Chapter 6

TROIS RIVIÈRES DISTRICT

Marguerite L’Estourneau/Rene Bertrand

**Marguerite (dit Robert) L’Estourneau** was born in the closing years of the 17th Century, when New France was rapidly extending its occupation into Hudson Bay, the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico through the Mississippi River.

“Dit” names make their first appearance in this genealogy during Marguerite’s generation. In some records, she is known as Marguerite dit Robert L’Estourneau. Dit names were a means of identifying a family, of combining names or setting a location, particularly in the case of two families with the same surname. It’s not known where Marguerite’s *dit Robert* originated.

**MARGUERITE L’ESTOURNEAU7**; (JACQUES and **ANGELIQUE GUYON6**); b. 20 Oct 1696, baptized 21 Oct 1696 at La Perade; m 1716 to Rene Bertrand.

**RENE BERTRAND**; (RENE BERTRAND dit LaFLEUR and MARIE GENDREAU); b. 28 Jan 1696, L’Ange Gardien.

According to Rene Jette’s Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles du Quebec, des origines a 1730, children born of this marriage were:

1. Rene Bertrand; b. about 1717.

2. Joseph-Francois Bertrand; b 24 Dec 1719, baptized the next day in Deschambault.

3. Pierre Bertrand; b. and baptized 3 Mar 1722, Quebec; d. and buried 5 Mar 1722, same place.

4. **MARIE-MADELEINE BERTRAND8**; b. 14 Mar 1724 in St. Anne de la Perade; m. Joseph Pineau 6 Jun 1740 in Trois Rivières, Quebec.

5. Laurent Bertrand; b. 25 Mar 1727 in Trois Rivières, baptized the next day; d. 1 Nov 1729 and buried in Trois Rivières.

6. Andre Bertrand; b. 19 Jun 1729 in Trois Rivières, baptized there the next day.

In 1671 Daumont de Saint-Lusson went to Lake Superior and established friendly relations there with natives who came from a great distance.[[1]](#endnote-1) France set up crude posts at Michilimackinac, St. Ignace, St. Joseph and Detroit (1701). In 1665 Jean Claude Allouez, a Jesuit priest, founded the first mission on the shores of Lake Superior. In 1668 Fathers Marquette and Dablon established a mission at the falls of St. Mary, built the first house, erected the first church, cleared and planted the first land and founded the first white settlement at Sault Ste. Marie, now in the Upper Peninsula. Two years later Marquette founded a mission at St. Ignace.[[2]](#endnote-2)

Yet New France, by 1684, still numbered no more than 12,000 inhabitants, almost all of who “clung timidly to the banks of the St. Lawrence between Quebec and Montreal.”[[3]](#endnote-3) In the meantime, war was a certainty between England and France. About 250,000 inhabitants populated the English colonies. By 1713, France signed a treaty that sacrificed Hudson Bay, Newfoundland, Acadia and the Iroquois country to England, making the Great Lakes basin a controversial area.

Marguerite L’Estourneau’s family clung to the La Perade settlement about 40 miles south of Quebec, at least according to the births of her brothers and sisters. She was born 20 baptized 21 Oct 1696 at La Perade,[[4]](#endnote-4) the first of nine children born to Angelique Guyon and Jacques L’Estourneau. Seven brothers and sisters were all born at La Perade — Marie-Angelique, 1698; Louis, 1701; Angelique, 1705; Marie-Madeleine, 1608; Alexis, 1709; Dominique, 1712; Marie-Madeleine, 1714 — until the ninth and last child, Jean-Baptiste, who was born on 13 Mar 1718 in St. Augustin, just several miles south of Quebec. At the time, Angelique Guyon was about 41 years old and Marguerite was already married (in 1716) to Rene Bertrand. Marguerite’s date of death and the location are unknown.

Marguerite was 19 years old when she married **Rene Bertrand** on 23 July 1716 in Deschambault,[[5]](#endnote-5) which is about a dozen miles north of LaPerade, Marguerite’s hometown. Rene was 20. Their first son, Rene (the fourth Rene Bernard), was born in 1717; the location is unknown. The second child was born in Deschambault. But the family apparently moved to Trois Rivières, or Three Rivers, by 1727. The last two of the couple’s six children were born there.

Rene Bertrand, the third, was born 28 Jan 1696 in L’Ange Gardien, a few miles north of Quebec. He was the first child and only son of Rene Bertrand dit LaFleur and Marie Gendreau. Rene had four sisters: Barbe, born 24 July 1697; Marie, 15 April 1700; Claire, 14 Nov 1701; and Marie-Madeleine, 13 Aug 1703. All of the Bertrand children were born in L’Ange Gardien.

Rene’s parents’ birth dates are unknown but it’s likely both were born in France. The second Rene Bertrand dit LaFleur was from St. Michel de Bauge, district of Saumur, diocese of Angers, Anjou, France. It’s not known where his dit name originated. He apparently traveled to Canada as a single man; he and Marie Gendreau were married 1 July 1695 in L’Ange Gardien. Marie was the widow of Andre Cassan.[[6]](#endnote-6) Rene the second was buried 6 Mar 1709 in Deschambault. Marie died 30 Dec 1721 in Quebec and was buried there the next day.

Rene’s paternal grandparents were the first Rene Bertrand and Catherine Blotin. He was born in the parish of Angers, France.[[7]](#endnote-7) Her parents were Pierre Gendron dit Lapoussiere and Jeanne Garnier.

1. Marcel Trudel, *New France, 1524-1713*, Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Toronto, Ontario, University of Toronto Press, 1966, General Editor George W. Brown, 1966) Vol. 1, P. 35. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Joseph H. Steere, *The Upper Peninsula: A Sketch*, Michigan Historical Collections, Vol. 39. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid, P. 36. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Rene Jette, Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles du Quebec, des origines a 1730 (Montreal, Quebec: L’Universite de Montreal, 1983) 728 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Rev. Fr. Christian Denissen, *Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region,* Dr. Harold Frederic Powell, Detroit Society for Genealogical Research (Ann Arbor: Edwards Bros. 1976) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Rene Jette, Dictionnaire Genealogique des familles du Quebec, des origines a 1730 (Montreal, Quebec: L’Universite de Montreal, 1983) P. 95-96. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. L’Abbe Cyprien Tanguay, Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes*,* Eusebe Senecal, Imprimeur-editeur (Montreal: Province de Quebec, 1871) Vol. 1, A-2. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)