

Jean Baptiste Drouillard and Mary Elizabeth Rapin

John Baptiste (2), was born 1707 son of Simon and his first wife, Margaret at St. Francois on the Ile de Orleans outside of Quebec City. At the age of 26 he married at Lachine Elizabeth Rapin, born 1712, daughter of John Baptiste Rapin and Catherine Janson dit Lapalme. Lachine was a settlement just below Montreal at Lake St. Louis. John Baptiste was in the military service under Marin who was a French officer that was involved in Wisconsin and Illinois. John and his family, during this period, moved from one army post (or fort) to another, and this fact alone may explain the reason why some of the birthplaces of his children are unknown. After he left the army, during peacetime around 1744, he engaged in managing canoe trains from Montreal to Detroit. To avoid the Iroquois, the canoes started from Montreal up the Ottawa River to Lake Nipissing then down the French River to Georgian Bay. Entering Lake Huron they drifted past Cape Hurd following the coast line of Lake Huron down to Port Huron. They took this route to avoid harassment by the Iroquois along the Lake Ontario route. They were in large groups of 100 or more. It was the only way Detroit received the supplies

In 1749 a determined effort was made to increase the population of Detroit. The following proclamation from Governor Galissonniere was read in every parish along the St. Lawrence.

"Every man who will go to settle in Detroit shall receive gratuitously, one spade, one axe, one ploughshare, one large and one small wagon. We will make an advance of other tools to be paid for in two years only. He will be given a cow, of which he shall return the increase, also a sow. Seed will be advanced the first year, to be returned at the third harvest. The women and children will be supported one year. Those will be deprived of the liberality of the king, who shall give themselves up to trade in place of agriculture." (Pare, George: The Catholic Church of Detroit, 1701-1888, p. 178-179) Quoted from Farmer's "History of Detroit."

"Jean Baptiste Drouillard ... was sent from Montreal and arrived at Detroit on July 26, 1749, with his wife, five boys and three girls to take up the land that had been granted to him. It is three arpents (acres) wide by 40 arpents deep, and it is situated on the south side, abutting on the northeast (the land of) Pierre Dinan, and on the southeast the lands not yet granted. He received as a donation: 10 rations for 10 persons from July 26, 1749, to January 26, 1751." (Lajeunesse, Ernest J., *The Windsor Border Region* p. 50)

From his page in the Cicotte Ledger following we find exactly what was given to him:
[approximate translation from the book]

2 pickaxes	Had delivered to him to be paid back:
1 hatchet	3 coverings (blanket, run) 2 1/2 yds.
1 scythe	6 aunes of carize (aune= 1.2 meters)
1 sickle	5 aunes of mountain serge
1 plough	5 aunes of sheep wool
2 augers	22 measures of wheat
1 sow	4 measures of peas
7 fowls	1 cow -returned July 7
6 lbs. powder	1 steer -returned July 10, 1755
12lbs.lead	1 bull
100 lbs nails	1 1/2 measures of Indian com
	2 measures of wheat

Many of the entries state that land is granted on the "south side" (Canadian). All through the French period there was no distinction made between what we know as the American and Canadian side of the river. It was all Detroit. The voyageurs called the connection between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie not a river, but a strait, Le De- Troit.

Because the river was necessary to each settler as a means of communication and as a source of food the grants were laid out into farms of narrow fronts of three arpents along the river and running back 40 arpents or more. The houses fronting on the river, separated from it by a narrow road which ran along the edge of the water, formed what was called in Canadian language a cote. Petit Cote was the name applied to this settlement. The site must have been selected because of its sandy beach presenting an easy approach without much concern about the fertility of the soil. In most of the section between the Stream of the Old Queen and Turkey Creek, the soil is a light yellow sand with a very thin cover of loam. It was not long before the locality was named "Cote de Misere" (Misery Settlement). Those who wanted to cultivate land moved farther south below Turkey Creek or later above the Ottawa toward Lake St. Clair. (Lajeunesse, op.cit p. lxxi)

John Baptiste (2) went back into the army as a Major in the Canadian Militia. He left Fort Ponchartrain with about 100 Canadians and several hundred Indians under Beaujeu, their leader, to reinforce the garrison at Fort Duquesne (present day Pittsburgh). The Battle of the Monongahela, (also known as the Battle of Braddock's Field and the Battle of the Wilderness), took place on 9 July 1755, at the beginning of the French and Indian War, at Braddock's Field in what is now Braddock, Pennsylvania, 10 miles (16 km) east of Pittsburgh. A British force under General Edward Braddock, moving to take Fort Duquesne, was defeated by a force of French and Canadian troops under Captain Daniel Liénard de Beaujeu with its American Indian allies. The defeat marked the end of the Braddock expedition, by which the British had hoped to capture Fort Duquesne and gain control of the strategic Ohio Country. Braddock was mortally wounded in the battle and died during the retreat near present-day Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He specifically asked for George Washington, who accompanied him on the march, to oversee his burial. The remainder of the column retreated south-eastwards and the fort, and region, remained in French hands until its capture in 1758.

Jean-Baptiste never returned. Beaujeu was killed in the summer of 1755. John Baptiste could have been with him or killed in the heavy fighting around the fort area. The exact facts of his death are not known. His widow remarried in the Catholic Church six months later to Marie Joseph Dignan Stetienne on February 2, 1756 at St. Anne, Detroit. She was 43 at the time and apparently no children came from that marriage She was buried May 8, 1757 at the Church of the Huron, Sandwich.