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ANTOINE FORTIER (1644-1707)

Son of Noël Fortier and Marthe Golle

Born in Dieppe, Normandy, France

Arrived in New France circa 1663 with his father Noël.

He married Marie-Madeleine Cadieu (Charles & Madeleine Maccard) in 1677.

Contract marriage notarized by Michel Fillion was dated November 21, 1677 in Beauport.

They settled in Saint-Laurent, on Ile d'Orléans and had 12 children (10 boys & 2 girls).

Antoine Fortier was born in Dieppe, France on June 26, 1644. His parents were Noël Fortier and Marthe Golle. It should be noted that in the French archives, Noël and Antoine's family name was spelt Forestier and that the Fortier name appears only on their arrival in New France. Noël was a master shipbuilder, a specialist in the art of boring the holes that secured the various components of the boat's framework.

Antoine came to Canada with his father around 1663. After a few years in Beauport, they settled at Ile d'Orléans where Noël Fortier hoped to profit from his shipbuilding expertise. It wasn't long before Noël and the other Ile d'Orléans inhabitants realized the untapped wealth of the fish-laden waters of the Saint Lawrence. A new Canadian industry, the fishing industry was born.

While his father built boats for the fishermen, Antoine Fortier delved into the fishing business. Thanks to his prowess, he soon became owner of his own vessel and crew.

According to the records of notary Rageot, Antoine Fortier signed a contract in 1667 with three other fishermen, Louis Couillard, François James, Jacques Lozier agreeing to share the profits from fishing and seal-hunting near Isle Rouge in the Saint Lawrence River.

Seal oil was a sought-after commodity since it was clear and odourless and did not smell bad like the oil from porpoises. In those days, seal oil sold for 50 to 55 pounds a barrel. On an average day, ten to fifteen seals were caught so you can imagine how lucrative this business could be.

We can assume Antoine became quite wealthy because in November 1677 he joined one of the richest families in New France when he married Marie-Madeleine Cadieu. In fact, dignitaries and members of noble families attended their wedding. According to the Drouin Genealogical Dictionary: "Antoine and Madeleine had 12 children, 10 of which were male. Eight of those sons had families thus ensuring that the Fortier name would continue. Today, their descendants are scattered throughout North America".

Antoine and Marie-Madeleine's Children:

1) Marie-Madeleine

Born on November 7, 1678 at Ste-Famille on Ile d'Orléans (baptized on Nov.11th). She married Gervais Pépin (Antoine & Marie Teste) on January 14, 1698. Marie-Madeleine was buried on July 30, 1756 at St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans.

2) Antoine

Born on February 29, 1680 at St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans (baptized on March 10th). He married Madeleine Noel (François & Nicole Legrand) on February 3, 1706 at St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. Their marriage contract by notary Chambalon was dated January 22, 1706. Antoine was buried on May 23, 1749 at St-Jean on Ile

d'Orléans.

3) Jean-Baptiste

Born on September 7, 1681 in St-Laurent, on Ile d 'Orléans (baptized on Sept. 15th). He married Madeleine Ruel (Clément & Marguerite Leclerc) on October 15, 1708 at Saint-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. Marriage contract by notary Genapie was dated October 1, 1708. Buried on December 30, 1750 in St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans.

4) Charles

Born on May 4, 1683 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans (baptized on May 9th). He married Françoise Blouin (Emery & Marie Carreau) on July 9, 1709 at St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans. Their marriage contract by notary Genapie was dated July 9, 1709. Charles was buried on March 11, 1753 at St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans.

5) Michel

Born on February 1, 1685 at St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans (baptized February 5th). He married Angélique Manseau (Jacques & Marguerite Latouche) on November 19, 1708 at St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. Their marriage contract by notary Genapie was dated October 29, 1708. Michel was buried on September 1724 in Quebec City.

6) Pierre-Noël

Born on November 25, 1686 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. He married Marie-Anne Leclerc (Pierre & Élizabeth Rondeau) on October 13, 1710 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. Marriage contract by notary Chambalon was dated October 7, 1710. He died on February 17, 1731 and was buried on February 19th in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans.

7) Guillaume

Born on January 1, 1689 at St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans (baptized on Januray 3rd). He married Madeleine Dumas (François & Marie Gervais) on November 9, 1711 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. Buried on March 28, 1750 in St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans.

8) Jean-François

Born on December 27, 1690 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans (baptized on Dec. 29th). He died on May 16, 1715 and buried on May 27th in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans.

9) Nicolas

Born on October 20, 1694 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans (baptized on October 25th). Nicolas died in Tadoussac and was buried in Baie-St-Paul on October 22, 1715.

10) Louis

Born and baptized on March 24, 1697 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. Louis married Élizabeth Fontaine (Étienne & Marie Conille) on July 19, 1717 in St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans. Their marriage contract by notary Rivet was dated July 13, 1717. Louis was buried on October 31, 1749 in St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans.

11. Joseph

Born on March 31, 1699 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans (baptized on April 2nd). He married his first wife, Suzanne Plante (Georges & Marguerite Crépeau) on April 9, 1720 in St-Jean on Ile d'Orléans. He married his second spouse, Marie-Josèphite Filtreau (Gabriel & Marguerite Roy) on February 11, 1734. Marriage contract was dated February 11, 1734 and notarized by Jacques Pinguet. He died on January 12, 1775 and was buried on January 13th in St-Michel on Ile d'Orléans.

12) Anne

Anne was born and baptized on December 19, 1701 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans. She was buried on June 11, 1703 in St-Laurent on Ile d'Orléans.

