



CHEMINS DU ST PHILBERT DU PONT CHARRAULT

September 2018

Footsteps from the commune of Chantonay to the **Village of St Philbert du Pont Charrault** where **Charles Allaire** 7th great grandfather was born and lived, before he left France.

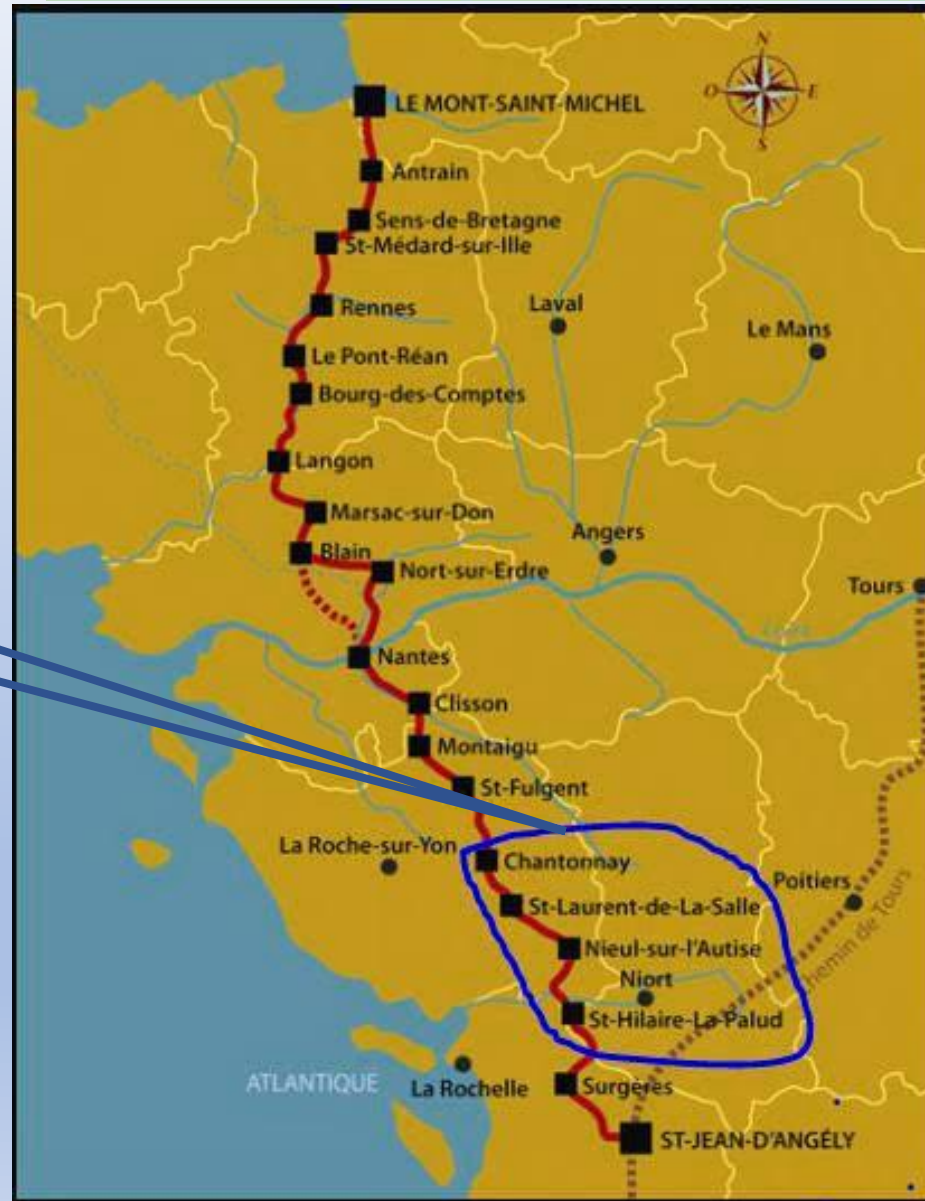


ALLAIRE, Charles		240028
Statut	Marié	
Date de baptême	02-08-1637	
Lieu d'origine	St-Philbert du Pont-Charraut, commune de Chantonay (Vendée) 85051	
Lieu actuel	Chantonay	
Parents	Sébastien ALLAIRE et Perrine Fleurisson	
Date de mariage des parents	24-01-1629	
Lieu de mariage des parents	St-Philbert du Pont-Charraut, commune de Chantonay (85051)	
Première mention au pays	1658	
Occupation à l'arrivée	Engagé (ct Abel Cherbonnier, La Rochelle, 14-05-1658)	
Date de mariage	10-11-1663	
Lieu du mariage	Québec (Notre-Dame)	
Conjoint	Catherine Fièvre	
Date de décès	Entre le 07-03-1687 et le 19-11-1691	
Remarques	Il s'engage auprès du marchand François Perron, puis il arrive sur le navire "Le Taureau", le 06-08-1658 au port de Québec. Son frère Jean Allaire est baptisé le 19-09-1632 à Saint-Philbert du Pont-Charraut. Un extrait de son mariage est au registre à Château-Richer. La duplication du mariage de ses parents est datée du 24-01-1629 à Caillère (St-Hilaire). Son grand-père paternel est Guillaume Allaire.	
Identification*	DGFQ, p. 7	
Chercheur(s)	Violette Allaire ; Lise Dandonneau	
Référence*	MSGCF, vol. 11, p. 108	
Copie d'acte	AD-85 numérisé	
Date de modification	2012-03-24	





<https://www.chemin-compostelle.fr/les-etapes-du-chemin-des-marais-salants/>



I walked this section of the camino

During September of 2018 I walked a small section of the Mont St Michel camino route that is in the Vendee department of France. It was wonderful to walk in the countryside where some of my ancestors originated from.



First stage of my ancestral camino walking from Chantonay to Saint-Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault



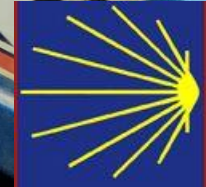
Small commune of "Les Gabardieres"



Walked through farmland most of the day



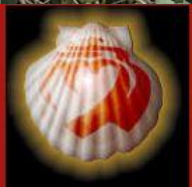
RURAL LIFE IN THE VENDEE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



ABOUT AN HOUR FROM CHANTONNAY



FIRST SIGHTING OF THE CHURCH STEEPLE AT ST PHILBERT-DU-PONT-CHARRAULT

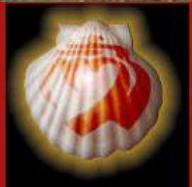




This is the bridge which is the name sake for
for Saint-Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault which crosses Le Grand Lay River.



ARRIVAL AT SAINT-PHILBERT-DU-PONT-CHARRAULT





Charles Allaire (my 7th great grandfather) was baptized here in 1637.

Sadly, the church is closed to the public as there are safety issues with the roof.





Fermée au public.

- **Église Saint Philbert (Saint-Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault) :**

Curieusement on accédait à cette église par un portail latéral, aujourd'hui muré. La nef est datée du XIIème siècle, tandis que le chœur, éclairé de trois longues fenêtres est daté du XIVème siècle. Le reste du bâtiment et le clocher carré ont été édifiés au XIXème siècle avec un nouveau porche au

fond de la nef. Pendant la guerre de Cent-Ans, l'église fut fortifiée comme en témoignent les meurtrières visibles au sommet des murs du chevet. Un ouragan ayant emporté le clocher en 1793, il fut reconstruit en 1839.

The church of Saint Philbert du Pont Charrault. It has a particularity: the side gate through which we accessed is now walled up. The nave is dated from the 12th century, while the choir, lit by three long windows, is dated from the 14th century. The rest of the building and the square bell tower were built in the 19th century with a new porch at the end of the nave. During the Hundred Years War, the church was fortified as evidenced by the loopholes visible at the top of the apse walls. A hurricane having carried away the bell tower in 1793, it was rebuilt in 1839.



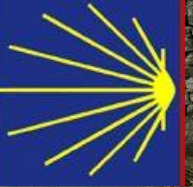
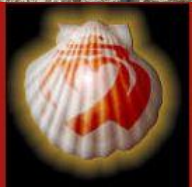
Other views of Eglise St. Philbert where Charles Allaire was baptized



There was a notice of closure on this side door which was dated 2013. Many of the churches in France are not always open due to a lack of funds for repair and maintenance and/or administration.



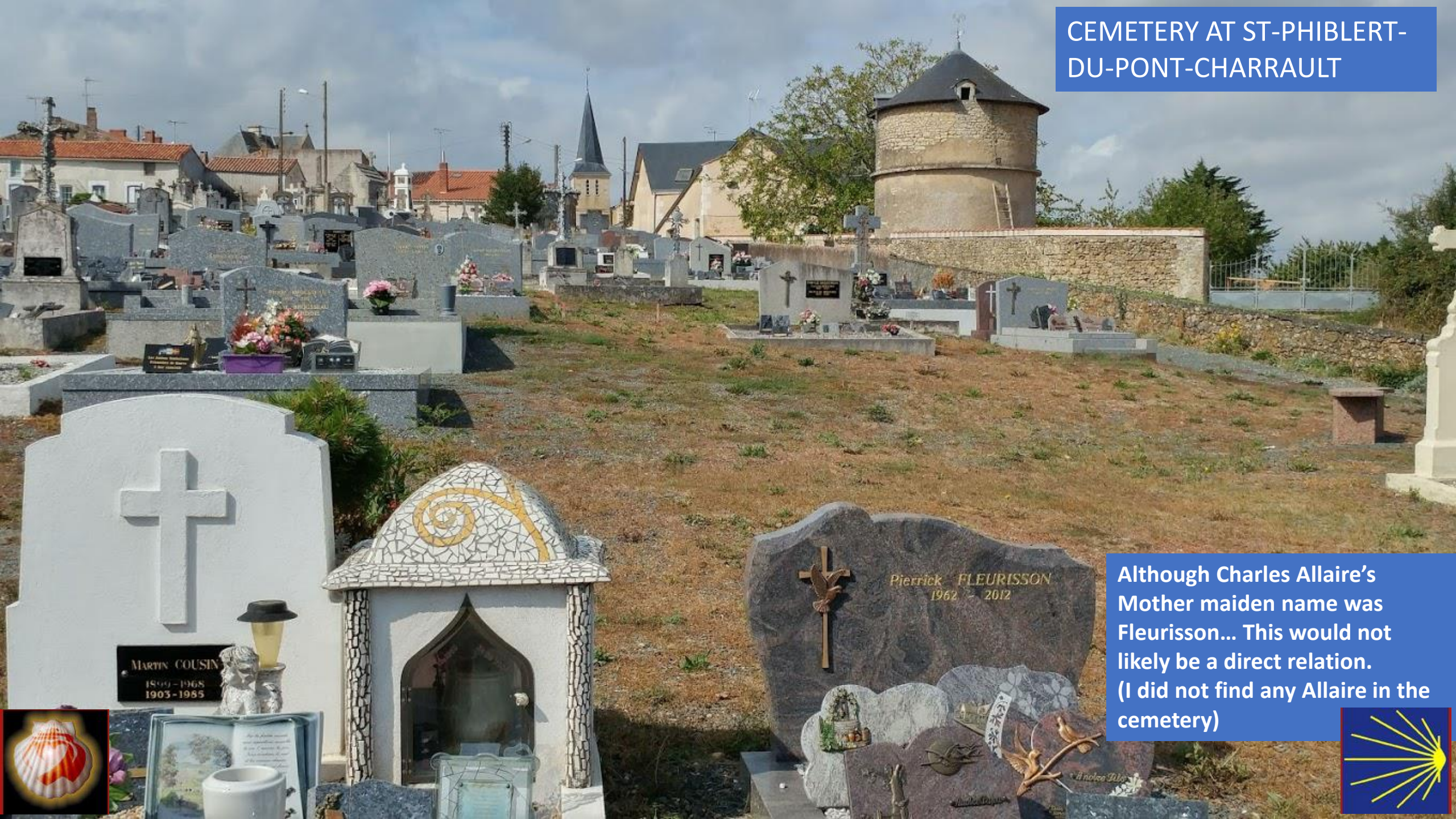
The village of St-Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault today (September 2018).



Mairie (Town Hall) St-Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault
This building was once the presbytery of the village.



CEMETERY AT ST-PHIBLERT-
DU-PONT-CHARRAULT



Although Charles Allaire's
Mother maiden name was
Fleurisson... This would not
likely be a direct relation.
(I did not find any Allaire in the
cemetery)





The “boulangerie” in many small villages of France have been permanently closed.

This baguette machine at left is filled with fresh baguettes each morning.





This aerial view of the village provides a good image of the adjacent countryside.





Leaving St-Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault to continue walking on my ancestral camino....



SAINT-PHILBERT-DU-PONT-CHARRAULT TODAY

LOCATION: Just 6km by roadway D31 from Chantonay, the village is part of the large commune of Chantonay (since 1972)

POPULATION: 2018 Just over 1,000

MAIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNE: Agri-food, Furniture and metalwork.

TOWN HALL VISIT:

I waited about an hour for the town hall to open to see if special access might be granted to visit the interior of the church which was closed. The clerk only spoke French and repeated the words “ç'est très dangerous” many times. There was no chance for an interior visit based on this.

I shared a written story (in French) about my ancestral camino and my ancestor Charles Allaire who was baptized in 1637 in the village church with a request to see if they was any surname recognition for possible living descendants. An emphatic shake of the head was the answer I received. The clerk did suggest I visit “the archive départementale La Roche-sur-Yon” (she wrote this down for me). Unfortunately my immediate travel plans did not include a visit to the capital of the department as she had suggested.

Sources: <https://www.cc-paysdechantonay.fr/economie-du-territoire-2/> Accessed 12 August 2022

<https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault> Accessed 12 August 2022

In late September 2018, I completed an ancestral camino (walk) of just over 100 km in the Vendee Region of France. My starting point was Chantonay and **the first village I walked to was St Philbert-du-Pont-Charrault.**

As I was walking thru rural France there was little opportunity to enjoy lunch in a café or restaurant. This necessitated purchasing lunch supplies the night before at a grocery or convenience store. Sometimes I purchased a pre-made baguette sandwich in the local boulangerie (bakery) first thing in the morning. I walked thru many small towns where the boulangerie was closed and a baguette dispensing machine was located nearby. I was not tempted to try these machines.

On Friday Sept 21st I stayed with Giles and Monique Pifetteau in Chantonay. Their home is in the center of the town and is very French and old: wallpapered kitchen cupboards, wood floor-boards. I was given a room with two single beds and a sink and shower but the only toilet in the house is located opposite the front entrance of the home. We had a home-made meal of salad, Sheppard's pie, and crème Brule. It was obvious that Monique had planned this dinner for the visiting pilgrim, and I was very touched by their kindness. We drank rose wine with a sort of aperitif added. We spoke all evening -mostly in French. There were times when things got a little lost in translation but overall, we understood each other. I understood that when they were younger, they had walked a great deal, but now they keep the memories alive with visiting pilgrims.

I showed Giles and Monique the outline ancestry document for Allaire/Dallaire and they said they did not know any present-day locals with either surname. They did recognize the name Fleurisson.

I met the mayor of St Michel de Cloucq while obtaining a stamp at the Mairie (town hall). Too bad I did not ask to take a photo of him. He asked me if I was of French origin and perhaps walking in my ancestral homeland. He and his assistant seemed interested to hear of my ancestry. (But still no surname recognition). The mayor brought me to his office and showed me a plaque about a personal ancestral connection he had between France and Quebec-very cool.

Christine at Le Rosier Sauvage (Nieul-sur-L'Autise) mentioned that the mayor of Fontenay le Comte had the last name Allaire and the people who owned the B&B prior to her and her husband also had the last name Allaire. In Christine's words Allaire is a "Vendean" name. I did some research and found that the current surname for the mayor of Fontenay Le Comte is Lalere and so I am wondering if this is a lost in translation issue or perhaps the Allaire surname was for a previous mayor.....

I used a combination of walking, taxis and driving to complete my Ancestral Camino. The taxi-cab drivers were 50% men/women. I had a pre-set story to tell the drivers and for the most part they showed interest and often complimented my French speaking ability. Often the word they used for me was "courageous", especially when they confirmed that I was travelling and walking solo.

But alas, there was very little surname recognition for Allaire or Dallaire.