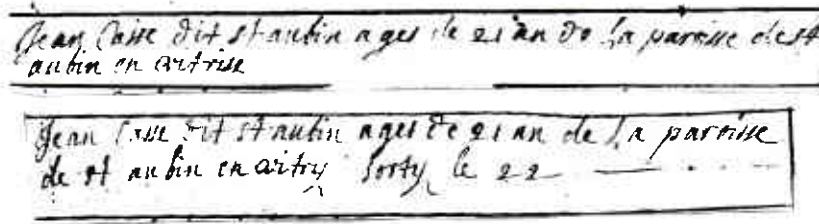


Jean Casse dit Saint-Aubin¹

One of the founding families of Détroit in the 1701-1710 period was that of Jean Casse dit Saint-Aubin and Marie-Louise Gaultier. In consulting Jetté,² the two towns that have always been associated with him were *St-Aubin-de-Blaye* and *St-Aubin-de-Branne*. His marriage record in Québec only gave the name of St-Aubin in the archdiocese of Bordeaux.

The first known documentation of Jean Casse is found in two records of the *Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*: 11 November 1689 and December 1689, with the notation that he left on the 22nd.³



In these two records he was listed as Jean Casse dit St Aubin, aged 21, from the parish of *St-Aubin en Vitry*. In looking at a map of France or consulting *France Répertoire des communes* by Michelin,⁴ there is no town by the name of *Vitry*. However, in either going to the web and searching for *St-Aubin-de-Blaye* or to the book by Norman Robert *Nos origines en France des débuts à 1825 #2 Guyenne et Périgord*,⁵ which gives information on each of the two possible towns of *St-Aubin* that Jean Casse could have come from, only one of the two makes sense based on the material found in the records from *Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*. The area called *en Vitry* is a very small port on the Estuary of the Gironde leading from Bordeaux known as *Vitrezay*. *St-Aubin-de-Blaye* is located in the department of Gironde (33), in the district of Blaye, canton of St-Ciers-sur-Gironde, in the *perception* (tax collecting office) of Etauliers, in the area of Bordelais, in Guyenne, in the diocese, *parlement*, *intendance* and *élection* of Bordeaux and in the *juridiction* (law court) of Vitrezay.

The nearby town of Blaye was a citadel built, between 1685-1689, by Vauban. It is possible that soldiers left from there to other ports and then to Quebec. [Author's note: Pierre Emard, a soldier in the Company of Lorimier, and who was possibly in Détroit by 10 March 1707, claimed to be from the town of Blaye. However, in searching through the church records in March 2000, the family was not to be found. Thus, it is possible that he said he was from the town of Blaye (where he left from France) but was actually born somewhere else.]

In searching through the phone book for the department of Gironde for 1998 / 1999, there were no Casse families in either town of St-Aubin. However, there were three people listed in Bordeaux under that

¹ This article first appeared in *Michigan's Habitant Heritage (MHH)*, Vol. 22, Commemorative Issue #1, January 2001, 44-48. The second article appeared in *MHH*, Vol., Commemorative Issue, #2, April 2001, 60-62. The two articles, by Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, are combined here.

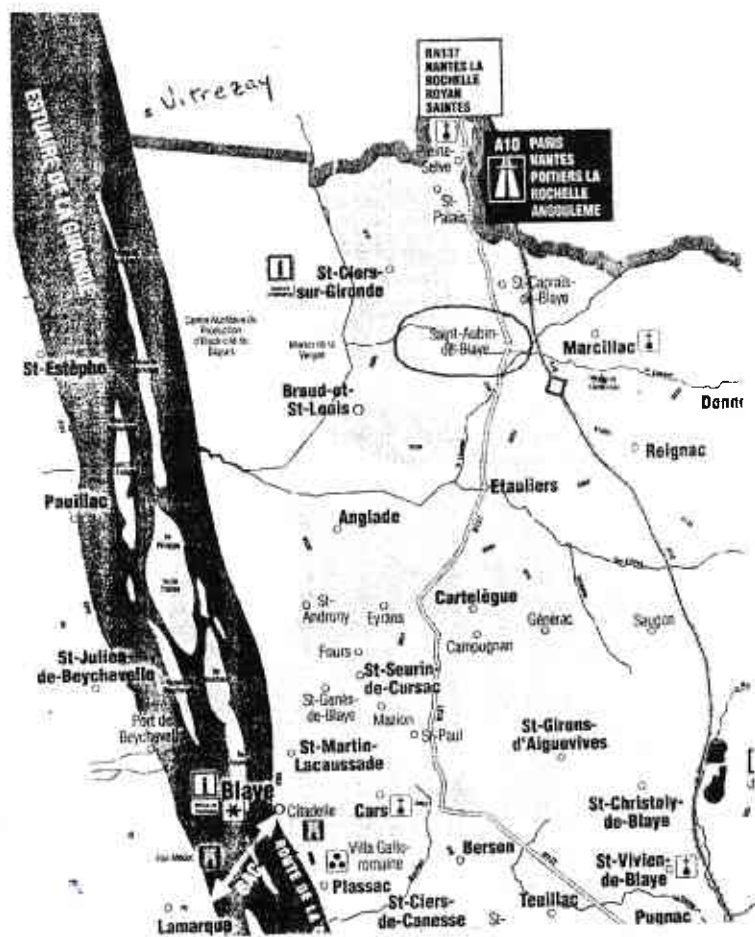
² René Jetté. *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines jusqu'à 1730* (Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal: Montréal, 1983),

³ *Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Family History Library Microfilm #1287128.

⁴ *France Répertoire des communes* (40,000 localités avec leur repérage sur les cartes Michelin 51 à 90 et 230 à 245 et les chiffres de population). Michelin. 1996.

⁵

name, including a Jean Casse. There was also a Casse listed in the town of Libourne near St-Aubin-en-Branne.⁶



A full version of this map is found in the brochure of the Haute-Gironde by the Conseil Général Gironde, Office de Tourisme, Allées Marine 33390 Blaye, France [1999]

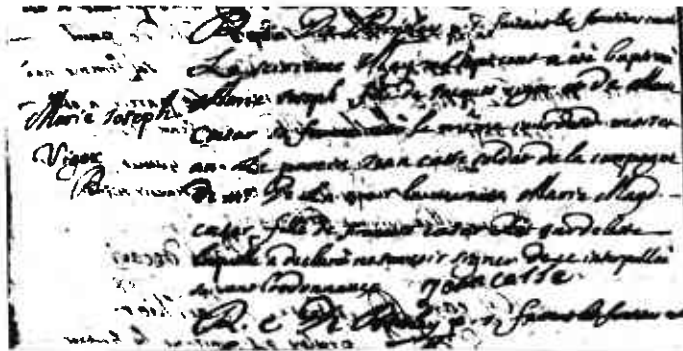
Between 1689 and 1700 not too much is known about Jean Casse *dit* St-Aubin. According to PRDH, there was a Jean Casse in Pointe-de-Levy (Lauzon) on 10 January 1692 who was a witness at the wedding of Louis Guay and Suzanne Samson. Checking the original record might give proof that this was Jean Cass edit St-Aubin. However, it does not seem possible to find the original record at either Ancestry or FamilySearch.⁷

From 1700 on, information about Jean Casse can be more readily found. In Montréal, on 16 May 1700, Jean Casse was the godfather of Marie Viger, daughter of Jacques Viger and Marie Caesar. In this document which he signed, Jean Casse was said to be a soldier in the company of Charles-Henri D'Aloigny, Marquis de la Groix. Of interest, Jacques Viger, on 31 May 1701, was hired to be in the first convoy to go to Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit du Lac Érié. On 5 September 1700, in Montréal, Jean Casse was a witness at the wedding of another soldier in the same company: Pierre Bardet *dit* Lapierre

⁶ Les pages blanches – La Gironde. Septembre 1998/99. France telecom. (Authors's note: the following web site is good for all of France. Detailed maps are given of where the individual lives. (<http://www.pagesblanches.tm.fr>)

⁷ PRDH: Programme de recherche en démographie historique (Program of research in historical demography). Gaetan Morin éditeur. <http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca> ; www.ancestry.ca ; www.familysearch.org

who was from the city of Périgieux in Périgord. Pierre Bardet married Françoise Achin, the widow of Pierre Girardeau. Jean Casse did not sign this act. Perhaps, in following the activities of the Marquis D'Aloigny more can be found about Jean Casse dit St-Aubin.



Ancestry.ca, Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967, Montréal, Basiliques Notre-Dame, 1700-1704, image 20 of 314

On 28 February 1705, in Québec, Marie Louise Gauthier gave birth to their son, Jean-Baptiste. Jean Casse did not sign the register nor was it indicated if he was present for the baptism. Based on this date, Jean Casse and Marie Louise Gauthier must have met about May or June 1704. It is possible that Jean Casse was involved in fighting the English and was away for awhile. This was the case of Jacques Marsac and Thérèse David. In their marriage contract by Michel Lepallieur in Montréal on 25 June 1704 it was stated that Marsac would soon be leaving to go fight the English, their enemies.

On 9 June 1706, in Montréal, Jean Casse was a witness at the wedding of Antoine Dupuis dit Beauregard, a soldier in the company of Raymond Blaise, *sieur de Bergères*, from the parish of Roquebrune in the archdiocese of Auch in the department of Gers and in the province of Gascogne. Dupuis, with his wife Marie-Anne Marandeau/Maranda, daughter of Étienne Maranda and Marie Lesaint, was also in Détroit for a few years. On this occasion, Jean Casse, who signed the register, was said to be from Québec and still a soldier in the company of D'Aloigny. Another soldier present at the wedding was Michel Dizier dit Sanscartier, in the company of DesBergères, also went to Détroit.



Ancestry.ca, Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967, Montréal, Basiliques Notre-Dame, 1705-1712, image 72 of 377

Three days later, on 12 June 1706, Jean Casse was a witness at the wedding of André Bombardier *dit* Passepartout, a soldier in the company of D'Aloigny, and Marie Dumets/Demers, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Demers and Cunégonde Masta. Bombardier was from St. Sauveur de l'Isle in Flanders, diocese of Tournay. Even though just a few days earlier Casse was a witness at the wedding of Dupuis and listed as a soldier, he was not listed as a soldier in this wedding. Other soldiers present were: Salomon Joseph Duversin *dit* Laguerre, a soldier in the company of D'Aloigny, Guillaume Agne *dit* Sanscartier, a soldier in the company of François Leverrier, sieur de Rousson, and Antoine Escot *dit* Dauphine, a soldier in the company of Jacques-Charles Sabrevois, sieur de Bleury. There is evidence that all, except Escot, went to Détroit.



Ancestry.ca, Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967, Montréal, Basilique Notre-Dame, 1705-1712, image 75 of 377

Noël-Étienne [Loiseau], second son of Jean Casse and Marie-Louise Gauthier, was born in Québec on 26 December 1706. Jean Casse did not sign the register nor is it known if he was present. However, he married Marie-Louise Gauthier, 7 February 1707, in Québec. His parents were said to be Guillaume Casse and Anne Grenier from *la paroisse de St Aubin archevesche de Bourdeaux*.

2012

Since my original work in 1999 and 2001, many events have happened – one of which is/was the departmental archives in France going online. Records which were previously not available, unless you were able to make a trip in person to a specific archive, have now become accessible. This is true in the case of Jean Casse dit St. Aubin. Even though the parish records online for St-Aubin-de-Blaye, department of Gironde, do not go back before 1667, there are enough records available to give more insight into his family. His father was indeed **Guillaume Casse, marchand** (merchant), and **Anne Jargouil/Gargouil/Gargouilh/Jargouilh/Gergouil**. There are three baptismal records and three burial records for three of their children: (1) **Françoise**, baptized 19 May 1669, buried 1 September 1669, at the

age of four months; (2) **Françoise**, baptized 20 September 1670, buried 10 December 1672 at the age of two years; **Martin**, baptized 23 January 1677, buried 26 January 1677 at the age of four days.

Even though the baptismal record of Jean Casse has not yet been found, so there is no proof that he was over 100 years of age when he was buried in 1759 in the church of Ste. Anne de Detroit, his unmistakable signature has been found in two records in the parish register of St-Aubin-de-Blaye. The first record was 10 September 1679 when Jean Casse was godfather to Marie Boutin.

Handwritten baptismal record from 1679. The text is in French and includes the name "Jean Casse" and a signature. The record is written in a cursive script typical of the 17th century.

Archives départementales de la Gironde, E Depot 4451, GG1, Baptêmes 1667-1692, image 51 of 85

The second record was at the baptism of Marie Guay, 21 February 1683. In the actual record the godfather was said to be Jean Guay – her father? However, Jean Casse signed the parish register.

Handwritten baptismal record from 1683. The text is in French and includes the name "Jean Casse" and a signature. The record is written in a cursive script typical of the 17th century. A circular stamp with the word "COPIE" is visible on the left side of the document.

Archives départementales de la Gironde, E Depot 4451, GG1, Baptêmes 1667-1692, image 59 of 85

Jean Casse dit St-Aubin
From St-Aubin-de-Blaye, Gironde

His mother was **Anne Jargouille/Jargouille/Gergouil**.

Her siblings were **Guillemete Gergouil/Jargouilh** and **François Gergouil**.

Guillemete Gergouil/Jargouilh married Jean Pavageau, St-Aubin-de-Blaye, May 1667. Guillemete was buried 7 December 1677, at the age of about 30 years. She was, based on this, born *circa* 1647.

François Gergouil, who signed at his marriage, married 13 June 1678, at St-Aubin-de-Blaye, Jeanne Pallié. One of the witnesses to his marriage was **Jeanne Garnier**, identified as his mother. His brother-in-law, Guillaume Casse. Thus, François and Anne Gergouil were brother and sister. François Jargouilh was a godfather to Françoise Casse in 1669.

The 1st of August 1698, St-Aubin-de-Blaye, **Anne Jargouil**, widow of Guillaume Casse, was buried. She was about 55 years old. Thus, born *circa* 1643.

André Chauvet dit Camiran/Camirand
Camiran, Gironde
Parents: **Jean Chauvet, Françoise Touzet**
Baptisms at St-Pierre, Camiran

André Chauvet, born 29 March 1667, baptized 2 April 1667. His godparents were André Chauvet and Olive (?)/ Alice (?) Charlot, his grandparents.

Pierre Chauvet, born 27 September 1668 and baptized the 30th of September 1668. Godfather: **Pierre Touzet**, maréchal at *Caumon alibret*
Married 29 November 1691- Marie Dupeyron.

Guiraude Chauvet, born 6 February 1672, baptized 10 February 1672

Arnaude Chauvet, born 19 (?) February 1673 and baptized 6 March 1673. – Godmother was Arnaude Chauvet living in Caumon/Castelmauron en Albret.

Margueritte Chauvet, born 25 March 1675, baptized 29 March 1675. Godmother was Margueritte Touzet from Caumon.

Bertrande Chauvet, born 20 November 1676, baptized 22 November 1676. Godfather was Michel Chauvet from Ste. Foy Lalongue, jurisdiction de Gironde.

No more children, that I could find, after this date. From this date on, there were several Jean Chauvets who married and had children. Not possible to tell if the same Jean Chauvet or not.