Chapter 8

DETROIT CONNECTION

Peter Amable Pineau dit LaPerle/Mary Viger

**Peter Amable Pineau dit LaPerle** moves this genealogy south into the territory that eventually became Michigan. Although he was born in Pointe du Lac (several miles south of Three Rivers) and baptized there 2 Feb 1745, both of Peter’s wives were born in the Detroit region and his three children by Mary Viger were born there.

**PETER AMABLE PINEAU dit LaPERLE9**; (JOSEPH and **MADELEINE BERTRAND8**); b. and baptized 2 Feb 1745 in Pointe du Lac[[1]](#endnote-1); m. 2nd 11 Jun 1798 at Detroit Margaret Patenotre (b. 1764 at Grosse Pointe, buried 12 Mar 1799 in Detroit, daughter of Nicolas Patenotre and Catherine Duchene).

**MARY VIGER**; (parents unknown); b. 1739; buried 24 Nov 1780 at the Assumption parish, Sandwich.

Children of this marriage were:

1. Mary Croisette Pineau; b. 1772; m. 13 Sept 1790 in Detroit to Louis Raphael Huyet dit Champagne of Grosse Pointe.

2. Frances Pineau; b. 1775; m. 4 Feb 1793 in Detroit to Anthony Petit**.**

**3. SUSANNE** **PINEAU10;** b. 10 Aug 1779, Assumption, Sandwich; m. 3 Mar 1794 to Laurence Moore, widower of Mary Joseph Ursula Belanger, son of Francis Moore and Louisa Demeules.[[2]](#endnote-2)

Detroit was settled in 1701, when King Louis XIV authorized Antoine de la Mothe Sieur de Cadillac, who had commanded Fort Michilimackinac, to found Fort Pontchartrain at Detroit. The move was meant to block English expansion into the upper Great Lakes.

**Map of Detroit region taken from *The First Michigan Frontier* by Calvin Goodrich, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1940.**



Although settlement was slow, by 1760 Detroit had achieved some importance as a fur-trading center. In that year, possession of Detroit passed from the French to the English under the terms settling the French and Indian War. Three years later the fort survived a grueling five-month siege during Pontiac’s uprising against British rule.

The city population continued to be French-speaking until well after 1800. During the American Revolution the city was the western headquarters of the British administration.[[3]](#endnote-3) When the Michigan Territory was organized in 1805, Detroit was made the seat of government. In June that year, the whole town was destroyed by fire.

**Mary Viger** was born in Sandwich, which was a small village on the Canada side of the Detroit River. Little is known about her background. Her parents are unknown. It’s not known exactly when she died but the date was likely a day or two before she was buried on 24 Nov 1780 at the Assumption parish in Sandwich. She was only 41.

Peter was only in his mid-30s when Mary died, which would have put him in his early 50s when he married Margaret Patenotre, the daughter of Nicolas Patenotre and Catherine Duchene. Margaret was born in 1764 at Grosse Pointe and buried 12 Mar 1799 in Detroit. Peter and Margaret were married 11 Jun 1798 in Detroit.

It’s not known where the Amable in Peter’s name originated or the dit name, LaPerle. Some historians spell Pineau as Pinot.

1. Father Christian Denissen, *Ancient Canadian Ties*, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Garnett McCoy, *Detroit,* Collier’s Encyclopedia (USA: Crowell-Collier Publishing Company, 1962) Vol. 8, P. 159. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)