

Histoires de famille**Name The Audet and Lapointe - text by Hélène-Andrée Bizier****The Audet and Lapointe Families**

Nicolas Audet dit Lapointe, ancestor of the first and most extensive line of the Audet, Lapointe and Audet dit Lapointe families, was born between 1636 and 1641, in the parish of Saint-Pierre-de-Maillé, bishopric of Poitiers, in the province of Poitou. He was the son of Innocent Audet and Vincente Reine.

Several genealogists believe that Nicolas Audet was a soldier in the Carignan Regiment, but this does not jibe with the fact that he was in Québec on March 23, 1664, the day he received confirmation from Mgr de Laval, along with Noël Langlois, Jean Dupy, Bernard Bonthier, and Michel Chabot, and others.

The 1666 census reveals that Nicolas Audet was living in Saint-Joachim with the farmers, labourers and tradesmen who were working the Bishop of Québec's farm in Cap-Tourmente. The following year, a second census, conducted as a supplement to the first, shows that Nicolas had left the Beaupré shore for Île d'Orléans, part of which belonged to Mgr de Laval. On June 22, 1667, the Bishop, in his capacity as seigneur "of Beaupré and Île d'Orléans", granted Nicolas Audet dit Lapointe "three arpents fronting on the Saint-Laurent River (...) backing onto the road that crossed the said island from one point to the other".

Despite his obligation to maintain home and hearth on his lot, less than a month after having received it, Audet, surprisingly, turned up in Québec on October 13, 1668, when Jean Madry, master surgeon and first barber to the King in Québec, came to pay fealty and homage to the seigneur Bishop. After "a little bell was rung (...), Nicolet Audet appeared, the château porter" for the "episcopal palace". Nicolas Audet was a witness at the few marriages that took place: one in 1669 for Pierre Roneau and Catherine Verrier and one on September 9 for Mathurin Dubé and Marie Champion. Soon, it would be his turn to marry.

In accordance with the wishes of the Intendant, Jean Talon, and most of the prospective settlers, filles du Roy, or girls for marrying, were requested. For several years, Anne Gasnier, widow of the land surveyor Jean Boudron, had been devoting her life to bringing these young women over to the New Country. In 1668-69, she went to France herself to recruit new volunteers, and it was from among these women that Nicolas Audet dit Lapointe chose Madeleine Després. Daughter of François Després and Madeleine Legrand, she was born in 1656, in the parish of Saint-Sauveur de Paris, Île-de-France. On the afternoon of August 30, 1670, before notary Romain Becquet, with Anne Gasnier

and Élisabeth Étienne as witnesses, the young girl of 14 consented and promised to marry Nicolas Audet. She brought to her new marriage the "50 livres given by His Majesty for her wedding" in addition to the 200 livres she already had. When the time came to sign their marriage contract, she was the only one able to do so. The ceremony was conducted on September 15, 1670, by Father Thomas Morel, in the parish of Sainte-Famille on Île d'Orléans, where their contract had been signed.

This is where they settled and laid the foundations of the extensive Audet and Lapointe families. Unfortunately, the couple's first children, two sons named Nicolas, born in 1671 and 1672, did not reach adulthood. But after Pierre, born in 1674, nine children followed, all of whom would eventually marry. According to the 1681 census, the family was still living in the parish of Sainte-Famille on 15 arpents of cleared land, providing their six head of livestock with enough food to remain healthy and reproduce. In 1689, Nicolas fell gravely ill. He was hospitalized for 19 consecutive days during the month of August, and, in September, he was in the care of the nursing Sisters of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec for an additional 26 days. But Nicolas Audet, who then gave his age as 50, still had lots of life left in him. In July, 1696, he obtained three more arpents for his son Jean-Baptiste, who took possession of this land some time after August 2, 1698, following the signature of the deed of gift drawn up by notary François Grenaple.

Nicolas Audet dit Lapointe was buried on December 10, 1700, in Saint-Jean on Île d'Orléans, at approximately 59 years of age. Three years later, writes Joseph-Alfred Lapointe, "Madeleine Després, with the consent of her eldest children, deeded the right of inheritance from her husband to her fifth child, Joseph Audet". The property inventory drawn up by notary Jacob on December 27, 1706, lists the assets left by the deceased Audet: 15 arpents of cultivated land, a next-to-new house measuring 24 feet long by 18 feet wide, a barn and a stable. Madeleine Després died on December 18, 1712 and was buried the following day. Their children married into the Bernard, Chabot, Crépeau, Dumas, Émery, Godbout, Lemelin, Pouliot and Roberge families. Their sons passed on their father's name and surname, although, for reasons which have never been quite made clear, Lapointe became a patronym of its own. The only plausible guess is derived perhaps from the ancestral land backing onto the road that crosses Île d'Orléans "from one point to the other"...

Hélène-Andrée Bizier