

LE TISSU BLANCHET

Bulletin of the Association of the Blanchet and Blanchette Families of America V.26 # 2 May 2021



On the front page, for this issue of our newsletter, a Word from the President providing an important overview of our meetings and possible activities

WORD OF THE PRESIDENT



*« Ah! comme la neige a neigé!
Ma vitre est un jardin de givre... »*

This April morning, we wake up with a blanket of snow. The adage goes well: "In April, don't put off a single thread" ("En Avril, ne te découvres pas d'un fil"). But our hopes of getting out of the 3rd wave of the pandemic lie frozen and uncertain. And like the poet Nelligan, we would like to write "Neiges d'Avril" and include in it our pain of living and our boredom in the face of this never-ending state of uncertainty.

And we, the birds of May, we spread our wings, we go to food lands and places to make our nests and lay eggs for the new generation.

And the Association des Familles Blanchet (te) continues to dream and hope.

Many of you remember the *Retrouvailles* of 1996 which marked the 350th anniversary of the birth of our ancestor. Thanks to the general mobilization, we had an unforgettable experience. Imagine that 25 years later, the Association has also advanced 25 years and it lasts. As the incorporation was obtained in 1997, we would be happy to celebrate this event with you in 2022, if Public Health permits.

(to be followed on page 3)

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LE TISSU BLANCHET is the communication link among the members of the Association of the Blanchet and Blanchette Families of America. It is published three times a year. Its title recalls a drawing of our ancestor, Pierre Blanchet, a weaver before his arrival in New France. It also symbolizes the blood links woven by our ancestors and the genealogical links between the Blanchet and Blanchette families. A partial or total reproduction of articles is allowed with permission and must show the source, the author's name and the address of the Association.

We reserve the right to publish the content of letters received by the Association, including the author's name, unless anonymity or confidentiality has been specifically requested.

Anyone can submit articles for publication. The editor reserves the right to modify or shorten articles or refuse an article if it does not meet with the express purpose of Le Tissue Blanchet or if the content is judged inappropriate.

Expressed opinions are the sole responsibility of the authors. Anyone having questions, comments or suggestions is invited to do so in writing to the Association or on Internet.

NEXT ISSUE:
September 2021

DEADLINE FOR
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August 15, 2021

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LE TISSU *BLANCHET*

Volume 26, n. 2, 2021

Conception : Bertrand Blanchet

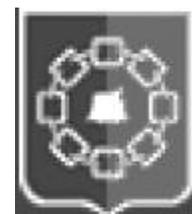
Printing, Distribution : Groupe ETR
ETR, 110- 1130 boul.Charest Québec,
Qc. G1N 2E2
Tél. 418 658 8122

Printing : 115 copies in French
15 copies in English

ISSN : 1206-7172

Legal deposit :

Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec



The Association of the Blanchet and Blanchette families of America is a member of the *Fédération des Associations de familles du Québec (FAFQ)*.

For any kind of correspondence, contact our Secretary or our Treasurer at the above addresses.

Word of the President (following)

At the same time, we would mark the 375th anniversary of the birth of our ancestor, assuming that his birth is in 1646. And the 75th anniversary of the first communication addressed to the Blanchet (te) families. It was like the "herald swallow" of the Tissu Blanchet.

Considering the current pandemic situation, it will not be possible to hold the Common Gathering with the Fournier Families of America scheduled for August 2021. Another reason is the fact that the Hôtel L'Oiselière is reserved as a vaccination center against Covid, from spring until 'in the fall of 2021. Public Health therefore wins. But this will only be postponed in 2022; keep the date of August 20, 2022, in Montmagny.

But this summer, as already foreseen, we will unveil the plaque to mark the Berceau de Saint-Pierre and the 350th wedding anniversary of Marie Fournier and Pierre Blanchet. It will be on August 14.

Remember the summer of 2017, when we met in Quebec with the Fourniers d'Amérique. We have maintained the links with this "mother" Association- to prepare the Gathering of 2022. The links are solidified between our two Associations in the image of the union of our 2 ancestors of origin, Pierre and Marie, in their marriage in 1670.

As elected administrators of your Association, we are concerned about the democratic life of our organization. Because of the sanitary rules in force, we will not be able to hold a general assembly

We decided to consult you through the September 2021 *Tissu Blanchet* : on the Board report, on the financial statements and the Board elections, as we did last year. You will need to fill out a sheet and return it to us.

We do not suggest using the internet or a platform such as zoom, skype or the like, since we believe that this tool is not within the reach of most of our members. In the meantime, you can consult our website which gives a lot of information about your Association: <http://www.familles-blanchet.ca/>

However, we would like to invite you to raise your hand to accompany us in the Board of Directors for the next year. Current directors are getting older; health gives signals; some have been present since the beginning (25 years)... New blood would be good. The work is not that heavy: three to four Council meetings, a general assembly and one or two representations per year. If you want to learn about your ancestors and genealogy, the Council is an excellent school. And the service you provide!

In closing, let's parody Nelligan's poem again, with Spring Morning:

*“Ah, how the flower bloomed,
Our life is a garden of colors,
Of scents and songs of migrating birds.
All hopes have returned
In the woods, in the meadows and in the hearts.
Thank you life!”*

Paul-Yvon Blanchette

SO MANY BIRTHDAYS!

So many birthdays, in the sights
For the Blanchet Families Association in 2021!

First, the Association wants to come back
On the meeting missed last year
Because of COVID-19 which has horribly
And painfully erased all social life between us.

This feast gone, with many sighs,
Was that of the 350th wedding anniversary
Of Pierre Blanchet and Marie Fournier
celebrated in 1670.

Pierre had arrived in Quebec in the spring of
1665.

Simple worker, but with the intention
To make a future here as a pioneer.
By a happy coincidence, he meets
Guillaume Fournier's family, who has several
daughters
The eldest, Marie, is fourteen years old.
In 1670, at the age of fifteen, she became
Pierre's wife.

We have a colony to populate, you see, and
they are few women.
Here in the country. Hence the marriage of still
adolescent girls.

In Quebec, then in Pointe-à-la-Caille, and
finally in Saint-Pierre

Pierre and Marie will give life to sixteen
children

Of whom at least seven will die quite young.
This will not prevent the couple from becoming
the ancestor

Of several thousand Blanchet — and Blanchette
—

In North America, but also elsewhere in the
world.

If th anniversary of the marriage of Pierre and
Mary had not existed,
All other birthdays
That we wish to celebrate this year
Would not have not been scheduled.

Among others, that of the birth of Pierre.
which was arbitrarily set at 1646,
Because no document was found to specify it.
Pierre himself seemed to not know.
And the date of 1646 seems to fit
With the other dates of his life.
So, let's celebrate it now, dear Pierre, you have
deserved it!

One day, much later, came the great
"Retrouvailles"
To which we invited the Blanchets from
everywhere
As far as we could reach them.

The first meeting took place in Montreal on
January 19, 1928,
At the *Monument National*.
Ninety-three years ago.
Date and place curiously chosen, it seems to
me,
To invite a crowd of Blanchet.
Perhaps on a day of snowstorm.

At the invitation of Mr. L.-J.-N. Blanchet,
Former curator of the historic fort of Chambly,
About two hundred people showed up,
Coming from all over Quebec.

The main organizer dreamed of genealogy
And of a periodic newsletter, well documented,
Useful link between all these distant cousins.
For this feast, Father Archange Godbout,
Whose great-grandmother was a Blanchet,
Carried out extensive research which enabled
him

To retrace the main stages in Pierre's life.
Except his birth, of course, whose date
Is still uncertain?

This historical pattern has remained with us
And served, so to speak, as the basis of three
volumes
Subsequently published, in 1946, 1996 and
2017.

But, on the other hand, this great project of
1928
Was a sword strike in the water.
It had no known follow-up.

In 1945, the idea of a great meeting reappeared.
To celebrate the third centenary in 1946
Of the birth, still imprecise, of Pierre,
But continuing to assume it in 1646.

On December 16, 1945, a small newspaper was
therefore launched
Entitled *La Famille Blanchet 1646-1946*
And shipped to 1,800 people from everywhere.
Three other bulletins followed it.
It was spoken of an association whose
membership
Would cost no more than one dollar a year.
And no further contribution would be requested
For the meeting scheduled for June 30 and July
1, 1946.
The meeting was done with enthusiasm.
The families of the participants — including my
father's —
Have heard about it for a long time!

Another issue of the newspaper appeared in
1948
Calling news and support:
"Otherwise it would be the last issue"
This was the last issue.
And it is no longer spoken of the association
That we had thought so well launched.

In 1996, as in football, 3rd try,
The one whose 25th anniversary we are
celebrating this year.
The organizing committee then wanted a great
"Retrouvailles"

And launched a finally lasting association.

The process began in 1995.
First a letter of invitation
Sent on November 23 to 4,800 people
By the archbishop of Rimouski, Bishop
Bertrand Blanchet.
Then the first issue of *Le Tissu Blanchet*
Which contained all the necessary information
For the participants of the upcoming
Homecoming,
Fixed on July 26, 27 and 28, 1996,
In St-Thomas de Montmagny "*where Pierre
himself lived*".

One last *Tissu Blanchet* before the encounter,
Was sent in the spring of 1996.
A souvenir booklet was also prepared
For the benefit of participants,
Containing everything that would be useful or
pleasant to them.

The great meeting was held in joy
Filling heads and hearts with
A thousand good memories.

The *Tissu Blanchet* is still published in 2021,
At the rate of three issues per year.
The Association remains alive,
With fewer members, without any doubt,
But they like to meet regularly
At least when the COVID-19 traitor
Give them the option.

The linchpin of all this time,
And in particular that of the *Tissu Blanchet*,
Is Mgr Bertrand Blanchet, still active.
He celebrates this year
His 65th anniversary of priestly ordination.
Thanks and congratulations!

What a good number of birthdays to celebrate!

Marcelle Blanchet