

Francois Seguin, the Canadian Pioneer (4) (Continued)

Before Frerot, on 10 February 1674, Francois rented the farm of Pierre Sanchet dit Lareigneur for a period of two years. The farm was situated between the property of the notary and that of Francois Pilet. The tenant thinks about leasing cattle. On 2 June 1675, he signs a "cow lease" with his neighbor Pilet. This last contract covers a period of four years.

In the general census of New-France taken in 1681, one reads what has happened to Francois, in the stautious pillay of the seigneurie of Boucherville.

"Francois Seguin, weaver, 27 years; Jeanne Petit, his wife, 29 years; children: Francoise, 7; Madeleine, 5; Francois, 3; Jeanne, 1; 1 horned beast; 6 arpents under cultivation."

The period of the frontier now comes to an end for the colony. She concerns herself with producing industrial embryos. Francois has followed the sage counsels of the Intendant Talon and has become a weaver. His house at Boucherville is transformed into a weaver's shop which supplies all of the inhabitants of the seigneurie. However, let us not suppose that the artisan has eliminated the landowner. Quite to the contrary, Francois alternates between the weaver's shuttle and the pick axe. On 10 December 1683, before Michel Moreau, he signs another "cow-lease", this time with Denis Veronneau.

About this same time, we verify the presence of a homonyme of Francois at Montreal. He happens to be Jacques Seguin, the son of Jean (Seguin) and Marguerite Dupuis of St. Martin du Peras in Basse-Manche. At Montreal, on 28 November 1689, he marries Marie Badel, the daughter of Andre (Badel) and Barbe Duchesne of Quebec. The land records of Montreal reveal to us that Jacques Segin is the owner of a lot 471 toises in size (Les Origines de Montreal: Memoires de la Societe Historique de Montreal, No. 11, Montreal, 1917, p. 103.) This grant fronted Rue-St-Paul and was designated as Lot 79. The purchase of this land was registered on 23 January 1692.

On 11 September 1697, before Michel Moreau, Francois Seguin rents his farm at Boucherville to Rene Bau. Almost all of this land is farmable. The contract is sealed with an annual rent of 15 minots of wheat (45 bushels) payable on the feast of Christmas.

Some years later, on 15 April 1700, before the notary Marien Tailhandier, Madame de la Valtrie with the agreement of Pierre Boucher, Lord of Boucherville, gives to Francois and his wife Jeanne Petit, the life tenancy of a slip of land two arpents wide and eight deep situated on the Island of Grosbois along the channel. Becoming an islander by the play of circumstances, it is there that the owner goes to live up to the point of the sickness which leads him to the threshold of death. Francois (Seguin) falls ill suddenly. He is hospitalized at the Hotel-Dieu in Montreal where he died on 9 May 1704. Burial takes place the next day on the land of Ville-Marie, the very place he had himself defended many years ago.

After the death of her husband, Jeanne Petit retires to Lachenaye with the third born of her sons, Francois.

On 9 July 1730, the Intendant Gilles Hocquart signs an ordinance which settles the question of a joint fence separating the lands Pierre Limoges and the widow lady of Francois Seguin, "residents of Milles-Iles". This is the last mention of the name of Jeanne Petit in our public documents. She dies a few years later at Lachenaye at the age of 90. Her burial is at Longueuil on the 30th of March 1733.