

BAILLY

Bailly, Francois, dit Iaffleur, signs "f. Bailly". On the 8th of June 1659, in the presence of Demontreau, notary of La Rochelle (France), the abbot de Queylus, acting through M. LeRoy de la Dauversiere, contracts for the services of Francois Bailly, master-mason and building-constructor, living at LaRochelle, and those of Marie Fonteneau and Jeremie Fonteneau, respectively, Bailly's wife and father-in-law. This artisan was born in 1627, according to the censuses of 1666 and 1667, or in 1630, according to the census of 1681. There were numerous masonry jobs which he undertook from the time of his arrival in this country (Canada), either alone or in society with the masons, Urbain Brossard and Michel Bouvier. Let us cite only the stone barn, 60 feet by 30 feet, which he undertook to construct for the Hotel-Dieu Hospital within the Fort of Ville-Marie, the 26th of February 1660 (Notary Basset's records). The census of 1667 (cf. Sulte, Histoire, IV, 76b) gives our colonist "8 arpents of improved land" (one arpent equals 1.5 acres), and the census of 1681 (cf. Sulte, Histoire, Ibid, V, 68c) "two horned beasts and two arpents of improved land". By this last date (1681), he had, without doubt, ceded some of his land to his two sons-in-law, established on either side of him. (i.e. Pierre Chesne dit St. Onge and Jean Petit) This land was the concession accorde him by the Seminary the 25th of August 1662 (cf. E-Z Massicotte, in: "Bull. des Recher. Hist.", 1927, p. 319) unless it be the piece of land acquired from Gilles Lauzon 23 December 1662 (Notary Basset's records). (Gilles Lauzon is also an ancestor). Other concessions were obtained subsequently; the one in the village of Montreal, one-quarter of an arpent, on 7 May 1683; this parcel was later acquired by the Congregational Sisters (cf. Terrier, n. 128); another piece of land, 60 acres in extent was acquired by Bailly on 23 December 1683 (Cabazie's records). It is to the one or the other of these properties that the following contracts have reference: retrocession by Gilles DeVennes, 24 June 1663 (cf. Notary Basset's Records); rent lease to Toussaint Lucas (Basset) 7 October 1668; land lease to Urbain Bouvier, 10 February 1686 (Basset); land lease to Marie Archambault, the widow Tessier (and daughter of Jacques Archambault, the elder), on 15 May 1692 (Notary Maugue records). Moreover, being an industrious sort, Bailly takes his part in the defense of Ville-Marie, having accepted a place in the 6th squad of the Ste. Famille militia in 1663 (cf. Faillon, III, p. 17). He was baillif of the Montreal jurisdiction in 1667, then, on 2 July 1676, royal police-chief, jailer, and care-taker of the prison, offices which he filled until his death (Bull. des Recher. Hist., Vol. 32, (1926), p. 81). In praise of Bailly, it must be said that he was a conciliator (cf. Maugue's records for 12 March 1680 and 24 August 1682), an honest man whom his friends trusted completely (Maugue's records for 24 August 1682; 21 March 1683), a religious man who bequeathed to the Church at Ville-Marie an annuity of 11 livres and 2 sols (\$2.22) (Faillon, III, p. 24). Bailly and his wife were buried at Montreal: he, on 25 July 1690; and she, 29 October 1692. Their descendants spring from their daughters. Their children were:

1. Marie: baptised at Montreal (M) 9 September 1661; m. (M) 10 January 1678 (cf. Maugue, 29 December 1677) to Jean Petit; buried (M) 30 July 1720.
2. Louise-Jeanne Bailly: baptised at (M) 16 November 1663; m. (M) 29 November 1676 (cf. Basset's records, 22 November) to Pierre Chesne dit St. Onge; buried...
3. Zacherie: baptised (M) 11 January 1667; buried (M) drowned, 21 June 1674.

Variants on the Name: Balier (Tanguay, I, 23), Baille (Rageot's records, 22-11-1667). Etymology: Bailly from "Bail" meaning tutor, governor. Loredan Larcher says administrator, magistrat, intendant, governor; more often, an attache to a bailiff. As an adjective: brown mixed with white, a little bay, speckled. In Celtic: a place planted with trees (Larcher, on Bailly). It is an ironic nickname as Comte-LeComte, Duc-Leduc; Roi-Leroy; (Dauzat, Dict.)

Source: Archange Godbout's series "Nos Ancetres au XVIIe Siecle" appearing in the Rapport de l'Archiviste de la Province de Quebec (1953-55) p. 460-1. See Ducostat of original French elsewhere in papers of family and also Montreal Notarial Records.