



CHEMINS DU LACHINE

September 2021

Footsteps in the borough (arrondissement) of **Lachine** within the city of Montreal, Quebec.
Footsteps to Eglise Des Saints-Angie-Gardien where many of my ancestors were baptized, married or buried.

Footsteps walking from the fur trading post **along the Lachine Canal** to the ancestral homestead of **Francois Meloche**. (See my blog post The Meloche Family Homestead)



This is the Fur Trade National Historic Site at Lachine. The building was built 1803 –which is nearly 100 years after my ancestors first settled in the area nearby.

Our furs: Quantity, Quality and Low Price!

By the 16th century, European merchants were faced with a shortage of good-quality furs. The discovery of Canada opened up a vast new source of supply for them.

Due to the harshness of the climate, the furs of the New World were silkier and thicker than those of the Old World.

SOME FUR TRADE EXHIBITS:

My ancestry includes many voyageurs in particular -

5 Sons of my ancestor

Francois Meloche

(Marie Mouflet) and 5

sons of another

ancestor Rene Reaume

(Marie Chevreau).

Two Types of Voyageur

- “Porkeaters”. So called because their daily food allowance included pork, these “engagés”, or employees, worked only from May to October.

They took the trading goods to Fort William and the furs collected in the North by the winterers back to Montréal.

- “Winterers”. These Men of the North were hired for at least one year, but usually for three and sometimes for five. Jacks of all trades, they were canoemen, interpreters, clerks, guides, craftsmen, explorers, hunters, fishermen, builders and, of course, traders.

Many of them took wives in fur country. These country alliances were the origin of the Métis nation.

Lachine: Gateway to the Northwest

The St. Lawrence River’s Sault-Saint-Louis rapids constituted an impassable barrier. Until a canal was built, canoes and bateaux had to set out from Lachine to...

- explore the west of the country,
- conduct the fur trade,
- defend the territory.

“... never, Champlain exclaimed in 1603, had I seen such a furiously raging torrent of water”



EGLISE DES SAINTS-ANGES-GARDIENS



The parish at Lachine was founded in 1676, over the years a wooden chapel, then a stone church (1703), then a gothic style church (1865) and finally a neo-roman style church were built on this site.



RIGHT: A picture of the replica of the first wooden chapel of Eglise des Saints-Anges-Gardiens, initially within the walls of Fort Lachine.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS ANGELS CHURCH 1676 to today ...

The parish was canonically erected by the first bishop of Quebec, Saint François de Laval. It is the third oldest parish in the diocese of Montreal. Erected by Pierre Gaudin dit Châtillon, the first wooden chapel, a replica of which can be seen in front of the church, was built within the walls of Fort Lachine, on the current territory of LaSalle. The first presbytery was built in 1680 and replaced five years later by a more comfortable one.

The second church, made of field stones, was inaugurated in July 1703. The Lachine population having moved somewhat towards "Lachine" after the construction and the first widening of the canal, the factory decided to move the church to a land offered by a wealthy merchant, Louis Boyer. In 1863, the foundations were built at the same time as a sacristy was erected to celebrate mass during the week.

The consecration of the church took place on December 2, 1865, but it was not until three years later that the interior was completed. This third church was reduced to ashes during a violent fire on October 7, 1915. Only the presbytery, the current chapel and the holy species escaped the flames.

On April 4, 1919, construction began on the fourth church (the current church); its inauguration took place on December 21, 1920. The architectural contract had been awarded to Dalbé Viau (mayor of Lachine from 1925 to 1933) and Alphonse Venne, designers of the plan of Saint Joseph's Oratory. The architects designed the building in a Neo-Roman style and the interior follows the traditional layout in the shape of a Latin cross.



Image of the stone church of Lachine which was inaugurated in 1703.



The Old Church of Lachine, 1701-03. Salle des Habitants (Meeting Hall), 1770. The Old Presbytere, 1769.
The Convent stood to the left on the spot of the cedar fence.

EGLISE DES SAINTS-ANGES GARDIENS and my Family History

Here is a partial list of ancestral events
that took place here:

13/07/1682 Anne Mouflet (older sister to
Marie Mouflet) wedding age 12.

18/02/1686 Wedding Guillaume Daoust +
Marie Madeleine Lalonde.

7/02/1701 Wedding Claude Aumay +
Charlotte Badel.

25/10/1702 Marie Jeanne Aumay Baptism +
3 more Aumay/Badel children baptized here
incl Claude Aumay father to Marie Aumais
5th ggm

23/04/1704 Jean Baptiste Meloche Baptism
+ 8 more Meloche/Mouflet children
baptized here.

01/02/1706 Wedding Jacques Proulx +
Jeanne Pilon my 7th ggm

02/04/1717 Francois 11 baptism my 5th ggf

29/07/1722 Marie Blanchard Burial.

16/08/1729 Wedding Pierre Meloche
(Francois son) + Jeanne Caron.

14/09/1741 Francois Meloche Burial.



EGLISE DES SAINTS-ANGES-GARDIENS

A funeral was in progress, so no entry was permitted.

Walking east along the St Lawrence River towards Dorval. The Lachine Lighthouse is in the distance (circled). There is both a foot path and bike path along the river.



Dixie and Dorval Islands are now visible on the horizon. The park is on the former site of Fort Rolland.





Continuing east along the St Lawrence River towards Dorval and the Meloche Family homestead.

Maison Quesnel at 5010 St Joseph Boulevard in Lachine. This house was built between 1710 and 1720*. The house is located on land granted in 1710 to J.B. Quesnel.**

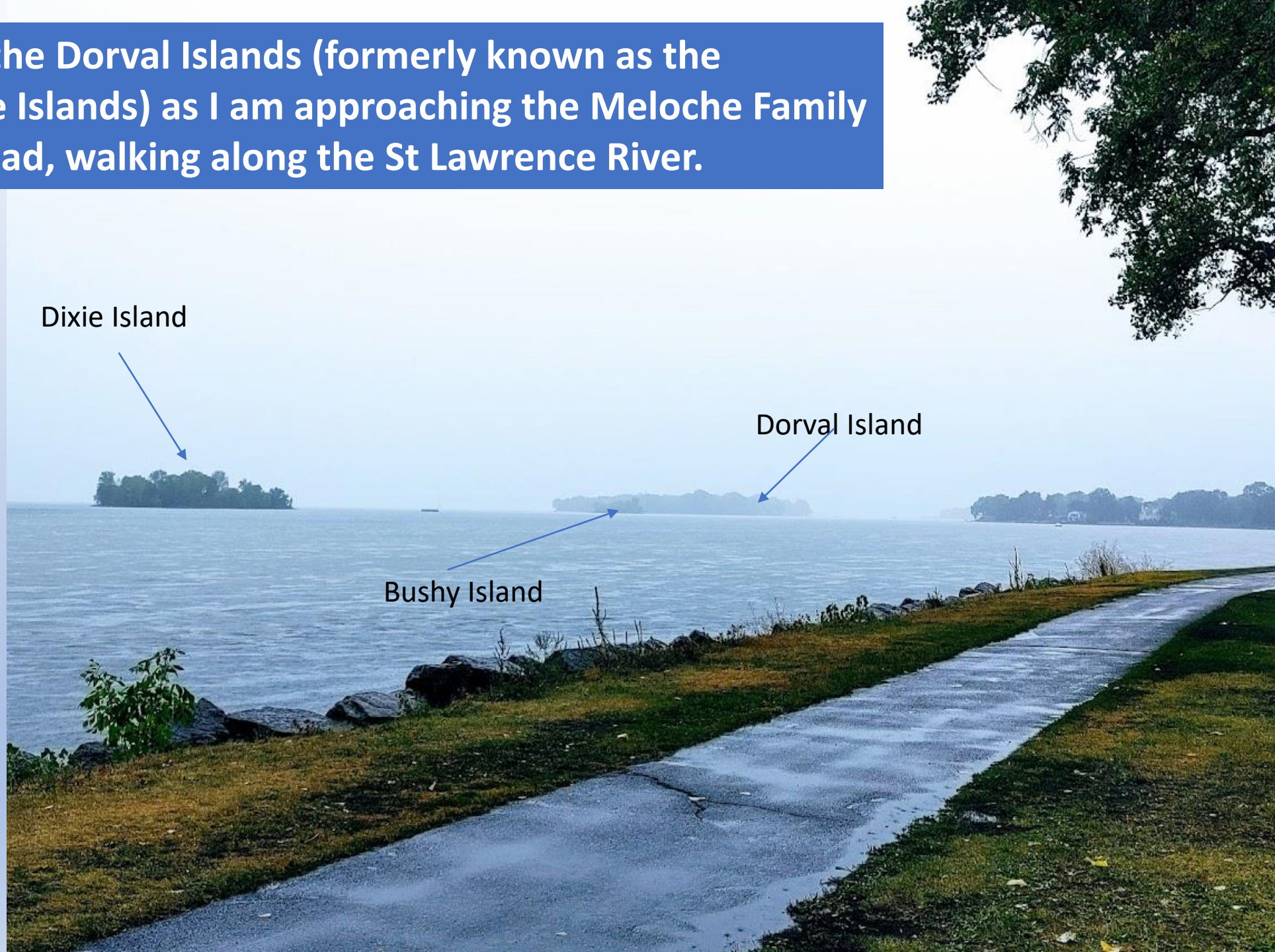


I used the locations of Maison Quesnel and the Maison Picard to help find the location of Maison Meloche. Maison Quesnel is Terrier #442 and #443.

*Source: <https://grandquebec.com/montreal-touristique/> Accessed 4 August 2021

** Source: Désiré Girouard, Lake Saint Louis Old and New and Cavalier de La Salle (Montreal: Poirier, Bessette and Co, 1893), p 245.

View of the Dorval Islands (formerly known as the Courcelle Islands) as I am approaching the Meloche Family Homestead, walking along the St Lawrence River.



Dixie Island

Dorval Island

Bushy Island



**MAISON PICARD
at 5530 St Joseph
Boulevard in Lachine.**

**This house was built
between around 1720 by
Jean Gabriel Picard.***

**The house is located on
land granted in 1674. It is
Terrier #438.****

*Source: <https://grandquebec.com/montreal-touristique/> Accessed 4 August 2021

** Source: Désiré Girouard, Lake Saint Louis Old and New and Cavalier de La Salle (Montreal: Poirier, Bessette and Co, 1893), p 245.



The Meloche Family homestead is no longer in Lachine. It is located just within the present-day boundaries of Dorval, which is a suburb of Montreal

Francois Meloche is my ancestor –he sailed from France to New France before 1700, the year he married Marie Mouflet. His grandson Joseph Marie Meloche dit Jolicoeur assumed the name of his stepfather (a soldier -Joseph Girard dit Jolicoeur). My great-great grandfather Moise Jolicoeur dropped the Meloche surname and only used Jolicoeur.

This is the sign found on the front lawn of Maison Meloche which is Terrier #434.

MAISON MELOCHE 2, PLACE ELLIOTT

François Meloche s'établit ici en 1708 et y cultiva une terre qui s'étendait du lac Saint-Louis jusqu'à la Côte-de-Liesse. Cette maison fut construite en 1815 par Jean-Baptiste Meloche. La partie de la propriété au nord du chemin du Bord-du-Lac fut vendue au Royal Montreal Golf Club en 1895. Vers les années 1850 le transport vers Chateauguay se faisait à partir de cet endroit. En 1929 la famille Meloche vend la maison à Stanley Elliott, maire de Dorval en 1947-48. Elle fut vendue de nouveau en 1976.



François Meloche settled here in 1708, cultivating land between Lake St. Louis and Côte-de-Liesse. This house was built in 1815 by Jean-Baptiste Meloche. The land north of the Lakeshore Road was sold to the Royal Montreal Golf Club in 1895. Around the 1850's transportation toward Chateauguay originated from here. In 1929 the Meloche family sold the house to Stanley Elliott, Dorval's Mayor in 1947-48. It was sold again in 1976.



GUIDE PATRIMONIAL
Société Historique de Dorval

HERITAGE GUIDE
Dorval Historical Society



MAISON MELOCHE

This is the front of the house, picture taken from the street on September 5, 2021.



MAISON MELOCHE

This is the back of the house, which faces the St Lawrence River.

Below: View from Maison Meloche looking south across the River to Dixie Island.



Above: View from Maison Meloche looking east back towards Montreal. The remains of the Horse Ferry Boat landing are just visible (see the rocks by the tree).

