

### **Acte de baptême de François Vaillant**

21 juillet 1646, Orléans, paroisse Saint-Éloi (Saint-Maurice)

(Source : Saint-Eloi (ou Saint-Maurice) 1607-1647, Baptêmes, Mariages, Sépultures, retrace vue 175/180)

Le dict jour et an a esté baptisé Francois filz de  
Francois Vaillant du Guellis [mot rayé] escuyer lieutenant  
de garde des plaisirs de son altesse et de damoiselle  
Magdalene Perdoux ses pere et mere son parain noble  
homme Jacques Perdoux sieur de Monplaisir sa maraine  
damoiselle Claude Perdoux femme de messire Jehan de Palluau  
chevalier sieur dHerbau et de Moncy  
J Perdoux (paraphe) C Perdoux

M Bree (paraphe)

cure

### **Notes de recherche :**

1. Son père est : Écuyer, Lieutenant - Garde des plaisirs du duc d'Orléans (Geneanet)
2. François VAILLANT de GUÉLIS + av. 1677 x Madeleine PERDOUX de MONTPLAISIR.
  1. Guillaume 1639-1678 bénédictin.
  2. Antoine Abraham, ° 1642 Orléans.
  3. François, 1648-1718 jésuite.

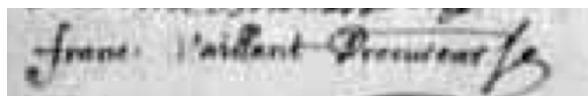
Réf. : Héraldique et Généalogie, Edité en 1998, via bibliothèque Geneanet : [Nom PERDOUX de MONTPLAISIR : Visualisez en ligne l'ouvrage pour le nom PERDOUX de MONTPLAISIR - Visualisation d'une page d'un ouvrage \(geneanet.org\)](#)

Par Marie Gagné

**François Vaillant de Guélis/Gueslis, S. J.**  
**25 July 1646 Orléans, Loiret, France – 24 July 1701 Détroit**  
Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, FCHSM member ([gfmoreaul@aol.com](mailto:gfmoreaul@aol.com))

Between 3 to 5 June 1701, **Antoine de Lamothe, sieur de Cadillac**, departed Montréal for Détroit with 25 canoes, 52 *voyageurs* or hired men, and about 50 soldiers. The names of only a few soldiers who were in the first convoy have survived. Cadillac was accompanied by his lieutenant, **Alphonse de Tonty**; **Pierre Dugué, sieur de Boisbriant**; **Chacornac, baron de Johannes**; a Récollet, (no name is given but possibly **Father Constantin Delhalle**); the Jesuit, **François Vaillant de Gueslis, S.J.**<sup>1</sup> and Cadillac's son, **Antoine de Lamothe de Cadillac**. They travelled via the Ottawa River to Lake Nipissing, to the Rivière François, to Lake Huron, and then south to avoid the Iroquois who did not yet know about the plans for the post at Détroit.<sup>2</sup> The northern route was taken because the Great Peace of 1701 had not yet convened, nor had it been signed by the Iroquois. These are the men who founded Détroit 320 years ago on 24 July 1701.

Previous to his departure with the first convoy to Détroit, Father François Vaillant was the treasurer of the Jesuit College in Québec City.



Possible signature of François Vaillant, *procureur*, in 1700.<sup>3</sup>

It appears that it was understood that Father Vaillant would return to his previous mission after a short time in the newly founded post at Détroit.<sup>4</sup> According to Cadillac, the Jesuits insinuated themselves with the Governor General and the Intendant so that the Jesuits alone could be established at Détroit. As a result, Father Vaillant was nominated to go and take possession of the new site.<sup>5</sup> Again, according to Cadillac, when it was proposed that a Franciscan would act as chaplain of the troops, this upset Father Vaillant who then tried to turn the soldiers against Cadillac. However, in reality, the Jesuits were stretched thin in trying to serve the various missions and really could not spare one to go to *le Détroit* and to stay there.<sup>6</sup>

By the end of the summer of 1701, François Vaillant de Gueslis, S.J., who had been part of the original convoy, left Détroit and returned to the St. Lawrence settlements via the Lake Erie, Lake Ontario route, and Fort Frontenac. He most likely returned on 31 August 1701, with Chacornac, *baron de Johannes*, who left Détroit with five men, and who brought Cadillac's letters/memoranda for **Callière**, **Champigny**, and **Pontchartrain**. Cadillac's original report to Pontchartrain is no longer extant, but a summary is available. Cadillac declared that the fort was capable of stopping the English and the Iroquois. Cadillac requested an additional 200 selected soldiers who also knew a trade and insisted that he was capable of feeding that many men. He promised to deliver large hides to the St. Lawrence settlements and requested additional boats to transport the farm products in 1702. Cadillac also requested that the Récollets and Seminary of Foreign Missions send additional missionaries; otherwise, he was not sure that he could found an establishment at Détroit because he was sure that the Jesuits would do everything in their power to wreck it.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/vaillant\\_de\\_gueslis\\_francois\\_2E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/vaillant_de_gueslis_francois_2E.html) for a biography of his life; see also, Jean Delanglez, S.J., "Cadillac at Detroit." *Mid-America an historical review* (Chicago, Illinois: Loyola University, The Institute of Jesuit History, Volume 32, Number 3, 1948), 30:152-176  
<https://archive.org/details/midamericahistor30unse/page/152/mode/2up>

<sup>2</sup> Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, and Diane Wolford Sheppard, *Le Détroit du Lac Érie 1701-1710: Volume 1* (Royal Oak, Michigan: French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan, 2016), 45, 46. (Hereafter, Moreau-DesHarnais and Wolford Sheppard, Vol. 1).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/CollectionSearch/Pages/record.aspx?app=FonAndCol&IdNumber=3073754>  
Placet adressé au ministre Pontchartrain par les jésuites Martin Bouvart (supérieur) et François Vaillant de Gueslis (procureur).

<sup>4</sup> Delanglez, 154.

<sup>5</sup> Delanglez, 155.

<sup>6</sup> Delanglez, 155.

<sup>7</sup> Moreau-DesHarnais and Wolford Sheppard, Vol. 1, 48.

Cadillac personally felt that Father Vaillant had tried all that he could do to make the new post fail. He said that Father Vaillant had tried to turn the men against him and to return to Montréal. Supposedly, no date stated, Cadillac had set Father Vaillant up for a confrontation. After finishing a meal, Cadillac asked the soldiers and Canadians why they wanted to return to Montréal. He finally asked an unnamed officer the same question. Supposedly, Father Vaillant realized that it was he whom Cadillac felt had started the “revolt.” Cadillac then claimed that Father Vaillant retreated in extreme haste into the woods – in this case, it was grossly intimated that Father Vaillant had eaten something that did not agree with him so that he ran into the woods to take care of the problem.<sup>8</sup>

However, based on the following letter that Vaillant wrote to Cadillac from Fort Frontenac on 23 September 1701, Father Vaillant did not seem to have the same antagonism:<sup>9</sup>

Our fortunate meeting at Fort Frontenac with Mme de Lamothe gives me a good opportunity of thanking you very humbly for all the courtesies with which you overwhelmed me this summer, both during our voyage to and at Detroit. I beg of you to be so good as to continue to grant them to the Father who is to come down from Michilimackinac to Detroit; for I have no doubt you will have one there very soon. I met the Huron Quarante Sols on Lake Erie, who assured me that the Hurons were coming to settle near you this very autumn without fail. With regard to the Iroquois whom we met on the way, we did not find them much opposed to your settlement; some even showed pleasure, because when hunting in the Lake Erie country, they will find at Detroit all they want in exchange for the skins of roe-buck, stag, and hind; so all you need is to have plenty of merchandise at a low price. I am not telling you the news we have heard here, because Mme de Lamothe informed us of it; she will tell it to you as exactly as I write it.

On 5 September 1701, **Joseph Trottier DesRuisseaux**, **Robert Réaume**, and **Toussaint Pothier** were hired to escort **Marie Thérèse Guyon (Madame Cadillac)** and **Marie Anne Picoté de Belestre (Madame Tonty)** to Détroit via Lakes Ontario and Lake Erie. While they were *en route*, they met with François Vaillant de Gueslis, S.J., at Fort Frontenac. The Cadillac and Tonty families, their servants, and *voyageurs* arrived in Détroit later that fall. **Callière** and **Champigny** also sent additional food to Détroit with the canoes that were transporting the Cadillac and Tonty families and their servants to Détroit.<sup>10</sup> It can only be assumed (but cannot be proven) that when Father Vaillant left Fort Pontchartrain, the unnamed Récollet priest was still there to serve the arriving families and the few soldiers and Canadians left at the post.

Because of Cadillac's complaints, it was possible that Father Vaillant was to have been recalled to France. In the margin of a letter sent by Pontchartrain on 6 May 1702, are written the words: “f[ai]re revenir le P. Vaillant en fr[ance] y envoyer d'autres.” – recall Father Vaillant to France and send some others.<sup>11</sup> Father Vaillant was never recalled to France; instead, he went to work among the Seneca with Father Garnier in August 1702.<sup>12</sup>

Father François Vaillant de Guélis/Gueslin, S.J., was only in Détroit less than two months – long enough to celebrate his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday (baptized 25 July 1646 in the church of Saint-Eloi and Saint Maurice, Orléans, Loiret, France) and to help found a new post.

I recently found his baptismal record and can now report the following details about him.

#### Family in France

François Vaillant de Guélis/Gueslis, S. J. was the son of *noble homme* **François Vaillant de Guélis**, *écuyer*, a lieutenant of the guards of the pleasures (*garde des plaisirs*) of his royal highness **Gaston, duke of Orléans**, and

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<sup>8</sup> Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, *Historical Collections – Collections and Researches Made by the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society* (Lansing, MI: Robert Smith Printing Company, 1904), Vol. 33 (XXXIII), 202, 203.

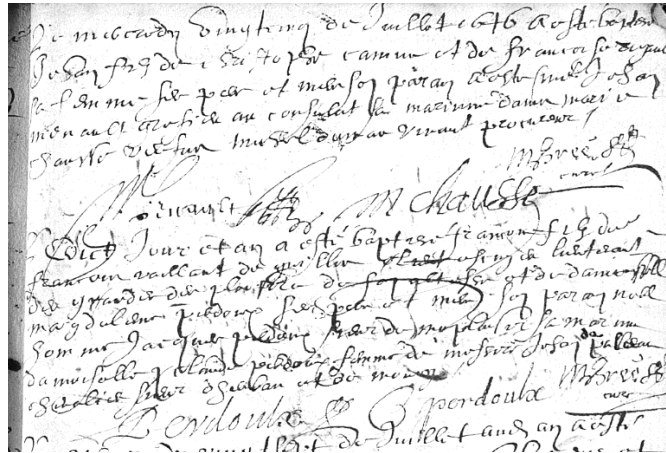
<sup>9</sup> Delanglez, 161.

<sup>10</sup> Moreau-DesHarnais and Wolford Sheppard, Vol. 1, 48.

<sup>11</sup> Delanglez, 158.

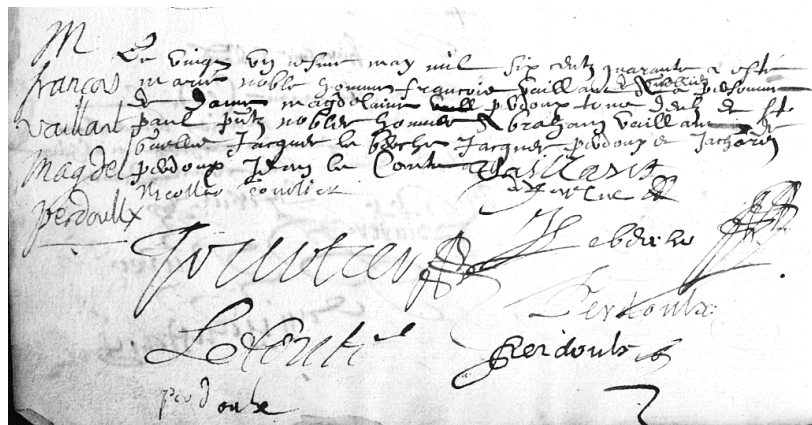
<sup>12</sup> Delanglez, 154.

brother of **King Louis XIII**, and **Madeline Perdoux/Perdoux**. Specifically, his father was in charge of the surveillance of the hunts of the royal domain and also worked as the water and forest warden.<sup>13</sup>



Baptismal act of François Vaillant on 25 July 1646 in Orléans (paroisse Saint-Eloi ou Saint-Maurice), Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures (1607-1647), vue 175.<sup>14</sup>

His parents were married 21 May 1640 in the church of Saint-Paul, Orléans; both were said to be from the parish of Saint-Paul. His father, François Vaillant, was baptized 5 February 1611 in Saint-Paul; his mother, the daughter of **Pierre Perdoux/Perdoux**, a *bourgeois* merchant in Orléans, and **Claude/Claudine Robert**, was baptized in the church of Sainte-Catherine, Orléans, on 19 August 1621. Her godfather was **Nicolas Tourtier** who was also present at her marriage. *Noble homme* (noble man) François Vaillant de Guélis was the son of **Abraham Vaillant de Guélis**, who signed below, the *contrôleur des tailles*<sup>15</sup> in Orléans, and **Anne Tassin**. Even though Father François Vaillant's parents did not sign their marriage act, they did both sign as witnesses to the marriage of his mother's sister **Claude Perdoux** to **Jean de Palluau**, on 20 February 1645 in the church of Saint-Sulpice, Orléans.



Marriage act of François Vaillant and Madeleine Perdoux, Orléans (paroisse Saint-Paul), Mariages (1625-1640), vue 97.

<sup>13</sup> [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garde\\_des\\_plaisirs](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garde_des_plaisirs); See also, <https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=https://enquetedenotrehistoire.com/g-comme-garde-des-plaisirs-du-roi/&prev=search&pto=aue>

<sup>14</sup> <https://consultation.archives-loiret.fr/e/EtatCivil/> Then click on type de registre: Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures; then scroll down to Orléans and the parish of Saint-Eloi ou Saint-Maurice. The extant acts begin in 1607.

<sup>15</sup> Controller of sizes (equivalent to the tax collector) – “In France under the Ancien Régime, the size was a direct tax, very unpopular, because the bourgeoisie of the big cities, the clergy and the nobility were freed from it. This tax can be imposed on individuals (personal size) or on the land (actual size), depending on the region.” [http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taille\\_%28imp%C3%B4t%29](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taille_%28imp%C3%B4t%29) Translation from Google Translate.

Signatures of François Vaillant's parents: François Vaillant de Guélis and Madeleine Perdoux, at marriage of Claude Perdoux.

François Vaillant de Guélis and Madeleine Perdoux were the parents of six known children: (1) **François**, baptized 29 January 1641 in Saint-Paul. His godparents were *noble homme* Abraham Vaillant de Guélis, his paternal grandfather, and Claude Robert, his maternal grandmother, both of whom signed; (2) **Abraham**, baptized 15 February 1642 in Saint-Paul. His godparents were *noble homme* **Jacques Leberche**, a King's counselor and elected in the election of Orléans, and **Françoise de Troyes**, wife of *noble homme* **Jacques Perdoux** (Madeleine Perdoux's brother), both of whom signed; (3) **Jacques**, baptized 21 February 1644 in Saint-Eloi and Saint-Maurice. His godparents were *noble homme* **Jacques Giraud**, an advocat in the *Parlement*, and **Marguerite Perdoux**, wife of *sieur* **Pierre Ozon** (Madeleine's sister); (4) **Madeleine**, baptized 23 June 1645 in Saint-Eloi and Saint-Maurice. Her godparents were **François Garsault** (*sic*), *écuyer*, also a lieutenant of the guards of the pleasures of his highness, and **Espérance Vaillant de Guélis** (possibly François' sister), wife of **Jean Leberche**; (5) François, baptized 25 July 1646 in Saint-Eloi and Saint-Maurice. His godparents were *noble homme* **Jacques Perdoux**, *sieur de Monplaisir* (probably Madeleine's brother), and **Claude Perdoux** (Madeleine's sister), wife of **Jean de Palluau**, *chevalier*, *sieur d'Herbault* and **de Moury**; (6) **Jean Baptiste**, baptized 20 October 1647 in Saint-Eloi and Saint-Maurice. His godparents were **Jean de Palluau**, *chevalier*, *sieur d'Herbault* and **de Moury**, and **Marie Perdoux** (Madeleine's sister), wife of *noble homme* **Jean Leconte**, King's counselor and his *procurateur* in the *prévoté* of Orléans.

François Vaillant de Guélis and Madeleine Perdoux were married in the church of Saint-Paul in Orléans. Their first two children were baptized there. Their next four children were baptized in the church of Saint Eloi or Saint-Maurice. It can only be assumed that they moved and, as a result, their parish changed. Both parishes have been checked and it appears that no further children were baptized in either one of them. The church of Saint-Catherine, associated with Madeleine Perdoux's family, has also been checked, and no further children were baptized there. The church of Saint-Sulpice, which has also been associated with the family, has been checked, with the same result. Thus, at this time, it is not known if there were any more children born to the couple. The fate of this family is not known at this time. There are 31 extant parishes in Orléans, and, to date, only four of them have pertinent information concerning this Vaillant de Guélis family.

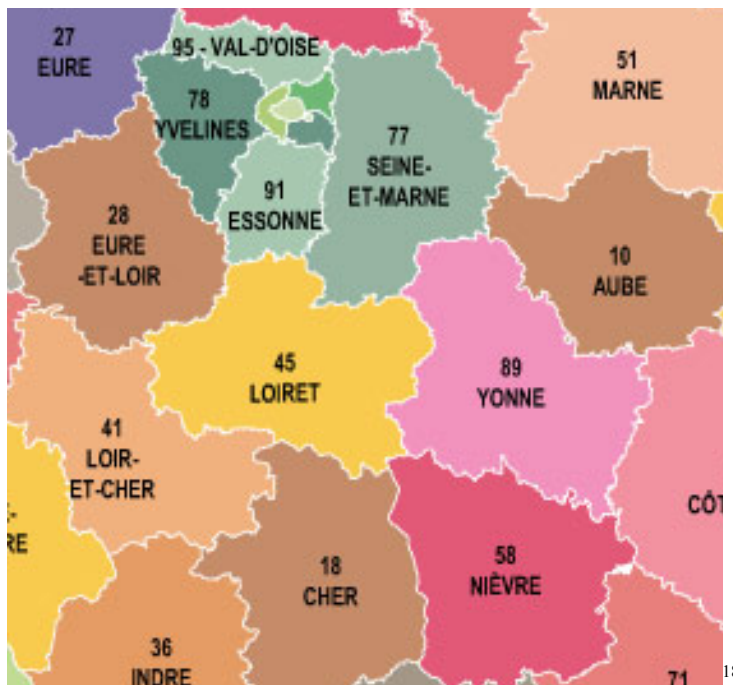
The Vaillant de Guélis family has been traced back into the 1400s. The following information is from *Terres et seigneurs en Donziais*.<sup>16</sup> "The Vaillant de Guélis family is an old one – known in Nivernais since the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century – but there is still uncertainty concerning its origin. The filiation has been established from Jehan in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but there are indications of a presence in Neuzy, or Nuzy, that is to say at Saint-Père, near Cosne." Following is the currently agreed to genealogy.

|     |  |                              |   |
|-----|--|------------------------------|---|
| I   | Jehan de Guélis, "Le Vaillant"<br>(1400-1462)                  | <i>circa</i> 1439<br>Orléans | Marie du Puy  |
| II  | Jehan II Vaillant de Guélis<br>(Jehan/Marie du Puy)            | <i>circa</i> 1469<br>Orléans | Jehanne de Moulins<br>(Guillaume II /Perrette de Villebresme) |
| III | Louis Vaillant de Guélis<br>(Jehan II/Jehanne de Moulins)      |                              | Antoinette de Vaillot (?)                                     |
| IV  | Guillaume Vaillant de Guélis<br>(Louis/Antoinette de Vaillot?) |                              | Marie Vaillant<br>(Junien/Jeanne Lhuillier)                   |

<sup>16</sup> [www.terres-et-seigneurs-en-donziais.fr](http://www.terres-et-seigneurs-en-donziais.fr), revision 1, 9 mars 2019. The translation from this site is mine.



|      |   |                                 |  |
|------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| V    | François Vaillant de Guélis<br>(Guillaume/Marie Vaillant)       |                                 | Anne Maillart  |
| VI   | Abraham Vaillant de Guélis<br>(François/Anne Maillant/Vaillant) | 22 Nov 1598<br>Orléans          | Anne Tassin<br>(Guillaume/Espérance Nouël) <sup>17</sup> |
| VII  | François Vaillant de Guélis<br>(Abraham/Anne Tassin)            | 21 May 1640<br>St-Paul, Orléans | Madeleine Perdoux/Perdoux<br>(Pierre/Claude Robert)      |
| VIII | François Vaillant de Guélis, S. J.                              |                                 |  |



The Vaillant de Guélis family lived in the departments of Nièvre, Loiret, and Eure-et-Loire. In the *prévoté* of Orléans, 29 May 1565, permission was granted to sell the Nivernais property from the succession/inheritance of **Guillaume Vaillant de Guélis**, with the condition that the proceeds were used to purchase property nearby Orléans. In Loiret, Abraham Vaillant de Guélis, was the *contrôleur des tailles* in Orléans, He was a *chevalier* and the *seigneur* of Villevoison/Villemoison, which was a manoir and agricultural domaine near Saint-Cloud-en-Dunois, Eure-et-Loir, and the *sieur* des Roches. On the right is the coat of arms associated with the Vaillant de Guélis family.<sup>20</sup>

*Bon anniversaire*, François Vaillant de Guélis, S. J. (375 ans), first Jesuit priest in Détroit, *et Bon anniversaire*, Détroit (320 ans).

<sup>17</sup> Philippe de Vaumas, *Familles orléanaises, essai généalogique, quatrième série, complétée* (Versailles, mars 2004-mai 2014), 350, 351. Espérance Nouël was the daughter of Jacques Nouël and Jeanne Le Normant, who in 1573, stated she was a Huguenot. Guillaume Tassin, a *bourgeois* of Orléans, was the son of Guillaume Tassin, a *calviniste* and *échevin* (alderman) in Orléans in 1545, and Marie de Mareau.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.france-pub.com/maps/departments-names-1000.jpg>

<sup>19</sup> [www.terres-et-seigneurs-en-donziats.fr](http://www.terres-et-seigneurs-en-donziats.fr), revision 1, 9 mars 2019.

<sup>20</sup> [www.terres-et-seigneurs-en-donziats.fr](http://www.terres-et-seigneurs-en-donziats.fr), revision 1, 9 mars 2019.