

LE TISSU BLANCHET

Bulletin of the Association of the Blanchet and Blanchette Families of America V.26 # 3 Sept. 2021



INAUGURATION OF THE STONE OF THE CRADLE OF SAINT-PIERRE DE-LA-RIVIÈRE-DU-SUD



The Administrative Board of the Blanchet(te) families. From the left : Rodrigue Blanchette, Ginette Blanchet, Bertrand Blanchet, Paul-Yvon Blanchette, Jean-Marc Blanchette, Michel Blanchet.



The Administrative Board of the Fournier families. From the left: Robert St-Gelais, spouse of H  l  ne F., Sylvie Lortie, spouse of Ronald F., H  l  ne F., Ronald F., Francine Desjarlais, spouse of Roger F., Georges F., Louise Bourret, spouse of George F., R  al F., Laurette F. and Pierre F.

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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.

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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:
January 2022

DEADLINE FOR
SUBMITTING ARTICLES:

December 15, 2021

ADDRESS TO SEND
ARTICLES :

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LE TISSU *BLANCHET*

Volume 26, n. 3, 2021

Conception : Bertrand Blanchet

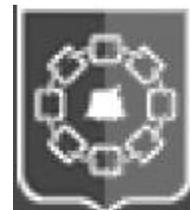
Printing, Distribution : Groupe ETR
ETR, 110- 1130 boul.Charest Québec,
Qc. G1N 2E2
Tél. 418 658 8122

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.

A word from the president: sources and roots



"To remember your ancestors is to draw from the source of a stream and quench your thirst under a fruit tree with deep roots and generous foliage in order to better continue on your journey."

On August 14, 2021, we experienced a very pleasant event, namely the unveiling of the plaque underlining the Cradle of the Municipality (Parish) of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. At noon it was raining but we finally experienced the event with a blue sky.

What did we learn from this event? Time does its work well. The paths of Providence are varied and a little impenetrable. With the gesture of our ancestors to bequeath a piece of land to the Parish around 1713, what happened? A parish was cleared and canonically instituted in 1732. The people established a village in a very fertile countryside and now this constitutes the Municipality of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. People earn their living there and are very attached to their environment.

During this activity, we had a fruitful collaboration with the Association des Fournier d'Amérique, with the owner of our ancestors' farm, with the Municipality and with the Fabrique. Tying all these links took time and skill. The result was worth it.

For this slice of our history, we can say: "Mission accomplished! », Reminding us that the name of the Parish which has become a Municipality bears the name of Saint-Pierre because of the first name of our ancestor. We thank Bishop Bertrand Blanchet for initiating this process several years ago.

Like last year, due to Public Health measures, we cannot hold a General Assembly in attendance. We are therefore using the Tissu Blanchet of September 2021, to consult you and ask your opinion. A flying sheet is included in this shipment. And please return it to us by November 15, 2021 to the address provided.

Next year, conditions permitting, we plan to meet again with the Fourniers in Montmagny on Saturday, August 20, 2022. At that time, we will be holding an Association general meeting. After dinner, you will visit the places of memory of our 2 Associations in the region of Montmagny and Saint-Pierre. We will get back to you.

A final word: Bishop Bertrand Blanchet worked hard to re-create our Association, to organize the Retrouvailles of 1996. He has participated for 25 years on our Council. This year, given his age, he wants to leave his seat. We thank him generously. However, we would be happy if one or two members would raise their hands to become a member of our Board of Directors. You can indicate this in the attached answer sheet.

Let's stay healthy! Keep hoping! Warm greetings to all of you!

Paul-Yvon Blanchette, président

Speech by Paul-Yvon Blanchet, President of the Association of the Blanchet and Blanchette Families of America

TO FORGET YOUR ANCESTORS IS TO BE
A STREAM WITHOUT A SOURCE, A TREE
WITHOUT ROOTS.

If we translate this adage positively, we come up with something like this: Remembering your ancestors means drawing from the source of a stream and quenching your thirst under a tree with deep roots and generous foliage in order to better continue your journey.

We are gathered on this day to celebrate the Cradle of the Municipality of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. Our common ancestors, Marie Fournier and Pierre Blanchet, celebrated their religious marriage in Quebec on February 17, 1670.

Indeed, our ancestors bequeathed a piece of land to the parish for the construction of the first church, presbytery and cemetery. The cross that we see in the distance marks this location. Pierre had foreseen this in his will, but it was his widow Marie and his son Jean who formalized this bequest the year of Marie's death in 1716.

Today's unveiling marks the Cradle of Saint-Pierre. We are aware of participating in a larger movement on the occupation of the Côte-du-Sud that began 375 years ago with the *Seigneurie de la Rivière-du-Sud*. And our ancestors were associated with it.



The cross located where the first church was built on the land of Pierre and Marie

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, God promises Abraham many offspring despite the fact that he and Sarah are very old. Despite their skepticism, they had offspring “*as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand by the sea*”. Pierre, an immigrant, and Marie, a young native, experienced this fullness in their marriage with the joys of conception, the tragedies of infant mortality, the first marriages of children, the arrival of grandchildren and disease.

Their last names are pronounced all over North America. Their number, for 350 years, would surely be the greatest astonishment of Pierre and Marie. In this field of numbers, the Fournier Families are sure to beat us. In fact, the Fournier of America took advantage of the 13 Fournier ascendants, while Pierre Blanchet and Marie Fournier did all the work on their own, on this side of the Atlantic.

Land is like family. You have to want it, love it, take care of it and be constant. Then it returns it to us.

We are happy to see Mr. Frédéric St-Pierre taking care of the ancestral land of the Fournier-Blanchet couple since 2011.

Our two family associations Fournier and Blanchet (te) have been working more closely for more than 6 years under the name of *Comité Fouchet (te)* and are in their second joint activity.

If all goes as planned and without new confinement, we will meet again next year on Saturday, August 20, 2022, to inform the members of our Associations about the places of memory of our stem families in the region.

The Association des Familles Blanchet (te) d'Amérique would like to highlight here the support of the Municipality of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, its mayor Mr. Alain Fortier, the general manager, Karine Lachance and the foreman, Mr. Pierre Martineau, for the realization of the concrete base and for the installation of the stone.

On the occasion of 2 festive events in the Municipality, we are delighted with the presence of Mrs. Lise Cloutier-Proulx, president of the Council of the Fabrique de Saint-Pierre.

The stone in question and the site are graciously provided by the owner of the land, Mr. Frédéric Saint-Pierre. We find in this municipality valiant people and established for a long time.

We thank you all for your presence, your support and your happiness to participate in this event.

**Speech of
Hélène Fournier,
président of l'Association des familles
Fournier d'Amérique**



*Paul-Yvon Blanchet and Hélène Fournier
(photo Anne-Frédérique Tremblay, L'Oie
Blanche Newspaper)*

The Association of Fournier of America in partnership with the Association of Blanchet (te) Families of America is proud to participate today in the unveiling of the commemorative plaque highlighting the Cradle of Saint-Pierre de la Rivière-du-Sud.

It was on a plot of land belonging to Marie Fournier and Pierre Blanchet that the first church in the parish was built. We were to highlight the event last year as part of Mary and Peter's 350th wedding anniversary, but the health crisis forced us to postpone the event to a later date. With this unveiling, we want to concretely highlight the historical contribution of our ancestors to the development of the region.

I would like to take this event to introduce you to our ancestor Marie Fournier sometimes called Marie-Anne. She is 14 years old when

she marries, in 1670 in Quebec, Pierre Blanchet of 9 years his elder.

The couple first move into the home offered by Marie's father located in the Notre-Dame-des-Anges area of Charlesbourg. They stay there for two years to finally join Marie's parents, already settled in Pointe-à-la-Caille (Montmagny).

In thirty-nine years of marriage, Mary will give birth to sixteen children, only seven of whom will reach adulthood.

Marie Fournier therefore spent her childhood in the Charlesbourg area. Like many other families of the time, she grew up in a large family where she occupied the place of the eldest of the siblings. She was surrounded by 8 brothers and 5 sisters. Very early on, she learned to help her parents with the chores of the house and the farm.

His mother Françoise Hébert, granddaughter of Louis Hébert and Marie Rollet, gave birth to 14 children. It was in 1703 that Françoise was declared a "Midwife" by the Assembly of Women of Saint-Thomas-de-la-Pointe-à-la-Caille. This title gives her some recognition.

Note here that Marie is the great-granddaughter of the founding couple Hébert-Rollet.

Marie's father is Guillaume Fournier, one of the founders and pioneers of the parish of Saint-Thomas-de-Montmagny. A man known not to be fooled but with an immensely big heart.

Guillaume conceded part of his land for the construction of the first chapel of the parish. This generous gift earned him the privilege of

owning a bench in the church for himself and one of his descendants to this day.

The house of Guillaume Fournier was also the place of celebration of various religious services, until the construction of this chapel.

Marie had very inspiring parents which probably contributed to what she gave in 1716, and according to the will of her late husband, a plot of land of 6 arpents near the Rivière-du-Sud to build there the first church of the parish of Saint-Pierre.

On behalf of the Fournier Association of America, I would like to thank the municipal authorities, including Mr. Alain Fortier, mayor of Saint-Pierre de la Rivière-du-Sud as well as Ms. Cloutier-Proulx, president of the board of the Fabrique for having welcomed our commemorative plaque project.

Likewise, I would like to thank Mr. Frédéric St-Pierre, owner of the site, who made the project possible by providing stone from his land and allowing us to occupy a symbolic space on a plot of land that was once the place of life of our ancestor Marie Fournier.

We are thus highlighting the Cradle of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud and highlighting the contribution of Marie Fournier and her husband to the development of the region.

Finally, thank you to the Blanchet(te) Families Association for the excellent collaboration in this matter and the many hours devoted to this project.

Thank you all for being here today to mark this event and we hope to see you again next year at the annual joint Fournier-Blanchet gathering to be held in Montmagny.