

JOSEPH AMYOT PADJAN

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Philippe Amyot

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Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, was born about 1600 in France, most probably in 1602, but exactly where in France he was born remains a question not satisfactorily answered. Some say he was born in Chartres, some, in Soissons, and others in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte. In other words, the real location of his birth is still unknown, just as who his parents were has likewise remained a matter of speculation to the present day. I will show in this paper who his parents were, or who they could only have been, but to do so will require a rigorous investigation of every aspect of his life, and of the families of France bearing in previous centuries the Amyot surname in its various forms.

In the summer of 1635 Philippe and Anne, along with their sons Jean and Mathieu,<sup>1</sup> set sail from France for New France, and were among the first forty or so settlers to arrive in Quebec.<sup>2</sup> In three or four years after their arrival, about 1639,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> L'abbe Cyprien Tanguay, *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes*, Premier Volume (Eusèbe Senécal, Imprimeur-Éditeur, 1871), p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> M. Benjamin Sulte. "La Mort de Champlain." *Mémoires et Comptes Rendus de la Société Royale du Canada*. Troisème Série. Tome IX (Jas. Hope and fils, Ottawa; La Cie Copp-Clark [Limitée], 1916), p. 23.

Philippe died, but the cause of his death is unknown. Nevertheless he has thousands of descendants today, through his sons of course, who with their wives had many children in Quebec, where they spent the rest of their lives. I am a direct descendant of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent, through their son Mathieu; my mother's maiden name is Amiot; the father of my mother was Robert Amiot (Amyot). Philippe Amyot was my tenth great-grandfather; Anne Couvent, of course, my tenth great-grandmother.

When Philippe Amyot was born in France, the number of families there bearing the Amyot surname, whatever the spelling of it, was finite, as the number of them is now; and in 1600 that finite number was no large one. The number of such families in 1600 that had wealth was, on the other hand, a small one; and a good number of those wealthy families, and perhaps all of them, bearing the Amyot surname, however spelled, are, in the main, easy enough to identify. Was Philippe Amyot from one of those wealthy families, or was he from a family with little or no money?

At the age of twenty-six (or twenty-four) or so, Philippe Amyot bought from Antoinette de Longueval, daughter of Charles de Longueval and Louise de Joyeuse, a property in Épieds, about 30 acres, together with the house on it, which had fourteen rooms.<sup>3</sup> Where did Philippe Amyot, at such a young age, get the money to buy such a large house, which, with fourteen rooms, would have been a mansion by the standards of the day, and must have been very expensive, both to buy and to maintain? Doubtless, he got the money from his father, who

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Roland-Yves Gagné et Laurent Kokanosky, *Les origines de Philippe Amiot (Hameau)*, *de son épouse Anne Couvent et de leur neveu Toussaint Ledran* (Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne-française, Volume 58, numéro 1, cahier 251, printemps 2007 : pp. 17-58), p. 27.

must have been very wealthy. It is of maximum certainty that Philippe himself could not have earned, as, say, a farmer, a laborer, an artisan, or even as a merchant, by the age of twenty-six or so, enough money to buy in France a mansion consisting of fourteen rooms. And if Philippe Amyot's father, who surely had other children besides Philippe, had himself been a farmer, a laborer, or an artisan, he would have been unable to buy his son a mansion. Thus Philippe Amyot was, obviously, from a family of great wealth.

For the record, I could not care less whether Philippe Amyot was from a rich family, or from a poor one. I care about truth, and logic. I argue that Philippe Amyot was from a wealthy family because it does not logically follow that a young man of about twenty-six years of age, or younger, in 1626, could buy so large a house if he was from a poor family. The truth must be, therefore, that Philippe Amyot was from a very wealthy family.

Likewise, since a poor man, or a poor family, could not have afforded such a large house, Charles de Longueval, who had owned that house before bequeathing it to his daughter Antoinette, or before it was bequeathed to Antoinette by her mother Louise de Joyeuse, wife, and then widow of Charles de Longueval, must also have been wealthy when he purchased that house (or perhaps he had it built). Late in life Charles de Longueval may well have had little money; but having little money late in life, as well as debts, does in no way mean that one has not been wealthy at other times. Such are the vicissitudes of life, that a man rich one day, may be poor another. I have made the case that Charles de Longueval was the son of Robert de Longueval and Louise de La Fosse, and as such he was the grandson of Robert de Longueval and Marguerite de

Montmorency.<sup>4</sup> The paternal grandmother of Charles de Longueval, then, was of one of the most prominent French families of all. In other words, it could hardly have been the case that Charles de Longueval was born into a poor family. We can correctly presume he was born into a wealthy one, and we can likewise presume he had an abundance of money when he purchased or built that mansion with fourteen rooms; for poor people do not buy or build, and cannot buy or build, a mansion. Incidentally, Robert de Longueval, husband of Louise de La Fosse, though he evidently had a plenitude of money for much of his life and possessed several lordships, was broke late in life, too.<sup>5</sup>

Such mansion, then, could have been purchased only by a very wealthy individual. From, say, the year 1616 (or 1618), when he was about sixteen (or fourteen) years of age, until 1626, the year when he bought that house, Philippe could not possibly have made enough money as a farmer to buy that house himself, as stated above; and from the year 1626 to 1635, Philippe could not possibly have been a merchant, because between 1626 and 1635, he had to have learned to farm and to have spent his time in farming; for Philippe was one of forty-six settlers to arrive in Quebec between 1632 and 1640 who were 'devoted altogether to agriculture.' In Proceedings and Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, the following is stated:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Joseph Amyot Padjan. "Charles de Longueval." (Unpublished manuscript, 2016) accessed on June 14, 2025, pp. 30-43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Felix-Victor Goethals, *Miroir des Notabilités Nobiliaires de Belgique, des Pays-Bas et du Nord de la France*, Tome Second (Duvivier, 1862), p. 817.

Coming to this second phase, we have to introduce farmers of Perche, Beauce, Normandy, and Picardy, numbering forty-six, from 1632 to 1640, besides forty from Champagne, Lorraine, Brie, Poitou, etc., during the same nine years. This period gives an average of ten settlers per year only, which may be considered the proportion for twenty years afterwards.

The group of Perche took the lead from 1632 and kept it for ever. They came married, bringing their farm implements, cattle, etc., and in less than two years after their arrival conquered the soil, learned how to face the climate, and made themselves literally at home, where their predecessors had miserably perished by scores during many years...

Leaving aside the men engaged in the fur trade, and [sic] who did not adopt the colony as their home, we find that only 127 actual settlers or heads of families arrived in Canada during the period of 1608-1645.

Nine-tenths of these men have numerous descendants still amongst us. In this respect Canada is far ahead of any colony. The New England States can hardly name twenty families coming from their first stock, that is before 1645, although their immigration was five times at least larger than ours.

There was no special organisation for recruiting in France.

Nearly every one of these 127 men married just before leaving for Canada or soon after his arrival in the colony. They all belonged to that class of people devoted altogether to agriculture, or the cultivation of grains, hay, oats, vegetables, hemp, flax. They understood thoroughly well the work of felling trees and clearing land, because the provinces they came from were of good soil, but not adapted for fruits and vine, nor fit for pasturage on a large scale.<sup>6</sup> [Italics added.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> B. Sulte. "Origin of the French Canadians." *Proceedings and Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*. Second Series—1905-1906. Volume XI (James Hope & Sons; The Copp-Clark Co., 1905), p. 103.

It goes without saying that Philippe Amyot could likewise not possibly have been a merchant from, say, 1616 to 1626; for if he had been a merchant from 1616 to 1626, his purchase of that mansion would have been transacted at the very time when it was imperative for him to begin to dedicate himself to learning to farm. In other words, he would have had to abandon the more lucrative mercantile profession exactly at the time when he purchased that house, in order to dedicate himself to the low-paying profession of the peasantry, namely, farming—a change of career no man with a growing family, a recently purchased mansion, taxes to pay, and a mercantile career would ever make.

Thus, before 1626, Philippe Amyot could not have been, by profession and for his livelihood, a farmer, a laborer, an artisan, or a merchant; and after 1626 he could not have been, by profession and for his livelihood, a merchant, a laborer, an artisan, or a farmer. Philippe Amyot, in other words, must have enjoyed the luxury of needing no profession or livelihood at all; he must have been of a wealthy family; and for him, farming or agriculture must have been a pursuit of leisure.

Now, I stated above that the number of families in France bearing the Amyot surname, in 1600, however spelled, was finite, as it is now, and that the finite number of them was not a large one. One obvious reason for the fewness of families bearing the Amyot surname, whether spelled Amyot or Amiot, either of which, in the French of France, is pronounced *ah-mē-oh*, is that the surname, however spelled, is of a less common kind, being neither an occupational nor a locational one; and spelled Amyot, it is extremely rare. For example, from 1891 to 1915, in all of France, which in 1891 had a population of over

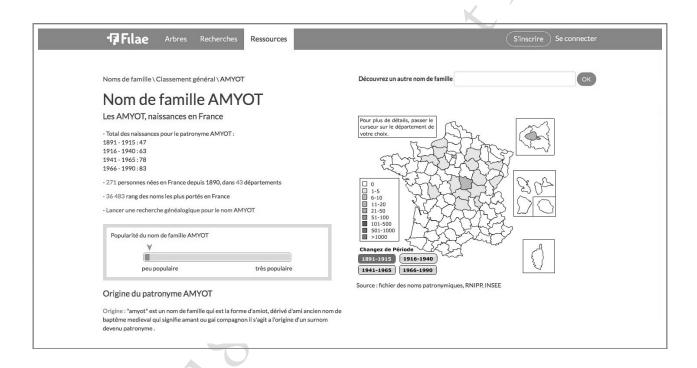
thirty-eight million people,<sup>7</sup> the total number of Amyot births was forty-seven,<sup>8</sup> fewer than two Amyot births each year during that period of twenty-four years. From 1891 to 1990, a period of ninety-nine years, the total number of Amyot births in France was two hundred seventy-one,<sup>9</sup> an average of fewer than three Amyot births each year for almost a century. In each year preceding 1990, or in each period of twenty-four years preceding the twenty-four-year period between 1966 and 1990, the number of Amyot births declines, with the average number of births before 1941 being fewer than three each year.<sup>10</sup> On the basis of these data, we can estimate, with relative accuracy, that the number of Amyot births in years preceding 1891 was, on average, very probably one or two a year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Chambers's Encyclopædia: A Dictionary of Universal Knowledge, Volume IV (William and Robert Chambers, Limited, 1897), p. 773.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," *Filae*, accessed June 14, 2025 <a href="https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/AMYOT.html">https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/AMYOT.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

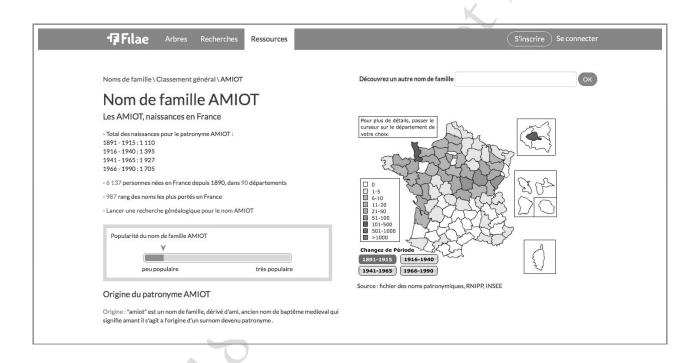
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.



The form Amiot, though also rare in frequency in France between 1891 and 1990, is far more common there than the spelling Amyot. From 1891 to 1915, a total of one thousand one hundred ten Amiot births were recorded, 11 about forty-six each year on average in that period of twenty-four years. In that period alone, in fact, the spelling Amiot is more than four times more common than the spelling Amyot is in the entire period between 1891 and 1990, during which ninety-nine years the latter was recorded, again, only two hundred seventy-one times. Between 1891 and 1990, the number of Amiot births in France was six thousand one hundred thirty-seven, 12 about sixty-two births on average each year for that period of ninety-nine years. Thus, between 1891 and 1990, the form Amiot was more than twenty-two times more common than the form Amyot.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Nom de famille AMIOT," *Filae*, accessed June 14, 2025 <a href="https://www.filae.com/nom-defamille/AMIOT.html">https://www.filae.com/nom-defamille/AMIOT.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> "Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.



The genuine French surname Hameau, which is pronounced *ah-mow*, and which has not only a different pronunciation but a different meaning and etymology from that of Amyot or Amiot, means 'hamlet.' On two occasions, however, in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, in the Marne department of France, as Roland-Yves Gagné and Laurent Kokanosky discovered, Hameau (*not* 'Haméau') was used in place of Amyot.

Note that Hameau is not Haméau. The form Haméau (*ah-may-oh*) has not been used as a surname by anyone in France. It is absent from the archives of France, and in literature it has been written only one time as a surname for an individual, namely, for the renowned medical doctor Jean Hameau; <sup>15</sup> but it was written as Haméau in error. The doctor's surname was not Haméau; it was Hameau, and his surname was, and is, pronounced *ah-mow*. Note also that the author of *Histoire Litteraire du Maine* was not named Barthélemy 'Haméau;' his name was Barthélemy Hauréau.

Hameau, as a habitational surname meaning 'of a hamlet,' has invariably only two syllables, as dictated by the rules of French pronunciation, while Amyot or Amiot has three. In those two instances noted by Gagné and Kokanosky, Hameau was used in place of Amyot, and it was pronounced, therefore, as *ah-mē-oh* (rendered 'A-m-i-o' by those authors). Amyot was not used in place of Hameau. (Likewise, in notary Duquet's summary of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> "Nom de famille HAMEAU." *Filae*, accessed June 14, 2025 <a href="https://www.filae.com/nom-defamille/HAMEAU.html">https://www.filae.com/nom-defamille/HAMEAU.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Roland-Yves Gagné et Laurent Kokanosky, Les origines de Philippe Amiot (Hameau), pp. 29-30.

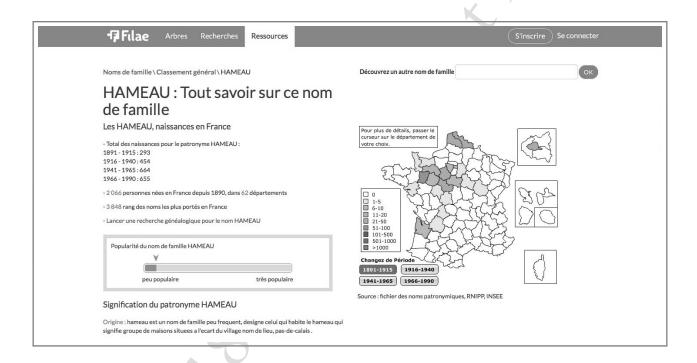
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Paul Diday, *Trattato della sifilide de' neonati e de' bambini poppanti* (Stamperia vico s. Marcellino 4, 1855), p. 166 n. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 29.

contract signed in France on 20 January 1626 by Philippe Amyot and Antoinette de Longueval regarding the sale of her house and land in Épieds to Philippe, which summary Gagné and Kokanosky include in their paper,<sup>17</sup> the form Hameau was copied and used in place of Amyot.)

Hameau intrinsically means hamlet. The eau in Hameau is a trigraph; it is a combination of three letters that represent a single syllable and a single sound, namely, the sound o. That Amyot  $(ah-m\bar{e}-oh)$  was not used in place of Hameau (ah-mow) is certain; for, if the surname had in fact been Hameau in the first place, no one recording the surname on other occasions would have added an extra syllable—inserted an extra vowel sound—in the middle of the surname, and then have chosen to spell it with the rarest form of the surname that really does have three syllables—three vowel sounds—namely, Amyot. In other words, the surname—the genuine family name—could not possibly have been Hameau at any time, whether pronounced ah-mow or ah-mē-oh; the surname was Amyot, spelled exactly as such (it was spelled in both the other original records shared by Gagné and Kokanosky, as Amyot, not Amiot) and pronounced ah-mēoh.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 27.



It is, again, the paper by Gagné and Kokanosky that contains copies of the original records showing the two instances of the surname Hameau used in place of that of Amyot. The Nicolas 'Hameau' recorded as the husband of Simone (Simonne) Le Clerc in the one record, was, in reality, Nicolas Amyot, as the other original record shows; 18 and the Jean 'Hameau' recorded as the husband of Jeanne Le Grand in the one record, was, in fact, Jean Amyot, as the other original record shows.<sup>19</sup> In both original records, both the one showing the name of Nicolas and the one showing that of Jean, the surname is clearly spelled, in both cases, Amyot, not Amiot. Therefore, when Gagné and Kokanosky write on page twenty-nine of their paper: 'À preuve, il y a dans le registre paroissial deux actes de baptêmes des enfants de Nicolas Hameau et Simonne Le Clerc : dans l'un, le nom du père est écrit Hameau, dans l'autre, Amiot,'20 their spelling of the surname of Nicolas as Amiot is inaccurate; for in the original record that they are referencing in that sentence, which record, again, they include in their paper, the surname of Nicolas is unmistakably spelled Amyot, just as the surname of Jean is unmistakably spelled Amyot in the original record pertaining to him. Thus, Simone Le Clerc (Leclerc) was the wife of Nicolas Amyot; and Jeanne Le Grand was the wife of Jean Amyot.

Amiaut and Amiaux are other forms of the surname Amiot or Amyot worth mentioning, as is the compound form Amyot du Mesnil-Gaillard. All occurrences of the form Amiaut, for example, from 1891 until at least 1940, were confined to a single

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 29.

location in the extreme west of France, namely, the department of Morbihan, in Brittany.<sup>21</sup> And almost all occurrences of the form Amiaux, which has probably been most often used as a variant of Amiaut, or vice versa, were confined either to Brittany in the extreme west, or in the extreme north to Nord or to Pas-de-Calais.<sup>22</sup> There is nothing, and there has never been anything at all, to suggest that Philippe Amyot came from Brittany, or from Nord, or from Pas-de-Calais, the places where the forms Amiaut and Amiaux were infrequently recorded. These forms can be dismissed on the basis of the above facts alone.

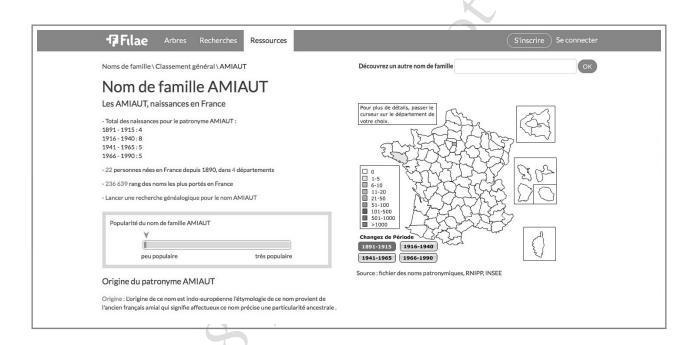
As for the compound surname Amyot du Mesnil-Gaillard, it came into *regular* use, with such spelling of Amiot with a *y* instead of an *i*, only after 1915.<sup>23</sup> Accordingly, almost every historical book that mentions this compound surname, especially books on heraldry or on the history of the nobility of France, spells the surname not as Amyot du Mesnil-Gaillard, but as Amiot du Mesnil-Gaillard. Between 1891 and 1915, there were no Amyot du Mesnil-Gaillard births at all in France.<sup>24</sup>

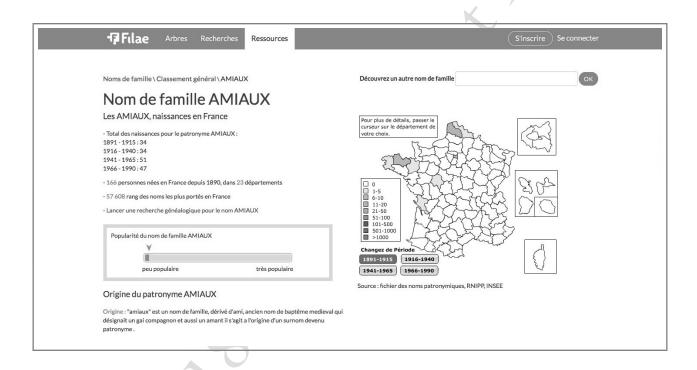
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> "Nom de famille AMIAUT," *Filae*, accessed on June 14, 2025 <a href="https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/AMIAUT.html">https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/AMIAUT.html</a>.

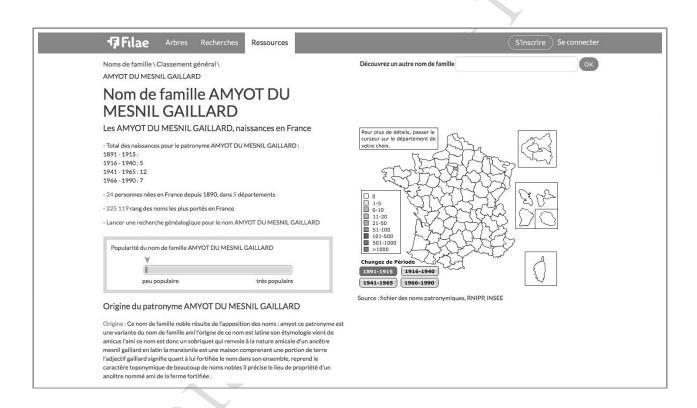
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> "Nom de famille AMIAUX." *Filae*, accessed on June 14, 2025 <a href="https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/AMIAUX.html">https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/AMIAUX.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT-DU-MESNIL GAILLARD." *Filae*, accessed on June 14, 2025 https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/AMYOT\_DU\_MESNIL\_GAILLARD.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT-DU-MESNIL GAILLARD." Filae.







I showed above that the total number of Amyot (spelled as such) births in France from 1891 to 1990 was two hundred seventy-one, an infinitesimally small number compared to thirty-eight million, which, again, was the population of France in 1891. Thus, from 1891 to 1990, for ninety-nine years, nearly a whole century, there were on average, as stated above, fewer than three Amyot births each year. And from 1891 to 1915, there were, again, fewer than two Amyot births each year, on average.

The earliest mention in France of an Amiot, with the surname spelled as such, was in 1237, in Brittany, when one Pierre Amiot of Erquy was recorded to have made a donation to the abbey of St-Aubin des Bois.<sup>25</sup> Erquy is a coastal commune in northern Brittany between Saint-Brieuc and St-Malo, both of which cities, or old bishoprics, together with Rennes, are the places where the Amiot surname, since the thirteenth century, was most often found in Brittany.<sup>26</sup> Guillaume Amiot of Brittany, for instance, almost certainly related to Pierre Amiot above, was mentioned in 1425, the year when he accompanied a certain duke on expedition to Amiens.<sup>27</sup> Two years later, in 1427, one Geoffroy Amiot of Brittany was a 'witness to the reformation of Plouer' (Plouër-sur-Rance). In 1462, Ruellan Amiot of Brittany, a sergeant in Dinan, was mentioned in connection with the duke of Vannes.<sup>28</sup> Three decades and four years later, one Pierre Amyot, mentioned in Saint-Brieuc in 1496, became the first known person in Brittany to have had his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> René Kerviler, *Répertoire Général de Bio-Bibliographie Brettonne*, Premier Fascicule (J. Plihon et L. Hervé, 1886), p. 148.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> René Kerviler, *Répertoire Général de Bio-Bibliographie Brettonne*, p. 148.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Kerviler, p. 148.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Kerviler, p. 148.

surname recorded as Amyot.<sup>29</sup> Next to have been recorded in Brittany after Pierre, was a Jean Amiot, who was mentioned in 1515 in connection with a transaction pertaining to a house in Rennes.<sup>30</sup> Almost a hundred years later, a glass painter in Loudéac, named Claude Amyot, was mentioned in 1609; he was the second known person in Brittany to have had his surname recorded as Amyot, rather than as Amiot.<sup>31</sup> All the persons mentioned in this paragraph were, obviously, Amiots of Brittany, and all were most probably of the same family, including those whose surname happened to be recorded once or twice as Amyot. The spelling Amyot, for all intents and purposes, was not usual in Brittany. As pointed out above, there were no Amyot births at all in any part of Brittany between 1891 and 1990. Had the form Amyot been regularly used in Brittany in the years before and leading up to 1891, rather than recorded on a few occasions for a few individuals before 1891, it would have been recorded there at least one time between 1891 and 1915, as well as at least one time after 1915. But it was not recorded in Brittany at all during those periods; it was never recorded in Brittany after 1891.32

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Kerviler, p. 149.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Kerviler, p. 149.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Kerviler, p. 149.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.



Amiots de Brittany before 1600

About eighty-six kilometers almost due east of Rennes, the capital of Brittany, lies La Gendronnière, in Saint-Sulpice, or, to be precise, in the parish of Saint-Sulpice du Houssay. In the first half of the sixteenth century, probably between 1514 and 1532, a chapel was erected in La Gendronnière, and was 'to be served in the parochial church of Saint-Sulpice du Houssay. It was not therefore a domestic chapel annexed to the castle [of La Gendronnière] itself, but a religious foundation, due to the generosity of a lord of La Gendronnière... The temporal attached to the profit of La Gendronnière consisted of the farm of Hayère, located [in the] parish of Quelaines. This farm was burdened with an annual rent of twelve *septiers* of rye, which [rent] we find sold in 1458...'33

It was one Jehan Amyot, sieur d'Olmeaux, that purchased, in 1458 (on 14 May 1458), the 'rent' mentioned above (he may have bought only half of it),<sup>34</sup> and in so doing he was the first Amyot to have become connected with La Gendronnière. In 1532 Jehan Amyot was the priest of the parish of La Bazouge-de-Chemeré, located about twenty-eight kilometers from La Gendronnière in Saint-Sulpice; and by 1532 he was also the chaplain of the chapel of La Gendronnière.<sup>35</sup> 'This [that Jehan Amyot was in 1532 chaplain of La Gendronnière] would lead us to believe that the Amyot family was at that time [already] the owner of La Gendronnière, and that Jehan Amyot, a priest, would have bequeathed his estate [of La Gendronnière] to his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> René Gadbin. "Essai Historique sur la Terre Seigneuriale et la Chapellenie de la Gendronnière (Saint-Sulpice)." *Bulletin de la Comission Historique et Archéologique de la Mayenne*, Tome Dix-Septième, pp. 154-177: Laval, 1901), p. 154.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> René Gadbin. "Essai Historique sur la Terre Seigneuriale et la Chapellenie de la Gendronnière (Saint-Sulpice)," p. 155.

<sup>35</sup> Gadbin, p. 156.

brother Mathurin Amyot, with the latter's obligation to found a prestimony.'36

La Gendronnière, evidently first owned by Jehan Amyot the priest, was thus it seems bequeathed by Jehan to his brother Mathurin Amyot. This Mathurin Amyot had two sons, Jehan and Etienne (Estienne).<sup>37</sup> Etienne Amyot, lord of La Gendronnière and of l'Ansaudière, was the father of one Nicolas Amyot, of Craon, who was the last Amyot to possess La Gendronnière.<sup>38</sup>

Nothing is known of the parents of Jehan Amyot the priest and his brother Mathurin, neither their names, nor where they lived, nor whether they had any other children besides Jehan and Mathurin. If they lived in the department of Mayenne, or what would become the Mayenne department, in which are located Saint-Sulpice, or Saint-Sulpice du Houssay, La Gendronnière, and La Bazouge-de-Chemeré, and did have other children, their descendants in Mayenne never grew numerous, and continued sparse. The descendants of their son Mathurin Amyot, for instance, the only Amyot known in Mayenne in the sixteenth century known to have had descendants, were few; and it may be that only one of his grandchildren could have carried on the family name; for Mathurin Amyot's son Etienne, who married Renée Mauviel,<sup>39</sup> had according to his descendants five daughters and only one known son, namely, Nicolas Amyot. It is possible, of course, that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Gadbin, p. 156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Gadbin, p. 160.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Gadbin, p. 160.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Gaston Louis Michel Marie baron de Carné, *Revue historique de l'Ouest*, Volume 12 (Bureaux de la Revue., 1896), p. 175.

Nicolas himself had sons, but their names are not to be found if he did. Nicolas Amyot, however, who married Marguerite de Beaudevy, did have one known daughter, Lancelotte.<sup>40</sup> Mathurin Amyot had another son besides Etienne, one named Jean, as indicated above. It is unknown whether Jean Amyot had a family. As for Jehan Amyot the priest and chaplain, he apparently lived a celibate life, and died without descendants.

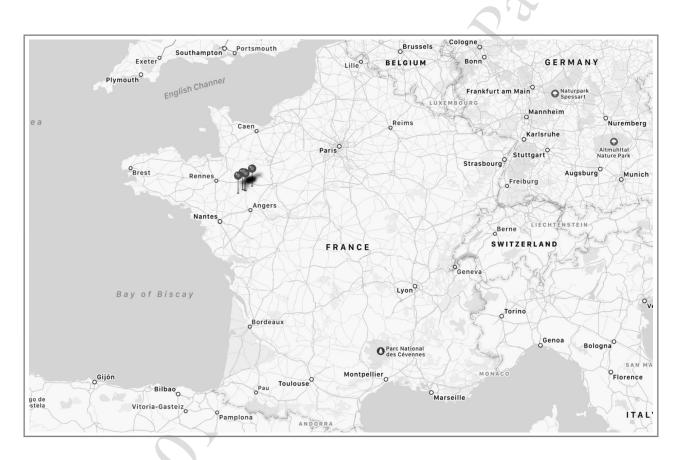
Between 1891 and 1990, there was only one Amyot birth in Mayenne;<sup>41</sup> between 1891 and 1990 in Mayenne, there were seven Amiot births.<sup>42</sup> If descendants of Mathurin Amyot, or Amiot, lived in Mayenne in the years before and leading up to 1891, as well as after 1891, then it was quite probably his descendants that could account for those Amiot births in Mayenne.

If Jehan Amyot and his brother Mathurin were members of an extended Amyot/Amiot family with a number of branches, it seems most probable that that Amiot family would have been the one in Brittany; for Mayenne borders Brittany, and Rennes, its capital, is only 85 kilometers from La Gendronnière. At any rate, Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, did not come from this part of France.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Bodard de la Jacopière, *Chroniques Craonnaises* (Monnoyer, 1871), p. 532.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.



Amyots de La Gendronnière, l'Ansaudière, Craon...

About one hundred eighty kilometers to the north of La Gendronnière, on the west coast of Manche, is Boisroger, a former commune where a family bearing the Amiot surname was long seated, and was thus known as Amiot de Boisroger (Boisrayer). The earliest record pertaining to an Amiot of this family dates to 1470, the year when one Michel Amiot was recorded in connection with a Gervais Roussier during the watch of Châtellenie de Vernon.<sup>43</sup> Other early members of this family were 'Jean Amiot, d'Oucacouville, El. de Lisieux;<sup>44</sup> Jean Amiot, d'Orbec;<sup>45</sup> and Jean Amiot, de Crèpeville, Serg. de Folleville.'<sup>46</sup> Lisieux is a commune in Calvados, as is Orbec; and Folleville is a commune in Eure.

In all of France, outside Paris, the greatest number of Amiot births between 1891 and 1990 was in Manche,<sup>47</sup> where the Amiot de Boisroger family was established. Between 1891 and 1915, there were one hundred four Amiot births in Manche;<sup>48</sup> between 1916 and 1940, one hundred twenty;<sup>49</sup> between 1941 and 1965, two hundred three;<sup>50</sup> and between 1966 and 1990, in Manche, there were one hundred forty Amiot births.<sup>51</sup> Thus, between 1891 and 1990, there were five hundred sixty-seven

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Gabriel O'Gilvy, *Nobiliaire de Normandie*, Volume 1 (William Allan, Londres, 1864), p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Gabriel O'Gilvy, Nobiliaire de Normandie, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> O'Gilvy, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> O'Gilvy, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> "Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> "Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.

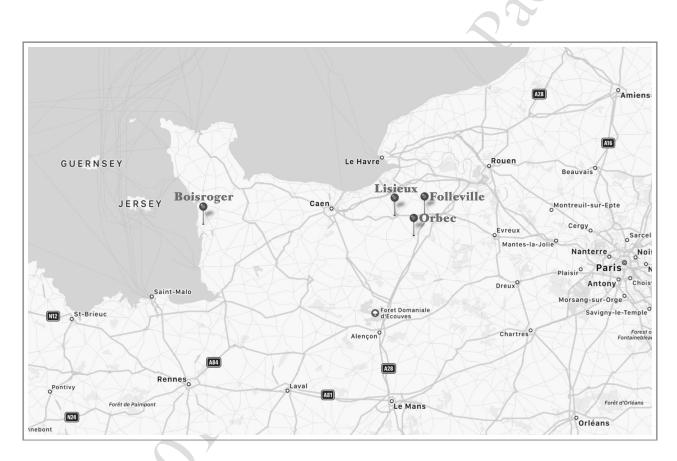
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> "Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> "Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.

 $<sup>^{51}</sup>$  "Nom de famille AMIOT,"  $\it Filae.$ 

Amiot births in Manche, a great many of which, to be sure, and perhaps even most of which births, were Amiot de Boisroger births. In Manche between 1891 and 1990, there were no Amyot births at all.<sup>52</sup> In other words, the Amiot de Boisroger family did not use the Amyot form of the surname; no family in Manche used the Amyot spelling.

<sup>52 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.



Amiots de Boisroger

Now, if we were to limit our reading to any one of the books on French heraldry, or of the dictionaries on families in France, that mentions the Amiot family next to be discussed, that is, the Amiot family of Salins (Salins-les-Bains), we would be misled into thinking, as others surely have been, that this Amiot family was located not in Salins-les-Bains, where it really was located, but rather in Salins, where it was never to be found. Guillaume Amiot, 'secretary to the Roman emperor,' was the most distant known member of this Amiot family.<sup>53</sup> His wife was Claudine de Vers; and with her he had eight children, four boys, Jean, Jacques, Guillaume, and Louis, and four girls, Marguerite, Claudine, Louise, and Anne.<sup>54</sup>

Jean Amiot, son of Guillaume and Claudine de Vers, married Françoise de Vers, and with her, before his death in 1556, he had three children, Pierre, Jacques, and Claudine.<sup>55</sup> Pierre Amiot married Nicole Marchant (Marchand), daughter of Philippe Marchant de Salins (Salins-les-Bains) and Denise Boitouset, of Quingey.<sup>56</sup> Pierre and Nicole had two children, Denise and Claude.<sup>57</sup> Pierre Amiot is recorded to have witnessed the marriage of his cousin Suzanne de Vers to Philippe Udressier.<sup>58</sup>

In the late sixteenth or the early seventeenth century, the descendants of Guillaume Amiot and Claudine de Vers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Just Tripard, Abrégé de L'Histoire de la Franche-Comté, Notices sur la Ville et les Communes du Canton de Salins (J. B. Dumoulin, 1881), p. 531.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> M. J. B. Guillaume, *Histoire de la Ville de Salins*, Tome Second (Jos. Daclin, 1758), p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> M. J. B. Guillaume, *Histoire de la Ville de Salins*, p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Guillaume, p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Guillaume, p. 6.

<sup>58</sup> Guillaume, p. 6.

relocated to Baume-les-Dames,<sup>59</sup> a commune about thirty kilometers to the northeast of Besançon, in the Doubs department of France.

Guillaume Amiot, husband of Claudine de Vers, died in 1544, and was buried at the church of Saint Anatoile, in Salins-les-Bains. His burial at this church proves that it was Salins-les-Bains, and not Salins, that was home to this Amiot family. Moreover, in the *Histoire du diocèse de Besançon* by l'abbe Richard, the names of the noble families of Salins-les-Bains are listed. Among the names listed are Amiot, Marchand, Udressier, and de Vers. Besançon, by the way, at a distance of about forty-three kilometers, is the nearest city to Salins-les-Bains, which is a commune in the Jura department of France.

Between 1891 and 1965, there were no Amyot births in the Jura department;<sup>62</sup> between 1966 and 1990, there was only one Amyot birth in Jura.<sup>63</sup> In the department of Doubs, between 1891 and 1915, there were four Amyot births;<sup>64</sup> between 1916 and 1940, there were seventeen Amyot births in Doubs;<sup>65</sup> between 1941 and 1965, in Doubs, the number of Amyot births was thirteen;<sup>66</sup> and between 1966 and 1990, there was a total of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Just Tripard, Abrégé de L'Histoire de la Franche-Comté, p. 531.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Guillaume, p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> A. Rousset, Dictionnaire Géographique, Historique et Statistique des Communes de la Franche-Comté et des Hameaux qui en Dépendent, Tome VI (A. Robert, 1858), p. 591.

<sup>62 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>63 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>64 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>65 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>66 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

eight Amyot births in Doubs.<sup>67</sup> In fact, between 1891 and 1990, outside Paris, the greatest number of Amyot births was in Doubs, with a total of forty-two. The Amyots born in Doubs were, in all probability, descendants of Guillaume Amiot, and were thus, in fact, Amiots de Salins-les-Bains.

Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, did not, of course, come from this part of France.

<sup>67 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.



Amiots de Salins-les-Bains

Although I have already mentioned the Amiot du Mesnil-Gaillard family, I have yet to name the area of its origin, its most notable members, and the places where they lived. This family evidently traces its origin to the north of France, either to Rouen, or to the vicinity of that city.<sup>68</sup> The patriarch of the family, or its most distant known ancestor, was one Nicolas Amiot,<sup>69</sup> who was born most likely in the middle of the sixteenth century. Nicolas Amiot and his wife, whose name is unknown, were the parents of Nicolas Amiot, who was their oldest son.<sup>70</sup> The latter Nicolas, still alive in 1592, married Marguerite de Baude, and with her had one known son, Jacques.<sup>71</sup>

Jacques Amiot, still living in 1656, was lord of Gros-Buisson and an advisor to the king. Jacques was the father of François-Bonaventure Amiot.<sup>72</sup>

François-Bonaventure was the father of Étienne-Joseph Amiot, lord of Auzouville, and, in 1710, 'Guard of the body of the king.'<sup>73</sup> As little is known about Antoine-Joseph-Alexandre Amiot, son of Étienne-Joseph above, as is known about all the other Amiots of this family so far mentioned. Antoine-Joseph-Alexandre Amiot, sieur du Mesnil-Gaillard, and husband of Marie Le Bourgeois, was officer in 1747 of the hunts of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Édouard Drigon de Magny, Nobiliaire de Normandie (Auguste Aubry, 1863), p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Édouard Drigon de Magny, Nobiliaire de Normandie, p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Drigon de Magny, p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Drigon de Magny, p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Drigon de Magny, p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Drigon de Magny, p. 138.

king.<sup>74</sup> With his wife, Antoine-Joseph-Alexandre Amiot had a number of children, one of whom was Antoine-Joseph-Thomas Amiot, seigneur du Mesnil-Gaillard, that is, lord of Mesnil-Gaillard.<sup>75</sup> (Read any of the various explanations of what the difference is between sieur and seigneur in French, and you will find as many different explanations as attempts at their elucidation. By sieur is meant the first of a lineage to have possessed a fief; by seigneur is meant the lord of a fief possessed first by a predecessor, or by a series of predecessors.)

Antoine-Joseph-Thomas Amiot du Mesnil-Gaillard was also lord of Tonneville and Verger; he was an advisor to the king, and treasurer general of France, in Rouen,<sup>76</sup> which is in the Seine-Maritime department.

From 1891 to 1915, there were two Amyot births recorded in Seine-Maritime;<sup>77</sup> from 1916 to 1940, only one Amyot birth was recorded in the same department.<sup>78</sup> Between 1941 and 1990, there were no Amyot births in Seine-Maritime.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Drigon de Magny, p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Drigon de Magny, p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Drigon de Magny, p. 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> "Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.



Amiots du Mesnil-Gaillard

Up to this point, in enumerating the families of France that bore a form of the Amyot surname, I have named, so far, five families, the Amiots de Brittany, the Amyots de La Gendronnière, the Amiots de Boisroger, the Amiots de Salinsles-Bains, and the Amiots du Mesnil-Gaillard. All of these families seem to have been unrelated to one another; in other words, apart from the surname itself, there is nothing to suggest that any of them were related. Yet as branches of any family may grow large over the years, and yield many descendants all bearing the same surname, so it is entirely possible that some of these families were sprung from a common ancestor in the distant past, but in time grew so far apart, that they forgot their common ancestry, and became, for all intents and purposes, distinct and individual families themselves, with their own branches.

All of the following families of France bearing the Amyot surname (and in the case of one, the Amiot surname), however, were, in fact, related, namely, the Amyots de Courtempierre, the Amyots d'Inville, the Amyots de Moyencourt, the Amiots descended from Louis-Aspaïs Amiot, and the Amyots d'Albigny. As I will show, Nicolas Amyot of Paris, or, to be specific, of Melun, a suburb of Paris, and Marie Lamour (also known as Marguerite des Amours), his wife, were the most distant known ancestors of the Amyots de Courtempierre, the Amyots d'Inville, and the Amyots de Moyencourt; in other words, all of the Amyots of these three branches of the family descend from Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, edited by Joseph Jackson Howard, Volume II (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1898), pp. 26-27.

The Amyot (Amiot) d'Albigny family was seated in Lyon, or somewhere in the vicinity of it.<sup>81</sup> One Jean Amyot, a notary in 1430, and husband of Thomasse de Cuyselle, is presumed to be the most distant known ancestor of the Amyots d'Albigny.<sup>82</sup> But between this Jean Amyot and the second most distant known ancestor of the family, Clement Amyot,<sup>83</sup> a hundred years elapsed without the names of any intermediate ancestors being recorded. It cannot be definitely stated, therefore, that Jean Amyot was, in fact, the most distant known ancestor of the Amyots d'Albigny: no record connects him to the others of that name. If Jean Amyot was not the most distant known ancestor of the Amyots d'Albigny, then that honorable distinction passes to Clement Amyot, husband of Françoise de l'Isle.<sup>84</sup>

Clement and Françoise had two sons, André Berod Amyot and Claude Berod (or Beraud) Amyot.<sup>85</sup> Claude Berod Amyot married Marie de La Porte,<sup>86</sup> and with her (or perhaps with Lucrèce de La Bessée, who was also married to Claude Berod Amyot or *a* Claude Berod Amyot) had André Amyot, baron d'Albigny, 'lawyer, and master of petitions in the Parliament of Dombes.'<sup>87</sup> André Amyot, baron d'Albigny, married Antoinette

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> Aimé Vingtrinier, Revue du Lyonnais, Recueil Historique et Littéraire, Tome XX (L. Boitel, 1875), p. 421.

<sup>82</sup> Aimé Vingtrinier, Revue du Lyonnais, p. 421.

<sup>83</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 421.

<sup>84</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 421.

<sup>85</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 421.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 421.

<sup>87</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 421.

de Bonnay,<sup>88</sup> and together, before the death of André in 1666, they had two children, François and Geneviève.<sup>89</sup> (In a passage subsequent to the one in which Geneviève is named as a daughter of André and Antoinette, another André Amyot is named,<sup>90</sup> who at first glance might be thought a son of André and Antoinette; but since *that* André mentioned after Geneviève married one Geneviève Grabot in 1608,<sup>91</sup> and since the André Amyot who married Antoinette de Bonnay died in 1666, it is improbable that the André Amyot who married Geneviève Grabot was the son of André Amyot and Antoinette de Bonnay.)

The distance between Lyon, where the Amyots d'Albigny were seated, and Paris, or rather Melun, where the Amyots descended from Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour trace the origin of their branches, is four hundred eighteen kilometers, a distance great enough to raise doubts that the Amyots of Paris and the Amyots d'Albigny were related. One Godefroy de Crollalanza, however, in *Giornale Araldico-Genealogico-Diplomatico*, points out that a misreading of the blazon (a written description of a coat of arms) of the coat of arms of the Amyots d'Albigny led to an incorrect drawing of their coat of arms, and that, when read correctly, the blazon describes a coat of arms that bears correspondence with the arms borne by the descendants of Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour. Godefroy de Crollalanza writes:

<sup>88</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 421.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> Vingtrinier, pp. 421-422.

<sup>90</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 422.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> Vingtrinier, p. 422.

Le Mémorial de Dombes de M. d'Assier de Valenches donne pour armes à cette famille: D'azur à trois billettes (alias belettes) d'argent, posées l'une sur l'autre. Entre une belette et une billette, la différence est à peu prés la même qu'entre un perdreau et un éteignoir. M. d'Assier n'a pas vu les armoiries dessinées, cela est certain; il est à presumer qu'il les a tirées de quelque vieux manuscript peu lisible, où il n'a pu déchiffrer s'il y avait billettes ou belettes; dans le doute, il a trouvé bon d'écrire les deux mots. Il était cependant assez facile de lire belettes; il suffisait pour cela de faire attention à la devise de la famille qui est: Potius mori quam foedari. Tout le monde sait que ces mots accompagnent presque toujours la figure de l'hermine, qui, dessinée ressemble beaucoup à une belette. Il n'y a donc pas des belettes dans les armes des Amiot; encore moins des billettes; il y a trois ermines. Cette présomption se trouve confirmée par les armes des Amyot de Moyencourt, maison de Normandie, qui sont: D'azur à la bande d'argent, chargée de cinque monchetures d'ermine de sable, avec deux hermines rampantes pour supports, et la devise *Plutôt mourir que se salir*. Les Amyot d'Inville portent aussi: une bande d'argent, brochant sur trois fasces d'or en champ d'azur.92

# Translation:

The *Dombes Memorial* of M. d'Assier de Valenches gives arms to this family: D'azur à trois billettes (alias belettes) d'argent, posées l'une sur l'autre. Between a belette and a billette, the difference is almost the same as between a partridge and a snuffer. M. d'Assier did not see the coat of arms drawn, that is certain; it is to be presumed that he has drawn them from some old manuscript which is difficult to read, where he could not decipher whether there were billettes or belettes (weasels); in doubt, he found it good to write the two words. It was, however, easy enough to read belettes (weasels); it was enough to pay attention to the motto of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> Godefroy de Crollalanza, *Giornale Araldico-Genealogico-Diplomatico*, Anno 1890-1891, Tomo Decimottavo (Presso La Direzione del Giornale Araldico, 1891), p. 124.

family [Amyot d'Albigny] which is: *Potius mori quam foedari*. Everyone knows that these words almost always accompany the figure of the ermine, which, drawn, looks very much like a weasel. There are no weasels in the arms of the Amiot[s] [Amyots]; still less billets; there are three ermines [spots of ermine]. This presumption is confirmed by the arms of Amyot de Moyencourt, house of Normandy, which are: *D'azur à la bande d'argent, chargée de cinque monchetures d'ermine de sable*, avec deux hermines rampantes pour supports, et la devise *Plutôt mourir que se salir*. Amyot d'Inville also wears: *une bande d'argent, brochant sur trois fasces d'or en champ d'azur*.

Potius mori quam foedari, the motto of the Amyots d'Albigny, means 'rather die than be dishonored;' and Plutôt mourir que se salir, the motto of the Amyots de Moyencourt, 93 means the same thing that the motto in Latin does. In brief, Godefroy de Crollalanza, on the basis of his analysis of the blazon of the coat of arms of the Amyots d'Albigny, and on his comparison of it with the arms of the Amyots de Movencourt and the Amyots d'Inville, was in no doubt that the arms of the Amyots d'Albigny confirmed their common ancestry with the Amyots de Moyencourt and the Amyots d'Inville. Had he thought otherwise, or meant something different, he would not have pointed out that there are neither weasels nor billets (rectangular shapes) in the arms of any of the Amyots mentioned. In other words, Crollalanza means that the Amyots he mentions were branches of the same family. As we will see below, Crollalanza was right: the Amyots d'Albigny were in fact

<sup>93</sup> Alphonse Chassant and Henri Tausin, *Dictionnaire Des Devises Historiques Et Héraldiques: Avec Figures Et Une Table Alphabétique Des Noms*, Volume 2 (J. B. Dumoulin, 1878), p. 596; Oscar de Bessas de la Mégie, *Légendaire de la noblesse de France*, Volume 30 (Librairie centrale, 1865), p. 372.

related to the Amyots descended from Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour.

The Amyots d'Albigny were, again, seated in Lyon (or somewhere very near to it), which is in the Rhône department of France. Between 1891 and 1915, there were two Amyot births in Rhône;<sup>94</sup> between 1916 and 1940, there were three Amyot births in that department;<sup>95</sup> between 1941 and 1965, in Rhône, seven Amyot births were recorded;<sup>96</sup> and between 1966 and 1990, there were seven Amyot births there.<sup>97</sup> Between 1891 and 1915, two Amiot births were recorded in Rhône;<sup>98</sup> between 1916 and 1940, there were nine Amiot births there;<sup>99</sup> between 1941 and 1965, thirty-two Amiot births were recorded;<sup>100</sup> between 1966 and 1990, there were, in Rhône, twenty-eight Amiot births.<sup>101</sup> Thus in Rhône between 1891 and 1990, there were nineteen Amyot births, and there were seventy-one Amiot births.

<sup>94 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>95 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>96 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>97 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>98 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.

<sup>99 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.

<sup>100 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.

<sup>101 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMIOT," Filae.



Amyots (Amiot) d'Albigny

Over the centuries, ever since the Amyot name was made famous in the sixteenth century by Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch and Longus, historians in France, as well as elsewhere in Europe, have not overlooked other Amyots that had made their mark in the world in some way as well. No historians, however, who came to know about Louis-Aspaïs Amiot (Amyot) and who wrote about him and his descendants, ever realized that he was, that he must have been, of the same Amyot family as the great Jacques Amyot.

Like Jacques Amyot, Louis-Aspaïs Amiot was a native of Melun;<sup>102</sup> there he was a merchant in the first half of the eighteenth century.<sup>103</sup> His son, Louis-Aspaïs Amiot, was born in 1751,<sup>104</sup> and in 1784 became an advisor to and secretary of the king.<sup>105</sup> In 1788, the coat of arms of Louis-Aspaïs Amiot was set by d'Hozier:<sup>106</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> C. D'E. -A., *Dictionnaire des Familles Françaises*, *Anciennes ou Notables*, Tome Premier (Charles Hérissey, 1903), p. 177.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> C. D'E. -A., Dictionnaire des Familles Françaises, p. 177.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> C. D'E. -A., Dictionnaire des Familles Françaises, p. 177.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> C. D'E. -A., Dictionnaire des Familles Françaises, p. 177.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> C. D'E. -A., Dictionnaire des Familles Françaises, p. 177.



Coat of arms of Louis-Aspaïs Amiot<sup>107</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> Heraldique-Blasons-Armoiries, accessed on June 18, 2025 <a href="http://www.heraldique-blasons-armoiries.com/armoriaux/noblesse\_empire/blasons\_A3.html">http://www.heraldique-blasons-armoiries.com/armoriaux/noblesse\_empire/blasons\_A3.html</a>.



Coat of arms of Jacques Amyot<sup>108</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> Anselme de Sainte-Marie, *Histoire Genealogique et Chronologique de la Maison Royale de France*, Troisième Édition, Tome Huitiéme (par le compagnie des libraires associez, 1733), p. 283.

Precisely how Louis-Aspaïs Amiot and Jacques Amyot were related cannot be determined; that they were related, however, is certain. Jacques was the son of Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour, as mentioned above. Since nothing indicates nor suggests that Nicolas Amyot had a brother, the greatest probability is, or at least seems to be, that Louis-Aspaïs Amiot was descended from Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour; and if so, then it was, of course, through one of Jacques's brothers that Louis-Aspaïs Amiot descended from them, Jacques himself having had no descendants. Fortunately, we need not trouble ourselves with trying to figure out which lineage Louis-Aspaïs Amiot belonged to. It is enough to know that he was of the same Amyot family as Jacques. Note also that it is not known how Louis-Aspaïs himself spelled the surname. Presumably, he himself spelled it Amyot.

Before I proceed to focus on the descendants of Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour, that is, on the Amyots de Paris (Melun), the Amyots de Courtempierre, the Amyots d'Inville, and the Amyots de Moyencourt, I should mention one more family of Amiots, apparently unrelated to Nicolas Amyot, namely, the Amiot family of Toulon.

Jean-Joseph-Marie Amiot, translator of *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu, was a member of the Amiot family of Toulon, and undoubtedly its most famous. He was born in Toulon in 1718, the son of Jean-Louis Amiot and Marie-Anne Serre. <sup>109</sup> As noted by Emmanuel Davin, the baptismal certificate of Jean-Joseph-Marie Amiot does not show the first name of Jean in his

<sup>109</sup> Emmanuel Davin, *Un éminent sinologue toulonnais du XVIIIe siècle, le R. P. Amiot, S. J.* (1718–1793), In: Bulletin de l'Association Guillaume Budé, n°3, octobre 1961. pp. 380–395 <a href="https://www.persee.fr/doc/bude\_0004-5527\_1961\_num\_1\_3\_3962">https://www.persee.fr/doc/bude\_0004-5527\_1961\_num\_1\_3\_3962</a>, p. 380.

compound given name, but only Joseph-Marie.<sup>110</sup> Davin then goes on to point out and emphasize that Jean-Joseph-Marie Amiot's surname was not spelled Amyot:

Jean-Joseph-Marie Amiot — et non Amyot — naquit à Toulon le 8 février 1718.<sup>111</sup>

Why Davin made it unmistakably clear that the spelling of the Toulon family name was Amiot, and not Amyot, is no mystery to those who know the name of Jacques Amyot. Davin wanted to make it clear that there was, in fact, no relation between the two translators, between their two families. From this we see that the families themselves tended to spell the surname in one way in the main, either Amiot or Amyot.

Jacques Amyot, like his parents, did not spell his name Amiot; he as well as they spelled it Amyot:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> Emmanuel Davin, Un éminent sinologue toulonnais du XVIIIe siècle, le R. P. Amiot, p. 380.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> Davin, p. 380.

Ja Amyot E d'Auxenze

Signature de Jacques Amyot (Archives municipales d'Auxerre, Feudiste 210 n° 8)<sup>112</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> "1585, Jacques Amyot Veille sur Auxerre," Archives Municipales, Auxerre, accessed on June 18, 2025 <a href="https://archives.auxerre.fr/n/jacques-amyot-veille-sur-auxerre/n:134">https://archives.auxerre.fr/n/jacques-amyot-veille-sur-auxerre/n:134</a>.

To put in perspective the fame attached to the Amyot surname in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the universal acclaim enjoyed by Jacques Amyot, it is necessary to know how the translator was regarded by his contemporaries as well as by literary historians and critics. I first came to know about Jacques Amyot and his paramount importance in the development and improvement of French prose over twenty years ago, when I obtained as a young man A Short History of French Literature by George Saintsbury, as well as Saintsbury's books French Literature and Its Masters and Primer of French Literature. In French Literature and Its Masters, Saintsbury writes:

In matter of style and language Montaigne's position is equally important, but the ways which led him to it are clearly more traceable. His favorite author was beyond all doubt Plutarch, and his own explicit confession makes it undeniable that Plutarch's translator, Jacques Amyot, was his master in point of vocabulary and (so far as he took any lessons in it) of style. Montaigne, however, followed with the perfect independence that characterized him.<sup>113</sup>

# Saintsbury continues:

But while most if not all of these translators owed the merits of their work to their originals, and deserved, much more deserve, to be read only by those to whom those originals are sealed, Jacques Amyot (1513–1593), bishop of Auxerre, takes rank as a French classic by his translations of Plutarch, Longus, and Heliodorus. The admiration which Amyot excited in his own time was immense. Montaigne declares that it was thanks to him that his contemporaries knew how to speak and to write, and the Academy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> George Saintsbury, French Literature and Its Masters (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1946), p. 32.

in the next age, though not too much inclined to honour its predecessors, ranked him as a model. His Plutarch, which had an enormous influence at the time, and coloured perhaps more than any classic the thoughts and writings of the sixteenth century, both in French and English, was then considered his masterpiece. Nowadays perhaps, and from the purely literary standpoint, that position would be assigned to his exquisite version of the exquisite story of Daphne and Chloe. It is needless to say that absolute fidelity and exact scholarship are not the pre-eminent merits of these versions. They are not philological exercises, but works of art.<sup>114</sup>

# And in Primer of French Literature, Saintsbury writes:

Translation from the classics was naturally practised to a very considerable extent at a time when the classics were regarded with so much interest and veneration. But no translator even approached the success of Amyot. His two chief works are his version of *Plutarch* and that of the *Daphnis and Chloe* of Longus. The former suited the taste of the time for stirring business and at the same time for moral reflection, and had a very great influence—an influence extended to England by imitations of it in our tongue. The *Daphnis and Chloe* hit equally well the peculiar feature of the day which we have alluded to in characterising the *Heptameron*. It is an exceedingly beautiful piece of prose, doing full justice to the exquisite pastoral it translates, in a language which, unlike the Greek of Longus, is in the height of its youthful vigor. 115

# In Characters and Criticisms, James Hannay writes:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> George Saintsbury, French Literature and Its Masters, p. 214.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> George Saintsbury, *Primer of French Literature*, Third Edition (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1894), p. 60.

Such is a brief summary of the career of a man to whom Plutarch owes his modern fame, and to whom the modern world owes Plutarch. But Amyot's literary merits do not even stop here. He was one of the earliest writers of attractive French prose. He had an immense influence on Montaigne; and, what is still more important, our own countryman, Sir Thomas North, translated from Amyot's translation, and supplied Shakespeare with the groundwork of his 'Coriolanus,' 'Julius Caesar,' and 'Antony and Cleopatra.' Very few men of letters have done so much for the world as Jacques Amyot, Bishop of Auxerre. 116

# Montaigne himslef says:

'I give,' says Montaigne, 'and I think I am right in doing so, the palm to Jacques Amyot over all French writers, not only for the simplicity and purity of his vocabulary, in which he surpasses all others, nor for his industry in so long a task, nor for the depth of his learning which has enabled him to expound so happily a writer so thorny and crabbed. I am above all grateful to him for having selected and chosen a book so worthy and so suitable a present to his country. We dunces were lost had not this book [Amyot's translation of Plutarch's *Lives*] plucked us out of the mire. Thanks to it, we dare to speak and to write. By it ladies are in position to give lessons to schoolmasters. It is our very breviary.'117

Thus in France, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, one of the very most famous, and one of the most immediately recognizable names of all, was, in fact, Amyot.

Jacques Amyot died in France in 1593. About seven years after his death, in 1600, or probably nine years after it, in 1602, Philippe Amyot was born in France. Now, the name of Jacques

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> James Hannay, Characters and Criticisms: A Book of Miscellanies (William P. Nimmo, 1865), p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> George Saintsbury, A Short History of French Literature (Oxford, 1882), p. 232.

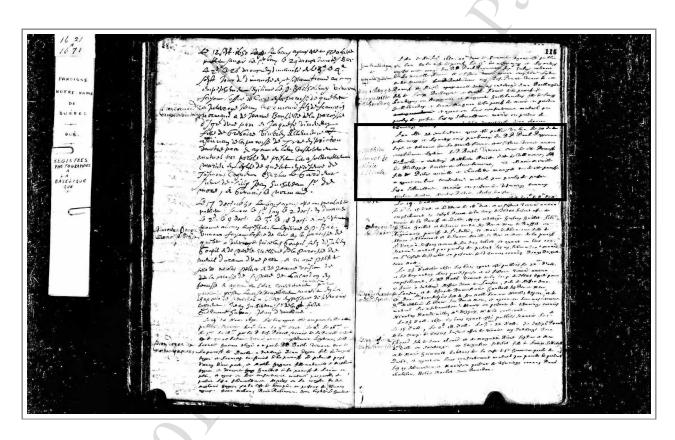
Amyot was a household one throughout all of France from the mid 1500s to the mid 1600s. It is certain, therefore, that Anne Couvent would have known who Jacques Amyot was; and it goes without saying that Philippe Amyot knew who Jacques was. When Anne Couvent met Philippe Amyot for the very first time, and learned what his surname was, she must have wondered, and she must have asked Philippe at some point, whether he was related to the great Jacques Amyot. (Surely she already knew that he was.) It would have been a natural question. And we might as well ask it. Was Philippe Amyot related to the great Jacques Amyot?

I have shown above that the surname Amyot, spelled as such, has always been extremely rare in France. We know for sure that Jacques Amyot spelled his surname Amyot; we have his signature. We do not have, however, the signature of Philippe Amyot. The question is, then, how did Philippe Amyot spell his surname? He did not spell it Hameau, that is certain. He spelled it either Amyot or Amiot. But which way?

As I mentioned at the outset of this paper, Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent had three sons, two of whom, Jean and Mathieu, were born in France, and the third, Charles, in Quebec. We have a copy of the original record of the baptism of Charles, as well as a copy of the original record of his marriage. Likewise we have a copy of the original record of the marriage of Mathieu Amyot, as well as copies of the baptismal records of all of his children. Although the baptismal record of Charles is the oldest record in Quebec of the family of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent, I will discuss first the marriage record of Mathieu Amyot, because the marriage record of Mathieu contains in itself a discrepancy that applies to the records of

Charles as well, but one that can be realized in the case of Charles only when two records pertaining to him are compared and considered.

It is to be presumed that Mathieu would have spelled his surname in the same way that his father Philippe spelled it, and that, like the Amiots of Toulon mentioned above who evidently spelled their surname consistently as Amiot, Philippe Amyot, and therefore his son Mathieu, would have spelled his surname in one way, and consistently so, either Amyot or Amiot. The record of the marriage of Mathieu does not include Mathieu's signature, and the record itself, shown below, includes both spellings of the surname, both Amyot and Amiot:



Marriage record of Mathieu Amyot,<sup>118</sup> son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot one time and Amiot two times.

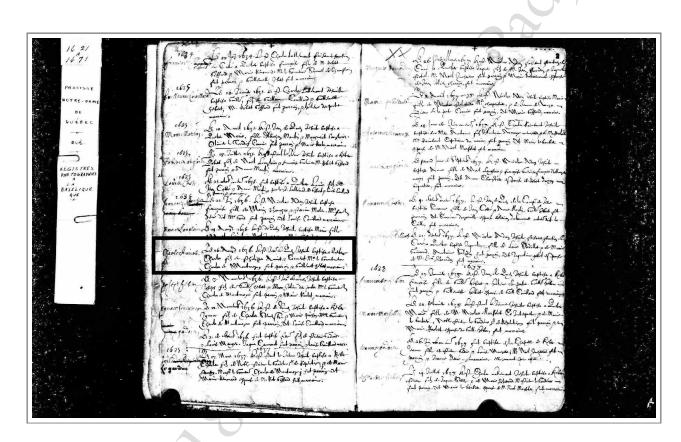
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p-31410444/15051833?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/32586713/person/18318239129/facts/citation/33627593609/edit/record.

The priest or notary who recorded the marriage of Mathieu Amyot wrote the surname three times, writing Amyot once and Amiot twice. Why did he write Amyot even one time? And which form did he write first, Amyot or Amiot? He must have written Amyot first, not just because its location is in the margin, but because if he had written Amiot first, he would not have written Amyot at all. The form Amyot is extremely rare; it was used consistently by only one or two families (and their branches) in all of France—a fact borne out by the archives, by the extreme fewness of Amyot births between 1891 and 1990 (a total of two hundred seventy-one Amyot births in ninety-nine years, on average fewer than three a year, during a time period when there were almost forty million people living in France). The fact that he wrote it at all, is, in itself, a strong indication that he was told that the spelling of the surname was Amyot. Had he been told that the spelling was Amiot, he would not have written the extremely rare Amyot at all, anywhere. His failure to write Amyot in the body of the text is a strong indication that the spelling convention tendency of the time, the use of i instead of y as a vowel, prompted him to spell the surname as Amiot while he was preoccupied with the content of the record, rather than spell it as the evidently correct Amyot.

If Amyot was, in fact, the spelling of the surname used by Mathieu Amyot, then we can safely assume that the spelling used by his father Philippe was also Amyot. If Amyot was the spelling that they used, then we should expect that the baptismal records of the children of Mathieu Amyot have the family name recorded as Amyot rather than as Amiot. But before I proceed to show copies of the baptismal records of

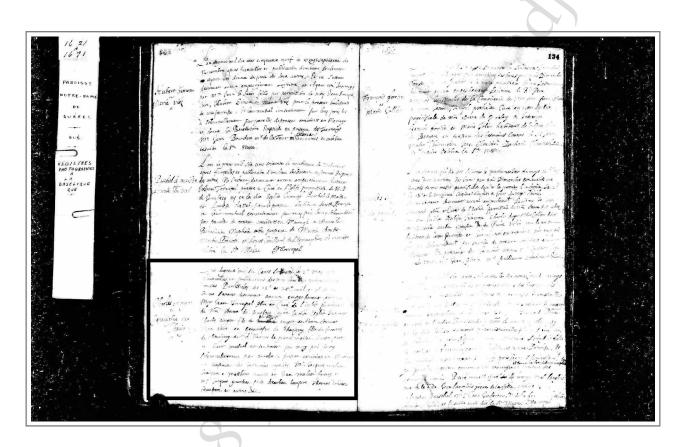
Mathieu Amyot's children, I return to his younger brother Charles, and to the records pertaining to him:





Baptismal record of Charles Amyot,<sup>119</sup> son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent. In this record, the surname is written two times and is spelled Amiot two times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup>"Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p-31410330/15050685?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/60547648/person/160017387873/facts/citation/620309703922/edit/record.



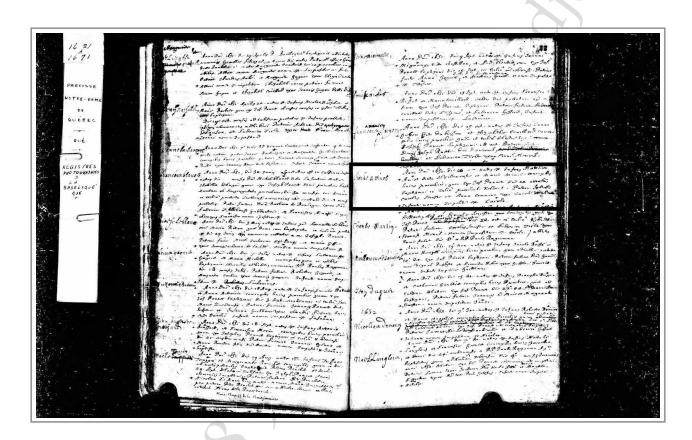
Marriage record of Charles Amyot,<sup>120</sup> son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent. In this record, the surname is written four times and is spelled Amyot four times.

 $<sup>^{120}</sup>$  "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," Ancestry, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410465?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410465?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15043617&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15043617&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15043617%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1048840028%26bid%3D6312518100%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DkYm4%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1048840028&hintid=6312518100&usePUB=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410465?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15043617%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1048840028%26bid%3D-1048840028%26bid%3D6312518100%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DkYm4%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410465?</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=kYm4%26pid%3D-1048840028%26bid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1048840028%26bid%3D6312518100%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DkYm4%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phsrc=kYm4&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&phstart=default&usePUBJs

In the baptismal record of Charles, shown above, the surname is spelled Amiot, for both Charles and Philippe; in the marriage record of Charles, however, the surname is spelled Amyot for Philippe and Charles both. Why the discrepancy between the spelling of the surname in the two records? The notary or priest who recorded the marriage record of Charles would not have assumed that the surname was spelled Amyot, the extremely rare spelling of the surname, just as the priest or notary who recorded the baptismal record of Charles would not have assumed that Amyot was the spelling of the surname. The spelling convention tendency of the time, both in France and in Quebec, was, again, to use i instead of y as a vowel (which is why the spelling Amiot grew to be by far the most common form of the surname). Since no assumption that the surname was spelled Amyot would have been made in either case, the notary or priest who recorded the marriage and spelled the surname as Amyot, must have been told that the surname was spelled Amyot; and the priest or notary who recorded the baptism and spelled the surname as Amiot, must have been told nothing about the spelling of the surname, and must have been led by the dictates of the spelling convention tendency of the time, to use i instead of  $\gamma$  as a vowel, to spell the surname as Amiot.

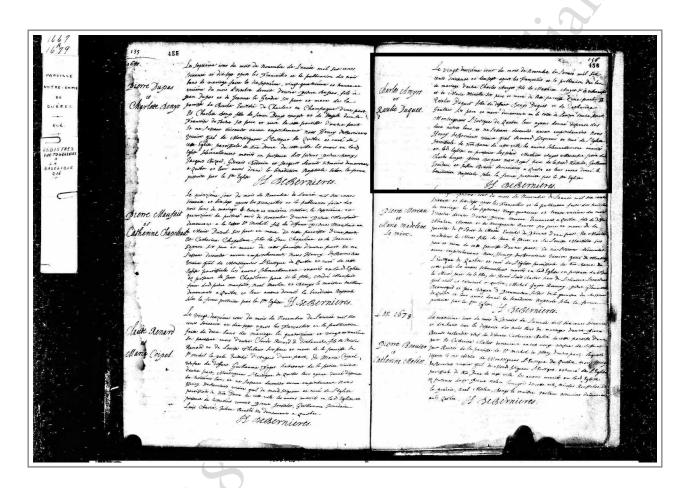
If the correct or usual spelling of the surname was, in fact, Amyot, then other records, ones pertaining to other members of the family, should bear out this fact. On the other hand, if the correct or usual spelling of the surname was Amiot, or if the spelling convention tendency of the time (the use *i* instead of *y* as a vowel) influenced the way in which priests and notaries recorded the surname, then the records should bear out that

fact, or reflect that influence. In the following pages are the baptismal records of all the children of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve, son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent, and husband of Marie Miville:



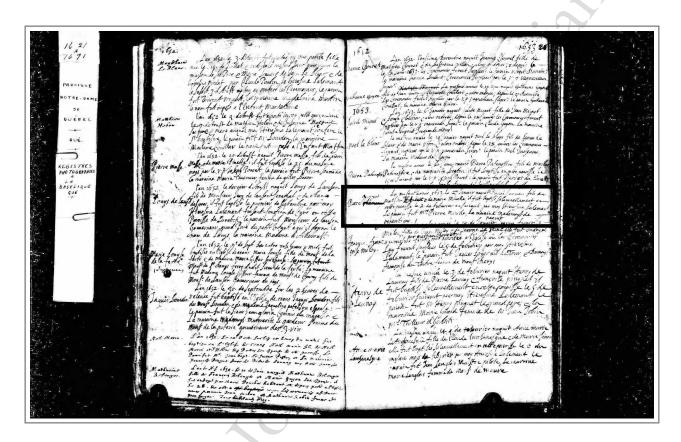
Baptismal record of Charles Amyot,<sup>121</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written two times and is spelled Amiot two times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410351?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410351?</a> <a href="pid=15050787%backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050787%backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050787%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032171552%26hid%3D5319793570%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy31%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032171552&hintid=5319793570&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy31&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410351?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552">indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D0py31%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs=true">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552">indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D0py31%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs=true">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552">indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D0py31%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs=true">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-1032171552">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-10321715">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-10321715">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D176916431%26pid%3D-10321715">https://www.



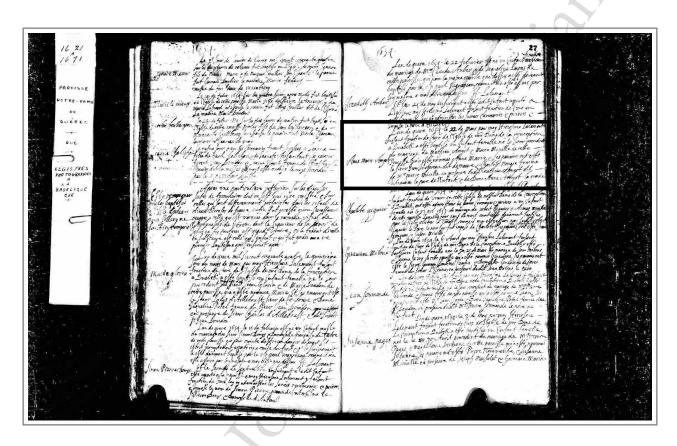
Marriage record of Charles Amyot,<sup>122</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written five times and is spelled Amyot five times.

<sup>122 &</sup>quot;Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410804?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410804?</a> <a href="pid=15045599&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15045599&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15045599%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032171552%26hid%3D5319793584%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy37%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032171552&hintid=5319793584&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy37&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410804?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15045599&backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15045599&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15045599%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032171552%26pid%3D-103217152%26pid%3



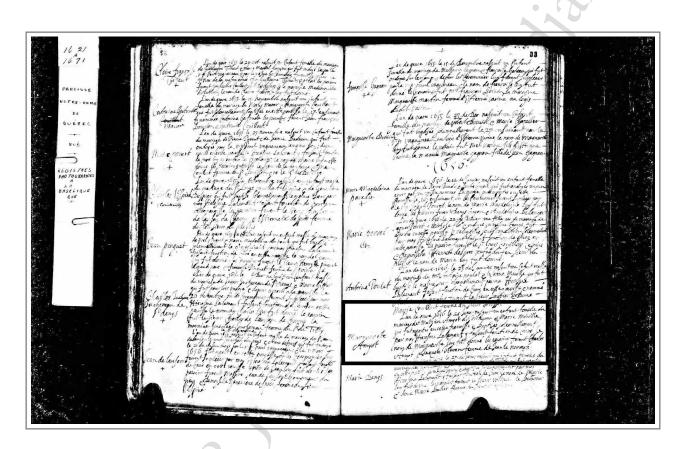
Baptismal record of Pierre Amyot,<sup>123</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written two times and is spelled Amyot one time and spelled or butchered into Amiot one time.

 $<sup>^{123}</sup>$  Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," Ancestry, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410353?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410353?</a> <a href="pid=15050803&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050803&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050803%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032171452%26hid%3D5319793418%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy39%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032171452&hintid=5319793418&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy39&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410353?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15050803&backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050803&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15050803&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050803&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15050803&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050803&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15050803b26pid%3D-1032171452bid%3D



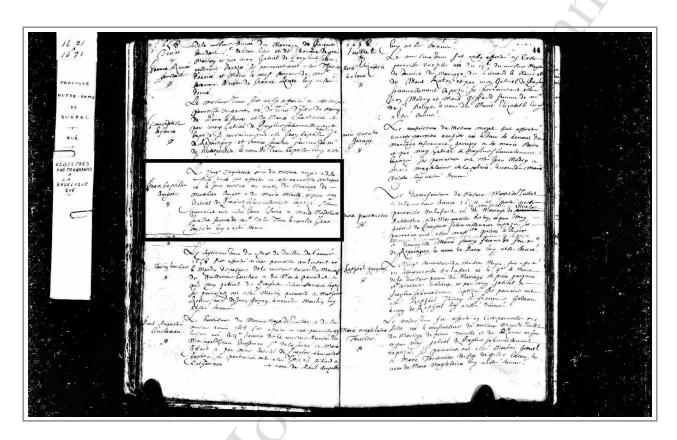
Baptismal record of Anne-Marie Amyot,<sup>124</sup> daughter of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written four times and is spelled Amyot four times.

 $<sup>^{124}</sup>$ "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," Ancestry, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410356?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410356?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15050825&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050825&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050825%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032171289%26bid%3D5319793558%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy41%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032171289&hintid=5319793558&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy41&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410356?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15050825%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032171289%



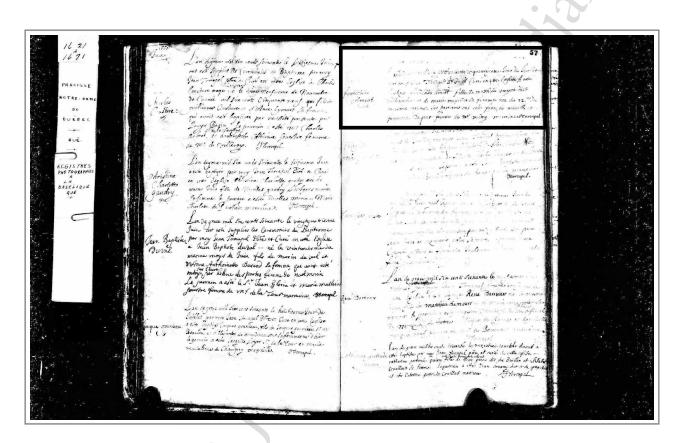
Baptismal record of Marguerite Amyot,<sup>125</sup> daughter of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

 $<sup>^{125}</sup>$  "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," Ancestry, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410362?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410362?</a> <a href="pid=15050847&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050847&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050847%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032163002%26hid%3D5319793230%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy34%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032163002&hintid=5319793230&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy34&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410362?</a> <a href="mailto:phsc-color="mailto:https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mai



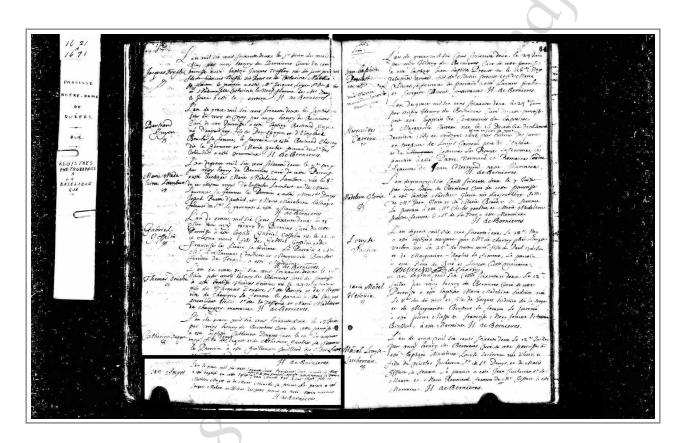
Baptismal record of Jean-Baptiste Amyot,<sup>126</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written two times and is spelled Amyot two times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410373?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410373?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15050913&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15050913&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050913%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050913%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050913%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15050913%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1091%26h%3D15050913%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1091%26h%3D15050913%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D0949%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D0949%26">https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?<



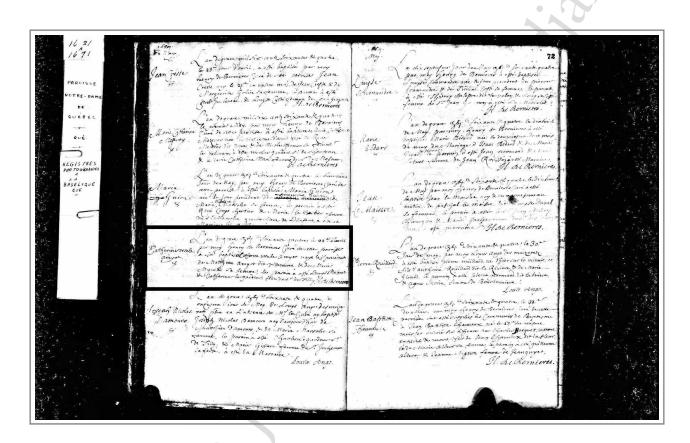
Baptismal record of Françoise Amyot,<sup>127</sup> daughter of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot two times and Amiot one time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p-31410386/15042837?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/-1032162630/facts/citation/882072744712/edit/record.

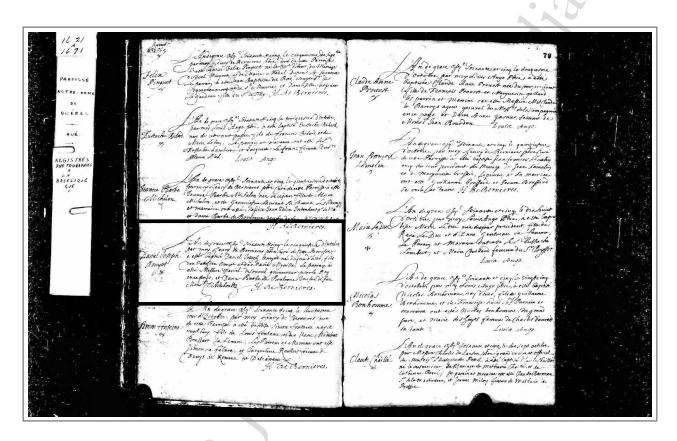


Baptismal record of Jean Amyot,<sup>128</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

 $<sup>^{128}</sup>$  "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," Ancestry, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410395?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410395?</a> <a href="pid=15042887&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15042887&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15042887%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032162485%26hid%3D5319793748%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy52%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032162485&hintid=5319793748&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy52&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410395?</a> <a href="mailto:phsc-color="mailto:https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">https://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mai

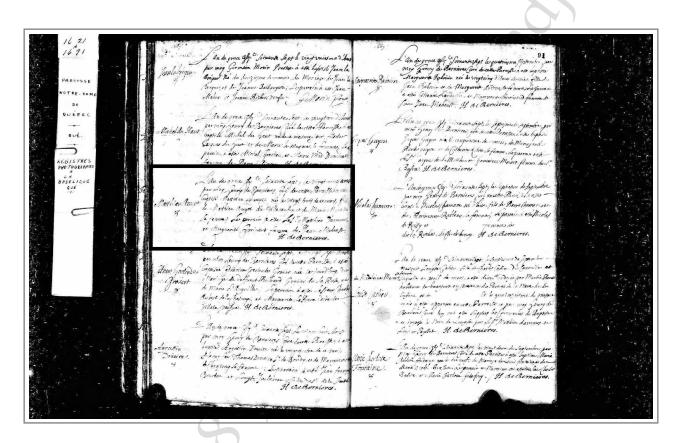


Baptismal record of Catherine Ursule Amyot,<sup>129</sup> daughter of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.



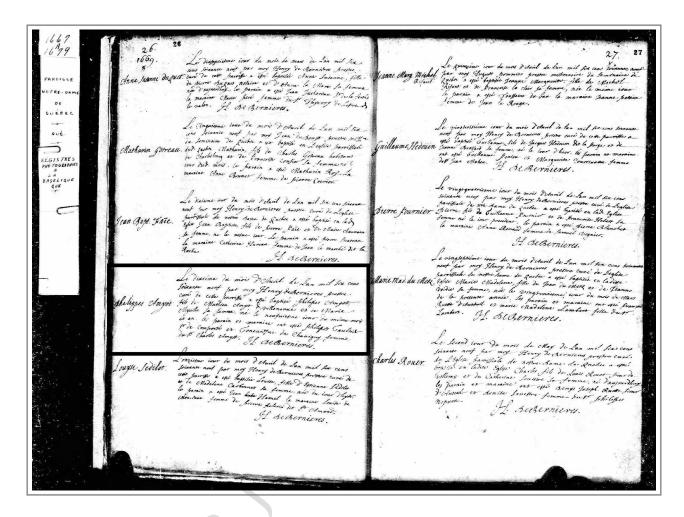
Baptismal record of Daniel Joseph Amyot,<sup>130</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410410?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410410?</a>
pid=15043006&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?
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Baptismal record of Mathieu Amyot,<sup>131</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup>"Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410422?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410422?</a> <a href="pid=15051125&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15051125&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15051125%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032161886%26hid%3D5319793612%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy25%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032161886&hintid=5319793612&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy25&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410422?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15051125%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032161886%26hid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032161886%26hid%3D5319793612%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy25%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs=true&phsrc=Opy25&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410422?</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc%3D1691431%26pid%3D-10321618">phsrc%3D1691431%26pid%3D-10321618</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc%3D0py25%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs=true">phsrc%3D0py25%26\_phstart%3D0py25%26\_phstart=default&usePUBJs=true</a>.

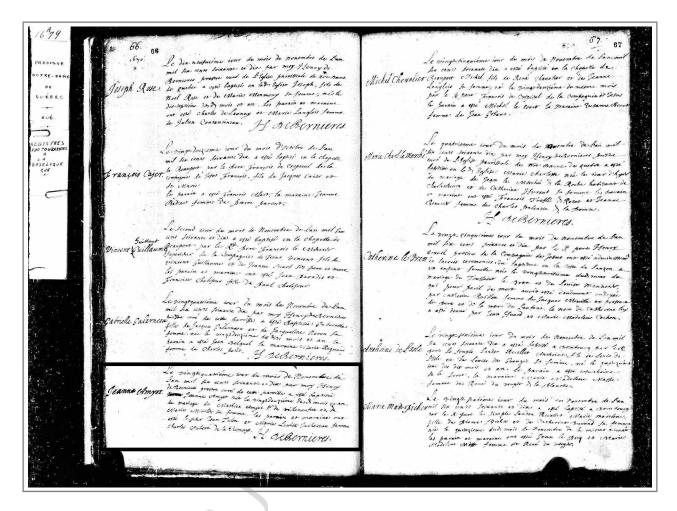


Baptismal record of Philippe Amyot,<sup>132</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written four times and is spelled Amyot four times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>132</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410591?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410591?</a> <a href="pid=15044243&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15044243&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a>

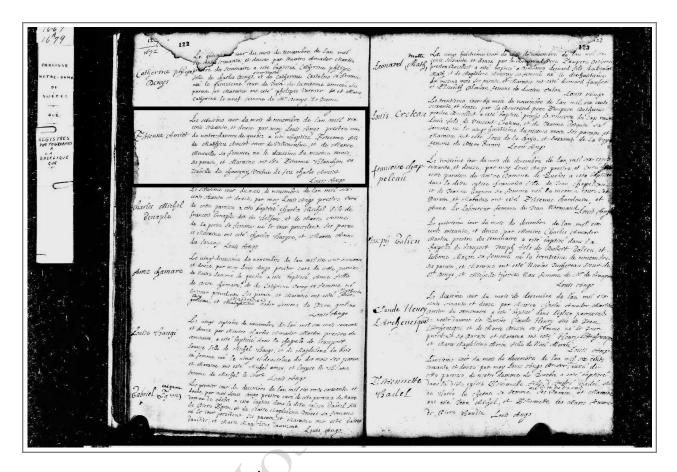
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<sup>&</sup>lt;u>d%26pcat%3D34%26fh%3D1%26h%3D15044243%26recoff%3D%26ml\_rpos%3D2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&\_phsrc=Opy29&\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true.</u>



Baptismal record of Jeanne Amyot,<sup>133</sup> daughter of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

<sup>133&</sup>quot;Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410611?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410611?</a> <a href="pid=15052478&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15052478&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1091%26h%3D15052478%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-1032161732%26bid%3D1032156625972%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\_phsrc%3DOpy28%26\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue&treeid=7691431&personid=-1032161732&hintid=1032156625972&usePUB=true&phsrc=Opy28&phstart=default&usePUBJs=true.">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410611?</a> <a href="mailto:pid=15052478%26tid%3D7691431%26pid%3D-10321617">pid=15052478&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=0b14318">pid=15052478</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=0b14318">phsrc=0b14318</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=0b14318">personid=-1032161732</a> <a href="mailto:hintid=1032156625972">hhttps://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410611?</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=0b14318">pid=15052478</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=0b14318">phsrc=0b14318</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=0b14318">personid=-1032161732</a> <a href="mailto:hintid=1032156625972">hhttps://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410611?</a> <a href="mailto:phsrc=0b14318">phsrc=0b14318</a> <a href="mailto:hintid=1032156625972">phsrc=0b14318</a> <a href="mailto:hintid=1032156625972">hintid=1032156625972</a> <a href="mailto:hintid=1032156625972">hintid=103

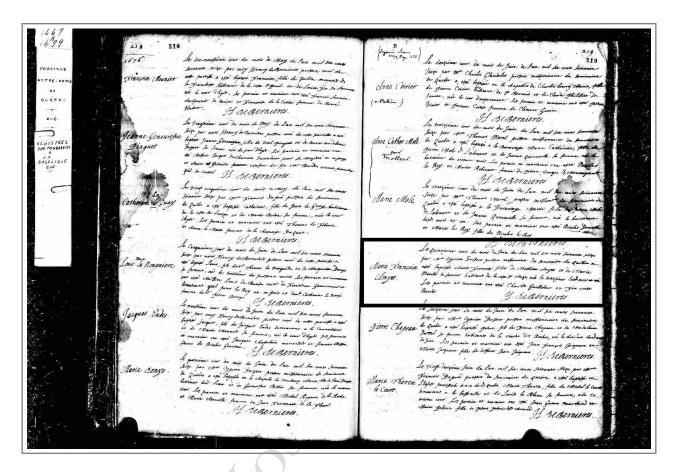


Baptismal record of Étienne Amyot,<sup>134</sup> son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written two times and is spelled Amiot two times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410639?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410639?</a> <a href="pid=15044839&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15044839&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;u>d%26pcat%3D34%26fh%3D0%26h%3D15044839%26recoff%3D%26ml\_rpos%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&\_phsrc=Opy32&\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true.</u>

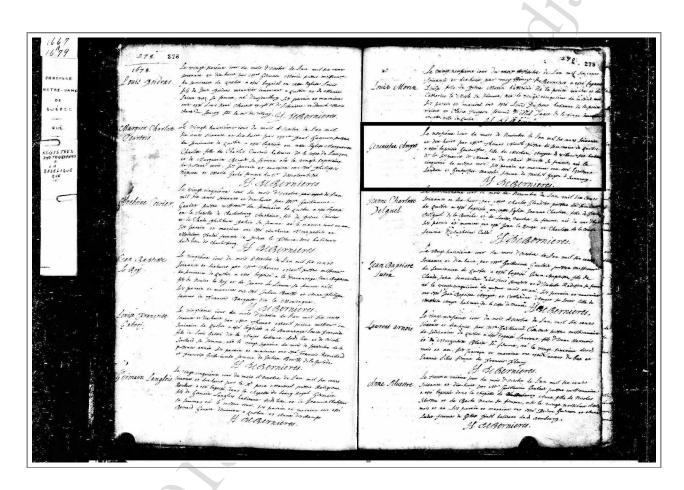


Baptismal record of Marie-Françoise Amyot,<sup>135</sup> daughter of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written two times and is spelled Amyot two times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup>"Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410687?">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p\_31410687?</a> <a href="pid=15045138&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?">pid=15045138&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?</a>

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{phsrc\%3DOpy36\%26\_phstart\%3DsuccessSource\%26usePUBJs\%3Dtrue\%26indiv\%3D1\%26\_db\%3Ddrouinvitals\%26gsfn\%3DMarie\%2520Fran\%25C3\%25A7oise\%26gsln%3DAmyot%26\_msbdy\%3D1676\%26qh\%3D9DgKnkygckGo67nhTAkfyg\%253D\%253D\%26new%3D1\%26rank%3D1\%26redir%3Dfalse%26uidh%3Dph5\%26gss%3Dangs-$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>d%26pcat%3D34%26fh%3D2%26h%3D15045138%26recoff%3D%26ml\_rpos%3D3&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&\_phsrc=Opy36&\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true.</u>

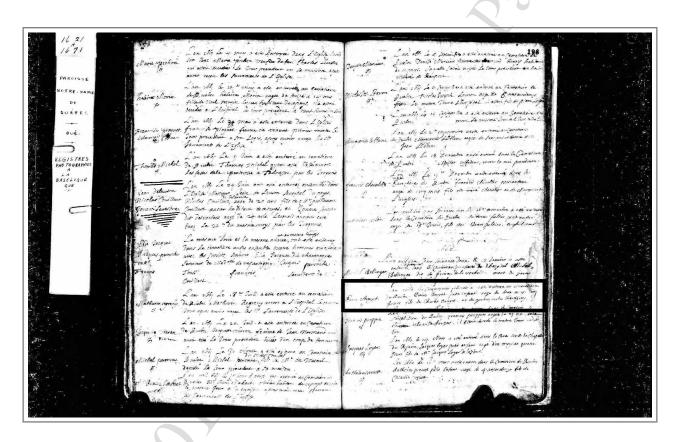


Baptismal record of Geneviève Amyot,<sup>136</sup> daughter of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. In this record, the surname is written two times and is spelled Amyot two times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup>"Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p-31410717/15045296?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/-1032161298/facts/citation/882072753900/edit/record.

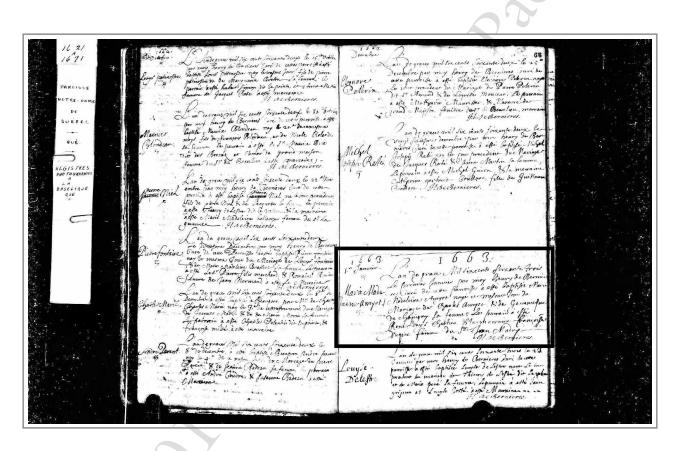
The following three records pertain to the children of Charles Amyot (son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent) and Geneviève de Chavigny:

84 of 198



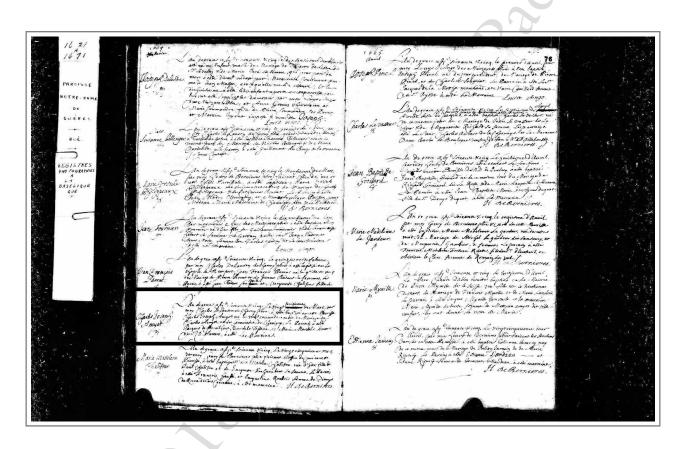
Enterrement record of Pierre Amyot,<sup>137</sup> son of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p-31410529/15052125?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/292053184989/facts">https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/292053184989/facts</a>.



Baptismal record of Marie Madeleine Amyot,<sup>138</sup> daughter of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/">https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/</a> <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/292053188420/facts/citation/882074033377/edit/record">https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/292053188420/facts/citation/882074033377/edit/record</a>.



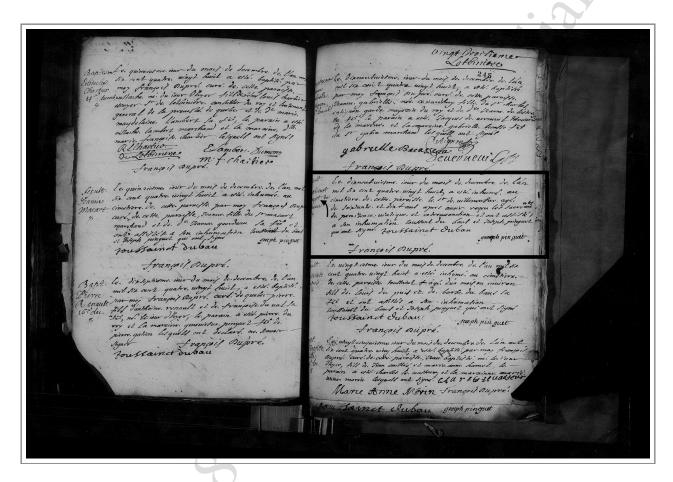
Baptismal record of Charles Joseph Amyot,<sup>139</sup> son of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny. In this record, the surname is written three times and is spelled Amyot three times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry*, accessed on June 19, 2025 <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1091/d13p-31410407/15051031?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/292053188442/facts/citation/882074033780/edit/record.">https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7691431/person/292053188442/facts/citation/882074033780/edit/record</a>.

In the records above, namely, the marriage record of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve, the baptismal record and the marriage record of Charles Amyot (son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent), the marriage record of Charles Amyot (son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville), the baptismal records of all fifteen children of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville, the baptismal records of the children of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny, and the enterrement record of Pierre Amyot (son of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny) who died when an infant—the paternal surname was written a total of sixty-four times in a period of forty-two years, from 1636 to 1678; it was spelled Amiot a total of ten times in that period, and it was spelled Amyot in that period a total of fifty-four times. In the baptismal records of the children of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville, the surname was spelled Amiot five times, and it was spelled Amyot forty times. In the enterrement record of Pierre Amyot and in the baptismal records of the other children of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny, the surname was spelled only as Amyot, every time, nine times in total. The spelling convention tendency of the time was, again, to use the letter i, not y as a vowel in place of i. Yet the spelling convention tendency of the time was almost never observed in the writing of the surname: in defiance of it, the surname was almost always spelled Amyot, and was so spelled intentionally. The form Amyot is, again, extremely rare; the form Amiot is common. No notary or priest who did not know the correct spelling of the surname would have assumed that it was to be spelled as the extremely rare form Amyot. Any assumption about the spelling would have aligned with the dictates of the convention tendency,

and such assumption would thus have prompted the notary or priest to spell the surname as Amiot. Only one reason can explain why the spelling convention tendency of the time was almost never observed in spelling the surname in these records, only one reason can explain why the extremely rare form Amyot was written fifty-four times out of sixty-four times total: the surname—the family name—was spelled Amyot—spelled Amyot by Mathieu, spelled Amyot by Charles, spelled Amyot by Jean, and spelled Amyot by their father Philippe, husband of Anne Couvent. That is why the surname was spelled Amyot fifty-four times out of sixty-four times from 1636 to 1678. And last, but not least, in the enterrement record of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve, who died on 18 December 1688, 140 the surname is clearly spelled Amyot:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979," database with images, *FamilySearch*, accessed on June 19, 2025 https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L993-F9QZ-7? cc=1321742&wc=9RLX-HZQ%3A17585101%2C19508101%2C19885701: 16 July 2014), Québec > Notre-Dame-de-Québec > Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1679-1692 > image 260 of 490; Archives Nationales du Quebec (National Archives of Quebec), Montreal.



Enterrement record of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve.<sup>141</sup> In this record the surname is spelled one time and it is spelled Amyot.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979," database with images, *FamilySearch*, accessed on June 19, 2025 (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L993-F9QZ-7? cc=1321742&wc=9RLX-HZQ%3A17585101%2C19508101%2C19885701: 16 July 2014), Québec > Notre-Dame-de-Québec > Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1679-1692 > image 260 of 490; Archives Nationales du Quebec (National Archives of Quebec), Montreal.

In all of France, as stated above, there were only forty-seven Amyot births between 1891 and 1915, fewer than two Amyot births a year in that period of twenty-four years. And in the same period in France, there were one thousand one hundred ten Amiot births, more than forty-six Amiot births a year on average in that twenty-four-year period.

The greatest number of Amyot births in France between 1891 and 1915, was recorded in Paris, where twelve Amyots were born during that time. Outside Paris, the greatest number of Amyot births in France was recorded in the department of Nièvre (formerly the province of Nivernais), where, between 1891 and 1915, seven Amyot births were recorded. 142 In the department of Doubs, where the third greatest number was recorded, there were four Amyot births between 1891 and 1915.143 The commune of Baume-les-Dames is in the department of Doubs, and it was to that commune, as mentioned above, that the descendants of Guillaume Amiot de Salins-les-Bains (better known as 'Amiot de Salins') and Claudine de Vers moved in the late sixteenth or the early seventeenth century. This Amiot family was known not to spell the surname as Amyot before the seventeenth century, when its members were still living in the Jura department of France. Once established in the Doubs department, however, a few members of it evidently adopted the Amyot spelling, judging by the Amyot births recorded in Doubs after 1891, unless, of course, those Amyot births in Doubs were to members of an Amyot family unrelated to the Amiots de Salins-les-Bains. The Amyot d'Albigny family, for instance, was known to have spelled

<sup>142 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

<sup>143 &</sup>quot;Nom de famille AMYOT," Filae.

the surname as Amyot since as early as 1430, and the Amyots d'Albigny were seated in the Rhône department, not too far from Doubs. It is possible that some members of the Amyot d'Albigny family settled in Doubs after the seventeenth century, perhaps in the eighteenth, and that their descendants can account for the Amyot births there between 1891 and 1915, and later. In any case, the important thing to remember is that the greatest numbers of Amyot births between 1891 and 1915 were recorded in Paris, and in Nièvre.

Now, since we are not concerned ultimately with how many Amyots were born in France after 1891, or where they were born, it may seem to no purpose to point out the locations of the greatest numbers of Amyot births in France between 1891 and 1915. But there is a reason for showing the places where the greatest numbers of Amyots were born between 1891 and 1915 in France, as well as for showing the places where the Amyot families were seated historically.

In every twenty-four-year period after 1915, the number of Amyot births in France increased, with sixty-three Amyot births being recorded between 1916 and 1940; with seventy-eight between 1941 and 1965; and with eighty-three being recorded between 1966 and 1990. Thus the trend was, that each successive period saw an increase in the number of Amyot births in France. If we go back in time, period by period, we see the trend in reverse, and see, of course, that each preceding period of twenty-four years saw fewer and fewer Amyot births. On the basis of these accurate data, we can safely extrapolate, then, that the greatest probability is, that the number of Amyot births in France between 1866 and 1890, a period of twenty-four years, was less than forty-seven.

The average increase of Amyot births every twenty-four years, from 1916 to 1990, was twelve. By subtracting the average number of twelve Amyot births from forty-seven, we are left, of course, with thirty-five. It seems to me safe to say that between 1866 and 1890, there were, in all probability, approximately thirty-five Amyot births in France. Of course, the farther back in time we go, we must arrive at some point where the average number of Amyots born in every period of twenty-four years changes (by dropping). In other words, twelve cannot remain the average number if the total number of Amyot births in each preceding period of twenty-four years was smaller than the number born in the period following.

Since there were so few (forty-seven) Amyot births in France between 1891 and 1915 (so few, in fact, between 1891 and 1990, a mere two hundred seventy-one in total), and almost certainly even fewer (thirty-five or so) between 1866 and 1890, the total number of Amyots having children in the early 1600s and consistently spelling the surname as Amyot must have been a very small one (just as the number of them living in the mid to late 1800s must have been a small one, given the extreme fewness of Amyot births). It could not possibly have been a large number; for, if the number of Amyots having children in any one of the four quarters of the seventeenth century had been greater than, say, a dozen (it is just an estimate), then the number of different Amyot lineages in later centuries would have been vastly greater than it was, and thus the average number of Amyot births each year in the mid to late 1800s—two hundred fifty years later—would have been much higher than the fewer than two each year actually recorded between 1891 and 1915, and would have been on a par with the average number of

Amiot births in the same period. And however many Amyots there were in the 1600s who were having children, and who were consistently spelling the surname as Amyot, almost all of them must have been related. If there had been, say, more than two distinct and unrelated extended Amyot families ('clans') in the 1600s, with a number of lineages branching off from them, their members having children, and *consistently* spelling the surname as Amyot, then the average number of Amyot births two hundred fifty years later, in the mid to late 1800s, would have been incalculably greater than it actually was. But that was not the case. Thus, the Amyots alive in France in the 1600s who consistently spelled the surname as Amyot, and whose descendants consistently spelled the surname as Amyot, must have been few in number; and all of them, or at least almost all of them, must have been of the same (extended) Amyot family.

The Amyots de Paris (Melun) (Amyots de Courtempierre, Amyots d'Inville, Amyots de Moyencourt), the Amyots de Château-Chinon (Nièvre), and the Amyots d'Albigny (Rhône) all consistently, more or less, generation after generation, spelled the surname as Amyot; and as far back as the early 1600s, and in some cases the early 1500s, most of them were residents of the locations indicated by their compound names. This explains why the majority of Amyot births between 1891 and 1915 were recorded in the departments where those families resided. The question is, again, were all these Amyot families related, were they just lineages of the same extended Amyot family? Before we can answer this question, we must first learn a little about the Amyots de Château-Chinon.

The first Amyot known to have resided in Château-Chinon was one Vincent Amyot, who was evidently a serf there, probably in mortmain, until 1506, the year when he received his freedom. 144 Little else is known about him. He may have been the father of the priest Vincent Amyot who was sent from Nevers to Château-Chinon in 1587, and who was still the priest there as late as 1621. 145 If he was his father, the priest Vincent Amyot must have been originally from Château-Chinon, and must have moved to Nevers before 1587 and lived there for a time, before being sent (back) to Château-Chinon to be the priest there.

One Dominique Amyot, according to his descendants, was born in 1623, most probably in Château-Chinon, which commune is, by the way, a very small one. Dominique did die in Château-Chinon on 20 April 1683. 146 Who his father was, nobody knows, but Dominique was certainly related to the other Amyots who lived in Château-Chinon. He was likely the great-great-grandson, or perhaps the third great-grandson, of the Vincent Amyot first mentioned above. Dominique Amyot married Marie de Coujard, and with her, among other children, had a son, named Nicolas. 147 Nicolas Amyot married Marie de

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> J. -F. Baudiau, *Le Morvand de Essai Géographique, Topographique et Historique*, Deuxième Édition, Tome Premier (Fay Père et Fils, 1865), p. 325 n.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> J. -F. Baudiau, *Le Morvand de Essai Géographique*, p. 325 n.; "Château Chinon curés," *Bienvenue chez GenNièvre*, accessed on June 20, 2025 <a href="https://www.gennievre.net/wiki/index.php/">https://www.gennievre.net/wiki/index.php/</a> Château Chinon curés.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> H. de Flamare et P. Destray, Département de la Nièvre, Inventaire Sommaire des Archives Départementales, Antérieures A 1790, Série E Supplément Arrondissement de Château-Chinon (Fortin, 1919), p. 61.

<sup>147</sup> H. de Flamare et P. Destray, Département de la Nièvre, p. 63.

Fradel on 1 March 1688, in Château-Chinon;<sup>148</sup> but Nicolas and Marie had at least two children before they married, one of whom was Marie Amyot, who was baptized on 11 October 1684, in Château-Chinon;<sup>149</sup> and the other of whom was Charles Amyot, who was baptized in Château-Chinon on 2 April 1686.<sup>150</sup>

The Amyots de Nièvre, or Nivernais, that is, de Château-Chinon, maintained alliances with a number of families, one of which was the Bonnay family, seigneurs de Précy, du Bessay, and de Vomas, or Vaumas, etc.<sup>151</sup> As stated above, André Amyot, baron d'Albigny, whose immediate family resided in Lyon, married Antoinette de Bonnay, whose family resided in Berry, Bourbonnais, and Nivernais. In short, the Amyots de Château-Chinon (Nièvre) and the Amyots d'Albigny of Lyon were of exactly the same Amyot family; they were related by blood. The following was written by L. Roubet, biographer of Nicolas Amyot, husband of Marie de Fradel:

Nous dirons en terminant que Nicolas Amyot était de la famille de Jacques Amyot, le célèbre traducteur de Plutarque. 152

We will say in closing that Nicolas Amyot was of the family of Jacques Amyot, the famous translator of Plutarch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> Flamare et Destray, Département de la Nièvre, p. 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>149</sup> Flamare et Destray, Département de la Nièvre, p. 61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> Flamare et Destray, Département de la Nièvre, p. 62.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> Le Comte de Soultrait, *Armorial du Bourbonnais*, Deuxième Édition, Publiée sous la Direction de Roger de Quirielle, Tome Premier (André Paris, 1890), p. 124.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> L. Roubet, *Suite des Livres de Famille dans le Nivernais* (<u>Bulletin de la Société Nivernais des Sciences, Lettres et Arts, Troisème Série, Tome Premier, XI Volume de la Collection</u>; pp. 159-166), p. 166.

Thus, the Amyots de Paris (Melun) (the Amyots de Courtempierre, the Amyots d'Inville, the Amyots de Moyencourt), the Amyots de Château-Chinon (Nièvre), and the Amyots d'Albigny (Lyon) were, in fact, all related; they were branches of the same Amyot family. And the Amyots of these branches, or lineages, account for the vast majority of Amyot (not Amiot) births in France, down to the present.

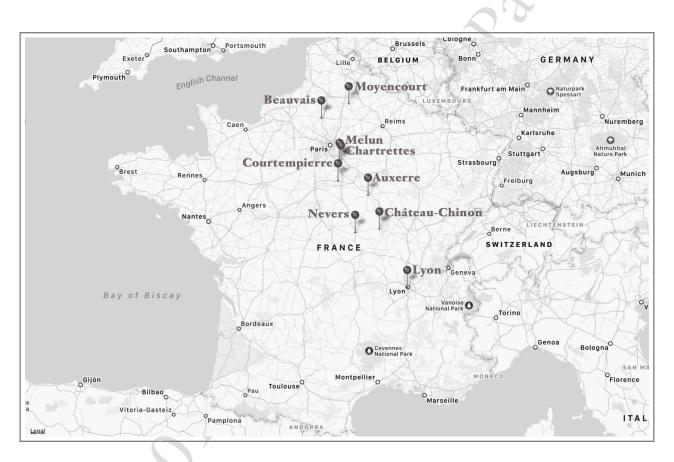
The Amyots de Courtempierre, the Amyots d'Inville, and the Amyots de Moyencourt, as indicated above, were branches of the Amyots de Paris, or, to be specific, the Amyots de Melun. Courtempierre is about sixty kilometers to the south of Melun. Beauvais, where the Amyots d'Inville, after a long residency in Paris, came to settle, is about one hundred forty kilometers to the north of Melun, and about ninety-five kilometers to the north of Paris. Moyencourt, a commune near to Nesle, is one hundred seventy kilometers to the north of Melun. These cities and these communes are all marked on the following maps. Chartrettes, a commune to the south of Melun about eight kilometers, is included in the maps below as well because Nicolas Amyot, father of the translator Jacques Amyot, owned property there.<sup>153</sup> I also include in the maps below Auxerre, where the translator Jacques Amyot, after being made its bishop on 3 March 1571, 154 resided in the main, until probably 19 November 1585, the date that he bought the castle of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Bulletin de la Société D'Archéologique, Sciences, Lettres et Arts, du Département de Seine-et-Marne, Sixième Volume (1869-1872) (J. Carro, Imprimeur de Bulletin de la Société, 1873), p. 133.

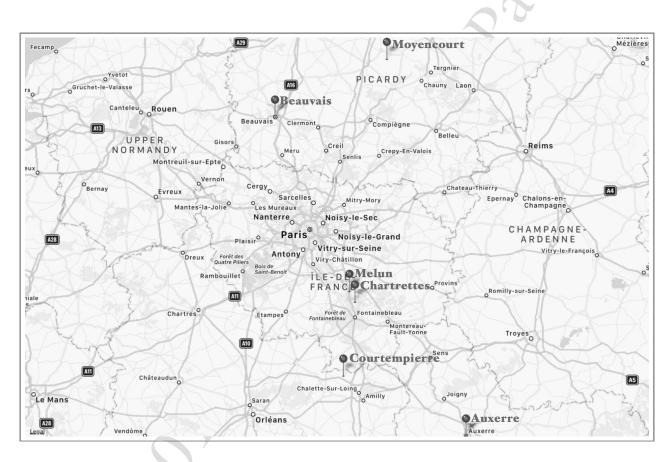
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> Jean Lebeuf, Ambroise Challe, Maximilien Quantin, Mémoires concernant l'histoire civile et ecclésiastique d'Auxerre et de son ancien diocese: continues jusqu'a nos jours avec addition de nouvelles preuves et annotations, Volume II (Perriquet, 1851), p. 165.

Courtempierre. 155 All the Amyots that resided in these locations—Courtempierre, Beauvais, and Moyencourt—were descended from Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour; and in Paris proper, as well as, of course, in Melun, and here and there in the department of Yonne, near Auxerre, descendants and relatives of theirs resided.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>155</sup> Mémoires de la Société Archéologique et Historique de L'Oreanais (France), Tome Vingt-Huitième (Volume 28). M. Marron, Libraire-Éditeur (Orléans, 1902), p. 71.

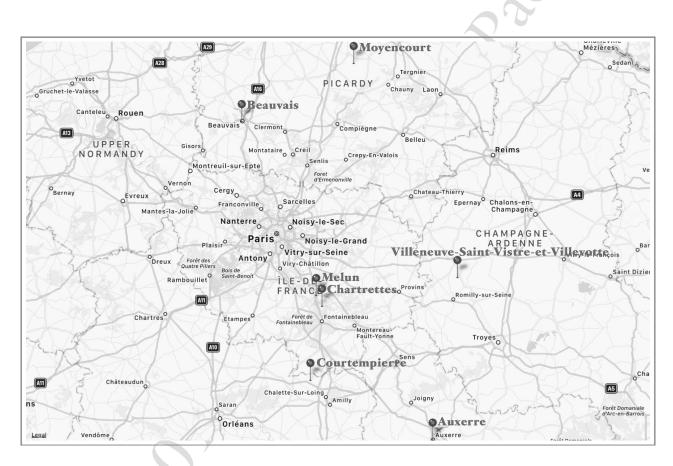


Amyots



Amyots

About ninety-three kilometers to the east of Melun is Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, where, as Gagné and Kokanosky have shown in their paper, another group of Amyots, as discussed above, resided in the early to mid seventeenth century.



Amyots

The Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte mentioned by Gagné and Kokanosky in their paper were, again, Nicolas Amyot, husband of Simone (Symonne) Le Clerc (Leclerc); Jean Amyot, husband of Jeanne Le Grand (Legrand); Guillaume Amyot, sponsor or godfather of Pierre Amyot, 156 son of Nicolas Amyot and Simone Le Clerc; and Nicolle (Nicole) Amyot, daughter of Nicolas and Simone. Though not discovered by Gagné and Kokanosky, there was a Julienne Amyot living in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte in the early 1600s, as reported by researchers in France; 157 she was no doubt related to the other Amyots mentioned above. Julienne Amyot, who was born about 1610, was the wife of a Bonnevallet (Bonnevalet);<sup>158</sup> and, as will be seen, there is reason to believe that he was a Tournois de Bonnevallet, one whose given name has yet to be definitely established, though some give it as François. If the husband of Julienne Amyot was, in fact, a Tournois de Bonnevallet, who might his father have been? The very first Tournois to bear Bonnevallet as a surname was Etienne Tournois, Etienne Tournois de Bonnevallet, 159 son of Pierre Tournois, valet de chambre to Henri II, king of France. 160 The Tournois family of Paris was originally from the Beauce region;<sup>161</sup> from Paris, where they became settled, they spread to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>156</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> "Bernard Butet's Family Tree," *Geneanet*, accessed on June 20, 2025 <a href="https://gw.geneanet.org/bbutetnicolle?lang=en&pz=simon+marc&nz=nicolle&ocz=0&p=julienne&n=amyot">https://gw.geneanet.org/bbutetnicolle?lang=en&pz=simon+marc&nz=nicolle&ocz=0&p=julienne&n=amyot</a>.

<sup>158 &</sup>quot;Bernard Butet's Family Tree," Geneanet.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>159</sup> M. de Saint-Allais, *Nobiliaire Universel de France ou Recueil Général des Généalogies Historiques des Maisons Nobles*, Tome Seizième (Chez L'Auteur, 1819), p. 162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>160</sup> M. de Saint-Allais, *Nobiliaire Universel de France*, p. 161.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>161</sup> De Saint-Allais, p. 160.

Dauphiné and Artois. 162 If the husband of Julienne Amyot was a Tournois de Bonnevallet, then he was descended from Pierre Tournois, and must have been a grandson or perhaps a great-grandson of Pierre Tournois, valet de chambre to Henri II.

Pierre Tournois was still alive in 1590,163 thirty-one years after the death of Henri II, whose reign spanned twelve years, from 1547 to 1559. Since it is unlikely that Pierre would have been only twenty years old when he became valet de chambre to Henri II, he must have been older than fifty-one in 1590. It is probable that Pierre was at least thirty years old when he received his appointment to be valet de chambre. It is likewise probable that he was younger than fifty when he received it; for, if he had been fifty, he would have been older than eighty-one in 1590, since he became the valet de chambre before 1559, the year when Henri II died. Pierre could have been forty when he became the valet de chambre, and if he was, he would have been at least seventy-one in 1590. If Pierre was, say, thirty-five when he became valet de chambre, then he was born no later than 1523. But if he was born in 1523, and became valet de chambre when thirty-five years old, then he would have become valet de chambre in 1558, a year before the death of Henri II. It seems likely that Pierre was appointed valet de chambre earlier than 1558. If Pierre had been appointed in, say, 1555, and was thirtyfive years old at the time, then he would have been born about 1520 and would have been about seventy in 1590. It is, I think, safe to say that these last estimates are likely to be quite accurate to the facts. I think we can accurately say, then, that Pierre Tournois was most likely born about 1520, became valet de

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>162</sup> De Saint-Allais, p. 160.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>163</sup> De Saint-Allais, p. 161.

*chambre* in perhaps 1555 when he was about thirty-five years old, and that he died after the age of seventy.

Etienne Tournois de Bonnevallet, again the very first Tournois to bear Bonnevallet as a surname, and son of Pierre Tournois, valet de chambre, was still living in 1610.164 The probability is that Etienne was born when Pierre was between the ages of twenty and forty. If Pierre was forty when Etienne was born, and Pierre was born about 1520, then, of course, Etienne was born about 1560; and in 1610 he would have been about fifty years old. If, on the other hand, Pierre was about twenty when Etienne was born, then Etienne was born about 1540; and he would have been about seventy in 1610. The probability of the year 1540 being the year of Etienne's birth is, however, low, because it is probable that Pierre was older than twenty when Etienne was born. Pierre was probably about twenty-five when his wife gave birth to Etienne. If so, then Etienne was born, of course, about 1545. But Etienne could have been born as late as 1560 if Pierre were forty when Etienne was born.

Now, Julienne Amyot's husband, Messire Bonnevallet, was born about 1600,<sup>165</sup> and, if he was a Tournois, then his surname of Bonnevallet could have been passed down to him only from Etienne Tournois de Bonnevallet. Since it is impossible to know whether Etienne was born as early as 1545 or as late as 1560, it is impossible to say whether Julienne Amyot's husband would have been Etienne's son or grandson. If Etienne had been born in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>164</sup> De Saint-Allais, p. 162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>165</sup> Bernard Butet, EC Villeneuve Saint Vistre, Base\_Geneanet\_bbutet\_Bernard BUTET, base issue du même généalogiste https://gw.geneanet.org/bbutetnicolle? lang=en&pz=simon+marc&nz=nicolle&ocz=0&p=fa..&n=bonvallet.

1545, he would have been about fifty-five years old when the husband of Julienne Amyot was born; and at fifty-five years of age, Etienne would probably have been his grandfather. If Etienne was born in 1560, then he could have been the father of Julienne's husband, and Etienne would have been about forty years old when her husband was born. Either way, Julienne Amyot's husband, Messire Bonnevallet, would have been either the son or grandson of Etienne Tournois de Bonnevallet, and would thus have been either the grandson or great-grandson of Pierre Tournois, *valet de chambre* to Henri II. It is worthy of note that Julienne Amyot and her husband Messire Bonnevallet named one of their two known sons Etienne.

Before his death in 1559, Henri II appointed Jacques Amyot (1513-1593), translator of Plutarch and son of Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour, to be tutor to his two younger sons, Charles IX and Henri III. Since Pierre Tournois was *valet de chambre* to Henri II, it is certain that Jacques Amyot and Pierre Tournois were acquainted; they must have known each other. In fact, we can safely assume that they did know each other.

Now, keeping in mind how exceedingly rare a surname Amyot was at that time in France, and how exceedingly rare it has always been there, as has been shown, let us ask, what are the odds that Julienne Amyot, wife quite possibly of Pierre Tournois's grandson or great-grandson, was unrelated to Jacques Amyot? The answer is, the odds that she was unrelated to him are extremely high (meaning, extremely unlikely that she was unrelated to him), especially if her husband were a Tournois de Bonnevallet. It is of the highest improbability that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>166</sup> George Saintsbury, *A Short History of French Literature*. Montaigne translated by George Saintsbury. (Oxford, 1882), p. 231.

the grandson or great-grandson of Pierre Tournois, who was undoubtedly personally acquainted with Jacques Amyot, would have married by coincidence an Amyot not related to Jacques Amyot—would have married someone with so very rare a surname as Amyot, who just happened to be unrelated to Jacques. Impossible. Moreover, even if Julienne Amyot had not been married to a son or grandson of Etienne Tournois de Bonnevallet, the odds of her having been unrelated to Jacques Amyot are still extremely high, because practically every single bearer of the Amyot surname, spreading out from Paris to Auxerre and from Paris to Beauvais, and towards Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, was related to Jacques Amyot. In other words, it is certain that Julienne Amyot and Jacques Amyot were related; and it is most probable that they were closely related. And as Julienne Amyot was certainly related to the other Amyots of that tiny commune of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, namely, Nicolas Amyot, husband of Simone Le Clerc, Jean Amyot, husband of Jeanne Le Grand, and Guillaume Amyot, and the rest, so all these Amyots were also related to Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, and closely related to be sure. Thus the Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistreet-Villevotte were, and could not but have been, of exactly the same Amyot family as the Amyots of Paris, Melun, Beauvais, Moyencourt, etc.

The reason, by the way, for focusing on the Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, and for setting out to show that they were, like the other Amyots mentioned above, related to Jacques Amyot, is not, of course, that they were, merely, Amyots, but that Mathieu Amyot, son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent, took the *dit* name Villeneuve; and

that Gagné and Kokanosky have endeavored to make a case that the Villeneuve in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte may be what was meant by that *dit* name taken by Mathieu.

Gagné and Kokanosky, in trying to make their case, point out that notary Duquet of Quebec, when he drew up the inventory of the property of Anne Couvent and Jacques Maheu, included the summary of the contract between Antoinette de Longueval and Philippe Amyot for the purchase of Antoinette's estate in Épieds by Philippe.<sup>167</sup> In that summary, as Gagné and Kokanosky show in their paper, Philippe's surname was spelled Hameau (ah- $m\bar{e}$ -oh). Gagné and Kokanosky then proceed to report that they examined, in the vicinity of Épieds, as well as in the vicinity of Louan-Villegruis-Fontaine (where Louise de Joyeuse retired after the death of her husband Charles de Longueval), the available records of the various communes with Villeneuve in their name, and other communes of the region that suggested themselves as worthy of investigation, to see what families were represented in those records. It was in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte that Gagné and Kokanosky found records of Amyots whose surname had been spelled Amyot (not Amiot) in some records, and Hameau (ah $m\bar{e}$ -oh) in some records. 168 Thus was born their hypothesis, that Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte may be, in fact, the place where the paternal family of Mathieu Amyot was from.

In other words, their hypothesis is not that Mathieu Amyot himself was from Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, but, of course, that his father Philippe Amyot, or Philippe Amyot's family was. Mathieu himself, if born after 1626, and if

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>167</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>168</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, pp. 29-30.

immediately after January 1626 Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent moved to Épieds, may have been born in Épieds.

Gagné and Kokanosky tell us that the reason for their thinking that the dit name Villeneuve may indicate the place where the paternal family of Mathieu Amyot was from, and that Mathieu may have taken Villeneuve as a dit name for the reason that his paternal family was from such place so named, is that the son of Mathieu's brother Charles Amyot took the dit name of Vincelotte, from Vincelles as Gagné and Kokanosky allege, 169 the village of origin, as they do say, 170 of Anne Couvent, wife of Philippe Amyot. But before Gagné and Kokanosky state that Vincelles was the village of origin of Anne Couvent, for which statement there is no proof, they state that Guillaume Couvent, Anne's father, was 'presumably' from Vincelles originally. 171 They say 'presumably,' because there is no proof that Guillaume Couvent was originally from there, and because, apart from the fact that other persons surnamed Couvent lived in Vincelles at a time while Guillaume Couvent was still living, Guillaume Couvent, while residing at Brécy, sold property of his in Vincelles on 20 October 1606,<sup>172</sup> when Anne his daughter was still a toddler. Charlotte Couvent, Anne's sister, was baptized in St. Michel of Brécy on 11 October 1608,173 as Gagné and Kokanosky have shown.

 $<sup>^{169}\</sup>mbox{Gagn\'e}$ et Kokanosky, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>170</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>171</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>172</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, pp. 22-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>173</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 21.

Gagné and Kokanosky, to make the case that Guillaume Couvent was ('presumably') originally from Vincelles, provide copies of a number of records pertaining to Couvents residing there, a single record, in most cases, from each of the following years: 1594, 1613, 1617, 1617, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1651. 174 (The year 1617 is written twice because copies of two different records from that year are included in their paper.) Thus, under the title 'Quelques Couvent à Vincelles et dans la région' (Some Couvent in Vincelles and in the region), the first record shared is, of course, the one of the earliest date, that of 13 January 1594, which is the only record of particular interest, and in which it is recorded that one Louys de Laulnois sold a meadow and a barn that belonged to the dead Guillaume Couvent, and then [belonged] to his mother Jehanne Couvent 'by whose succession he came.'175 Since that Guillaume Couvent was dead in 1594, he could not, of course, have been the one who married Antoinette de Longueval, and who fathered Anne and Charlotte. The record from 1613 shows that a certain Guillaume Couvent witnessed a contract between two individuals of Vincelles.<sup>176</sup> The first record from 1617 shows that the same Guillaume Couvent as above (who witnessed that contract) signed a document pertaining to an act, one passed between Claude d'Ancienville, lord of Vincelles, and plowmen and vinegrowers of Vincelles. 177 The other record from 1617 pertains to a deal involving some land owned by the widow of a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>174</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, pp. 23-24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>175</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>176</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky,, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>177</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 23.

Guillaume Couvent.<sup>178</sup> All the rest of the records are from 1640 and later, and in no way support the claim that Guillaume Couvent, husband of Antoinette de Longueval, was ('presumably') originally from Vincelles, just as none of the earlier records prove that he was.

In other words, the records that Gagné and Kokanosky shared in their paper do not prove that Guillaume Couvent was originally from Vincelles; and Gagné and Kokanosky know that they do not. That is why they say he was 'presumably' from there originally. They believe he was from there, just as they believe that Anne was. Now, one cannot state as fact that the village of origin of Anne Couvent was the village that her father was presumably from, because it does not logically follow that her origin was definitely (fact) in or of the village that her father was presumably (supposition) from; it is not demonstrated and it is not known where she was born, nor that her father ever lived in the village that is said by them to be the one of her origin. The presentation of the evidence by Gagné and Kokanosky, that is, the presentation of the records pertaining to all the Couvents, together with the authors' commentary on them, is apt to lead one to think that the general movement of Couvents was from Vincelles to Brécy, when it could have been, in fact, the other way around, that is, from Brécy to Vincelles. In other words, without evidence from both locations from an earlier period, one that antedates the periods covered by the records that they have presented in their paper, it cannot be definitely known where the Couvents were first seated.

What is certain, is that from at least late 1606, Guillaume Couvent and his wife Antoinette de Longueval, along with their

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>178</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 23.

two daughters Anne and Charlotte, lived in Brécy. 179 It was in Brécy that Charlotte was born, and it was in Brécy that Anne evidently spent her childhood and grew up. Anne was probably born in Brécy, too. It is not known whether the Couvent family ever lived in Vincelles; it is simply presumed by some that they did. Yet, after first stating that Guillaume Couvent was 'presumably' originally from Vincelles, Gagné and Kokanosky do later state in their paper, without providing proof, or without even making a good case by way of argument through careful conjecture based on known facts, that Vincelles was the village of origin of Anne Couvent, and that that was evidently the reason for the son of Charles Amyot taking Vincelotte as a dit name. This train of thought in Gagné and Kokanosky was both the impetus for, and the momentum behind, the forming of their hypothesis that Mathieu Amyot took Villeneuve as a dit name for similar reasons.

Charles Amyot, husband of Geneviève de Chavigny, had died before the land that came to be called Vincelotte was granted to his wife Geneviève. Now, if we are to be persuaded to entertain that Vincelotte was derived from the Vincelles named by Gagné and Kokanosky, and persuaded to do so on the basis of the foregoing *non sequitur*, we are, then, at the same time, to be tacitly encouraged to overlook, or forced to pretend to ignore, that the son of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny, Charles-Joseph Amyot, who was the first to take the *dit* name Vincelotte, and who is presumed to have taken it to honor family, and to have been the one who named the seigneurie

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>179</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, pp. 22-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>180</sup> Titles and Documents Relating to the Seigniorial Tenure, in Return to an Address of the Legislative Assembly, 1851 (E. R. Fréchette, 1852), p. 49.

Vincelotte and not Geneviève the one who named it so, disregarded the name of Brécy, the place where his grandmother Anne Couvent actually did grow up, and disregarded as well the names of the places where his own mother Geneviève de Chavigny's family was from, and instead chose to take his *dit* name from the name of a place where his great-grandfather is not known to have resided at all, and is only known to have owned property in until 1606 while residing in Brécy, just as his daughter Anne is not known to have resided in Vincelles at all, nor known to have resided, while growing up, anywhere other than Brécy.

Nevertheless, Charles-Joseph Amyot did bear the dit name Vincelotte, and he must have borne it for a reason. It is not impossible that Gagné and Kokanosky are right in their explanation of the origin of the dit name Vincelotte. But there is a different explanation that is an equally possible one, one unknown to most people. The fact is, that Gagné and Kokanosky jumped to conclusions on the basis of no solid evidence, and not one person before me has pointed out that they made such jumps. Primary sources are great to have, but if the information they contain cannot, and does not, support the conclusions that people draw from them, then they are of no more value than corroborated secondary sources that contain useful information judiciously used. People apparently want to believe that Gagné and Kokanosky are correct, and refuse to challenge their assertions, or even offer criticism. Wanting to believe them, such people, in the absence of indisputable evidence that would settle the matter, pull out Occam's razor, and call it a win. But such is to be expected from such people who agree with what is convenient and merely possible. Such

people as these, are those who make the mistake of assuming that because he was in debt at the end of his life, <sup>181</sup> Charles de Longueval must have been always poor. These people, who obviously do not realize their error, have made the mistake of applying a later known financial situation of Charles de Longueval's life to all earlier unknown financial situations of his life. Their 'logic' runs thus: Since Charles de Longueval was in debt at the end of his life, he was always poor.

Charles-Joseph Amyot dit Vincelotte, son of Charles Amyot and Geneviève de Chavigny, was, again, the first to bear the dit name Vincelotte (Vincelot). 182 Guillaume Couvent was, of course, the great-grandfather of Charles-Joseph Amyot dit Vincelotte. Brécy, where Guillaume Couvent and his family resided, is twenty-four kilometers from the Vincelles (Marne) named by Gagné and Kokanosky. Eléonore de Grandmaison, maternal grandmother of Charles-Joseph Amyot dit Vincelotte, and thus mother of Geneviève de Chavigny, was from Clamecy, Nivernois, France, a commune next to the River Yonne. 183 Clamecy is thirty-seven kilometers from Vincelles, and thirtyeight kilometers from Vincelottes (Vincelotte), both of which are in the Yonne department, and the latter of which is on the opposite side of the River Yonne from Vincelles. The Yonne flows northward from Clamecy to Vincelles and Vincelottes. Pierre-Georges Roy relates: 184

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>181</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, pp. 34-36.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>182</sup> Pierre-Georges Roy, Recherches Historiques, Bulletin D'Archeologie, D'Histoire, De Biographie, De Bibliographie, De Numismatique, Etc., Volume Vingt-Cinquieme (Lévis, 1919), p. 306.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>183</sup> André Lafontaine, Recensement annoté de la Nouvelle-France, 1681 (A. lafontaine, 1981), p. 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>184</sup> Pierre-Georges Roy, *Recherches Historiques*, p. 306.

D'où vient ce nom de Vincelotte ? Geneviève de Chavigny était originaire de la Champagne. Sur la rive droite de l'Yonne, dans l'ancienne province de Bourgogne, voisine de la Champagne, existe encore une petite commune du nom de Vincelotte [Vincelottes]. M. l'abbé Caron (Bulletin des Recherches Historiques, vol. XX, p. 369) croit que Geneviève de Chavigny, veuve Amyot, donna le nom de Vincelotte à sa seigneurie en souvenir de ce petit village de l'ancienne Bourgogne.

Where does this name of Vincelotte come from? Geneviève de Chavigny was originally from Champagne. On the right bank of the Yonne, in the former province of Burgundy, near Champagne, there still exists a small commune called Vincelotte [Vincelottes]. Father Caron (Historical Research Bulletin, Volume XX, page 369) believes that Geneviève de Chavigny, widow of Amyot, gave the name of Vincelotte to her seigneury in memory of this small village of ancient Burgundy.

Geneviève de Chavigny received the title of the fief of Vincelotte on 3 November 1672. The land that Jean Talon conveyed to Geneviève de Chavigny on that date consisted of 'one league of land by a similar depth, to commence running on the River St. Lawrence from the Cape St. Ignace, the same included, going as far as the unconceded lands[...]' Could it have been Geneviève de Chavigny, the person to whom the land was granted, that named that seigneurie Vincelotte? Perhaps it was. If so, perhaps the land that Geneviève de Chavigny was granted, being by a river, reminded her of a certain village back in France, one close to the village of Clamecy where her mother was from; a village next to the River Yonne, one named

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>185</sup> Titles and Documents Relating to the Seigniorial Tenure, p. 49.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>186</sup> Titles and Documents Relating to the Seigniorial Tenure, p. 49.

Vincelottes, or perhaps its neighbor across the water, Vincelles. Perhaps dear ancestors of Geneviève de Chavigny's resided in one of these places? Perhaps in Vincelottes? Perhaps Geneviève's mother Eléonore de Grandmaison had something to do with naming that land Vincelotte? No one knows. These possibilities here presented are at least worth considering; they cannot be dismissed as impossible. And remember, Charles-Joseph Amyot could have taken the *dit* name Vincelles; but he did not. He took the *dit* name Vincelotte. Likewise, that seigneurie that Geneviève received might have been named Vincelles; but it was not. Vincelotte was the name that it received.

At any rate, knowing exactly who named that seigneurie Vincelotte, and knowing why, would in reality be of no help to us in determining why Mathieu Amyot took the *dit* name of Villeneuve. Mathieu had taken that name at least as early as November 1650, and therefore he took it without being influenced by Charles-Joseph Amyot's taking Vincelotte as a *dit* name.

Now, even if Mathieu Amyot had not taken the *dit* name of Villeneuve, and we had no reason to look to Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte for immediate relatives of his, and thus of Philippe's, it would still be certain, for the reasons given at length above, that those Amyots of that commune were of the same Amyot family as that of Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent.

I have already mentioned that Julienne Amyot, who was, again, one of the Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, was married to a (Tournois de) Bonnevallet, and that her husband was quite probably the grandson or great-grandson

of Pierre Tournois, who was, again, *valet de chambre* to Henri II at the same time that Jacques Amyot was tutor to Henri II's sons, Henri III and Charles IX.

Unlike the relatively rare surname Bonnevallet, which was, again, among the Tournois first borne by Etienne Tournois, son of Pierre Tournois, the surname Le Clerc (Leclerc) is common in France, especially today. Nevertheless, in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, few persons bearing the Le Clerc surname can be found in connection with Amyots (or Amiots). The Amiots de Brittany, the Amyots de La Gendronnière, the Amiots de Boisroger, the Amiots de Salinsles-Bains, and the Amiots du Mesnil-Gaillard, for instance, all of which families, as I have shown above, account for numerous Amiots in different parts of France, were not allied with, nor known to be connected to, any Le Clercs, or Le Clerc families, at least no connections are discoverable. The Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, however, were allied with a Le Clerc family, or, at least, as Gagné and Kokanosky have shown, Nicolas Amyot was married to a Le Clerc—Simone Le Clerc. The only other Amyot known to have been intimately acquainted with Le Clercs in the same time period as specified above, was none other than Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, and bishop of Auxerre. On 8 August 1586, Jacques Amyot wrote the following letter to his friend and former pupil, King Henri III, on behalf of his (Jacques's) friend Henri Leclerc (Le Clerc):

Syre, le lieutenant-général du bailly d'Auxerre, maistre Germain Leclerc, eagé de soixante et dix ans se treuve attaint d'une fiebvre chaude si aspre que les médecins n'ont pas opinion qu'il la puisse porter deux fois vingt et quatre heures (4), au grand regret de tous

les gens de bien de ceste ville ; et pour ce que c'est chose qui appartient grandement à l'honneur de Dieu, au bien de vostre service et repos de ce pays qu'il y ait tousjours en cest estat personnage qui soit doué des qualitez du pauvre mourant, cest à dire homme de bien, de sçavoir et expérience en l'estat de judicature, et surtout qui n'ait jamais branté en la religion catholique, j'ay pris la hardyesse de vous recommander le présent porteur maistre [Henri] Henry Leclerc 1), ne congnoissant homme dans tout le pays qui ait les susdittes parties plus apparentes que luy, qui est propre nepveu du prédécesseur, de l'une des meilleures et plus anciennes familles de la ville, exerceant l'estat de procureur du Roy il y a ja plus de dix ans, et avant qu'il en fust prouveu encore, estoit-il l'un des plus fameux advocats du barreau. J'ay pensé que vous ne trouveriez pas mauvais, veu le lieu que je tiens en cesle province, que je m'entremeisse de prouver qu'il y ait de bons, loyaux et fideles ministres en l'exercice de la justice. C'est pourquoy plus asseuréement je vous ay fait la présente, qui n'est pas ma coustume, pour vous supplier très humblement qu'il vous plaise ordonner que le dit Henry Leclerc vostre procureur au bailliage d'Auxerre sera préferé à tout aultre en la provision de lieutenant-général, en faisant vostre condition pareille et fournissant telle finance que la nécessité de voz affaires le requerra pour un tel office, m e constituant envers vostre majesté plege et caution de ses mœurs, sens, doctrine, suffisance et relligion, et suppliant la bonté du Créateur de vous donner, Syre, en toute prospérité très longue et très heureuse vie. 187

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>187</sup> Maximilien Quantin, *Lettres de L'Évèque Jacques Amyot* (<u>Bulletin de la Société des Sciences Historiques et Naturelles de L'Yonne, Année 1888. – 42nd Volume</u>; pp. 399-422)(G. Masson et A. Claudin, 1888), pp. 417-418.

And Antoine Leclerc (Le Clerc), sieur de la Forêt, who was born on 23 September 1563, received his tonsure from Jacques Amyot.<sup>188</sup>

Were the Leclercs that Jacques Amyot knew relatives of Simone Le Clerc, wife of Nicolas Amyot? In all probability they were, just as Marie Auger, godmother of Pierre Amyot (son of Nicolas Amyot and Simone Le Clerc), was very probably related to Suzanne Marie Auger (Ogier), wife of Pierre Amyot, whose father Jacques Amyot, husband of Madame Lemaistre, was the grand nephew of Jacques Amyot the translator.

In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, perhaps one of the rarest surnames in France north of the River Garonne, beyond which it was almost non-existent, was Du Halde, 192 which is also spelled DuHalde and Du Hald. Though exceedingly rare beyond the Garonne, it was, as Gagné and Kokanosky have shown, persons surnamed Du Hald that were evidently next to possess, after Philippe Amyot, the house that Philippe purchased from Antoinette de Longueval on 20 January 1626. 193 Only one other Amyot is documented to have been connected in some way with a Du Halde, namely, Jacques

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>188</sup> Jean Lebeuf, Ambroise Challe, Maximilien Quantin, Mémoires concernant l'histoire civile et ecclésiastique d'Auxerre et de son ancien diocese: continues jusqu'a nos jours avec addition de nouvelles preuves et annotations, Volume 4 (Perriquet, 1855), p. 410.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>189</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>190</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, pp. 27-28.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>191</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, pp. 26-28.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>192</sup> "Nom de famille DuHALDE," *Filae*, Fichier des noms patronymiques, Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE), RNIPP, <a href="https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/DUHALDE.html">https://www.filae.com/nom-de-famille/DUHALDE.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>193</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 33.

Amyot, translator of Plutarch; and that connection involved a property:

Le prélat [Jacques Amyot] y suppléa depuis par le moyen d'un autre ornement de soie de couleur blanche qu'il fit donner par le sieur Du Halde, dont il n'avait point voulu prendre les profits du quint denier, pour l'acquisition de la terre de Beauche. 194

Was the Du Halde that Jacques Amyot knew related to the Du Halds who evidently came to possess the property and house in Épieds that Philippe Amyot once owned? The probability is great that they were related; it is improbable that two nearly contemporaneous Amyots, Jacques and Philippe, who themselves bore such a rare surname, would have been connected with, through a transaction or through a property, nearly contemporaneous unrelated individuals who bore the same surname of Du Halde or Du Hald, a surname in those days almost unheard of north of the River Garonne, or outside Gascony, where the Du Hald (Du Halde) family was from. 195

I said above that even if Mathieu Amyot had not taken the *dit* name of Villeneuve, and nothing suggested that he had any connection to Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, there would still, for the reasons already given, be no doubt that he was related to the Amyots of that commune, just as, of course, his father Philippe Amyot would have been related to them. Mathieu Amyot did, however, bear the *dit* name Villeneuve, and as no other commune with Villeneuve in its name can be argued

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>194</sup> E. Grésy, Vie de J. Amyot, tirée des memoires concernant l'Histoire civile et ecclésiastique d'Auxerre, suivie de notes et documents inédits (A. C. Michelin, 1848), p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>195</sup> "Conseil Héraldique de France," *Annuaire du Conseil Héraldique de France*, Volume 13 (Conseil Héraldique de France, 1900), p. 134 n.

Mathieu, so Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte stands alone as the one that must explain the origin of Mathieu's *dit* name. In other words, that *dit* name connects him to that commune and to no other. Likewise, Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, was also, and must have been, as has been explained, connected to the commune of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte. In fact, Jacques was not only connected to that commune; he was, and must have been, as explained above, related to the Amyots that lived there, just as Mathieu Amyot and his father Philippe Amyot were, and could not but have been, related to the Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte. This means, of course, that Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch and Longus, and Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, were, in fact, related.

Philippe Amyot, as we have seen, bought the house in Épieds from Antoinette de Longueval on 20 January 1626, and, for that reason, we can logically presume that he and Anne began to live there shortly after that date. Before 1626, Philippe Amyot did not live in Épieds. Likewise, if Mathieu Amyot, Philippe's son, had been born in or about 1628, as the census of 1681 suggests, and as most of his descendants seem to believe, and not born in 1626 or earlier, which his enterrement record indicates, then he would have been born in Épieds if Philippe and Anne moved their family there shortly after 20 January 1626. And if Mathieu Amyot had been born in Épieds, or Espié, as it was then spelled, then any connection he could have had to Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte would presumably have been through his father, Philippe Amyot.

If Mathieu Amyot had been born in Épieds, he would have called Épieds home, and would have called home no other commune in all of France; for, it was in 1635 that Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent moved their family to Quebec. In 1635, Mathieu would have been about seven years old, if born in or about 1628. If Mathieu Amyot had been born in Épieds about 1628, he would have spent his entire childhood and youth there before moving to Quebec, and would have had no experience living in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte to endear that commune to him personally. It would have been Épieds that would have been dear to him. In fact, if Mathieu had been born in Épieds, or Espié, it seems far more likely that his *dit* name would have been d'Espié, not dit Villeneuve.

If Mathieu Amyot had been born before 1626, as his enterrement record indicates, say, in 1625, he would not have been, of course, born in Épieds. Where would he have been born? It is, I think, practically certain that he would have been born in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte. In fact, it is possible that Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent did not move to Épieds immediately after buying the house there from Antoinette de Longueval. They may have moved to Épieds after Mathieu was born. On the basis of the fact that Mathieu did not take as a dit name Espié, but Villeneuve, together with what I said above about Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte being the only commune that Mathieu's dit name could correspond to, I think it was in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte that Mathieu Amyot was born. If he had been born in that commune, then, of course, it goes without saying, Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent would have been living in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte in 1625, and perhaps as late as 1629. It

is, in fact, most probable that Philippe and Anne were living in that commune before 1626, and it seems likely that they moved to Épieds after Mathieu had been born.

In any case, Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte cannot be regarded as the ancestral village or commune of Philippe Amyot, or, for that matter, of any of the Amyots that lived there, whether in the early to mid seventeenth century, or earlier. The Amyots that are known to have lived there—Nicolas Amyot, Jean Amyot, Guillaume Amyot, and Julienne Amyot—were, and must have been, as has been explained, and as will be further shown below, related to Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, just as Philippe Amyot was; and their and Philippe's being related to Jacques Amyot means that they were members of the same Amyot family as Jacques was, and that family is documented to have lived in Melun and Paris until the late sixteenth century. In other words, either Paris or Melun was the ancestral home of the Amyots, including those Amyots, or the ancestors of those Amyots, who eventually resided in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte. Thus, it cannot be argued that Mathieu Amyot took the dit name of Villeneuve to memorialize Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte as the ancestral home of his paternal ancestors, because that commune could not have been the ancestral home of his paternal ancestors. Why did Mathieu Amyot take the dit name of Villeneuve? He must have taken it because he was born in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte and lived there.

As for the birthplace of Philippe Amyot, I think it was Paris, and below I will explain why. I think he was born there about 1602 and moved to Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte after he had met Anne Couvent. Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent

could not have met in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte: Anne lived far from that commune. Nor could they have met in Brécy, where Anne Couvent grew up: Philippe lived somewhere else. They could not have met in Épieds; Philippe lived in some other part of France.

How, then, did Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent meet? They must have met each other through relatives or a mutual acquaintance, or through a combination of both.

Louise de Joyeuse, grandmother of Anne Couvent, was a widow by 1616, her husband Charles de Longueval having died in that year, or perhaps in late 1615. After the death of Charles, Louise moved to Villegruis, where, as Gagné and Kokanosky mention in their paper, she lived with her cousin Suzanne de Joyeuse<sup>196</sup> (Louise and Suzanne were first cousins one time removed<sup>197</sup>). Villegruis is about twenty-seven kilometers from Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte; and in 1616, in the latter commune, Amyots related to Philippe Amyot, as explained above, were evidently residents. Thus, of all of Anne Couvent's known relatives, Louise de Joyeuse, after 1616, lived closer to Amyots related to Philippe Amyot than did any other relative of Anne's. Even so, twenty-seven kilometers was no small distance to travel in that day and age. Are we to imagine that Philippe Amyot was passing through Villegruis one day on horseback while Anne happened to be visiting Louise, and that he made her acquaintance, as well as Louise's, by, say, chancing to catch Anne outside doing something, perhaps with her grandmother?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>196</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>197</sup> Etienne Pattou. "Maison de Joyeuse." *Racines Histoire* (2024), accessed on June 22, 2025, pp. 9-10.

Though not impossible, such scenario, and any scenario like it, is highly improbable.

For Louise de Joyeuse, it was, in fact, unnecessary to meet any of the Amyots living in Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, or Amyots living anywhere else, to learn of the Amyot name. There can be no doubt that she had known the Amyot name even before Philippe Amyot was born. As I pointed out above, Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, was one of the very most famous writers in all of France (and beyond) in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and it was during the very height of his fame that Louise de Joyeuse was a young woman. In fact, almost every one in France knew the Amyot name, because almost every one in France at the time knew well who Jacques Amyot was.

I mentioned above that King Henri II appointed Jacques Amyot to be tutor to his sons Charles IX and Henri III. Jacques Amyot remained friends with both of those future kings throughout their lives: Charles IX, when king, made Jacques Amyot Grand Almoner of France, and then Bishop of Auxerre;<sup>198</sup> and when Henri III succeeded his brother Charles as king, he honored Jacques by giving him a commandership in the order of the Holy Ghost.<sup>199</sup>

Now, although Jacques Amyot and King Henri III were lifelong friends, Jacques was not the king's best friend. King

 $<sup>^{198}</sup>$  Saintsbury, A Short History of French Literature, p. 231.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>199</sup> Saintsbury, p. 231.

Henri III's best friend and favorite was Anne de Joyeuse,<sup>200</sup> third cousin one time removed of Louise de Joyeuse,<sup>201</sup> wife of Charles de Longueval. Anne and Louise, who were close in age, were, respectively, the second great-grandson and the third great-grand-daughter of Tanneguy de Joyeuse and Blanche de Tournon.<sup>202</sup>

It is simply impossible that Henri III's best friend Anne de Joyeuse and Henri III's good friend Jacques Amyot were unacquainted with each other: Jacques Amyot and Anne de Joyeuse knew each other, and we may freely say so. It is also simply impossible that Jacques Amyot was unrelated to Philippe Amyot, the grandson-in-law of Louise de Joyeuse, third cousin one time removed of Anne de Joyeuse, who knew Jacques Amyot. Indeed, Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, and Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, were, as said above, members of exactly the same Amyot family. They were, indeed, related, and they were closely related.

Through Anne de Joyeuse, then, her third cousin one time removed, Louise de Joyeuse, a noblewoman, must have had the honor of making the acquaintance of Jacques Amyot, translator

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>200</sup> Jean Joseph Vaissete, Claude de Vic, *Histoire générale du Languedoc, avec des notes et les pièces justificatives...*, Tome Cinquiéme (Jacques Vincent, 1745), pp. 389-390 : 'Anne fils aîné de Guillaume vicomte de Joyeuse, & de Marie de Batarnay, naquit vers la fin de l'an 1560 & se qualifia baron d'Arques dans sa jeunesse. Le vicomte son pere l'ayant envoyé à la cour du roi Henri III. ce prince prit bientôt une affection extraordinaire pour lui, le mit au nombre de ses mignons ou favoris, & lui donna la premiere place parmieux.' Translation: 'Anne, eldest son of Guillaume Viscount de Joyeuse and Marie de Batarnay, was born towards the end of the year 1560 & qualified Baron d'Arques in his youth. Viscount his father having sent him to the court of King Henry III. This prince soon took an extraordinary affection for him, put him among the number of his mignons or favorites, and gave him the first place in the world.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>201</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 42; Louis Moréri, *Le Grand Dictionnaire Historique*, Volume 4, (Chez Jean Brandmuller, 1732), pp. 756-757.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>202</sup> Louis Moréri, Le Grand Dictionnaire Historique, pp. 756-757; Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 48.

of Plutarch. Louise, in fact, must have become acquainted not only with Jacques Amyot, who had no descendants, but also with other Amyots closely related to Jacques, relatives of his who did have descendants, ones who bore the extremely rare surname Amyot. For Louise de Joyeuse, grandmother-in-law of Philippe Amyot, stands alone as the only person who could have introduced Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent to each other, and what Amyots in that part of France could she have known who were unrelated to the Amyot that her third cousin Anne de Joyeuse knew? The answer is a resounding *none*. The Amyots that Louise de Joyeuse knew were related to the Amyot (or Amyots) that her third cousin Anne de Joyeuse knew. The question is, how were Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, and Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, related?

Jacques Amyot, who, again, was born in 1513 and died in 1593, was, as seen above, the son of Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour (erroneously also known as, again, Marguerite des Amours), daughter of Edmond Lamour and Françoise Vaussard.<sup>203</sup> Nicolas, who was born circa 1490, had no known brothers or sisters; and Marie, who was born circa 1490, had two known sisters.<sup>204</sup> Besides Jacques, Nicolas and Marie had three other children: Philippe, Jean, and Jeanne.<sup>205</sup> Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, was, and must have been, descended from one of Jacques's brothers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>203</sup> Bulletin de la Société D'Archéologique, Sciences, Lettres et Arts, du Département de Seine-et-Marne, Sixième Volume (1869-1872) (J. Carro, Imprimeur de Bulletin de la Société, 1873), p. 133.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>204</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>205</sup> Bulletin de la Société D'Archéologique, p. 133.

Philippe Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour, and brother of Jacques, Jean, and Jeanne, married Marie Ferrand,<sup>206</sup> daughter of Charles Ferrand.<sup>207</sup> Philippe and Marie had one known child before Philippe's death in or before 1558,<sup>208</sup> a son named Nicolas, who was born on 6 August 1552.<sup>209</sup> Nicolas Amyot, son of Philippe Amyot and Marie Ferrand, was the principal heir of Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch.<sup>210</sup> From Jacques Nicolas inherited the castle of Courtempierre, which Jacques had purchased, as mentioned above, on 19 November 1585. Nicolas, son of Philippe Amyot and Marie Ferrand, married Jeanne Fougerais.<sup>211</sup> Nicolas and Jeanne had three children, Jacques and Jean, and a daughter named Anne.<sup>212</sup>

Jean Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour, and brother of Jacques, Philippe, and Jeanne, married Marguerite

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>206</sup> Mémoires de la Société Impériale des Antiquaires de France, Troisième Série, Tome Sixième (Au Secrétariat de la Société, 1862), p. 80.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>207</sup> Inventaire-sommaire des Archives départementales antérieures à 1790, edited by M. Lemaire, Seine-et-Marne: Archives ecclésiastiques: [articles G 1-422, H 1-809, supplément à la série H (Impr. et librairie administratives de P. Dupont, 1864), p. 71.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>208</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>209</sup> Mémoires de la Société Impériale des Antiquaires de France, p. 80.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>210</sup> Fisquet, p. 398.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>211</sup>Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 26. [Also spelled, or misspelled, 'Fougeretz']; Minutes et répertoires du notaire Jean Lenormant, 28 juillet 1586 – 3 avril 1618 (étude LXXXVII), Répertoire numérique détaillé, Minutier central des notaires de Paris, 1ère édition électronique, Archives nationales (France) Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (18 juin 2013), p. 341.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>212</sup> Minutes et répertoires du notaire Jean Lenormant, 28 juillet 1586 - 3 avril 1618 (étude LXXXVII), p. 341.

Guérin.<sup>213</sup> Jean Amyot, who died in 1594,<sup>214</sup> was probably younger than his brother Jacques, who died in 1593 at the age of eighty; but Jean was probably older than his brother Philippe, who died, again, in or before 1558, and whose only known child was born in 1552. Since Jacques was born in 1513 and died in 1593, Jean Amyot, his brother, was probably born about 1515 and about seventy-nine years old when he died in 1594. Jeanne Amyot, sister of Jacques, Jean, and Philippe, was probably born some time between Jean and Philippe.

Now, Jean Amyot and Marguerite Guérin, in the pedigree communicated by Eugène Grésy<sup>215</sup> (and the Reverend Canon Charles Robertson Manning<sup>216</sup>), are named as the parents of Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil.<sup>217</sup> But folio sixty-four of manuscript one thousand two hundred nineteen in the Bibliothèque historique de la ville de Paris shows, that Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil, was the son of Jean Amyot and Andrée Ruffé.<sup>218</sup> If the estimated birth year of 1515 for Jean Amyot, whose brother Jacques was, again, born in 1513,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>213</sup> C. M. P. Bonnegarde, Dictionnaire historique et critique: ou recherches sur la vie, le caractère, les moeurs...de plusieurs hommes célèbres, Tome Premier (J. Fr. Bastien, 1781), p. 262.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>214</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>215</sup> Jules Marion, *Notice Sur Eugène Grésy* (Mémoires de la Société impériale des antiquaires de France, Volume 32, pp. 63-68) (La Société, 1871), pp. 63-68.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>216</sup> Rev. John James Raven, *Obituary Notice Of The Late Canon C. R. Manning, F.S.A.* (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, Volume 10, pp. 144-149) (Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1900), pp. 144-149.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>217</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 26. Note that Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil, was not born on 1 November 1597, or on any date close to that one;; and Marie de Santeuil, wife of Jean Amyot, was not born in 1607 or on any date close to that one.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>218</sup> Familles parisiennes. "Famille Amyot." Bibliothèque historique de la ville de Paris (ms 1219, fol. 64) accessed on June 23, 2025 <a href="https://www.famillesparisiennes.org/public/caussin/vigny5.html">https://www.famillesparisiennes.org/public/caussin/vigny5.html</a>.

is close to being accurate, and it almost certainly is, then the Jean Amyot who married Marie de Santeuil must not have been the son, but the grandson of Jean Amyot, husband of Marguerite Guérin; for if Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil, had been the son of the Jean Amyot who married Marguerite Guérin, then Jean Amyot and Marie de Santeuil's son Jean Amyot, sieur d'Inville, who was baptized on 11 October 1626,<sup>219</sup> would have been born about one hundred eleven years after the birth of Jean Amyot, husband of Marguerite Guérin. The folio, therefore, must be correct: Jean Amyot and Marguerite Guérin must have been the grandparents of the Jean Amyot who married Marie de Santeuil, and Jean Amyot and Marguerite Guérin must have been the parents of the Jean Amyot who married Andrée Ruffé.

If Jean Amyot, husband of Marguerite Guérin, was born about 1515, when approximately was his son Jean born, whose wife was Andrée Ruffé? His son Jean, who perhaps died in 1618 (he was definitely dead before 20 July 1620<sup>220</sup>), was probably born about 1545, when Jean Amyot, husband of Marguerite Guérin, was about thirty-five years old. And Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil and son of Jean Amyot and Andrée Ruffé, was probably born about 1580.

When Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, died on 2 February 1593 (6 February 1593 according to some sources), he passed on his estate, which he had divided into five lots,<sup>221</sup> to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>219</sup> Gustave Chaix d'Est-Ange, *Dictionnaire des familles françaises anciennes ou notables à la fin du XIXe siècle*, Tome Premier (Évreus, C. Hérissey, 1903), p. 183.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>220</sup> Administration générale de l'assitance publique à Paris, *Inventaire-sommaire des Archives hospitalières antérieures à 1790* (Grandremy & Henon, imprimeurs, 1889), p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>221</sup> Fisquet, p. 398.

three heirs, his nephew Nicolas, who was his heir in chief, and who inherited two lots and the castle of Courtempierre;<sup>222</sup> his sister Jeanne, who inherited two lots; and his brother Jean, who got one lot.<sup>223</sup> Jacques's brother Philippe Amyot, father of Nicolas, was not an heir, of course, because he had died in or before 1558. That explains why Nicolas was an heir of Jacques's. Now, some living individuals, and perhaps some dead ones, in their pieces on the castle of Courtempierre and its history, have written that Jacques Amyot upon his death passed Courtempierre on to his brother Jean, and that Jean immediately gave it to 'his son' Nicolas in 1594; and they go on to say that Courtempierre came to be possessed by 'his' ('Jean's') granddaughter Anne Amyot, wife of Alexandre de La Lande.<sup>224</sup> The Nicolas Amyot that they speak of was not the son of Jacques's brother Jean; Nicolas was, again, the son of Jacques's brother Philippe. And Anne Amyot, wife of Alexandre de La Lande, was the daughter of Nicolas, and she was thus the granddaughter of Philippe Amyot, husband of Marie Ferrand.

Again, Nicolas Amyot, nephew and principal heir of Jacques Amyot, inherited Courtempierre in 1593 when Jacques had died, not in 1594 when Jacques's brother Jean had died (Jacques's brother Jean died in Paris on 24 September 1594<sup>225</sup>). Documents in the Archives Nationales of France confirm that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>222</sup> Fisquet, p. 398; Minutes et répertoires du notaire Jean Lenormant, 28 juillet 1586 - 3 avril 1618 (étude LXXXVII), p. 341.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>223</sup> Fisquet, p. 398.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>224</sup> "Château de Courtempierre (Loiret)." *Châteaux de France*, accessed on June 23, 2025 <a href="http://www.chateau-fort-manoir-chateau.eu/chateaux-loiret-chateau-a-courtempierre-chateau-de-courtempierre.html">http://www.chateau-fort-manoir-chateau.eu/chateaux-loiret-chateau-a-courtempierre-chateau-de-courtempierre.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>225</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 26.

Nicolas Amyot, husband of Jeanne Fougerais, was seigneur de Courtempierre (spelled Courtampierre in those documents),<sup>226</sup> and that Nicolas and his wife Jeanne had three children, namely, Jacques, Jean, and Anne. Translator Jacques's brother Jean Amyot, husband of Marguerite Guérin, could not have passed on in 1594 the castle of Courtempierre to a (non-existent) son of his named Nicolas, because a year earlier, in 1593, Jacques's (only) nephew Nicolas had already inherited the castle, and he still held it in 1594; and that Nicolas Amyot, husband of Jeanne Fougerais, would pass on Courtempierre to his children Jacques, Jean, and Anne.

Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour, then, to recapitulate the above relationships, had four children: Jacques, Jean, Philippe, and Jeanne. Jacques, translator of Plutarch and bishop of Auxerre, had no children. Jean Amyot, Jacques's brother, married Marguerite Guérin; and Philippe Amyot, Jacques's other brother, married Marie Ferrand.

Jean Amyot, advisor to the king (conseiller du roi) and auditor of the Chambre de Comptes (auditeur à la Chambre des Comptes),<sup>227</sup> and Marguerite Guérin had one son, Jean Amyot, who married Andrée Ruffé.

Philippe Amyot and Marie Ferrand had one son, Nicolas Amyot, who married Jeanne Fougerais. Nicolas Amyot, principal heir of Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch, was, from mid February 1593, seigneur de Courtempierre. Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais had, again, three children, Jacques, Jean, and Anne.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>226</sup> Minutes et répertoires du notaire Jean Lenormant, 28 juillet 1586 - 3 avril 1618 (étude LXXXVII), p. 341.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>227</sup> Minutes et répertoires du notaire Pierre de Rossignol, 9 Octobre 1578 - 1612 (étude XIX), p. 47.

Jean Amyot and Andrée Ruffé also had three children, Jean, Pierre-Jacques, and Françoise.<sup>228</sup> Since Jean and his wife Andrée did not have a son named Jacques, and since Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais did have a son so named, the Jacques Amyot named as physician to Louis XIII and as husband of Madame Lemaistre in the pedigree communicated by Eugène Grésy,<sup>229</sup> must have been the Jacques Amyot who was son of Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais; for that Jacques could have been the son of neither Jean Amyot, husband of Marguerite Guérin, nor Jean Amyot, husband of Andrée Ruffé: Jean Amyot, husband of Marguerite Guérin, was too old to have been his father; and Jean Amyot, husband of Andrée Ruffé, had a son named Pierre-Jacques, not a son named Jacques. Moreover, the Jacques Amyot who was physician to Louis XIII was a seigneur de Courtempierre, at least he was named as such in the pedigree communicated by Eugène Grésy;<sup>230</sup> and Jacques was also, in that pedigree, named as a sibling of the Anne Amyot who married Alexandre de La Lande.<sup>231</sup> Anne Amyot was, as said above, daughter of Nicolas Amyot, seigneur de Courtempierre, and Jeanne Fougerais; and Alexandre de La Lande, Anne Amyot's husband, obtained the castle of Courtempierre as part of Anne Amyot's dowry.<sup>232</sup> In other words, Jacques Amyot, seigneur de Courtempierre and physician to Louis XIII, could have been the son of none other than Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>228</sup> Administration générale de l'assitance publique à Paris, *Inventaire-sommaire des Archives hospitalières antérieures à 1790*, p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>229</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, pp. 26-27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>230</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>231</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 27.

<sup>232</sup> Robert Gaumont, Châteaux et manoirs de l'Orléanais (C.L.D., 1997), p. 49.

and documents in the Archives Nationales of France confirm that he was.<sup>233</sup>

Jean Amyot and Andrée Ruffé were, again, the parents of the Jean Amyot who married Marie de Santeuil, daughter of Pierre de Santeuil and Françoise Picot<sup>234</sup> (Pierre was son of Philibert de Santeuil and Marie de Caen<sup>235</sup>). Jean, husband of Marie de Santeuil, was an advisor to and secretary of the king (conseiller et Secrétaire du roi et contrôleur des décimes à Sens).<sup>236</sup>

Now, I said above that Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent and grandson-in-law of Louise de Joyeuse, must have been descended from one of the brothers of Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch and acquaintance of Anne de Joyeuse, and also, as explained above, of Louise de Joyeuse. Jacques had, as shown above, only two brothers, Jean and Philippe. Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, was descended from one of them, either Philippe or Jean.

Jacques Amyot's brothers, Philippe and Jean, each had one son, the son of Philippe being Nicolas Amyot, husband of Jeanne Fougerais; and the son of Jean being Jean Amyot, husband of Andrée Ruffé. Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, was descended either from Nicolas Amyot, husband of Jeanne Fougerais, or from Jean Amyot, husband of Andrée Ruffé.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>233</sup> Minutes et répertoires du notaire Jean Lenormant, 28 juillet 1586 - 3 avril 1618 (étude LXXXVII), p. 341.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>234</sup> Charles Urbain, *Supplément au Santoliana* (Bulletin du bibliophile, Volume 1901, pp. 263-281) (Promodis, 1901), p. 281.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>235</sup> Charles Urbain, Supplément au Santoliana, p. 281.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>236</sup> Minutes et répertoires du notaire Thomas Cartier, janvier 1633 - décembre 1642 (étude XIII), p. 141; Gustave Chaix d'Est-Ange, Dictionnaire des familles françaises anciennes ou notables à la fin du XIXe siècle, p. 183.

Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais had two sons, Jean and Jacques, each of whom was seigneur de Courtempierre. And Jean Amyot and Andrée Ruffé had two sons, Jean and Pierre-Jacques, neither of whom was seigneur of any seigneurie.

Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, could not have been the son of Nicolas Amyot, because Nicolas was dead by 6 May 1597,<sup>237</sup> and Philippe was born about 1602. And Jean Amyot, husband of Andrée Ruffé, was about fifty-seven years old in 1602, the probable year when Philippe Amyot was born. Thus, the year of death of the one, and the probable age in 1602 of the other, rule out the possibility of Philippe Amyot having been the son either of Nicolas Amyot, husband of Jeanne Fougerais, or of Jean Amyot, husband of Andrée Ruffé.

Jacques Amyot, seigneur de Courtempierre and physician to Louis XIII, and son of Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais, had three known children: Thomas Amyot, who moved to England; Suzanne Marguerite Amyot, whose spouse was Étienne Rousselet; and Pierre Amyot, who married, as mentioned above, Suzanne Marie Auger.<sup>238</sup> I already mentioned that Pierre Amyot married Suzanne Marie Auger because the godmother or sponsor of Pierre Amyot (baptized on 14 February 1630<sup>239</sup>), son of Nicolas Amyot and Simone Le Clerc of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, was named Marie Auger. On the basis of the fact that Suzanne Marie Auger married the son (Pierre) of Jacques Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais, together with the fact that Marie

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>237</sup> Minutes et répertoires du notaire Jean Lenormant, 28 juillet 1586 - 3 avril 1618 (étude LXXXVII), p. 341.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>238</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, pp. 27-28.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>239</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 29.

Auger was the godmother or sponsor of Pierre Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Simone Le Clerc, the conclusion that at least some of the Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte were descendants of Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais, through their son Jacques Amyot, is a sound one (especially sound when taken into account with the fact that Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch and great uncle of the Jacques who was physician to Louis XIII, was, as shown above, friends with Le Clercs, and evidently close friends with them). Pierre Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Simone Le Clerc, was born, by the way, seventeen years before his sister Nicole Amyot, Nicole having been born in 1647.<sup>240</sup>

Jacques Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais, could possibly have been the father of Philippe Amyot, in that Jacques was capable of having a child in 1602; but it seems that Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, would have named one of his three sons either Jacques or Nicolas if he had been the son of Jacques Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais. Likewise, if Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, had been the son of Jean Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais, it seems either that Philippe and Anne would have chosen Nicolas as a name for one of their three sons, or that Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville would have named one of their many sons Nicolas. The names that Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent gave to their sons do not, of course, prove relationships, just as the names that Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville gave to their sons do not prove relationships; but the names that they gave to their children do correspond, by and large, and in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>240</sup> Gagné et Kokanosky, p. 30.

multiple cases, to known ancestors and relatives, including parents (e.g. Pierre, after Pierre Miville), grandparents (e.g. Charles, after Charles de Longueval), and brothers (e.g. Charles, after Charles Amyot, brother of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve). Since the names Jacques and Nicolas are absent among the names of the sons of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent, as well as absent among the names of the sons of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville, it is reasonable to conclude, and to conclude definitively, that Philippe Amyot was not descended from Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais through either of their sons. And it is, again, reasonable to conclude that some of the Amyots of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, and perhaps all of the few Amyots (with the exception, of course, of Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent) that lived there in the early to mid 1600s, were descended from Nicolas Amyot and Jeanne Fougerais, through their son Jacques and perhaps also through their son Jean.

I stated at the outset of this paper that Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, must have been the son of a wealthy man, pointing out that Philippe Amyot himself, at the age of twenty-four or twenty-six, could not possibly have earned enough money as a farmer, merchant, artisan, or laborer, to afford such a large house, a mansion with fourteen rooms, at the time when he bought it, in 1626. Philippe Amyot's father, therefore, must have given Philippe the money to buy it; and Philippe's father, therefore, must have had an abundance of money.

Pierre-Jacques Amyot, son of Jean Amyot and Andrée Ruffé, bore a name that is not found among the names of the sons of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent, nor was that compound

given name borne by any grandson of theirs. Jean Amyot, however, son of Jean Amyot and Andrée Ruffé, did bear, obviously, a name that was borne by a son of Philippe Amyot and by a grandson of Philippe's. In fact, Jean Amyot was the firstborn child of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent; he was born in 1625.241 Anne Couvent's father was named Guillaume; Anne's maternal grandfather was named Charles. Jean must have been the name of the father of Philippe Amyot; and only one Jean Amyot could have been his father, the Jean Amyot that was advisor to and secretary of the king (conseiller et Secrétaire du roi et contrôler des décimes à Sens), and husband of Marie de Santeuil. In fact, having exhaustively ruled out all possible others whatever, we now have justification to declare, and we can freely say, that Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, was, in fact, the son of Jean Amyot and Marie de Santeuil. What makes this conclusion and declaration possible, reasonable, justifiable, inescapable, and, doubtless, correct, are the foregoing information and arguments that have been brought to bear on, to develop a comprehensive context for, and that conduce to show, the correct answer to this one question: the question of the parentage of Philippe Amyot.

Jean Amyot and Marie de Santeuil had two other children besides Philippe Amyot: a son, Jean Amyot, sieur d'Inville, who married Marie Hatte de Chevilly;<sup>242</sup> and a daughter named

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>241</sup> Honorius Provost, "Amiot (Amyot), JEAN," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Volume 1 (Laval University / University of Toronto, 1966), accessed on June 25, 2025 <a href="https://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/amiot\_jean\_1F.html">https://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/amiot\_jean\_1F.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>242</sup> Chaix d'Est-Ange, p. 183; *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, p. 27; Bibliothèque historique de la ville de Paris (ms 1219, fol. 64) https://www.famillesparisiennes.org/public/caussin/vigny5.html [In *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, her surname is spelled (or misspelled) Lotte instead of Hatte.]

Françoise, who married Eustache Le Noble de Ténelières (referred to as 'Eustache, Seigneur de Bellay' in the pedigree communicated by Eugène Grésy).<sup>243</sup> Jean Amyot, sieur d'Inville, was baptized on 11 October 1626, as said above, in the church of Saint-Jacques-la-Boucherie,<sup>244</sup> in the city of Paris. Since Eustache Le Noble was born about 1613 and married Françoise Amyot in 1642,<sup>245</sup> Françoise was definitely older than her brother Jean; she was probably born between 1614 and 1622, and she was almost certainly baptized in the church of Saint-Jacques-la-Boucherie. Philippe Amyot, having been born about 1602, was the oldest child, and it is practically certain that he was baptized in the church of Saint-Jacques-la-Boucherie, in Paris. We have seen above that Pierre Amyot, son of Nicolas Amyot and Simone Le Clerc of Villeneuve-Saint-Vistre-et-Villevotte, was seventeen years older than his sister Nicole Amyot, who was, evidently, his only known sister; and we have also seen that Charles Amyot, son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville, was twenty-seven years older than his sister Geneviève. The difference in age between Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, and his brother Jean Amyot, sieur d'Inville, therefore, should raise no eyebrows at all, since it was common in that day and age for siblings to be born many years apart—Amyot siblings in fact, as shown above. The absence, by the way, of the name of Philippe Amyot in books and manuscripts that mention the other children of Jean Amyot and Marie de Santeuil, as well as its absence in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>243</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 27; Emmanuel Michel, Biographie du Parlement de Metz (Nouvian, 1855), p. 312.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>244</sup> Chaix d'Est-Ange, p. 183.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>245</sup> Emmanuel Michel, *Biographie du Parlement de Metz*, p. 312.

pedigree communicated by Eugène Grésy, is actually to be expected, and is explainable by the fact that Philippe Amyot moved to New France in 1635 and died there in 1639, at least fifteen years before his father Jean Amyot died in France.<sup>246</sup>

Jean Amyot, sieur d'Inville, and Marie Hatte de Chevilly, had two sons and two daughters, namely, Nicolas-Pierre, Jean-François (father of Charles-Claude Amyot de Viviers and Jean-Baptiste-Louis Amyot de Vareüil<sup>247</sup>), Marie-Françoise, and Geneviève.<sup>248</sup>

Nicolas-Pierre Amyot, seigneur de Montérigny, son of Jean Amyot and Marie Hatte de Chevilly, married Geneviève Parfait,<sup>249</sup> and with her had three sons, François-Pierre Amyot, seigneur de la Barre and de Noisy-le-Grand, Achille-Joseph Amyot, seigneur de Chauvannerie, and Claude-Parfait Amyot, seigneur de Soüys.<sup>250</sup>

François-Pierre Amyot, seigneur de la Barre and de Noisy-le-Grand, married Marie-Anne Hatte de Montizembert;<sup>251</sup> and together they had six children, their son Joseph Parfait Amyot,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>246</sup> Chaix d'Est-Ange, p. 183.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>247</sup> Société des sciences et arts de Vitry-le-François, *Mémoires, Volume 25* (Vitry-le-François, France, 1908), p. 776. (This page shows that [Charles-Claude] Amyot de Viviers and [Jean-Baptiste-Louis] Amyot de Vareüil were first cousins of Claude-Parfait Amyot, seigneur de Soüys; and it also shows that [Achille-Joseph] Amyot de Chauvannerie was the brother of Claude-Parfait Amyot, seigneur de Soüys.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>248</sup> Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, p. 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>249</sup> Société des sciences et arts de Vitry-le-François, Mémoires, Volume 25, pp. 775-776.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>250</sup> Société des sciences et arts de Vitry-le-François, p. 776; *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, p. 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>251</sup> Leroy Morel, Recherches Généalogiques Sur les Familles Nobles de Plusieurs, Villages des Environs: De Nesle, Noyon, Ham et Roye, et Recherches Historiques Sur Les Nêmes Localités; Moyencourt. (La Picardie, Revue Littéraire et Scientifique, Publiée a Amiens, Tome Sixième, pp. 33-46) (Chez Lenoel-Herouart, Imprimeur-Libraire, 1860), pp. 33-34.

seigneur d'Inville, being the most notable of them.<sup>252</sup> On 31 July 1787, Joseph Parfait Amyot married Rénée-Catherine-Françoise Binet de Moyencourt, and thereby became seigneur de Moyencourt;<sup>253</sup> and about two years later, in 1789, he purchased the castle of Courtempierre, and thus became seigneur d'Inville, de Moyencourt, and de Courtempierre.<sup>254</sup>

Jean Amyot, sieur d'Inville, son of Jean Amyot and Marie de Santeuil, was, again, the first Amyot d'Inville; and he was, again, baptized on 11 October 1626. Jean Amyot, sieur d'Inville, however, who bore arms, was not the first Amyot in his line to bear arms; his father, Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil, who was also, as shown above, the father of Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, was the first Amyot of our ancestors to bear arms. The first coat of arms borne by Amyots of our lineage was registered in 1634.<sup>255</sup> The arms were granted to Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil, and father of Jean (sieur d'Inville), of Françoise, and of Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, when Jean became secretary to the king on 13 March 1634.

Jean Amyot and his wife Marie de Santeuil lived in Paris; and since Jean Amyot lived there, and since he was the first of the Amyots of his line to bear arms, the arms that he bore are referred to as the arms of Amyot de Paris:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>252</sup> Leroy Morel, Recherches Généalogiques Sur les Familles Nobles de Plusieurs, pp. 33-34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>253</sup> Morel, p. 33.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>254</sup> Annales de la Société Historique et Archéologique du Gatinais, Tome XXIV (Fontainebleau, Maurice Bourges, Imprimeur Breveté, 1906), p. 352.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>255</sup> Chaix d'Est-Ange, p. 183, accessed on June 25, 2025 <a href="https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k1119943/f197.item.r=#">https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k1119943/f197.item.r=#</a>.

D'azur à trois fasces d'or, à la bande d'argent chargée de trois mouchetures d'hermines de sable, posées dans le sens de la bande.<sup>256</sup>

Georges-Elie Amyot (son of Dominique Amyot and Louise Nolin), having been patrilineally descended from Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, was thus descended patrilineally from Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil; and Georges-Elie Amyot thus had a right to bear the Amyot coat of arms that was confirmed to Jean Amyot in 1634, just as all other Amyots descended from that Jean Amyot have that right:

For any person to have a right to a coat of arms they must either have had it granted to them or be descended in the legitimate male line from a person to whom arms were granted or confirmed in the past.<sup>257</sup>

The coat of arms registered on behalf of Georges-Elie Amyot with the College of Arms of Canada upon his admittance to the Corporation of Nobility, however, is exactly the same coat of arms as the late Amyot de Moyencourt<sup>258</sup> coat of arms, which was, as said above, based on the Amyot de Paris coat of arms confirmed to Jean Amyot, husband of Marie de Santeuil. The late Amyot de Moyencourt of arms, as described in 1887:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>256</sup> De Saint-Allais, p. 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>257</sup> "FAQs: heraldry," *College of Arms*, accessed on June 25, 2025 <a href="https://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/resources/faqs">https://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/resources/faqs</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>258</sup> There are two known variant spellings of Moyencourt: Moiencourt and Magencourt.

D'azur à la bande d'argent chargée de cinq mouches hermines de sable, posées dans le sens de la bande.<sup>259</sup>

# Arms of the Honorable Georges-Elie Amyot:

A la huitième génération, l'Honorable Georges-Elie Amyot (1856-1930), membre du Conseil-Législatif, fit la preuve de sa descendance noble aux Commissaires du Collège des Armes du Canada en octobre 1912, et fut admis à la corporation de la Noblesse, avec le blason suivant qu'il tient de ses ancêtres: 'D'azur, à la bande d'argent chargée de cinq mouchetures d'hermine.'260

At the eighth generation, the Honourable Georges-Elie Amyot (1856-1930), member of the Legislative Council, showed proof of noble descent to the Commissioners of the College of Arms of Canada in October 1912, and was admitted to the Corporation of Nobility, with the following coat of arms he holds his ancestors: 'Azure, a silver band charged with five ermine speckles.'

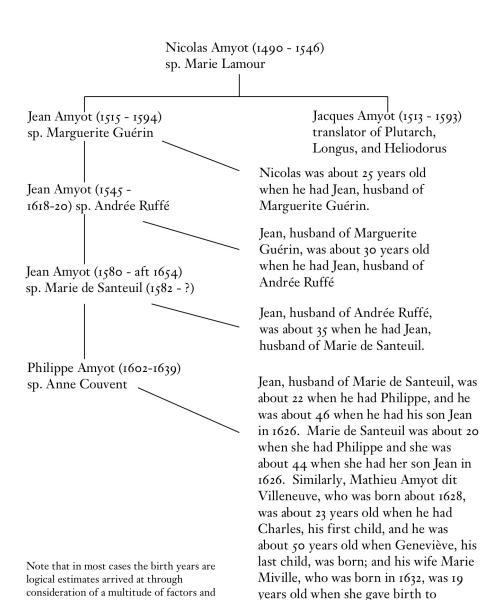
The coat of arms confirmed to Georges-Elie Amyot had two ermines too many, and was thus identical to the Amyot de Moyencourt coat of arms. It should, however, have been identical to the Amyot de Paris arms described above. In any case, the Amyots de Moyencourt and the Amyots descended from Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent, are, as I have said, Amyots of exactly the same bloodline, descended from exactly the same Amyot ancestor.

Georges-Elie Amyot was a first cousin of my third greatgrandfather Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>259</sup> Ch. d'Hozier, État Présent de la Noblesse Française, Contenant le Dictionnaire Noblesse, Contemporaine et L'Armorial Général de France (En Vente a Paris, A la Librairie des Bibliophiles. Cinquième Édition, 1887), p. 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>260</sup> See the *Dictionnaire National des Canadiens Français* (Institut Drouin).

husband of Anne Réaume. I will now show below all of my Amyot ancestors, from my mother Susan Marie Amiot to my tenth great-grandfather Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent. But before I do so, below are two pedigrees that show Philippe Amyot's (as well as his son Mathieu's) descent from Nicolas Amyot and Marie Lamour:



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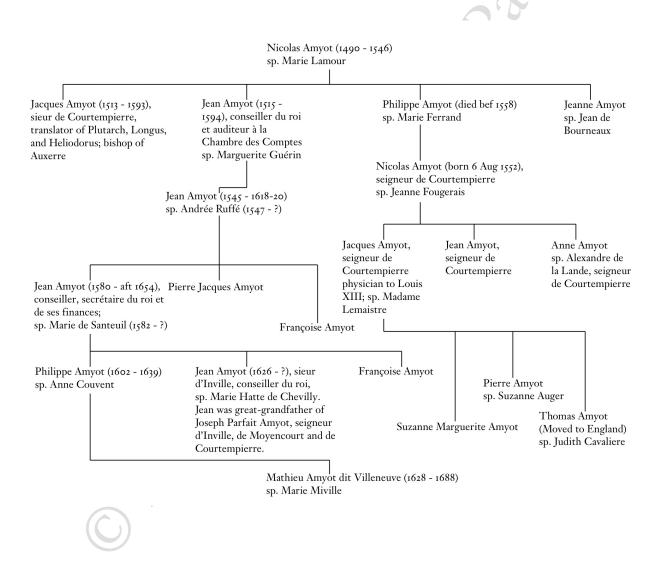
gave birth to Geneviève in 1678.

known facts, as explained and as shown in

this paper. The birth year and the death

year of Jacques Amyot the translator are,

however, not estimates.

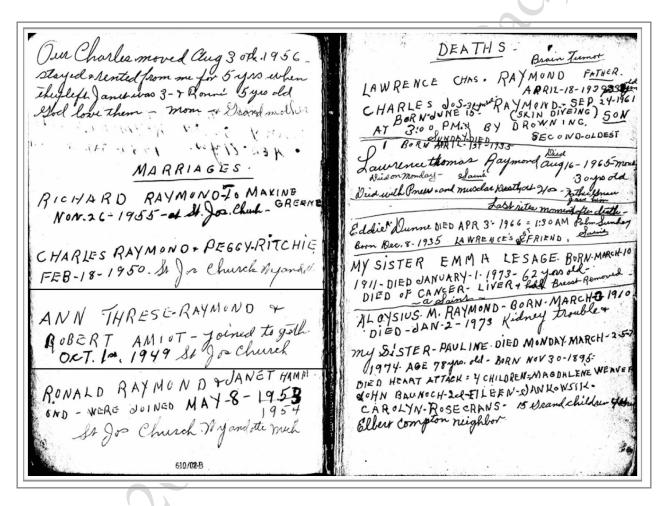


My legal name, at birth, and until I decided to change it to Joseph Amyot Padjan (the original spelling of each surname borne by my ancestors), was Joseph Robert Pagen III. My father is Joseph Robert Pagen II (he later changed his middle name to Berlin), and my mother is Susan Marie Amiot. Here is a copy of my birth certificate, to show proof of my parentage:

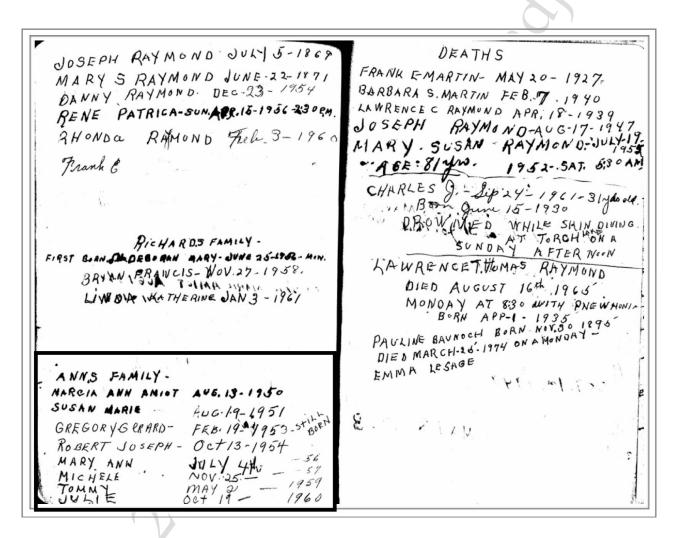
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Birth certificate of Joseph Robert Pagen III (Joseph Amyot Padjan)

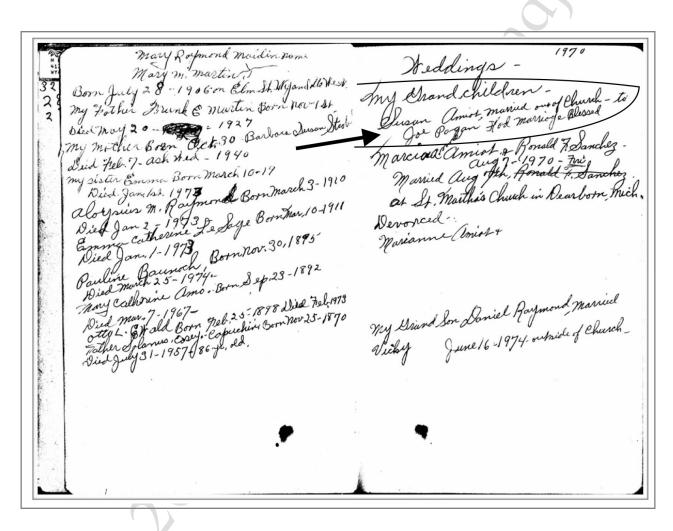
Susan Marie Amiot, my mother, is the daughter of Robert Hubert Amiot and Anne Therese Raymond (de Toulouse). My grandparents Robert Amiot and Anne Raymond had seven children: Marcia, Susan, Robert, Marianne, Michelle, Thomas, and Julie. Below are copies of pages of the Bible of my great-grandmother Mary Raymond (née Martin), mother of my maternal grandmother Anne Raymond. The pages show the names and birth dates of my mother's siblings, as well as the dates of marriage for some of them.



This Bible record shows that my grandparents Robert Amiot and Anne (Ann) Therese Raymond married on 1 October 1949.



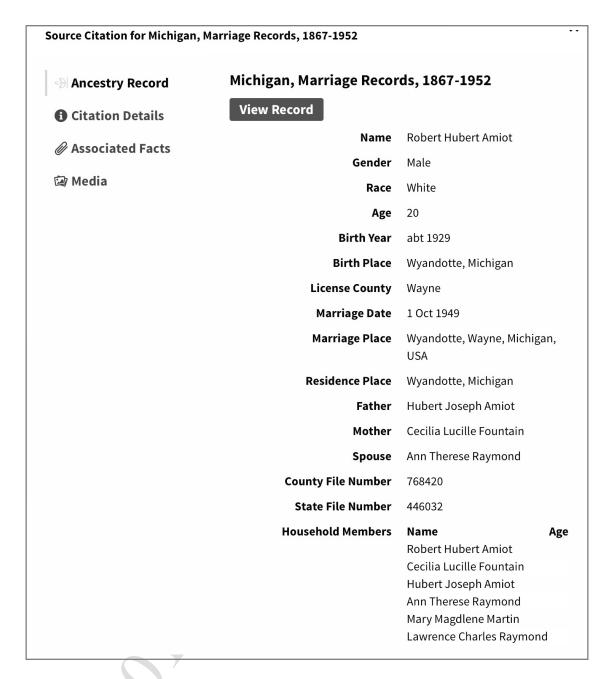
This Bible record shows the names of my mother and all her siblings. Note in particular my mother's brother Robert Joseph Amiot.



Bible record of the marriage of my mother and my father.

BIRTHS, RICHARD FRANCIS RAYMOND-NOV,27-1928 THREE RAMMOND NAN. 6-19.32 RONALD LAWRENCE RAYMOND-APR9-193 LAWRENCE THOMAS RAYMOND - APR-1-1935 MARY MAGDALENE RAYMOND-JULY 28-1906 LAWRENCE CHARLES RAYMOND- WINEY-1905 BIRTHS - CRAND CHILDREN MARCIA ANN AMIET AUG. 13-1950 RONNELE JAMES RAYMOND SEP.49 SUSAN MARIE AMIOT AUGITAP SIFICE MICH THE MY 175 DOUGLAS-Dec-24-1956

Bible record showing again my uncle Robert Joseph Amiot.

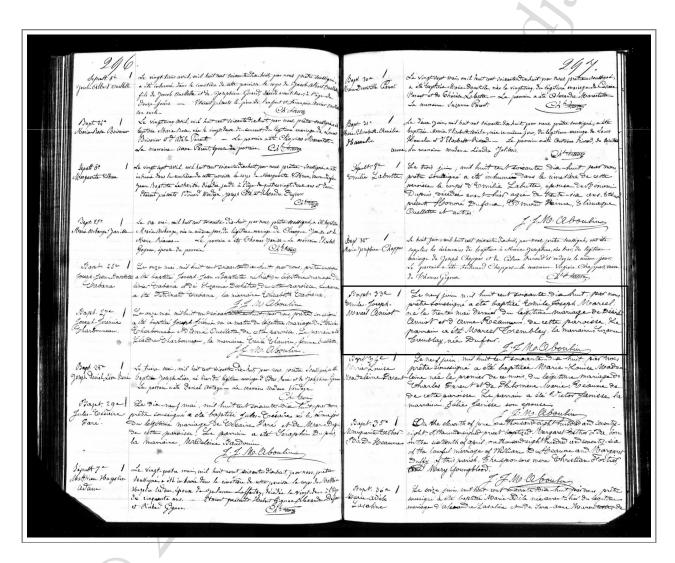


Transcription of the marriage record of my maternal grandparents Robert Hubert Amiot and Anne (Ann) Therese Raymond. The record shows that Robert Hubert Amiot was the son of Hubert Joseph Amiot and Lucille Cecilia Fountain (Cecilia was my great-grandmother's middle name).

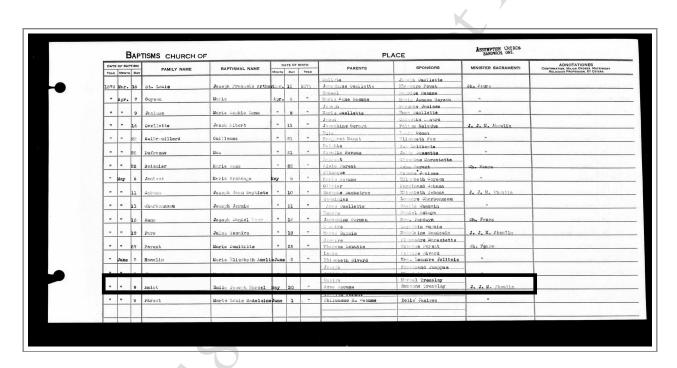
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Mr Bhbert Joseph Amiot	and M Lucille Cecelia Fountain
affidavit having been filed in this office	e, as provided by Public Act No. 128, Laws of 1887, as amended, by which i
appears that said	
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	and mother's maiden name was Grace Resting
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and who has been previously married	
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[ L. S. ]	seal of County, Michigan, this
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Between Mr. Hubert Josep	h Amiot iss Lucille Cecelia fountai
	accordance with the above license, the persons herein mentioned were joined in the troit
marriage by me, at D	day of September , A. D. 12 in the presence
on the Fellie Anderson	
and Stenley J.Anders	
as witnesses.	Howard A.Field
	Name of Magistrate or Clergyman.
The state of the s	Minister of the Gospel
	Official Title.

Marriage record of Hubert Joseph Amiot and Lucille Cecilia Fountain (Fontaine), the parents of Robert Hubert Amiot, husband of Anne Therese Raymond. Hubert Joseph Amiot was the son of Emil Amiot and (Sophie-)Grace Keating, as this record shows.

Emil Désiré Amiot, husband of Sophie-Grace Helen Keating, was baptized on 30 May 1878 in Windsor (Sandwich), Ontario, Canada. Emil's parents, Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Anne Réaume, named this son of theirs Emile Joseph Marcel; but later, once Emile Joseph Marcel Amiot was a grown man, he adopted Désiré as a middle name. This he did probably in deference to his father Sévère Désiré Amiot, who died in an accident in the Washington Territory when Emil was still a boy. Emil Amiot regarded 31 May 1878 as his birth date; but it was really 30 May 1878, or at least the latter date was the one on which Emile Joseph Marcel Amiot (Emil Désiré Amiot) was baptized. From now on I will to refer to him as Emile Désiré Joseph Marcel Amiot.



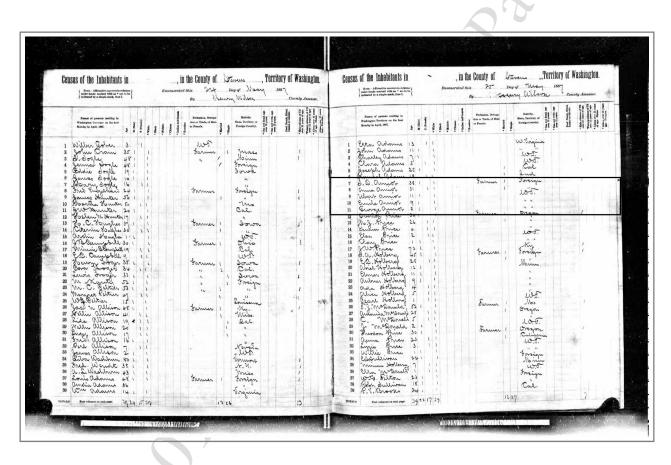
Birth record of Emile Désiré Joseph Marcel Amiot, son of Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Anne Réaume. Emile was the grandfather of Robert Hubert Amiot, father of Susan Marie Amiot, my mother.



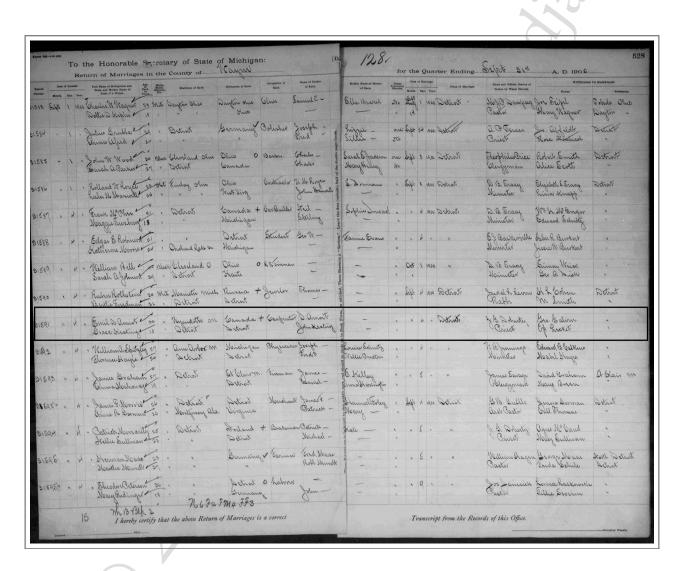
Transcription of the baptismal record of Emile Désiré Joseph Marcel Amiot, son of Sévère Désiré Amiot and Anne Réaume.

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1880 Census of Michigan showing Sévère (Désiré) Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and wife Anne (here spelled Anna) Réaume living with Anne's mother Delphine Charet (also spelled Jarret) and her second husband Felix Geniac (here misspelled as Jienach). Sévère and Anne had only three sons at this time: Hubert (here spelled as Gilbert), Emile (Emil), and Arthur.



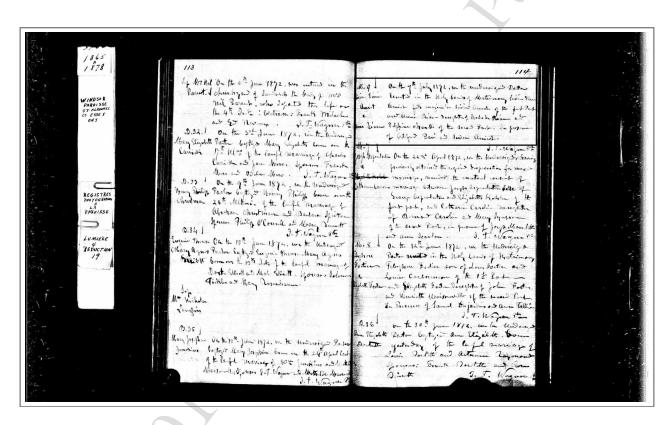
1887 census of the Territory of Washington showing the family of Sévère Désiré Amiot and Anne Réaume.



Marriage record of Emile Désiré Joseph Marcel Amiot and Sophie-Grace Helen Keating. The full name of the father of Grace was Thomas John Keating.

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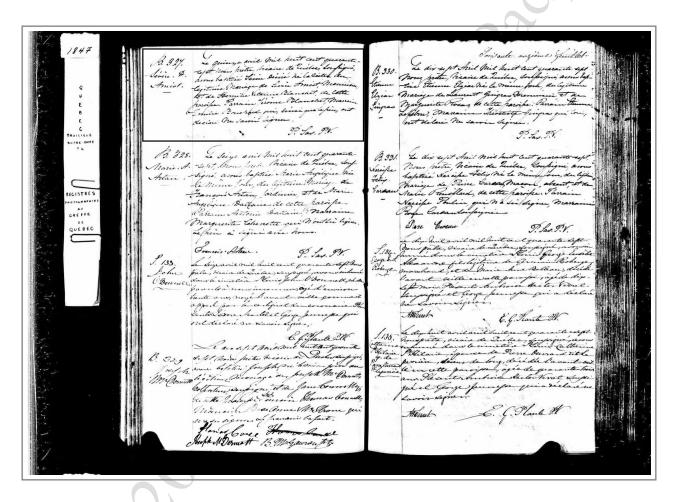
World War II Draft Registration Card of Emile Désiré Joseph Marcel Amiot.



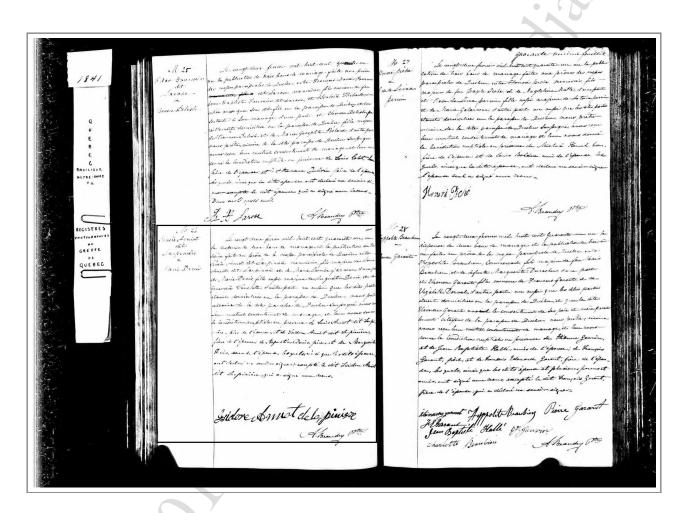
Marriage record of Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Anne Réaume. Sévère was the son of Sévère Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Hermine ('Emma') Vitaline Blanchet.

	. 4vi	General No.	CRETAGES.	General No.
	His Name.	Levre Desire annot	John Henry Laurence	Enos Hathaway
		23	22	25-
	Age.  Residence when Married.	Mindsor	Mendsor	Sandwich
100 M.	Place of Birth.	Quebec	London Congland	Whited States
DEGR	Bachelor or Widower. (a. or w.)	B	B	B
BRI	Rank or Profession.	Carpenter	Laborer	Laborer
	Names	Levie annot	Alfred Laurence	Charles Kathaway
	of Parents.	Comma Vetaline Blanche	to Elizabeth Johnson	Sarah Doherty
	Her Name.	ann Reaume	Louisa Pagun	aun broghan
	Age.	16	19	18
1	Residence when Married	Mindsor	Mindeor	Malterville Sandwick Bass
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BRID	Spinater or Widow. (s. or w.)	1	1	8
	(8.004.)	Gilbert Reaume	Louis Paguin	Milliam broghan
	of Parents.	Delphine Jaures	Julia Morin	Pose ann Onni
		Offred Paris	Julia Morin	Alex Lebuque
	Names and Residences of	Levire annot	Daminic Magner	Sandwich Cast
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		7 July 1872	28 July 1872	31 July 1871
	Date and place of Marriage.	the state of the same of the same		
		Windsor	Mindson	Mindsor
100	Religious Denomination of Bridegroom	Roman Catholic .	Roman Catholic .	Reman Castolio .
	Religious Denomination of Bride.	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic
	By whom Married.	Revol J. J. Majner Reman Catholic	Bood J. J. Wagner Noman Catholic	Mod f 9 Nagrari Aman Catholic
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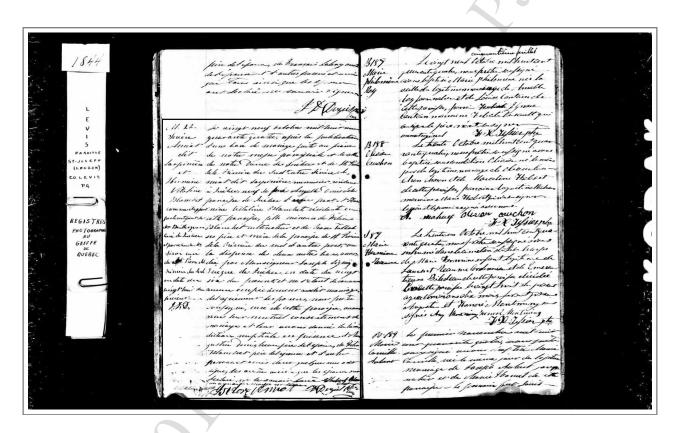
Secondary marriage record of Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Anne Réaume. Anne Réaume was the daughter of Hubert ('Gilbert') Réaume and Delphine Charet ('Jarret').



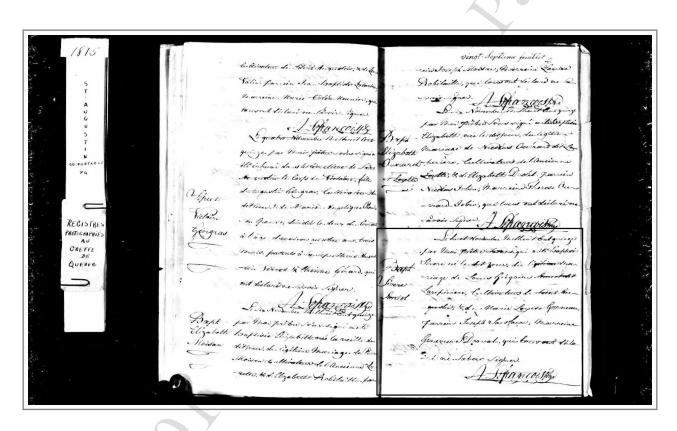
Baptismal record of Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière), son of Sévère Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Hermine Vitaline Blanchet. Sévère Désiré Amiot was born on 14 September 1848 in St. Augustin, Québec.



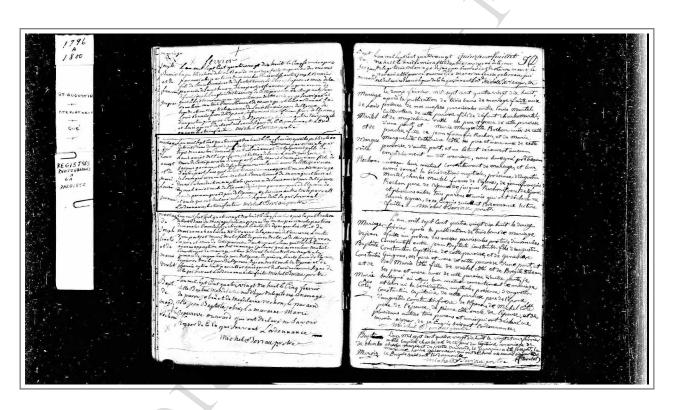
Record of the first marriage of Sévère Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière (to Marie Denis), father of Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière). This record shows that the names of the parents of Sévère Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière (who second married Hermine Vitaline Blanchet) were Louis (Gregoire) Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Marie Louise Garneau.



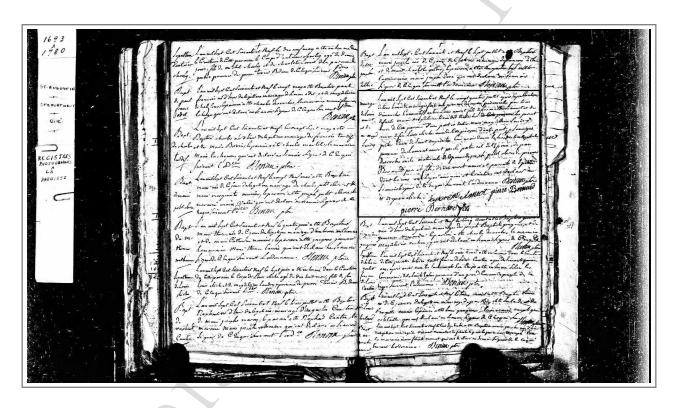
Marriage record of Sévère Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Hermine Vitaline Blanchet, parents of Sévère Désiré Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière), husband of Anne Réaume.



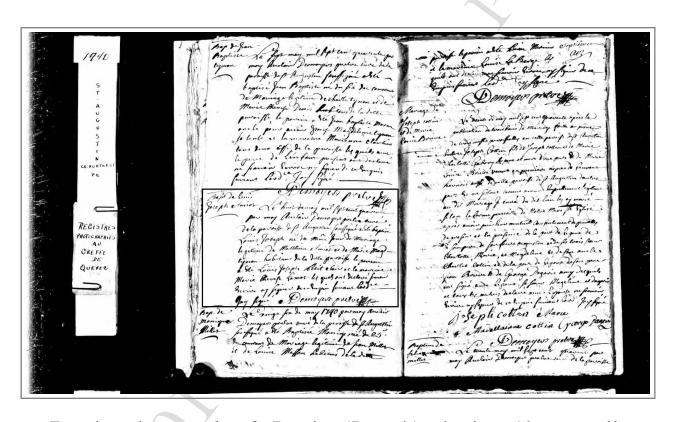
Baptismal record of Sévère Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière, husband of Hermine Vitaline Blanchet. This record shows that Sévère Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière was the son of Louis Gregoire Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Marie Louise Garneau.



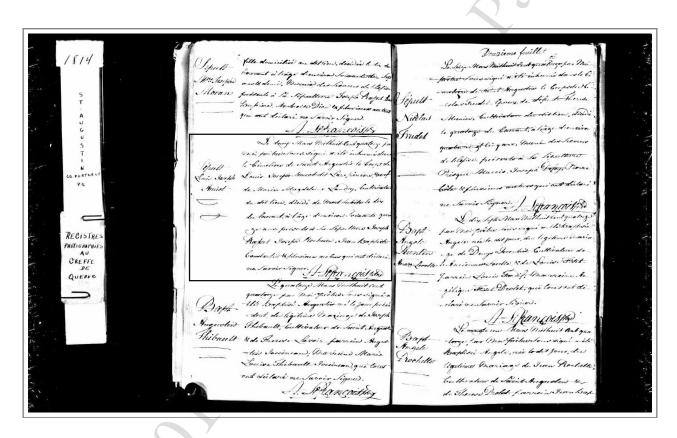
Marriage record of Louis Gregoire Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Marie Louise Garneau. This record shows that the parents of Louis Gregoire Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière were Louis (Joseph) Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Marie Madeleine Landry.



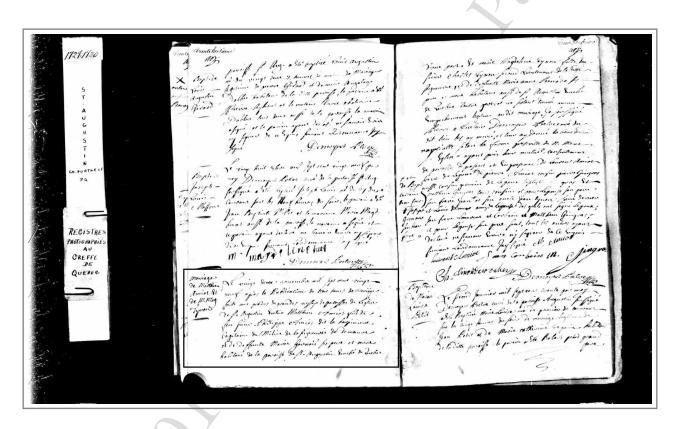
Marriage record of Louis (Joseph) Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Marie Madeleine Landry. This record shows that the parents of Louis (Joseph) Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) were Mathieu Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Marie Madeleine Tinon.



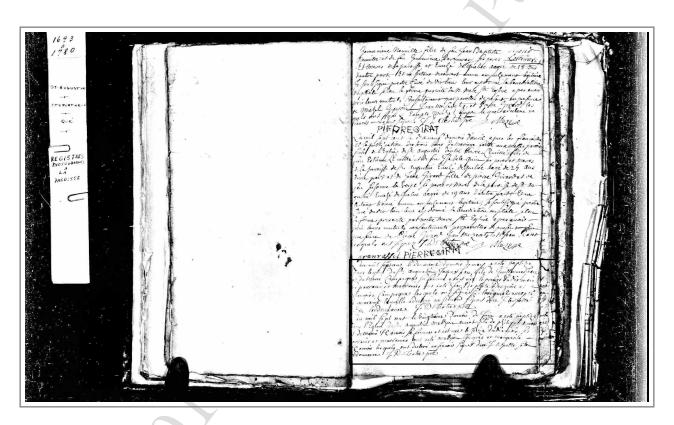
Baptismal record of Louis (Joseph) Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière), son of Mathieu Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Marie Madeleine Tinon (spelled Tynon in this record).



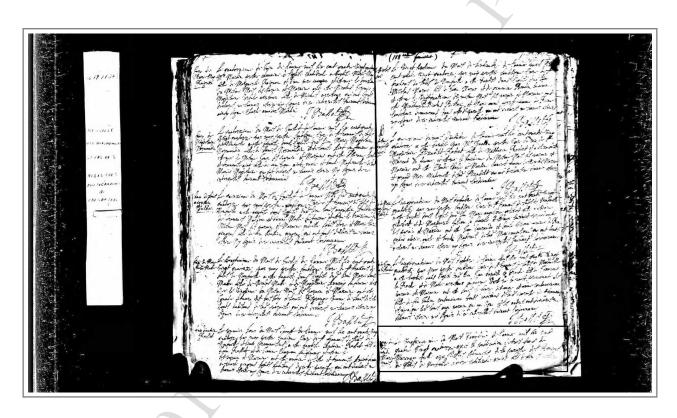
Death record of Louis (Joseph) Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière), husband of Marie Madeleine Landry and son of Mathieu Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Marie Madeleine Tinon.



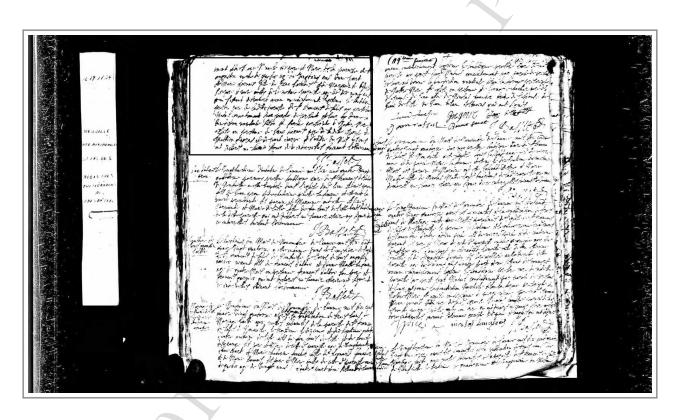
Marriage record of Mathieu Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière) and Marie Madeleine Tinon. This record shows that Mathieu was the son of Philippe Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Marie (Madeleine) Harnois.



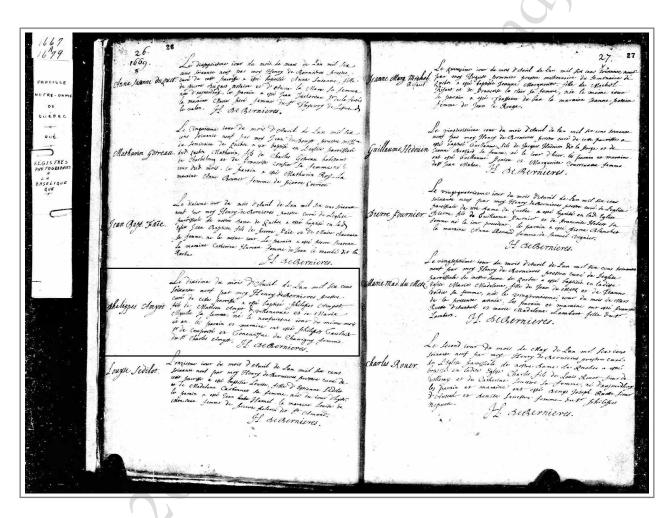
Baptismal record of Mathieu Amiot (Amyot dit L'Arpinière), son of Philippe Amiot (Amyot) dit L'Arpinière and Marie (Madeleine) Harnois.



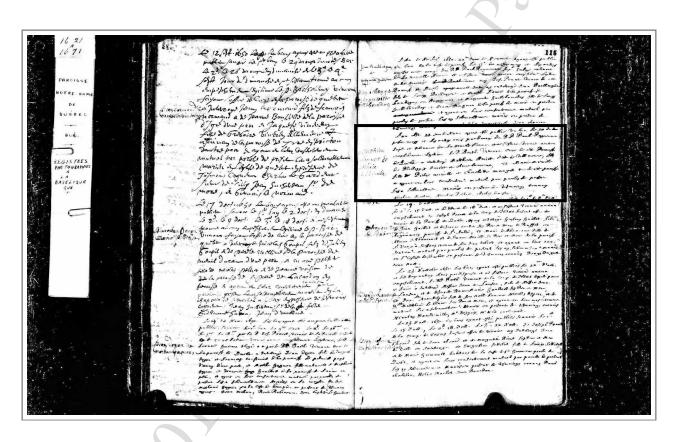
Marriage record (page one) of Philippe Amyot dit L'Arpinière and Marie (Madeleine) Harnois. Philippe Amyot dit L'Arpinière was the son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville.



Marriage record (page two) of Philippe Amyot dit L'Arpinière and Marie (Madeleine) Harnois.

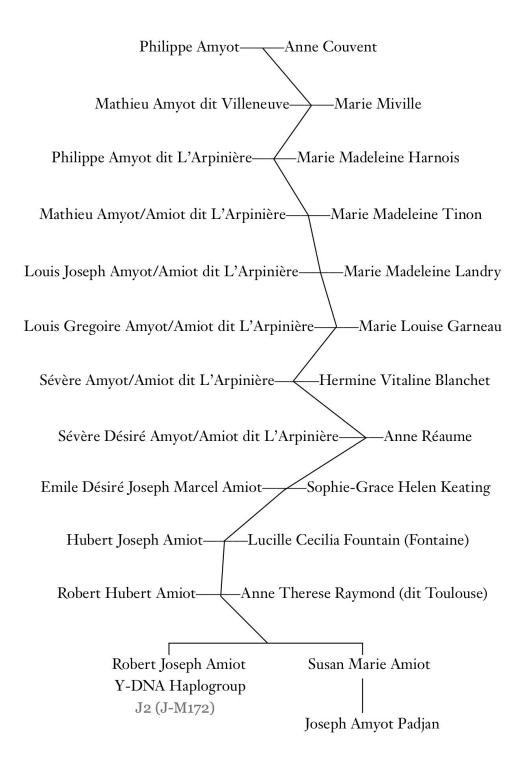


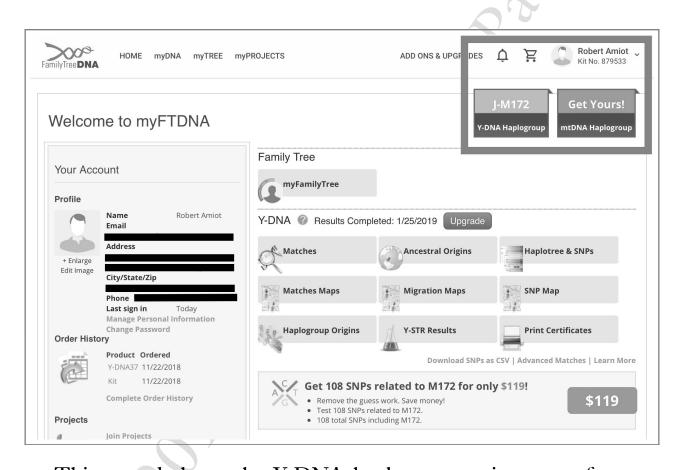
Birth record of Philippe Amyot dit L'Arpinière, son of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville.



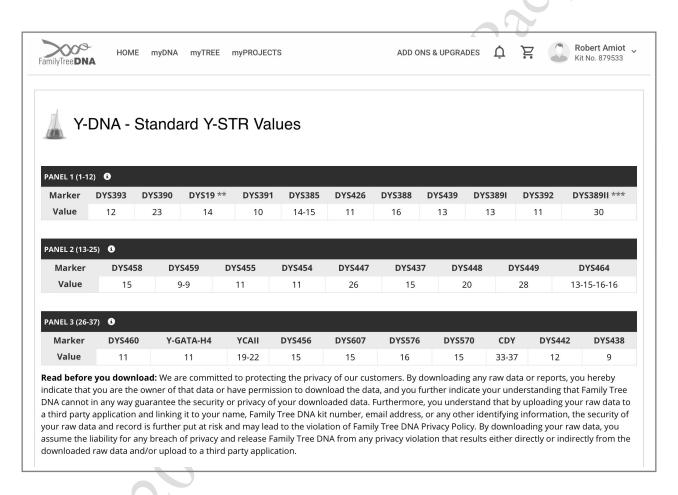
Marriage record of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville. Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve was, of course, the son of Philippe Amyot and Anne Couvent.

The purpose of showing all the records above, beginning with my own birth certificate and ending with the marriage record of Mathieu Amyot dit Villeneuve and Marie Miville, is to show proof of descent from Philippe Amyot with proper documentation. I mentioned above to note the name of my uncle Robert Joseph Amiot, son of Robert Hubert Amiot and Anne Therese Raymond, because at my request he has had his DNA tested to determine what Y-DNA haplogroup he belongs to. He belongs, as I expected he would, to haplogroup J2 (J-M172). Philippe Amyot, husband of Anne Couvent, also belonged, therefore, to haplogroup J2 (J-M172), as did, of course, our most distant known ancestor Nicolas Amyot, husband of Marie Lamour. It goes without saying, therefore, that our grand uncle Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch and Longus, also belonged to Y-DNA haplogroup J2 (J-M172). Below is a simplified pedigree showing Robert Joseph Amiot's descent, as well as mine, from Philippe Amyot:





This record shows the Y-DNA haplogroup assignment of my uncle Robert Joseph Amiot, son of Robert Hubert Amiot and Anne Therese Raymond, and brother of Susan Marie Amiot, my mother.



Y-DNA - Standard Y-STR Values of Robert Joseph Amiot, son of Robert Hubert Amiot and Anne Therese Raymond.

Since most people have never heard of Jacques Amyot, translator of Plutarch and Longus, and therefore have no idea of his importance in French literature, I will bring this paper to a close by sharing some passages that show the admiration that Michel de Montaigne (in the context of the thoughts of George Saintsbury), and that Goethe both had for him:

"Here is the testimony," says the great literary critic and historian George Saintsbury, "of the greatest in a literary sense of Amyot's readers: 'I give,' says Montaigne, 'and I think I am right in doing so, the palm to Jacques Amyot over all French writers, not only for the simplicity and purity of his vocabulary, in which he surpasses all others, nor for his industry in so long a task, nor for the depth of his learning which has enabled him to expound so happily a writer so thorny and crabbed. I am above all grateful to him for having selected and chosen a book so worthy and so suitable a present to his country. We dunces were lost had not this book [Plutarch's *Lives*] plucked us out of the mire. Thanks to it, we dare to speak and to write. By it ladies are in position to give lessons to schoolmasters. It is our very breviary.' This praise," says Saintsbury, "which is not exaggerated in itself, and still less when taken as an expression of the feeling of the time, refers of course to the 'Plutarch,' and in estimating it it is necessary to account of Montaigne's especial affection for the author [Plutarch] translated. But if we take in the lighter work [of Amyot], and especially the Daphnis and Chloé, Amyot will stand higher, not lower. His merit is not so much that he has known how to adjust himself and his style to two very different authors, but that in rendering both those authors he has written French of a most original model and of the greatest excellence... That Montaigne himself was a sound critical judge and not merely a lucky practitioner of style, may be judged, from his singling out Amyot as the great master of it [prose style] among his own immediate predecessors. In so far, indeed, as prose style goes, master [Amyot] and scholar [Montaigne] must

undoubtedly take rank at the head of all writers of the [sixteenth] century when bulk and variety of examples are taken into account."

Goethe, likewise, had the highest esteem for Jacques Amyot:

The young Goethe's lively interest in the French Renaissance writers is summed up in Book Eleven of *Dichtung und Wahrheit* as follows: 'Montaigne, Amyot, Rabelais, Marot waren meine Freunde und erregten in mir Anteil und Bewunderung.' Among these he esteemed Jacques Amyot (1513–1593), with whom this investigation is concerned. Records from the Weimar Library show that Goethe borrowed Amyot's classic rendition of Plutarch's *Les vies des hommes illustres* on August 4, 1798, and kept it over ten weeks...

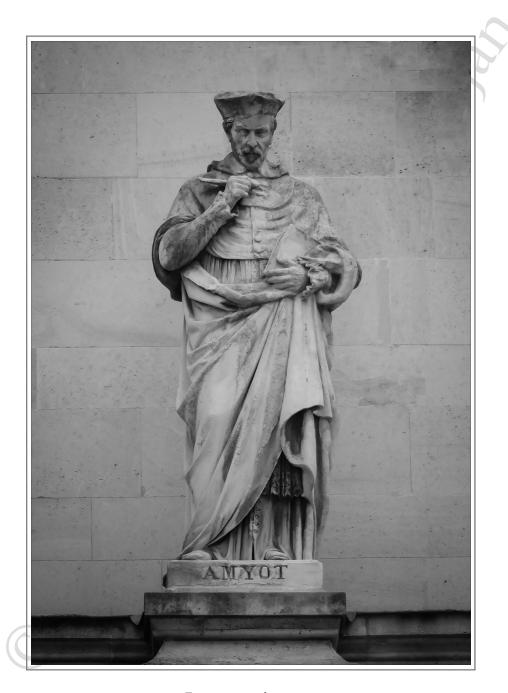
Goethe's numerous other references to Amyot pertain to *Les Pastorales ou Daphnis et Chloé* from the Greek of Longus, a work for which he repeatedly expressed admiration...

Early and late, it was Amyot's version [of *Daphnis and Chloé*] which appealed most strongly to Goethe...

These evaluations, stemming from March, 1831, are climactic in Goethe's repeated praise of the artistry of Longus and the consummate skill of Amyot, his translator...

He might conceivably have created Faust's 'Arcadian' experience and the Chorus's turning into nymphs just as inimitably had he never known the lovers' tale of Daphnis and Chloé in any language. But, given his expressed admir-ation for that story and the correspondences pointed out above, it seems probable that Goethe drew upon potent 'reminiscences' of what he manifestly considered the acme of portrayals of pastoral life. At the very least, he displays an affinity with Longus, whose masterpiece, in Goethe's opinion, attained its highest perfection when recast in the Renaissance French of Amyot.<sup>261</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>261</sup> Carl Hammer, Jr., *The South Central Bulletin*, Vol. 40, No. 4, Studies by Members of the SCMLA (Winter, 1980) (The Johns Hopkins University Press), pp. 147–149.



Jacques Amyot



Castle Courtempierre

## **AUTHOR'S NOTE**

I have had no agenda in writing this paper other than to correct erroneous claims and beliefs about the Amyots and related families, and to examine carefully and thoughtfully all the information available on all the Amyots and Amiots of France, and on those of Quebec, in order to determine who the parents were of Philippe Amyot. Since this paper also contains information on families unrelated to the Amyot family to which Philippe Amyot belonged, I hope that it proves useful as well to researchers looking into those other families. Note that everything contained in this paper is contained in it for a reason; and the order in which everything in it is presented is deliberate and purposeful.

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