

Francois Seguin, the Canadian Pioneer (?) (Continued)

the banks of the Iroquois (Richelieu) River. The place is strategic. The river flows into the country of the tomahawk. It is by this route that the invasions of the fierce indians come. But St-Ours' men have pluck. The young Francois refuses to return to France. With his old companions-in-arms, he follows his captain and settles down in the vicinity of the seigneurial manor. However, forced by the necessity of providing for his family, the new Lord asks the Governor for a more lucrative post. The Governor acquiesces to the legitimate desire and allows St.-Ours to raise up a troop destined for the garrison at Ville-Marie (Montreal).

His new duties oblige M. de St-Ours to reorganize his company. Some of his old soldiers who have not yet married take down their guns from the rafters blackened with smoke. Here are some interesting names: Thomas Neveu dit LaCroix, Jean Clerc dit Lafrenais, Luc Poupart, Marc Brindamour, Francois Raimbeau, Celle-Duclos, Jean Vel dit Sansousy, Denis Bouteronne dit LaRoche, Jacques Clement dit Columbiere, Andre Chandelaine dit Lariviere. Francois Seguin figures among these ~~first~~/defenders of the first hours of the Canadian metropolis. After his service was finished, he returns to his "fief" of St-Ours. For two years, little by little, he pushes the shift edge of the forest back. Stintingly at first, then more audaciously later, the breach which he makes in the forest of M. de St-Ours extends up to the end of the lot he was granted.

Leaving this epoch, the name of Francois figures in the notarial records. On 14 September 1671, by an act passed in the presence of the notary Frerot, he sells a parcel of his land. The buyer was named Robert Henry.

In the afternoon of Wednesday, 21 September 1672, the same notary draws up the contract of marriage between Francois Seguin and Jeanne Petit. The religious ceremony took place the following October 31st in Boucherville.

On 22 September 1672, in the presence of Frerot, Pierre Chaneron sells to Francois Seguin a piece of land two arpents wide and 25 arpents deep situated in the Seigneurie of Boucherville. The neighbors are Pierre Bougerie and Guilbert Guilleman. Four arpents of this land are already under cultivation. In the same transaction, Francois acquires a lot $\frac{1}{2}$ arpent in size with the village limits of Boucherville as well as the barn built on it. And before the same notary, the new owner rents to Gilbert Guilleman a farm situated in Boucherville. The contract for the tenant farm is drawn up for a period of three years and carries the date of 12 October 1672. The rent ~~is~~ consists of 20 minots of peas (60 bushels) which Guilleman was to take annually at Christmas time to the barn of the same farm.

Again, before Frerot, on 25 January 1673, Francois Seguin sells the piece of "land which he acquired in the preceding September from Pierre Chaneron". The new owner is named Francois Senecal, domestic servant of Lord Pierre Boucher. Seguin did not remain inactive since he acquired this last piece of land. The notarial parchment which he signed conjointly with Chaneron notes the presence "of an unfinished house" on the property.

On 4 April 1673, Lord Pierre Boucher draws up a list of his concessions. They amount to 38 numbered among which is the land conceded to Francois Seguin. His grant covers about 50 acres and touches upon those of Lesnard and Pierre Martin.