




Chemins du Fontenay-le-Comte September 2018

Footsteps in the town of **Fontenay-le-Comte** where Pierre Michaud my 7th great grandfather (matrilineal line) was born and lived, before he left France.

And **footsteps** in the **countryside surrounding Fontenay-le-Comte** while I completed an ancestral camino walk during September Of 2018.

MICHAUD / MICHEAU, Pierre	242908
Statut	Marié
Date de naissance	Vers 1637
Lieu d'origine	Fontenay-le-Comte (Vendée) 85092
Lieu actuel	Fontenay-le-Comte
Parents	Anthoine MICHEAU et Marie Train
Métier du père	Marchand mercier
Première mention au pays	1656
Occupation à l'arrivée	Migrant engagé (ct Moreau, La Rochelle, 27-03-1656)
Date de mariage	02-10-1667
Lieu du mariage	Château-Richer (cm Claude Aubert)
Conjoint	Marie Ancelin
Date de décès	Entre le 30-05-1702 et le 08-05-1703
Remarques	En 1656, Pierre Micheau, 18 ans (sic) de Fontenay-le-Comte (N-D), est engagé pour 3 ans, par Jacques Pépin, marchand de La Rochelle (17300). Les actes suivants sont à Fontenay-le-Comte (N-D). Deux frères et deux soeurs sont b/s.: Renée (mère omise), b. 28-08-1622; Estienne, né 1625, s. à 9 ans le 04-02-1634; Thomas, né 00-03-1635, s. à 7 mois le 16-10-1635 et Marie (mère, Marie Servin-?), b. 02-04-1640. Sa mère Marie du Train (Pierre et Marie Michelle), est n/b 20-11-1602; sous Trin (épouse Michaud, mercier), inhumée le 26-05-1662.
Identification*	DGFQ, p. 807 ; DGFC, vol. 1, p. 429
Chercheur(s)	Jean-Paul Macouin ; Josée Tétreault ; Lise Dandonneau
Dossier d'archives	numérisé
Date de modification	2022-03-28



**NOTRE DAME DE
FONTENAY-LE-COMTE**
Pierre Michaud was
baptized here in 1637
Unfortunately, the church
was closed when I visited.

Like many of the churches
around the world there
has been a series of
events over the centuries:
The church was rebuilt in
the 15thC, damaged
during the wars of
religion in the 16th C, was
transformed during the
18th C and finally a series
of restorations took place
during the 19th and 20th
centuries.

Source:

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_Notre-Dame_de_Fontenay-le-Comte



FONTENAY-LE-COMTE

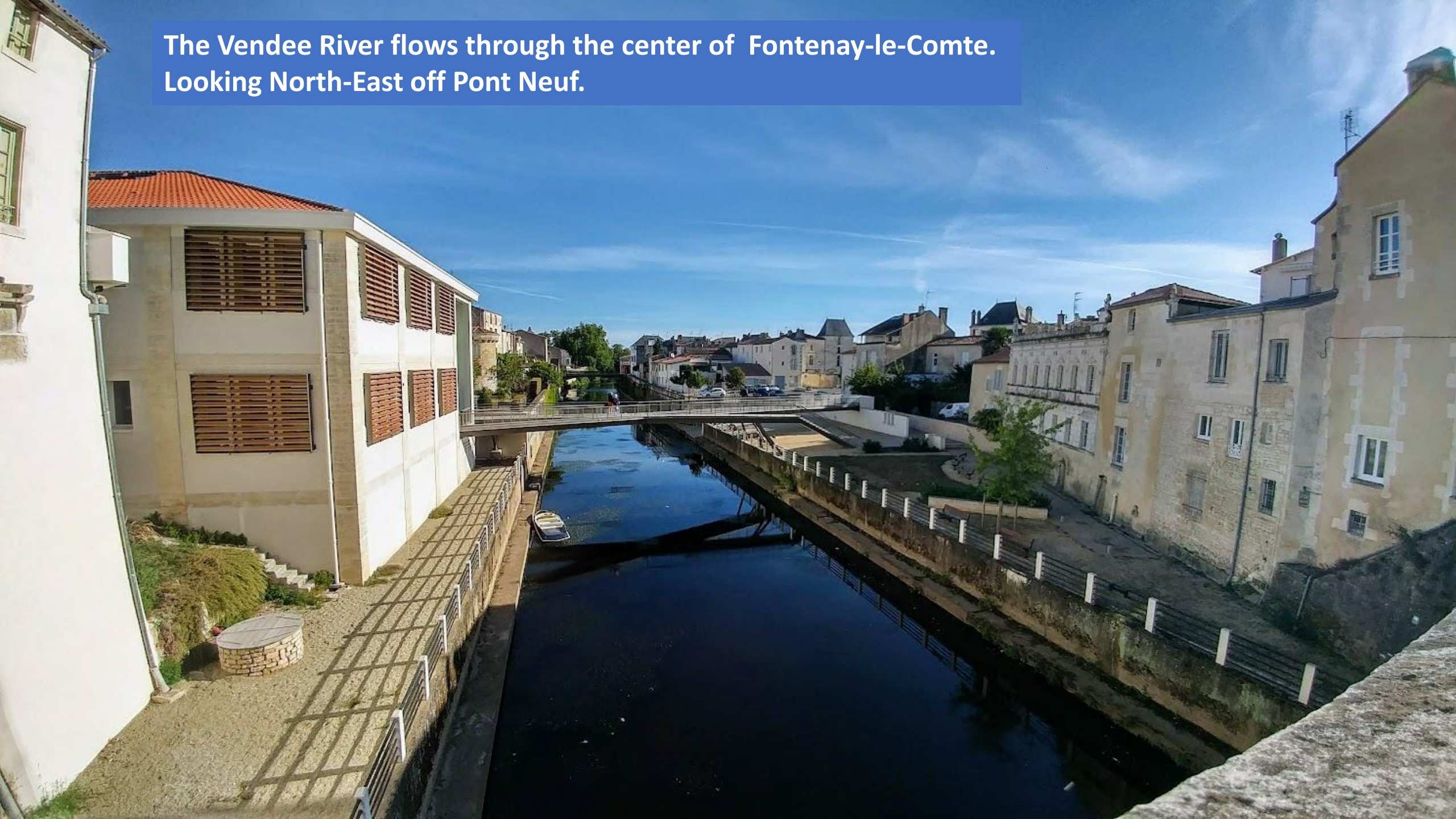
The Hotel de Ville
(City hall) with some
humorous “living”
sculptures in front



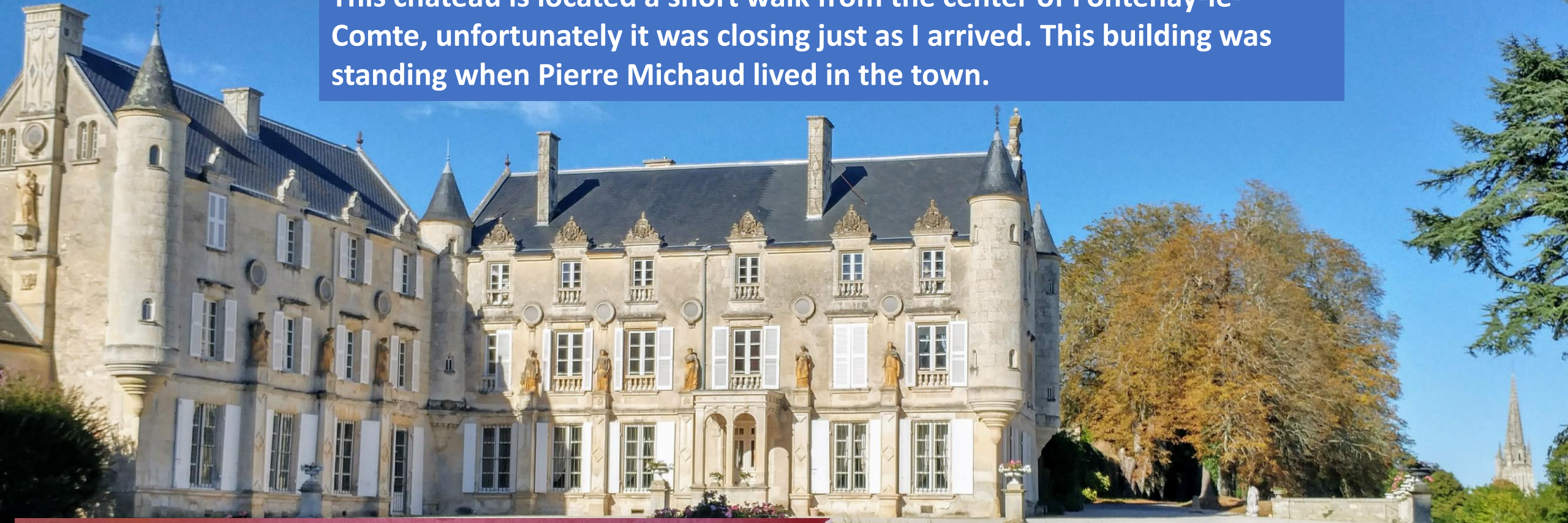


The Vendée River flows through the center of Fontenay-le-Comte. Looking South off Pont Neuf.

The Vendee River flows through the center of Fontenay-le-Comte.
Looking North-East off Pont Neuf.



This chateau is located a short walk from the center of Fontenay-le-Comte, unfortunately it was closing just as I arrived. This building was standing when Pierre Michaud lived in the town.



Métairie de
Terre-Neuve
Moyen Age

Le seigneur
Rapin acquiert
la métairie dite
« Terre-Neuve »
1584

Construction
du « Château
de Plaisance »
1595

Mort de
Nicolas Rapin
1608

Les frères
Lazarites
1700

Révolution
française
1790

Achat par
M Tendron
du Vassé
1805

Nombreux travaux
par Octave de
Rochebrune
2^e moitié 19^e s.

Fontenay-le-Comte

Château de Terre-Neuve

Demeure de la Renaissance 16^e s.

Logis alchimique

Château-manoir du 19^e siècle



Looking back at Fontenay-le-Comte (the spire of Notre Dame is prominent) as I make footsteps completing an ancestral camino walk in the vendee department of France during September 2018.



Views of the French countryside as I walked from St-Michel-Le-Cloucq (5 km NE of Fontenay) to Xanton-Chassenon (10km East of Fontenay) along a windy ridge.



FONTENAY-le-COMTE TODAY

LOCATION: The town of Fontenay-le-Comte is located on the South Vendée River. Niort is 32 km to the south-east; La Rochelle is 42 km to the south-west; Chantonnay is 30 km to the north-west.

POPULATION: 2019 just over 13,000

MAIN ECONONMIC ACTIVITIES:

Land cover for the municipality is marked by the importance of Agriculture as Agriculture land accounts for 65% of the land in the municipality, followed by Urban at 21% and industrial at 10%. The following information is for the “Commune of Fontenay-le-Comte” which includes 114 municipalities: New jobs are found primarily in the services sector with more than 75% of new jobs, industry provides 17%, construction 6% and agriculture only 1%.

When I was walking on my ancestral camino from Chantonnay to St Hilaire du Palud, during September 2018, accommodation was not readily available for the last two stages of the walk. So, I stayed in Fontenay-le-Comte. At the time I had not completed the research for my matrilineal ancestral lineage, so I was not aware that I have an ancestor that was born in this town. Nice subsequent discovery!

Sources: <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fontenay-le-Comte> Accessed 13 August 2022

