



Levasseur and Carmel families

Web Capsule and Social Media



Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Richard

Author: Mr Gilles Brassard

From Guérin Boisseau Street in Paris to Quebec City:
the arrival of Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Richard in 1652



This couple arrives in Quebec City in 1651 or 1652. Their daughter Anne is born and baptized in Quebec City on July 22, 1652. Jean and Marguerite may have arrived in New France the previous year, or Marguerite may have made the crossing while pregnant in the spring of 1652.

Jehan Levasseur and **Marguerite Richard** had signed their marriage contract on April 23, 1645, before Parisian notary Jean Le Semelier. ⁽¹⁾ This contract does not reveal much more about the Levasseur family, but it does provide information that allows us to get better acquainted with Marguerite's family.

Boisseau street, parish of Saint Nicolas des Champs, and the son of the late Noël Levasseur, also a master carpenter, and the late Genevieve Gaugé. Marguerite is said to be the daughter of Nicolas Richard "when he was a master stonemason in Paris, and of the late Jeanne Bonnet." As her parents are deceased, it is her grandfather, François Bonnet, master rosary maker and glass merchant, residing on the same street, who stipulates on her behalf.

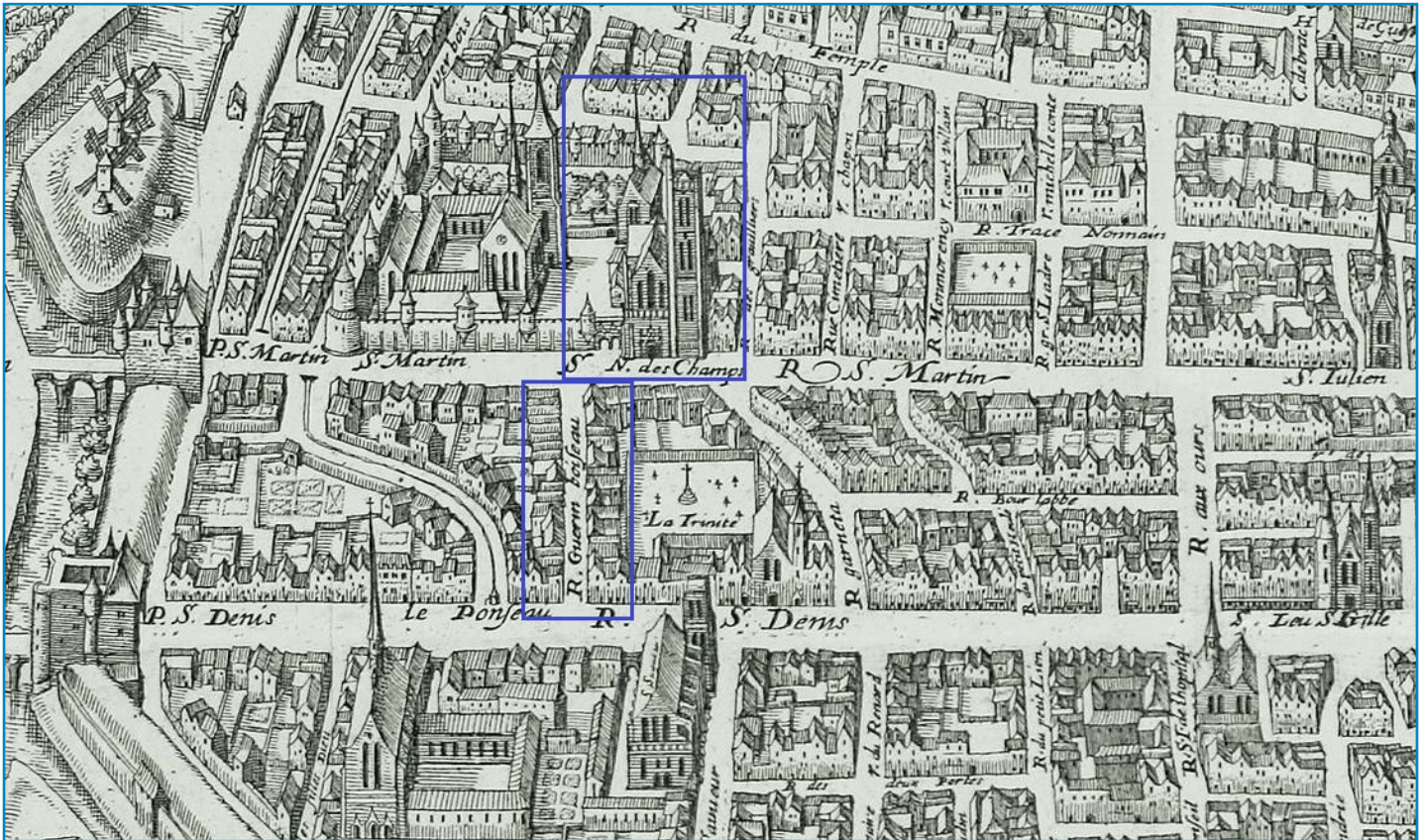


Useful Reference

This text is the translation of article no. 70, Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Richard, from Gilles Brassard's blog <https://conversationsancestres.wordpress.com/>. The article is reproduced here with the permission of the author.

The Levasseur Association of America would like to thank Mr. Brassard for allowing us to reproduce his article, which provides new information on the history of Jeanne Levasseur and Christophe Drolet.

(1) Important note: In the retranscriptions of documents, the author has retained the original spelling, expanded abbreviations, and added accents and punctuation to make the texts more readable. (As you can appreciate, this cannot be reflected in the English version)



Detail of Merian's 1615 map of Paris. I have outlined in blue the Guérin Boisseau street , where almost all of the members of the families mentioned in this article lived. The street ran from Rue Saint Denis to Rue Saint Martin. It was shortened by more than half in the 19th century, when the neighborhood was transformed by the construction of Boulevard de Sébastopol and Rue de Réaumur. Just above, I have also outlined the Church of Saint Nicolas des Champs, the parish church of the Levasseur, Richard, and Bonnet families.

Jean's witnesses are Pierre Levasseur, a fellow carpenter, his brother, Toussaint Asté, master trim maker in Paris, an uncle through his wife Marie Gaugé, Claude Dufresnoy, master locksmith in Paris, first cousin, Louis Dymier, clerk at the criminal registry of the Court of Parliament, first cousin through his wife Charlotte Levasseur, Pierre Savary, second-hand clothes merchant, second cousin once removed through his wife Marie Dufresnoy, Nicolas Danet, master cartwright, his cousin, Noël Roy, miller, cousin, Jean Hubert, master tailor, cousin through his wife Denise Lefébure. Jean bequeaths to his future wife the sum of 1,000 pounds. He signs at the end of the contract.

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.Marguerite's witnesses are Françoise Gaugé, her aunt, wife of François Bonnet, Denis and François Richard, master trimmings and button makers in Paris, paternal uncles, Léon Tarisien, master ribbon maker in Paris, uncle through is wife Marguerite Richard, Guillaume Richard, first cousin (another document tells us that he is the son of Adrian Richard), Philippe Dupille, master trimmings and button maker, Benoist Richard, master salt carrier at the Paris granary, Pierre Rade, master gilder and illuminator on copper, Nicolas Gobert,

practitioner, Robert Gobert master shoemaker, all cousins, Louis du Hamel, merchant in Paris, cousin. The groomsmen Girard Grougnes, Jean de Gastines, Nicolas (?) Desnots, and Pasquier Godemer, his friends. Marguerite brings to this union one thousand pounds on the value of a house located on Rue Guérin Boisseau, which she owns through the estate of her mother, Jeanne Bonnet. The surplus value of the house remains hers and will not be part of the union.

François Bonnet, "uncle of the said future husband" (Jean's mother, Geneviève Gaugé, is the sister of Françoise Gaugé, wife of François Bonnet), gives him the sum of 900 pounds in the form of an annuity. If Jean dies without children, the sum will go to François Bonnet or his other heirs. Françoise Gaugé gives "to the said future bride, her granddaughter" the sum of 1,200 pounds to be taken from her estate on the day of her death, unless the future bride dies without children, in which case the 1,200 pounds would go to the other heirs of Françoise.

Unfortunately, the profusion of witnesses cited in their marriage contract does not allow us to trace the spouses' ancestry much further back. By consulting a fairly large number of documents, I was able to understand the family relationships mentioned in the contract and to get a good picture of the two extended families, but I was unable to trace the ancestry of all these cousins very far back.

Marguerite's family is fairly clearly revealed in two documents.

Firstly, the inventory of her mother Jeanne Bonnet's estate after her death,. It was drawn up at the request of Nicolas Richard, her husband, on October 17, 1633, before the notary Martin Tabouret. ⁽²⁾ We learn that Marguerite had only one brother, François, who was a minor like her at the time, but the inventory gives no information about Jeanne's ancestry. Marguerite's brother François was not present at his sister's wedding. Had he died, or had he left Paris?

There is also a marriage contract between her aunt, also named Marguerite Richard, whom I will refer to as Marguerite the elder, on February 24, 1633, and Léon Tarsien, before notary Denis Camuset, which allows us to trace back an additional generation on the Richard side. ⁽³⁾

Her brother Nicolas stipulates on her behalf. Her other witnesses are 4 more brothers, Anthoine Richard, a farmer in Longvillers Boncourt, in Beauvaisis, Adrian Richard, a bourgeois from Paris, and Denis Richard, master trimmings and button maker in Paris, François Richard, a fellow trimmings and button maker, Jacques Richard, farmer, nephew (he is the son of Anthoine, named above). Marguerite the younger, wife of Jean Levasseur, therefore had at least four uncles, Adrian, Anthoine, Denis, and François, and one aunt, Marguerite.

The marriage contract between Marguerite Richard and Léon Tarsien gives the names of Marguerite's parents. It refers to the inheritance rights she holds from the estate of "the late Jehane Dupille, her mother, on the day of her death, widow of the late Pacquin (?) Richard, living father of the future bride." Pacquin Richard and Jehane Dupille are the grandparents of Marguerite Richard, wife of Jean Levasseur.

François Bonnet is present at the signing of this marriage contract; he is Nicolas Richard's father-in-law and must certainly know the other members of the family. Somewhat more surprising is that Noël Levasseur,

Jean's father, is also present. The Richard, Bonnet, and Levasseur families were therefore already acquainted in 1633, twelve years before the marriage of Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Richard.

Denis Richard, uncle of Marguerite the younger, and brother of Marguerite the elder, entered into a marriage contract with Françoise Régnier on April 2, 1630, before notary Etienne Gerbault. ⁽⁴⁾ The contract states that he is the widower of Catherine Lavenue. On October 8, 1618, Martin Ladvenu and Claude Bénédict, his wife, had made a donation to their son, Barthélémy, and their daughter Catherine, wife of Denis Richard.

The village of Longvillers Boncourt, in Beauvaisis, obviously caught my attention, and I went to consult the parish registers on the Oise Departmental Archives website. The commune changed its name after the revolution and is now called Noailles.



Map of the Diocese of Beauvais drawn up based on the memoirs of Mr. Le Scellier, advisor to the king / by Guillaume Del'Isle, 2 leagues from Beauvoisis... (Gallica) Beauvais can be seen to the north, and I have circled Longvillers, Boncourt, and Ponchon in red, just above it

Jacques Richard, son of Anthoine, (both of whom were present at the signing of the contract of Marguerite the elder and Léon Tarisien), married Jehanne Gobert on January 23, 1633, in Longvillers Boncourt. ⁽⁵⁾ Jeanne and Jacques baptized several children in the following years in the same parish. After the death of Jeanne Gobert on November 1, 1640, ⁽⁶⁾ Jacques Richard married Charlotte Thouzin on January 20, 1643, in Longvillers Boncourt. ⁽⁷⁾

Anthoine Richart, residing in Boncourt, died on January 27, 1641, and was buried in the cemetery of Longvillers. ⁽⁸⁾ He must have been the brother of Marguerite, the elder.

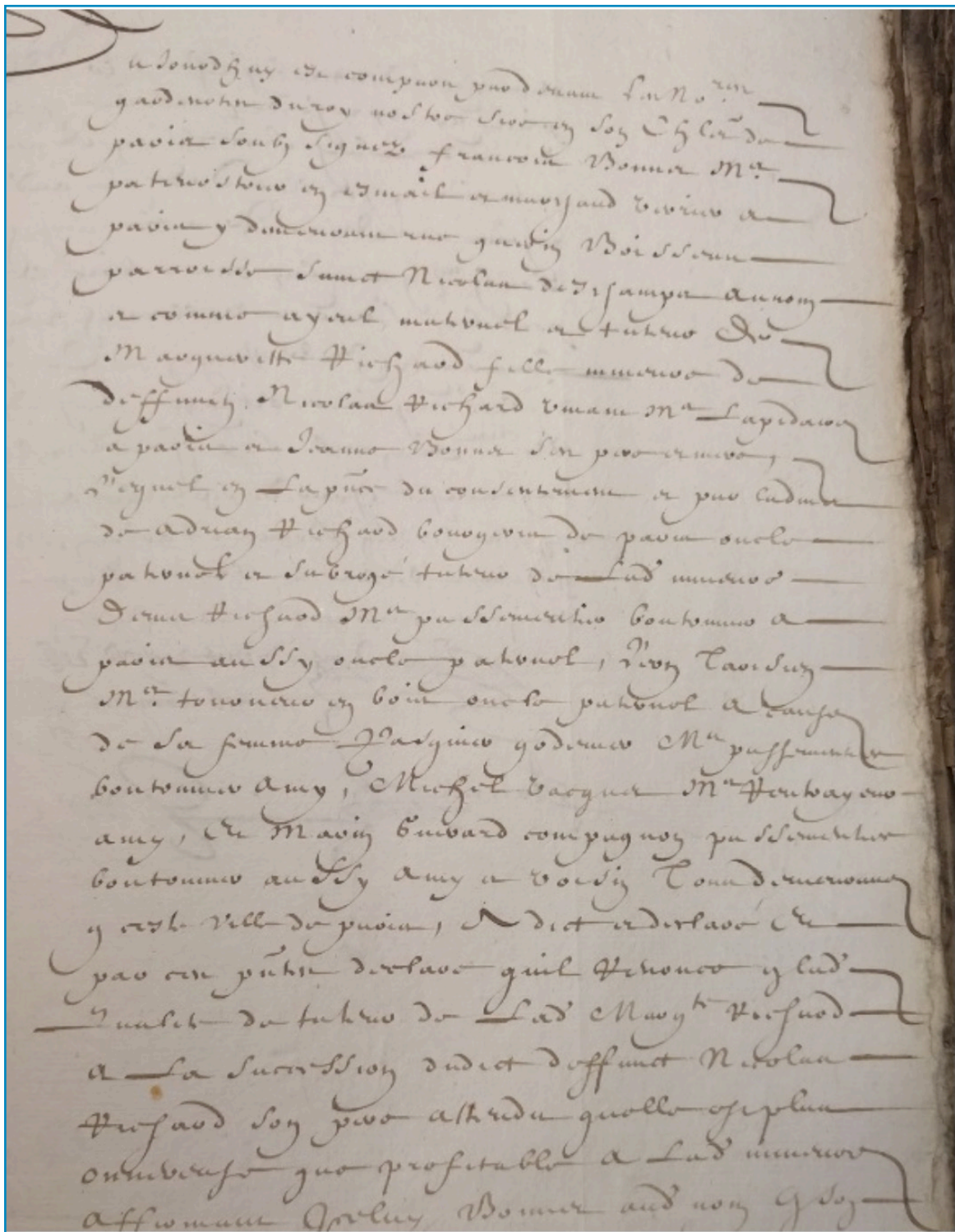
There are other Richards in Longvillers Boncourt, but I have found no trace of Parisian members of the Richard family there. However, other names found in the registers of this village suggest that the family had ties there, and perhaps even its origins. There are Dupilles, Goberts, Danetzes, and Raddes, names that appear in the marriage contract of Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Richard. In addition, Marguerite's grandmother, wife of Pacquin Richard, was named Jehane Dupille.

In the neighboring parish of Ponchon, Philippe Dupille and Françoise Richard were married on July 12, 1644. Their parents are not named. ⁽⁹⁾ This may be Marguerite's cousin, who was present at the signing of her marriage contract with Jean Levasseur and in several other documents concerning the Richard family.

François Bonnet, Marguerite's grandfather, is an interesting character. He was a master enamel rosary maker and glass merchant. A rosary maker was a craftsman who made rosaries. There are several references to him in the Laborde Collection, and a few documents in the Central Minutier of Paris notaries. It was he, as we have seen, who stipulated on Marguerite's behalf in her marriage contract in April 1645.

Seven years earlier, already acting on behalf of Marguerite Richard as her guardian, he had renounced the inheritance of Nicolas Richard on September 29, 1638, before the notary Martin Prieur. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Today appeared before the notaries of our Lord the King in his district of Paris, signed, François Bonnet, master enamel worker and glass merchant in Paris, residing there on Rue Guérin Boisseau, parish of Saint Nicolas des Champs, in the name and as maternal grandfather and guardian of Margueritte Richard, minor daughter of the late Nicolas Richard, master gem cutter in Paris, and Jeanne Bonnet, her father and mother. Which, in the presence, with the consent and on the advice of Adrian Richard, bourgeois of Paris, paternal uncle and subrogated guardian of the said minor, Denis Richard, master passementier boutonniere in Paris, also paternal uncle, Léon Tarisien, master wood turner, paternal uncle through his wife, Pasquier Godemer, master trimmings and buttons maker, friend, Michel Vacquer, master reamer, friend, and Marin Guérard, companion trimmings and buttons maker, also friend and neighbor, all residing in this city of Paris. Has said and declared and hereby declares that he renounces, in his capacity as guardian of the said Margueritte Richard, to the estate of the said deceased Nicolas Richard, her father, since it is more burdensome than profitable to the said minor...



Marguerite's cousins found themselves in the same situation twelve years later. The minor children of Adrien Richard, a practitioner and brother of Nicolas, and Suzanne Raveneau, renounced, on the advice of their guardian Guillaume Richard, their brother, and Denis Richard, Philippe Dupille, and Léon Tarsien, their uncles, to the inheritance of their parents, since it would be "more burdensome than profitable" to the minors. The deed is dated December 19, 1645. ⁽¹¹⁾

François Bonnet, master enamel rosary maker, and Catherine Hennet (Humectz) baptize two children in Saint Nicolas des Champs, whose records are kept in the Laborde Collection. Jacques, baptized on July 22, 1588, and Dominique, January 30, 1590.

We also learn from the Laborde Fund that on Saturday, October 28, 1624, Catherine Hennet, aged fifty-nine, wife of François Bonnet, master rosary maker and glass merchant, taken from Rue Guérin Boysseau, was buried in the church, with the assistance of the parish priest and twenty-four men of the church, including the four pallbearers, a full service celebrated in her honor, the body present. (Saint Nicolas des Champs).

Catherine Hennet, already married to François Bonnet in 1588, and deceased in 1624, is necessarily the mother of Jeanne Bonnet and the grandmother of Marguerite Richard.

On October 24, 1638, before notaries Jacques Roussel and Denis Camuset (in whose minutes it is found), the marriage contract was signed between François Bonnet, master enamel rosary maker and glass merchant, and Françoise Gaugé, widow of the late Nicolas Richard, a living gemstone merchant in Paris. (12) The deed was signed in the house where the future bride lived, in her bedroom, in the presence of Jeanne Baudellet, her mother, widow of the late Gilles Gaugé, Jean Dufresnoy, master locksmith in Paris, her uncle, Pierre Savary, second-hand clothes merchant in Paris, Nicolas Danetz, master wheelwright, Claude Dufresnoy, master locksmith, cousins, and Pasquier Godemer, master trimmings and button maker in Paris, brother-in-law.

The Fonds Laborde archives also tell us that four days later, on Thursday, October 28, 1638, the first bann was published between François Bonnet, master enamel rosary maker and glass merchant, widower of the late Catherine Heumet, residing on Rue Guérin Boisseau, on the one hand, and Françoise Granger, widow of the late Nicolas Richard, a living lapidary merchant, residing on the said street, on the other hand, both of this parish... They were married on Sunday, the 14th day of the said month and year* in the presence of Claude Bonnet, wine merchant, age forty, nephew of the said François Bonnet, residing in Rosny, and Héleine Bonnet, wife of Robert Gobert, cobbler, niece of the said François Bonnet, residing on Rue Platrière, and Anne Bonnet, wife of Jean de Bréban, master rosary maker, also niece of the said Bonnet, residing on Rue Saint Denis, and Jeanne Boudelet, widow of the late Gilles Gauger, a living money-lender, father and mother of the aforementioned Françoise Gauger, residing at Guérin Boisseau, and Claude du Fresnois, a locksmith, maternal cousin of the aforementioned Gauger, thirty years old, residing on Rue de la Cordonnerie, and Pierre Savari, master second-hand clothes dealer, aged fifty years, cousin of the aforementioned Gauger, residing on Rue de la Fripperie. (Saint Nicolas des Champs).

* October 14, 1638, was not a Sunday, and the couple would certainly not have married before the publication of their first banns. They were married on November 14, 1638, which was indeed a Sunday.

Also in the Laborde Collection: On Tuesday, January 19, 1649, François Bonnet, master enamel rosary and button maker, aged ninety years or thereabouts, was taken from Rue Guérin Boisseau, carried and buried in the church, with a full service and hymns sung in his honor, the body present, with the assistance of the parish priest and twenty-four priests. (Saint Nicolas des Champs)

Françoise Gaugé is referred to as Marguerite Richard's aunt in her marriage contract with Jean Levasseur. I have not been able to find out how she could be his aunt. The links between Jean Levasseur, Marguerite Richard, François Bonnet, and Françoise Gauger are astonishing. I have not often come across such an overlap of links. François Bonnet is Jean Levasseur's uncle by marriage, since his second wife is the sister of Geneviève Gaugé, Jean's mother. He is also Marguerite Richard's grandfather. Françoise Gaugé is Jean Levasseur's maternal aunt, but she was also Marguerite Richard's stepmother, having married Nicolas Richard, and she was also Marguerite's step-grandmother through her marriage to François Bonnet.

Françoise was probably in her third marriage, having first married Pierre Godemer, a trimmings and button maker. The couple made a mutual donation to each other on January 3, 1628, before Pourcel and Pourcel, notaries in Paris. ⁽¹³⁾ Françoise's name is first written as Goger, then Gauger, in this document. This first marriage would explain the presence of Pasquier Godemer, cited as Françoise's brother-in-law in her marriage contract with François Bonnet.

In her will, drawn up on June 11, 1658 before Etienne Thomas, notary in Paris ⁽¹⁴⁾, in addition to the provisions she made in religious matters, Françoise Gaugé made the following donations:

- she bequeathed thirty pounds to the General Hospital
- she bequeathed thirty pounds to the factory of Saint Nicolas des Champs, her parish
- she gave and bequeathed to Nicolas de Gastines, "her compère and friend" (the word compère is often used to refer to a godfather), the sum of one hundred pounds.

The rest concerns her nephews and nieces.

And as for the surplus and residue of all and each of her possessions, both movable and immovable, of whatever nature they may be, the said testator gives, bequeaths, and leaves them, half to Françoise Hatté, her niece, or if she should die before the said testator, to Margueritte le Roy, her daughter, and the other half to Pierre and Jeanne le Vasseur, her nephew and niece equally, or to their children if they should predecease the said testator, making the said Françoise Hatté, her niece, her universal legatee for one half of the said property, and the said Pierre and Jeanne le Vasseur for the other half equally. Also with regard to Jean le Vasseur, her nephew through Margueritte Richard, his wife, he has been sufficiently provided for by the said testator through his marriage contract, by means of which the said testator wishes and declares that Jean le Vasseur and his wife shall not be entitled to claim or receive anything from the said estate.

Françoise Gaugé, as we saw above, had given Marguerite Richard, in favor of her marriage to Jean Levasseur, 1,200 pounds to be taken from her estate on the day of her death.

A codicil was added to the will on October 16, 1666. Françoise was bedridden, physically ill but of sound mind. She revoked the donation of thirty pounds to the General Hospital and declared that these thirty pounds would go to the children of Crestophle de Rollet and Jeanne Levasseur, his wife.

On January 8, 1659, Jean Levasseur was in Paris. His wife, Marguerite Richard, had given him power of attorney to go to Paris to settle her affairs, selling, renting, or leasing the real estate she had inherited from her mother and her grandfather. Jean appeared with Françoise Gaugé before the notary Etienne Thomas to settle the division of François Bonnet's estate, of which Marguerite was said to be the sole heir. Jean Levasseur and his aunt agree on the accounts, with Françoise keeping the property due to her under the terms of her marriage contract and the donation between spouses that she had made with her late husband. and various deeds that are cited in this division. She will retain full ownership of a house on Rue Guérin Boisseau, and Marguerite will receive another house, located on the same street.

The inventory after the death of Françoise Gaugé, drawn up before Etienne Thomas, notary, on November 4, 1666 ⁽¹⁵⁾, confirms the elements contained in her will. It contains copies of the marriage contract of Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Richard, and that of Christophe Drollet and Jeanne Levasseur, since Françoise had made donations to both couples when these contracts were signed. Unfortunately, the inventory does not provide any information about Françoise Gaugé's first two marriages, to Pierre Godemer and then Nicolas Richard.

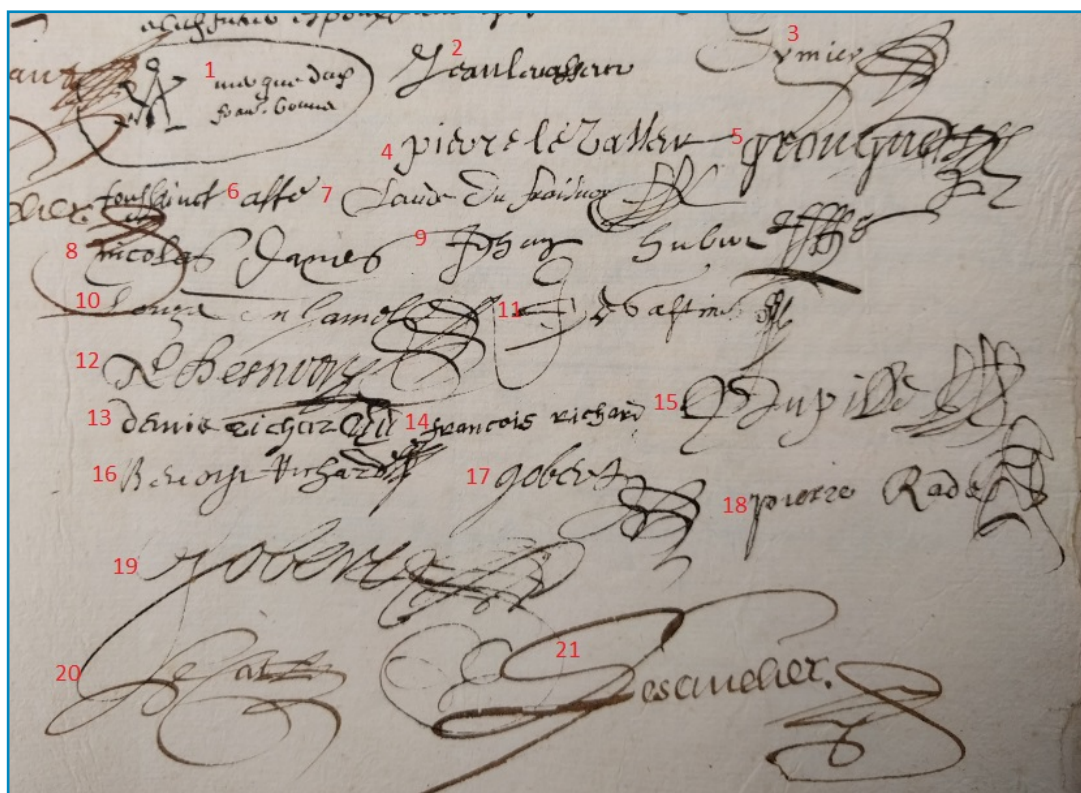
Looking at the marriage contract of Jean Levasseur with Marguerite Richard, and that of François Bonnet with Françoise Gaugé, we come across two interesting people.

Marie and Claude Dufresnoy, mentioned in both contracts, are said to be first cousins once removed of Jean Levasseur and maternal cousins of Françoise Gaugé. The mother of Marie and Claude Dufresnoy, whose father, Jean, is also mentioned as Françoise Gaugé's uncle, must be a sister of Jeanne Baudalet.

For the Dufresnoys to be first cousins once removed of Jean Levasseur, their father or mother must be a first cousin of Noël Levasseur or Geneviève Gaugé.

The marriage contract between Claude du Fresnoy and Mathurine Berrié provides the answer. It was signed before Jean le Semelier, notary in Paris, on February 2, 1651. Le Semelier's minutes for that year have been lost, but the contract appears in the records of the Châtelet de Paris. ⁽¹⁶⁾ Claude is described as the son of the late Jean du Fresnoy, master locksmith, and Mathurine Baudalet, formerly his wife.

Finally, I am attaching the bottom of the page where the signatures of the witnesses to the marriage contract of Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Richard appear.



1. The mark of François Bonnet, Marguerite's grandfather. He cannot sign his name.

2. Jean Levasseur

3. Louis Dymier, Jean's first cousin through Charlotte Levasseur

4. Pierre le Vasseur, Jean's brother

5. Girard Grougnes, Marguerite's friend

6. Toussaint Asté, Jean's uncle

7. Claude du Fraisnoy, Jean's first cousin

8. Nicolas Danets, Jean's cousin

9. Jehan Hubert, cousin of Jean through Denise Lefébure, his wife

10. Louys du Hamel, cousin of Marguerite

11. Jehan de Gastines, friend of Marguerite

12. Nicolas Desnots, friend of Marguerite

13. Denis Richard, uncle of Marguerite

14. François Richard, uncle of Marguerite

15. Philippe Dupille, cousin of Marguerite

16. Benoist Richard, cousin of Marguerite

17. Nicolas or Robert Gobert, cousin of Marguerite

18. Pierre Rade, cousin of Marguerite

19. Nicolas or Robert Gobert, cousin of Marguerite

20. Le Cat, notary

21. Le Semelier, notary

Notes:

In my articles, my transcriptions use the original spelling, but I expand abbreviations and add accents and punctuation to make the texts more readable. (Does not apply to the English translation)

- (1) National Archives of Paris, minutes of notary Jean le Semelier, MC/ET/LIX/103
- (2) Paris National Archives, minutes of notary Martin Tabouret, MC/ET/IX/369
- (3) Paris National Archives, minutes of notary Denis Camuset, MC/ET/XXXV/132
- (4) Paris National Archives, minutes of notary Etienne Gerbault, MC/ET/II/132
- (5) Oise Departmental Archives, 3E462/1, BMS Noailles 1605/1738, view 71/334, right-hand page
- (6) Oise Departmental Archives, 3E462/1, BMS Noailles 1605/1738, view 87/334, right-hand page
- (7) Oise Departmental Archives, 3E462/1, BMS Noailles 1605/1738, view 92/334, right-hand page
- (8) Oise Departmental Archives, 3E462/1, BMS Noailles 1605/1738, view 89/334
- (9) AD de l'Oise, 3E504/1, BMS Ponchon 1614/1696, view 139/291 right-hand page
- (10) AN de Paris, minutes of notary Martin Prieur, MC/ET/LII/13
- (11) Paris National Archives, Register of Guardianships, Y//3916, consulted on the Familles Parisiennes website
- (12) Paris National Archives, minutes of notary Denis Camuset, MC/ET/XXXV/154
- (13) Paris National Archives, Insinuations du Châtelet de Paris, Y//168
- (14) Paris National Archives, minutes of notary Etienne Thomas, MC/ET/LVII/74
- (15) Paris National Archives, minutes of notary Etienne Thomas, MC/ET/LVII/89
- (16) Insinuations du Châtelet de Paris, Y//189