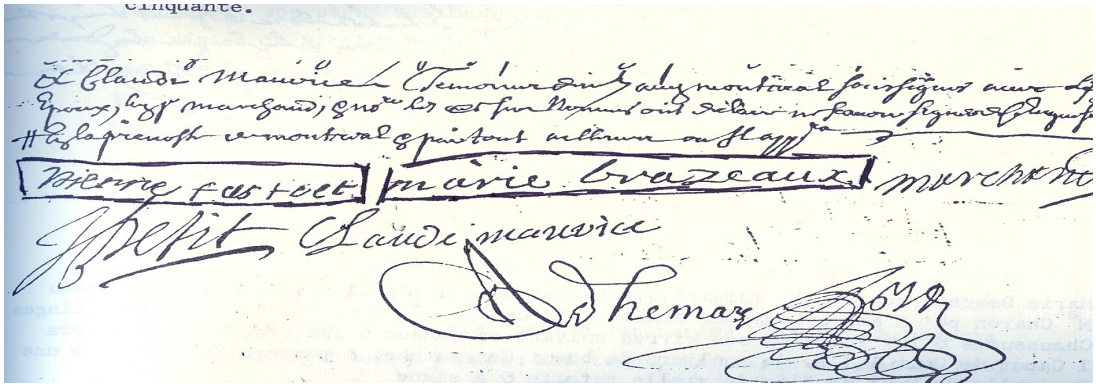
Marie Brazeau had to quickly dry her tears and double her efforts in order to survive and feed her family in Montreal, a frontier town, where there was no protection for the weak. She was very vigilant and closely monitored her interests, going before the courts to obtain justice each time she felt she was wronged. On September 17, 1709, Marie was back in court to claim 30 pounds owed her by Jacques Chevalier, represented by his wife. The judge ruled in Marie's favor. However, the end of the transcript showed how life was hard in Montreal in the early 1700's: everything that had some value was disputed and claimed. Thus, Marie Brazeau was ordered to return an ax that Guillaume, her late husband, had borrowed from Chevalier.

As she had done in the past, Marie resorts to “hire out” her son Guillaume Tougard, who is 10 ½ years old, to the widow Marie Guertin, for three years. The usual terms applied: Guillaume was to accomplish all the work required by the widow Guertin “that he is capable of doing”(9). He was to serve her faithfully and to warn her should he become aware of wrongdoings against her interests. As to the widow, she was to treat him humanely and provide him with food, clothing and shoes in accordance to his status.

Marie Brazeau, despite having “hired out” her eldest sons and married off her daughter, still had five mouths to feed at home. She needed to earn a living. She had been operating more or less officially a tavern over the past twenty years and thus decided to obtain a license, which was delivered and registered in the Clerk’s office of Montreal on February 6, 1711. In fact, on November 12, 1711, she was again in the notary’s office with an innkeeper from Laprairie, who agreed to pay 200 pounds and four bushels of wheat delivered to Marie’s house for two and a half barrels of cider. The Tougard’s investment in the orchard in 1708 was a wise decision.

Marie Marries Again and Then Again

The tavern was an ideal place to meet a lot of people, in particular soldiers and people traveling through on their way to the Great Lakes. This is no doubt where Marie Brazeau met Didier Bourgouin, a demobilized soldier with the Company of Montigny. Did he sweep her off her feet or, knowing Marie, did she? No matter. They



(9) This was an important disposition as Guillaume was only 10 years old.

were married in Quebec City on October 29, 1712, in the parish church of Notre-Dame de Québec and returned to live in Montreal.

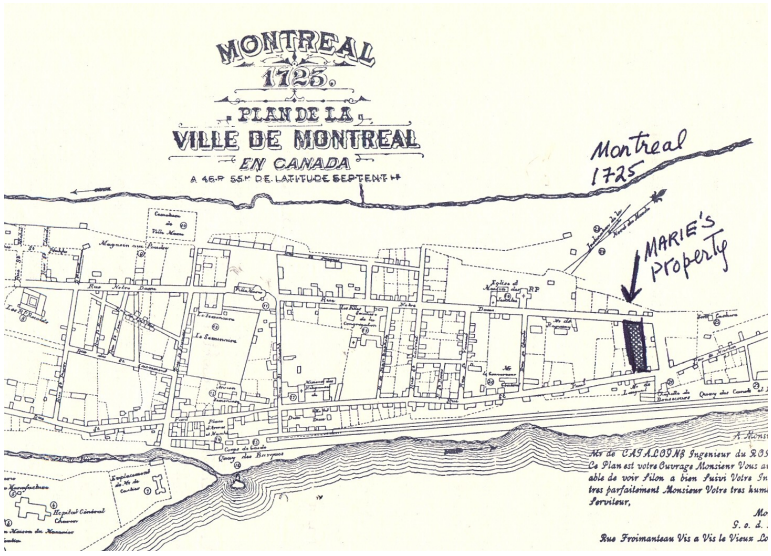
Unfortunately, Marie's marriage with Didier was short-lived as he died in the beginning of 1713. Once again, she was left to fare on her own for her family. However, soon after, she met Pierre Tastet dit Francoeur, another soldier, and whether out of friendship, love, necessity or vested interest, she married him on June 18, 1713. He was 46 years old and Marie was 50.

Her Children's Well-Being

As always, Marie was concerned for the well-being of her children. Thus, a list of all of her personal assets and those acquired through her union with her late husbands (Guillaume Tougard and Didier Bourgouin) was drawn and attached to the marriage contract for the purposes of her estate should her death occur before the death of her new husband. In addition, the contract stated that Marie (10 years old) and Pélagie (5 years old), both Guillaume Tougard's daughters, would be cared for by the couple until age 15. As for her two young boys, Gabriel (8 years old) and Charles (6 years old), she must have been thinking of hiring them out as she had done with her other sons. In fact, on the same day, she had another contract drawn-up by the notary. Her son Guillaume's engagement with the widow Guertin being finished, she then hired him out for five years to her brother Nicolas Brazeau who, in return for his services, agreed to teach him the trade of wheelwright. And so Guillaume Jr., as his father Guillaume Tougard and his grand-father Nicolas Brazeau before him, was to become a wheelwright. Interestingly, in this engagement contract, Marie requested that the notary write that her brother would treat Guillaume humanely and "gently", a touching attention for Guillaume Tougard's eldest son.

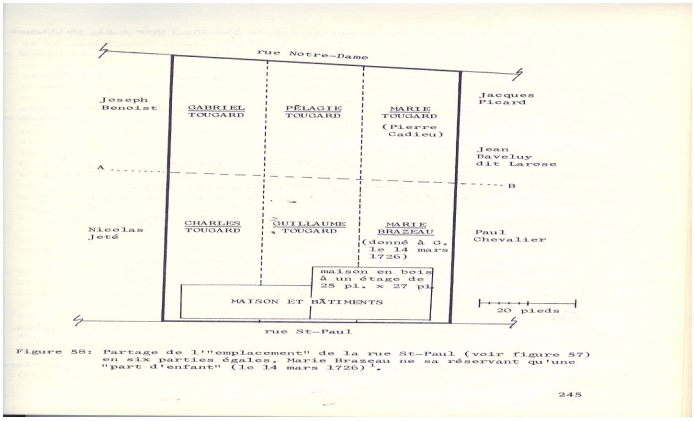
Life in Canada proved to be extremely difficult in 1714. Agriculture was in decline and there was not enough bread for the colony. There was even a small riot in Québec City at the end of August that year to protest against the high cost of food and other products. Marie and her husband, like everyone else, were having trouble making ends meet. On April 12, 1715, they signed before the notary a written acknowledgement of debt to different creditors for 286 pounds and 17 sols, a debt Marie Brazeau is committed to reimburse.

However, on April 11, 1716, her 4th husband, François Tastet dit Francoeur died. Marie, now 54 years old, was again widowed. From that point, her children became the center of her life. She married off Anne Tougard (Marie-Anne) on November 15, 1716 to Daniel Gélino. It appears that this was the first time an official document from that period shows the name Tougas spelled with an "s". She hired out her son Gabriel, now 14 years old, for six years with Jacques Dielle, who would teach him the trade of edgetool maker. However, becoming an edgetool maker might not have been what Gabriel Tougas had hoped for or maybe Jacque Dielle had passed away. In any case, 27 months later, on March 24, 1721, his mother appeared before the notary to hire him out as an apprentice shoemaker. Later, in November that year, she attended her son Joseph "*Guérin's*" wedding. Actually, Joseph was Anthoine Beaujean's child, but because he was born out of wedlock he was given an "honorable" identity for posterity. On November 4, 1725, Marie married off another of her daughters, Marie Tougas.



Division of the Tougard Property

Eighteen years after Guillaume Tougard passed away, Marie Brazeau decided, at the age of 64, that then was the time to divide her property owned in community with Guillaume Tougard amongst their five living children (Marie-Anne died at 18 years old in 1719). On March 14, 1726, the whole family met before the notary for the distribution of the property: a lot located in Ville-Marie (Montreal) between Saint-Paul Street and Notre-Dame Street with 60 feet of frontage on both streets, divided in six equal parts. Marie had first choice and the remaining parts were distributed by drawing lots, as was the custom in New France at that time for the distribution of property in community. Under this system, whatever buildings were on a lot would also go to the child having drawn that part.



In addition to distributing the property owned in community, a list of the "community's" debts was drawn which amounted to 674 pounds. Guillaume, as head of the family, paid from his pocket 357 pounds right then and there. His co-heirs were then required to each reimburse him 59 pound 10 sols. Because Pélagie is only 10 years old, Guillaume took on her part of the debt, an indication of the closeness of the family ties.

Once the distribution of the property was completed, the notary then drew the deed of gift from Marie Brazeau to her son Guillaume Tougard of the piece of land she had been allotted in exchange for which, Guillaume would lodge, feed and care for her for the rest of her life and see to it that she was properly buried. In addition, should Marie not be comfortable or happy living with Guillaume, she retained the right to move out and be given a reasonable pension by her son. Evidently, for Marie, her independence was of outmost importance.

Weddings and Tragic Events

Marie Brazeau succeeded in nurturing a close relationship between the members of her family. Thus, when Guillaume her eldest son was married, in Longueuil on November 4, 1727, although she was not present, the family was well represented by her two brothers Nicolas and Charles Brazeau, her sons Joseph (Guérin), Charles and Gabriel, and her daughters Pélagie and Angélique (Guérin). On June 12, 1730, it was Pélagie's turn to get married; she was 22 years old. On May 18, 1733, Charles was married in Laprairie and despite her age, Marie Brazeau attended the celebration accompanied by Joseph. On August 31 of the same year, it was Gabriel Tougard's turn to get married.

The tragic events that followed affected deeply Marie Brazeau, who by then was in her seventies. Charles' wife died on April 11, 1734 after giving birth to a little boy. Within a month, Guillaume's wife died on May 6, a few months after the death of

their youngest daughter, leaving behind two young children. Then, on July 13, Charles new-born son dies and scarcely 9 months later, Gabriel's first son dies at birth. Over that year, her family suffered great losses that ultimately weakened Marie. She died on May 29, 1735 at 73 years old.

Epilogue

In comparison to Marie Brazeau's flamboyance and colourfulness, Guillaume Tougard was calm and reserved and, as many of his family descendants today, he was a discreet man, honest, applied himself at his work and did not look to assert himself. One senses that Guillaume was a timid man. Despite his premature death at 34 years old, during the ten years he shared with Marie Brazeau and with her precious support, he laid modest yet durable foundations for their descendants. After the hardships of Old France, he discovered Canada as a soldier to begin with and then learned to love his new land through his trade as a wheelwright and a settler. Attracted by the charm and overwhelming vitality of Marie Brazeau, he brought calm, serenity and peace to her life, for which she was immensely grateful. Despite being opposites, they were committed to one another. They had six children together, almost with the regularity of a pendulum, all of them surviving into adulthood.

	Baptism (b)	**Wedding (w)**	**Burial (b^u)**
Guillaume	Sept. 9, 1699 Montreal	1) Nov. 1, 1727 – Longueuil Marie-Reine Viau 2) Nov. 25, 1739 – Boucherville Marie-Anne Quintal	Dec. 6, 1756 – Longueuil 57 years old
Marie-Anne	June 27, 1702 Montreal	Nov. 15, 1716 – Montreal Daniel Gélinot	March 16, 1719 Montreal 18 years old
Marie	Feb. 14, 1703 Montreal	Nov. 5, 1725 – Montréal Pierre Cadieu	Oct. 29, 1767 Bout-de-l'Île 64 years old
Gabriel	Nov. 23, 1704 Montreal	Aug. 31, 1733 – Montreal Marguerite Letendre	
Charles	Oct. 16, 1706 Montreal	1) May 18, 1733 – Laprairie Marie-Suzanne Gervaise 2) Nov. 21, 1735 – Laprairie Marie Deniger	April 22, 1743 Laprairie 37 years old
Pélagie	Jan. 9, 1708 Montreal	June 12, 1730 – Montreal Pierre Leduc	

Gabriel, their fourth child, is the son who continued the family lineage up to the author of the book that is the basis and inspiration for this condensed version of our family heritage.

Family of Gabriel Tougard and Marguerite Letendre

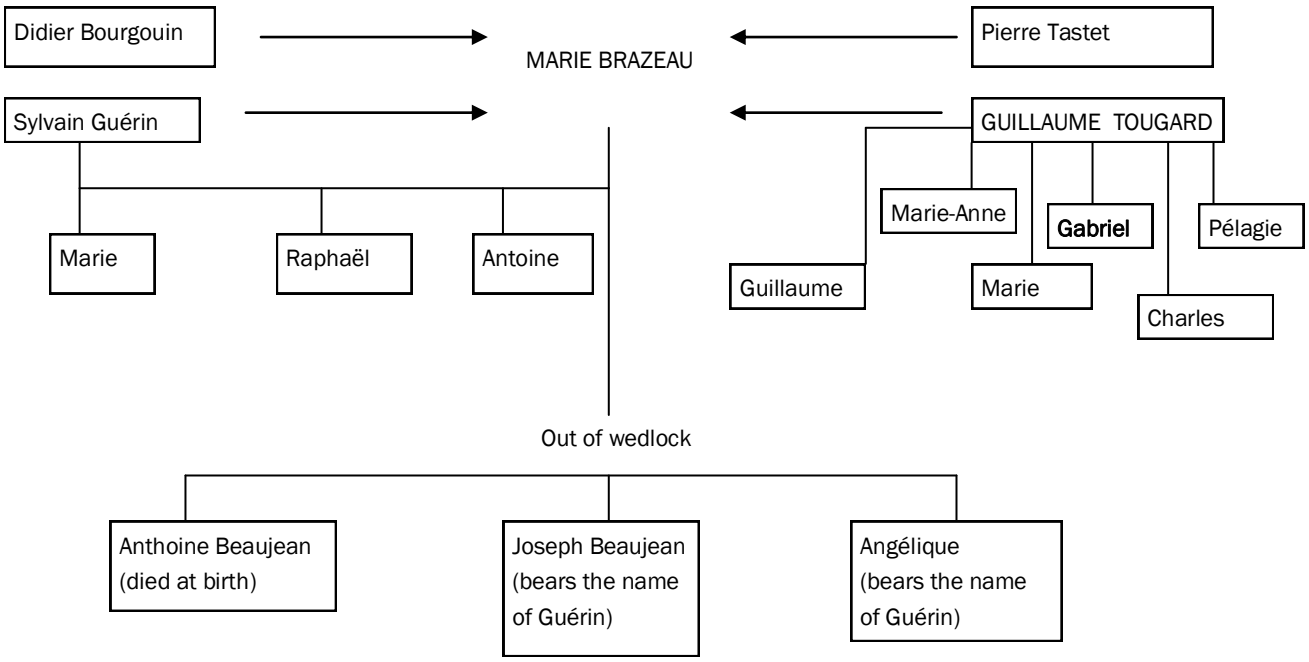
	Baptism	Wedding	Burial
Anonymous	April 4, 1735		April 4, 1735
Joseph	April 15, 1736	March 4, 1764 – Sainte-Rose Marie-Josephte Vaillancourt	Feb. 28, 1775
Louise-Catherine	April 17, 1738	Feb. 1, 1762 – Sainte-Rose Jean-Noël Migneron	
Agnès	July 12, 1739		July 23, 1739
Marie-Reine	Jan. 5, 1741	Nov. 24, 1760 – Sainte-Rose Antoine Iciate	Dec. 14, 1767
Gabriel	March 23, 1742		Jan. 13, 1744
Marie-Anne			July 26, 1746
Gabriel	May 11, 1747		June 26, 1747
Amable	Aug. 19, 1748		Sept. 3, 1748
J.-B. Amable			July 26, 1750

Summary: 10 children; 7 died at a young age; 2 daughters were married; 1 son (Joseph) was married and pursued the lineage.

Guillaume had no son who survived into adulthood. Charles is the other source of the Tougas lineage . The following numbers help to understand why there are relatively few Tougas family members today. Indeed, few boys were born in the first two Canadian generations to pass on the Tougas name:

Canadian generation	Number of children	Death at a young age	Married daughters	Married sons
1st generation (Guillaume T. and Marie B.	6	0	3	3
2nd generation	27	20	4	3

Marie Brazeau was an attractive woman who enjoyed the company of men although some of them disappointed her bitterly and hurt her deeply. Four husbands, twelve children, three of whom out of wedlock. She had four husbands and twelve children, three of whom were born out of wedlock.



At one time, she brought scandal to her family. She was then extremely alone and distraught and acted with bravado so as to keep her head above water. When close to despair, she found within herself the resolve to recover her composure and prove to all, friends and foes, that she was the strongest. Marie Brazeau was exceptional. Although a careful and smart business woman, she never owned much material goods. She left as an inheritance to her children, whether they carry the name of Guérin, Beaujean or Tougard, the meaning of work and of honor. Hard working and enterprising, she was constantly concerned with their well-being and their future. She had a certain education and was the only one in her family who could sign her name with assurance. Generally speaking, it can be said that Marie Brazeau lived in line with her time and place, in a frontier town where life was hard and without pity. She took charge of her life quickly and gave her children a solid training in human values and moral ethics.

From one generation to the next, our ancestors' heritage was passed on. Be it Guillaume's calm assurance or Marie's vibrant exuberance, inevitably both have helped shape who we are today.