



## Chemin d'Amboise June 2023

**Footsteps** in the town of **Amboise** where Francoise Hurteau my 9<sup>th</sup> great grandmother (matrilineal line) was born and lived, before she left France. L'Église Saint-Denis is visible at the top center of the above picture. Also, described here are **footsteps** in the **countryside surrounding Amboise**. These include walking through the Forest d'Amboise where Francoise' godfather was the forest guardian in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

<b>HURTEAU, Françoise</b>		<b>242110</b>
Status	Bride	
Date of baptism	18-11-1666	
Place of origin	Amboise (St-Denis) (Indre-et-Loire) 37003	
current location	Amboise	
Parents	Jean and Françoise De Lahaye	
First mentioned in the country	1680	
Occupancy on arrival	Committed (ct Yandin, Amboise, 21-05-1680)	
wedding date	10-04-1684	
Wedding venue	Pointe-aux-Trembles (Island of Montreal)	
Joint	Antoine Monet	
Death or burial	Longue-Pointe, 28-11-1749	
Identification*	DGFAQ, p. 822	
Researcher(s)	Nicole Pinier	
Modification date	2016-09-18	

<b>HURTEAU, Françoise</b>		<b>242110</b>
Statut	Mariée	
Date de baptême	18-11-1666	
Lieu d'origine	Amboise (St-Denis) (Indre-et-Loire) 37003	
Lieu actuel	Amboise	
Parents	Jean et Françoise De Lahaye	
Première mention au pays	1680	
Occupation à l'arrivée	Engagé (ct Yandin, Amboise, 21-05-1680)	
Date de mariage	10-04-1684	
Lieu du mariage	Pointe-aux-Trembles (Île de Montréal)	
Conjoint	Antoine Monet	
Décès ou inhumation	Longue-Pointe, 28-11-1749	
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Francoise Hurteau was born in Amboise, France which is located along the Loire River. Her parents died shortly after she was born. Her godparents were upper class, honorable man Louys du Tertre who was the guardian of the water and forests of Amboise and honorable lady Madame Beluot. They became guardians for the orphaned Francoise.

In 1680, Francoise (age 14) was engaged (committed) as a domestic servant to Jacques Pillereau, and she made the voyage to New France to begin a new life. Jacques was also born in Amboise as was his comrade, Pierre Perthuis. Both Jacques and Pierre were soldiers in the same company of the Carignan Saliere Regiment. This French regiment arrived in New France in 1665 to protect the French colony from the Iroquois threat. In this era most soldiers adopted a nickname. Jacques Pillereau chose L'Isle d'Or, an obvious reference to the island that lies between the north and south shores of the Loire River at Amboise. Pierre Perthuis chose LaLime which may be a reference to the limestone in and around Amboise. It is likely that Jacques and Pierre lived on the L'Isle d'Or, but we do not know what part of Amboise Francoise lived in.

In the 1681 census for "habitants of Ville Marie" we find Pierre Perthuis on page 66 and the Jacques Pillereau household including Francoise "servant" on page 67.

In 1684, Francoise (age 18) married Antoine Monet at Point-aux-Trembles on the Island of Montreal. Her employer Jacques Pillereau and Catherine & Jeanne Perthuis (daughters of Pierre) are listed as witnesses to the marriage event. Catherine and Jeanne also married and settled at Point-aux-Trembles. It is likely that Francoise, Catherine and Jeanne remained friends for many, many years.

Francoise had 4 children during the years 1685 to 1695. Sadly, her first son died when he was less than 2 weeks old.

Francoise lived to the age of 83, a very long life for those times. When I visited Amboise, I noted the view of the Loire River would have been a memory kept alive for Francoise as she spent many years of her life with a view of the Saint Lawrence River in New France (Quebec).

Francoise Hurteau is my French born ancestress ascending from the matrilineal line of my maternal grandmother Florence Beauchamp.



## OUR WALKING ROUTE THROUGH THE FOREST D'AMBOISE

We walked along bike route 47: "La voie royale"

The map below shows that our route (see black rectangular outline) followed an ancient pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela.



Map Source: Gaugain, Lucie, Amboise Ville "Royale" –Maisons et Hotels des XVst Et XVIe Siecles, Region Centre, 2010.



## **FOREST D'AMBOISE**

**We walked through a vibrant oak (beech) forest. Almost all the 6,000 hectares of the forest is privately owned today. Intensive forest management was apparent as selective harvesting is being used. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Francoise Hurteau's godfather Louys du Tertre was guardian of the water and forests of Amboise.**

When I walked thru the Amboise Forest, I was surprised to see these piles of short small lengths of oak timber. The selective logging was obvious but why was the timber being cut this way? Turns out these are rough cut oak barrel staves. They will be air dried for at least 2 years before being manufactured into oak wine barrels.





Left:  
AMBOISE FOREST  
MAP dated 1668.

Below:  
Google aerial  
image of the  
forest today.

Plan de la forêt royale d'Amboise. 1668.

Source: gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France  
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8443589k.r=amboise%20foret?rk=150215;2#> Accessed 9 August 2023



## EGLISE SAINT-DENIS, AMBOISE

Francoise Hurteau was baptized here in 1666.



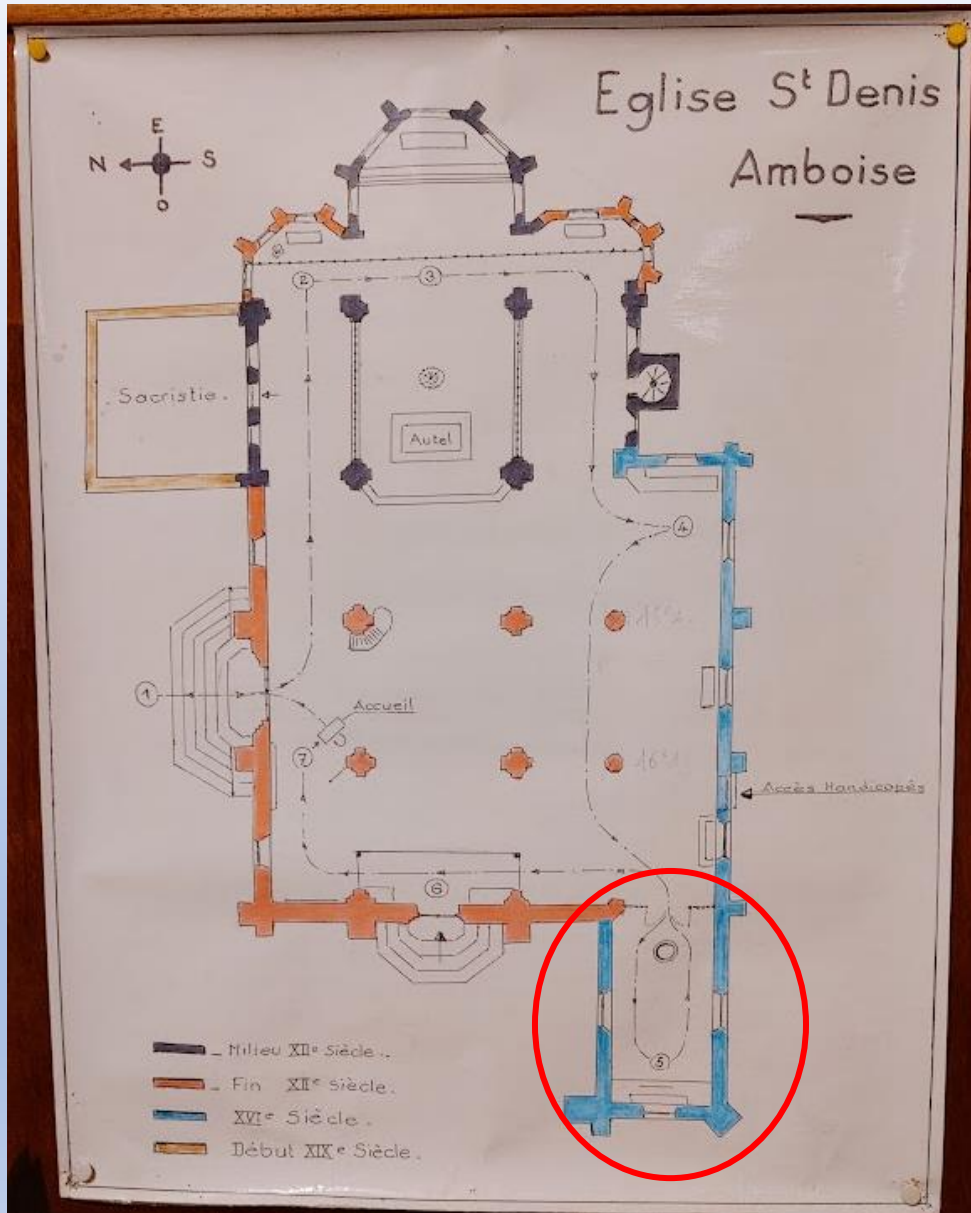
Construction of this magnificent Romanesque church occurred during the 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Bell tower is 18<sup>th</sup> C.



EGLISE SAINT-DENIS



## EGLISE SAINT-DENIS



**LEFT:** The plan of the church with color coding showing what century the various areas of the church were completed. The baptismal chapel (see red circle) was constructed during the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**RIGHT:** The Baptismal Chapel where Françoise Hurteau was baptized during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



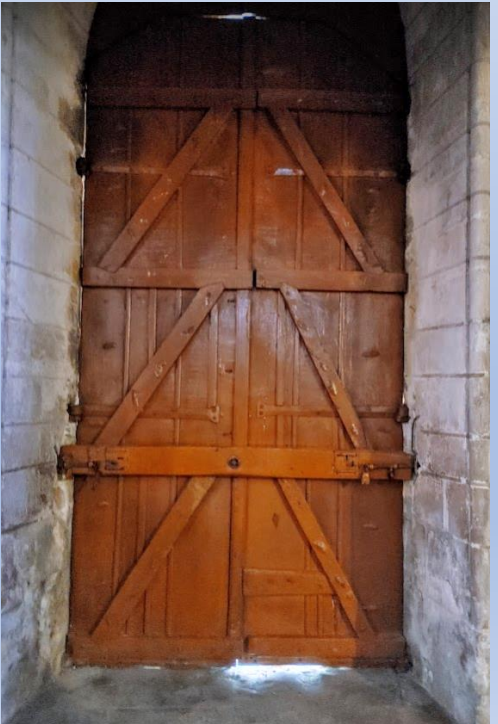
# EGLISE SAINT-DENIS



**LEFT: List of senior priests at Saint-Denis since 1803. The first name Martin Heurtault provides evidence of the family surname surviving through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

**Spelling of the Hurteau surname differs amongst various sources:**  
Family search records -Hurteau, Hureault  
Fichier Origine record -Hurteau  
Nos Origines record –Hurtault and Heurtault  
Entry in Ces Villes et Villages –Hurto or Hurteau  
Wedding record on Généalogie Quebec–Hurteau

**BELOW: The present-day entrance door of the church (see below far left) was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> C. Francoise and her family would have used one of the 2 older entrances along the south wall.**

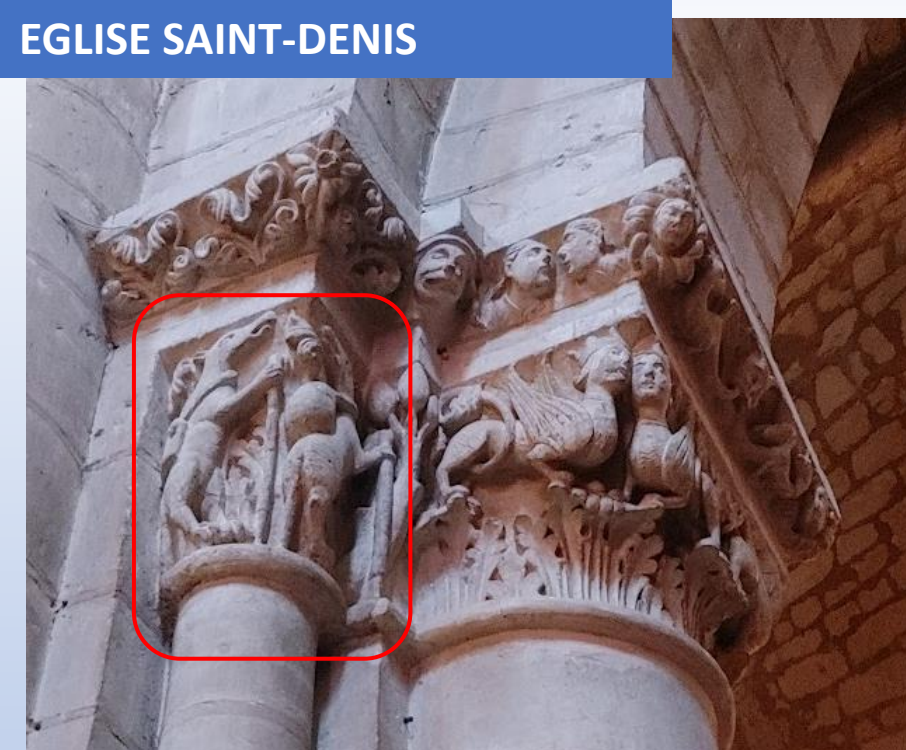


THE CHURCH PILLARS HAVE FANTASTIC CARVINGS

They would have been visible to my ancestor Francoise Hurteau.

TOP FAR LEFT: The wolf Ysengrin and his wife Hersent are in pilgrim outfits, back on the back and bumble in hand because Amboise is on the pilgrim route going to Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle. These two characters are from stories the Middle Ages by Roman de Renart.

BOTTOM FAR RIGHT: This pillar has fabulous carvings of monsters and animals. On the right is a women doing a headstand.



## AMBOISE CHATEAU ROYAL



View of Amboise Chateau (background) and buildings along Rue de la Concorde/Quai Charles Guinot (foreground) from Ile d'Or .

The St. Hubert Chapel where the remains of Leonardo Da Vinci supposedly reside is under scaffolding on the right side of picture (see red oval).

## Heurtault Tower



Constructed during the late 15<sup>th</sup> C, this tower was the second of the two “cavalry” towers built at Chateau Amboise. It was a unique solution to provide easy access to horsemen on the rocky slope that the Chateau occupies on the banks of the Loire River. Why was the tower named Heurtault? Is there an ancestral story to be discovered? I will continue to seek answers to these questions.





**Above: View looking towards L'Île D'Or from the Amboise Chateau terrace. Below looking East.**

**AMBOISE CHATEAU today.** A former residence of the kings of France, after the late 16<sup>th</sup> century royal stays became increasingly rare. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century the chateau became a prison, was briefly occupied by the Duke of Orleans in the 1660s, then reverted to a prison once again until the 18th century. It was therefore likely a prison during the time that Françoise Hurteau lived in Amboise.

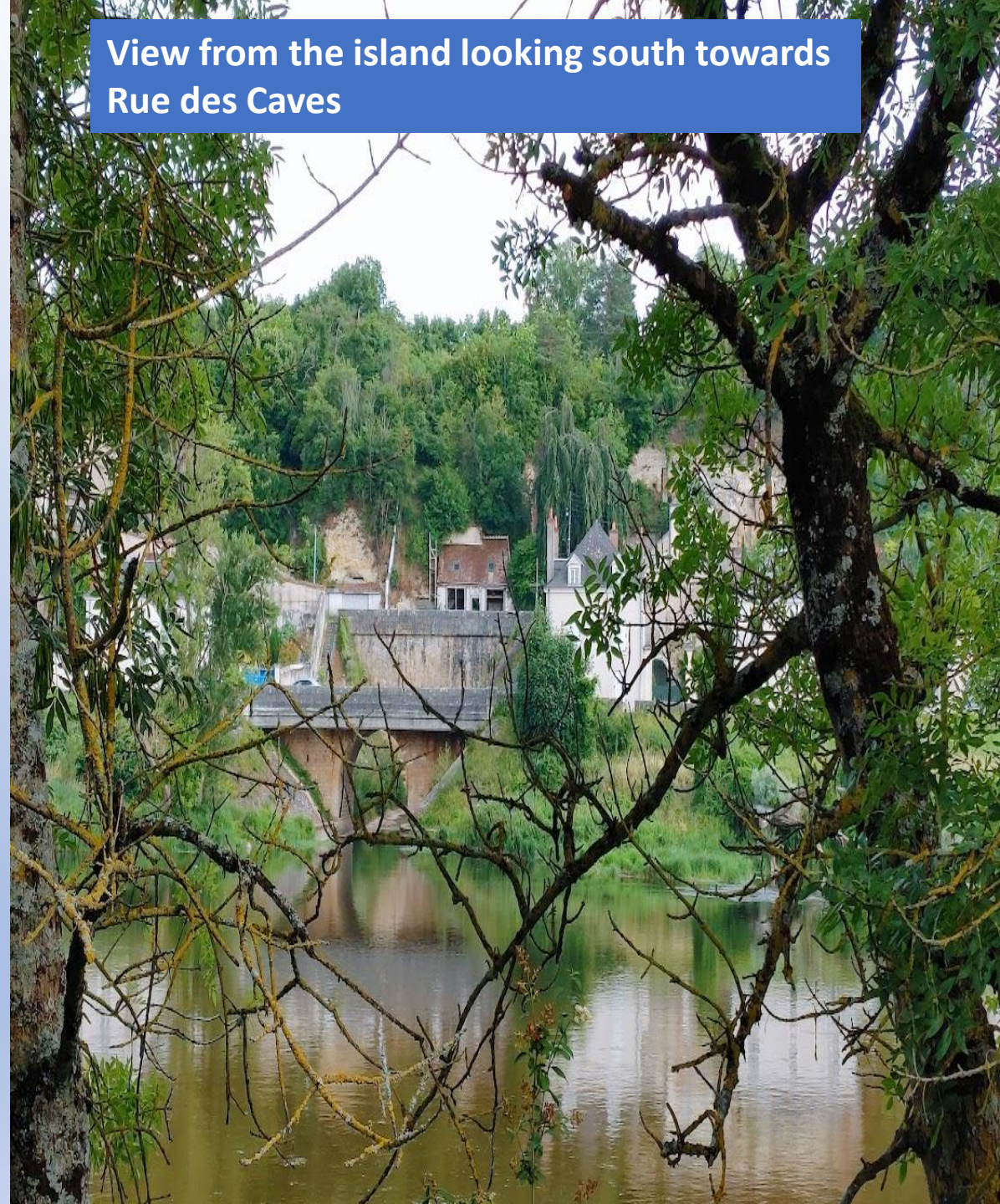


L'Île d'Or

Looking towards the island



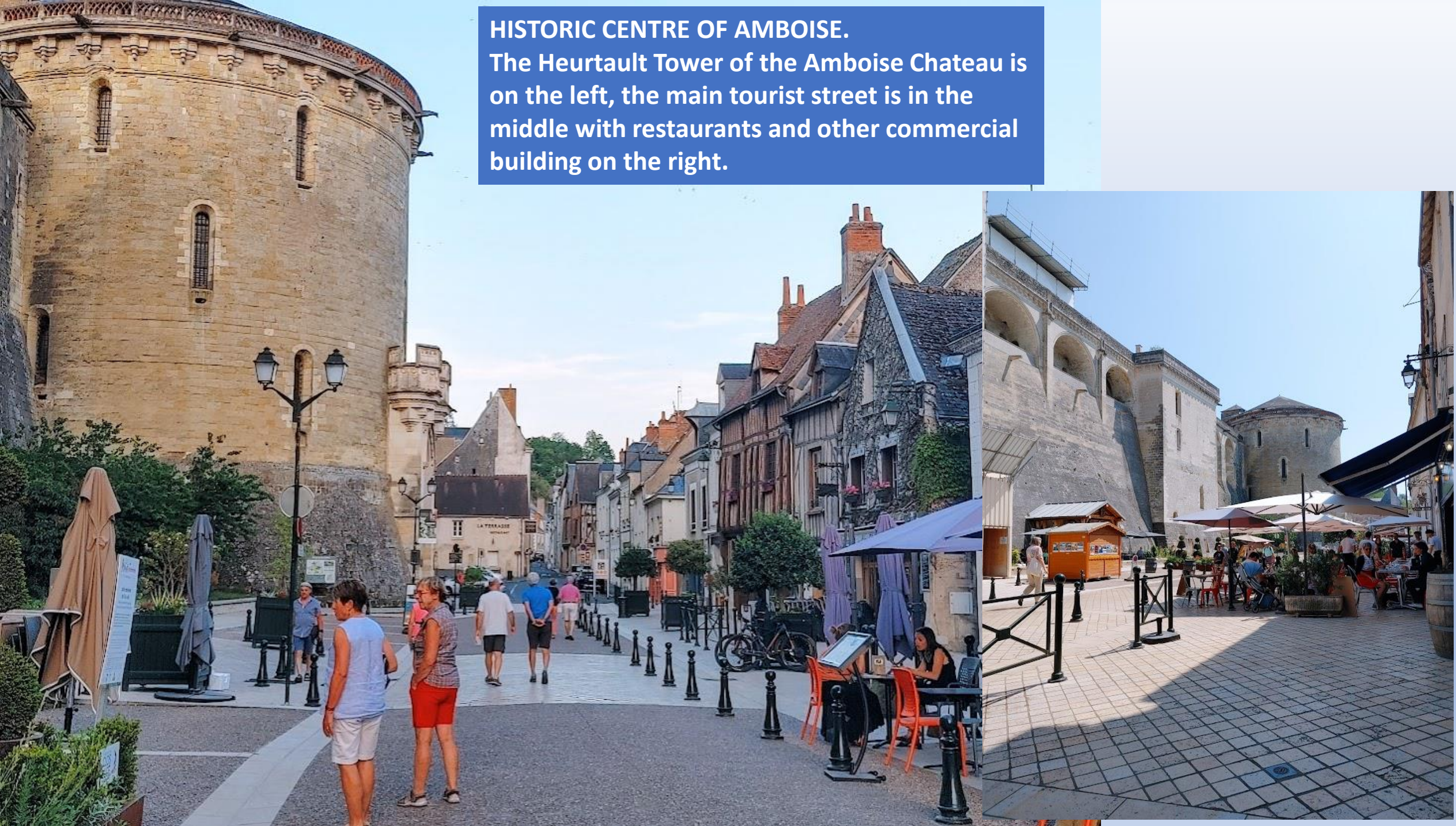
View from the island looking south towards Rue des Caves





## HISTORIC CENTRE OF AMBOISE.

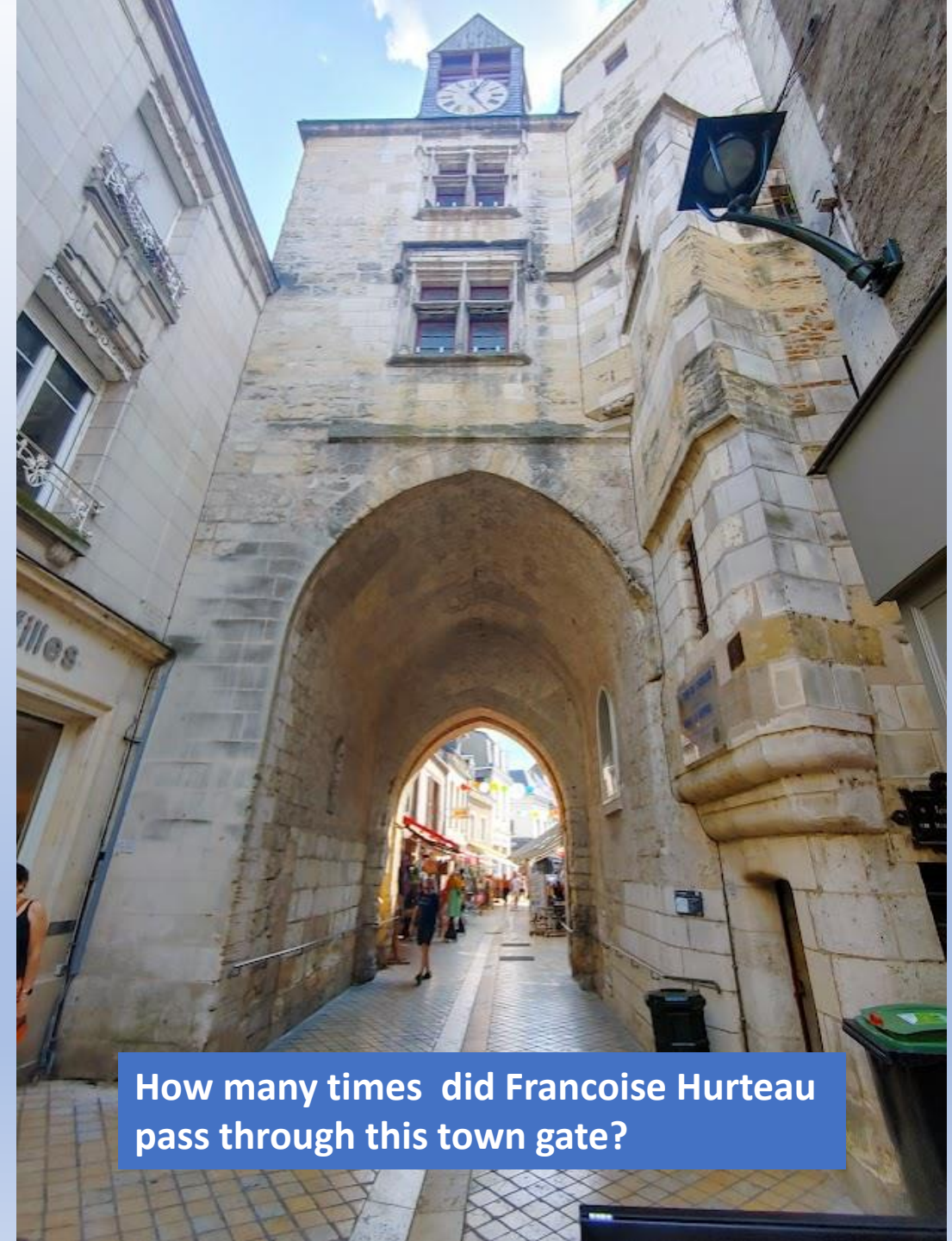
The Heurtault Tower of the Amboise Chateau is on the left, the main tourist street is in the middle with restaurants and other commercial building on the right.



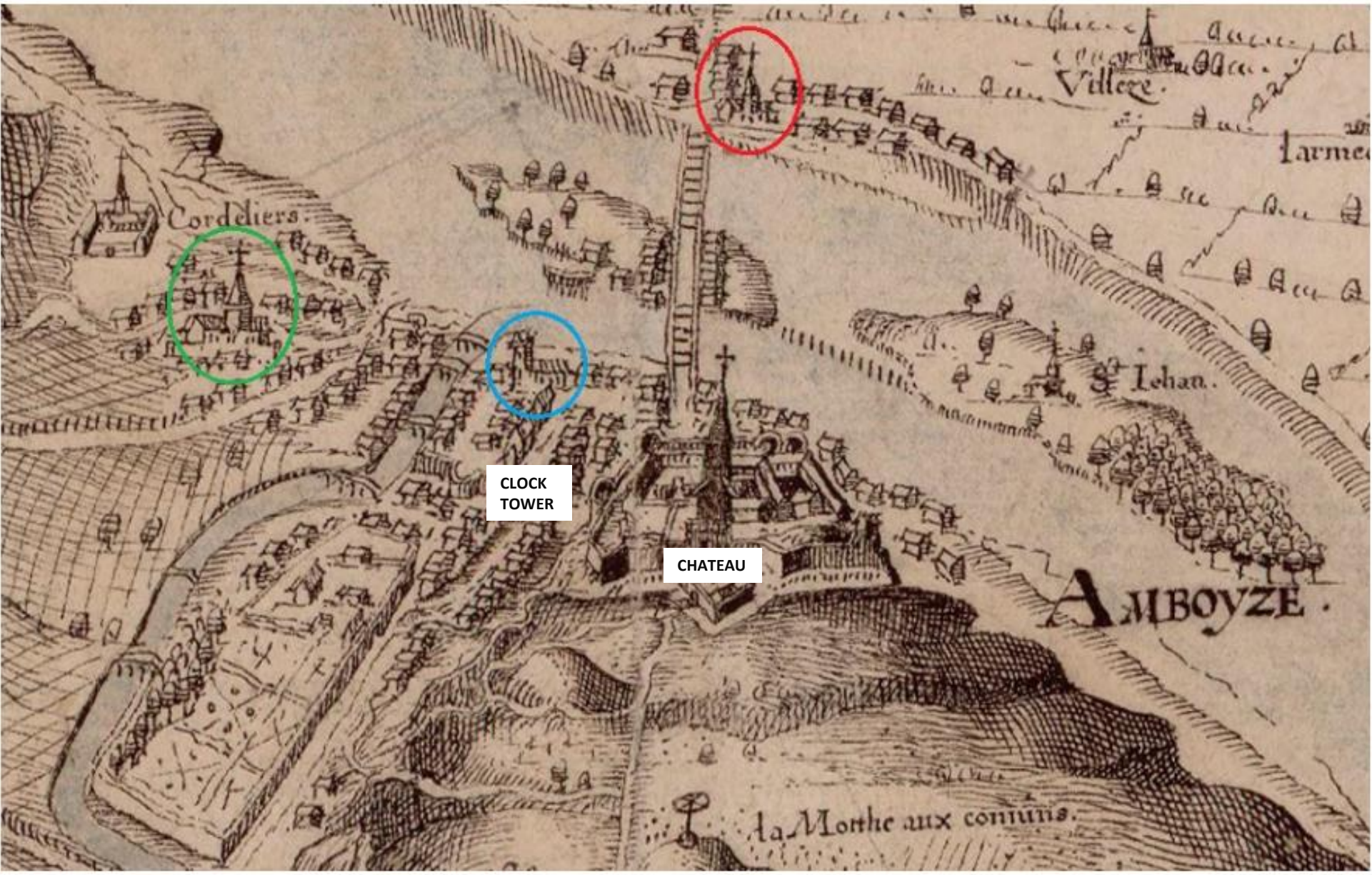
# SHOPPING STREETS IN HISTORIC CENTRE OF AMBOISE.



**15<sup>th</sup> Century  
CLOCK TOWER**  
During the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was the main gate of the city. When a flour mill was built and powered by the river Amasse, it became known as The Mill Gate. The mill was here until as late as 1800. The gate was also known as The Alms Gate. This is where the poor received charity.



**How many times did Francoise Hurteau pass through this town gate?**



Here is an ancient map of Amboise circa 1610-1619. It shows the town and the chateau with the 3 churches circled:

**Red:** Notre-Dame-du-Bout-des-Ponts 16<sup>th</sup> C:



**Green:** Saint-Denis 12<sup>th</sup> C:



**Blue:** Saint Florentin 15<sup>th</sup> C:



Ancient map of Amboise prepared by Gilles Brassard: <https://conversationsancetres.wordpress.com/tag/genealogie-quebec/page/8/> Accessed 3 August 2023

## Amboise town map

An inventory of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century buildings was completed in 2010. It includes 28 houses.

I took pictures of only 7 of these as I did not find the heritage trail document during my visit to Amboise.

The pictures for the numbered red circles follow on the next slides.



Clock Tower Location

On the Island d'Or there are two half timbered houses which are included in the inventory of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century buildings prepared by Lucie Gaugain (see reference and link on the next slide).  
Did Francoise and her family live on the island or in the central town area? Her New France employer lived on the Island.....

**1. 11 rue de l'Entrepont**



**2. 5 rue de l'Entrepont**



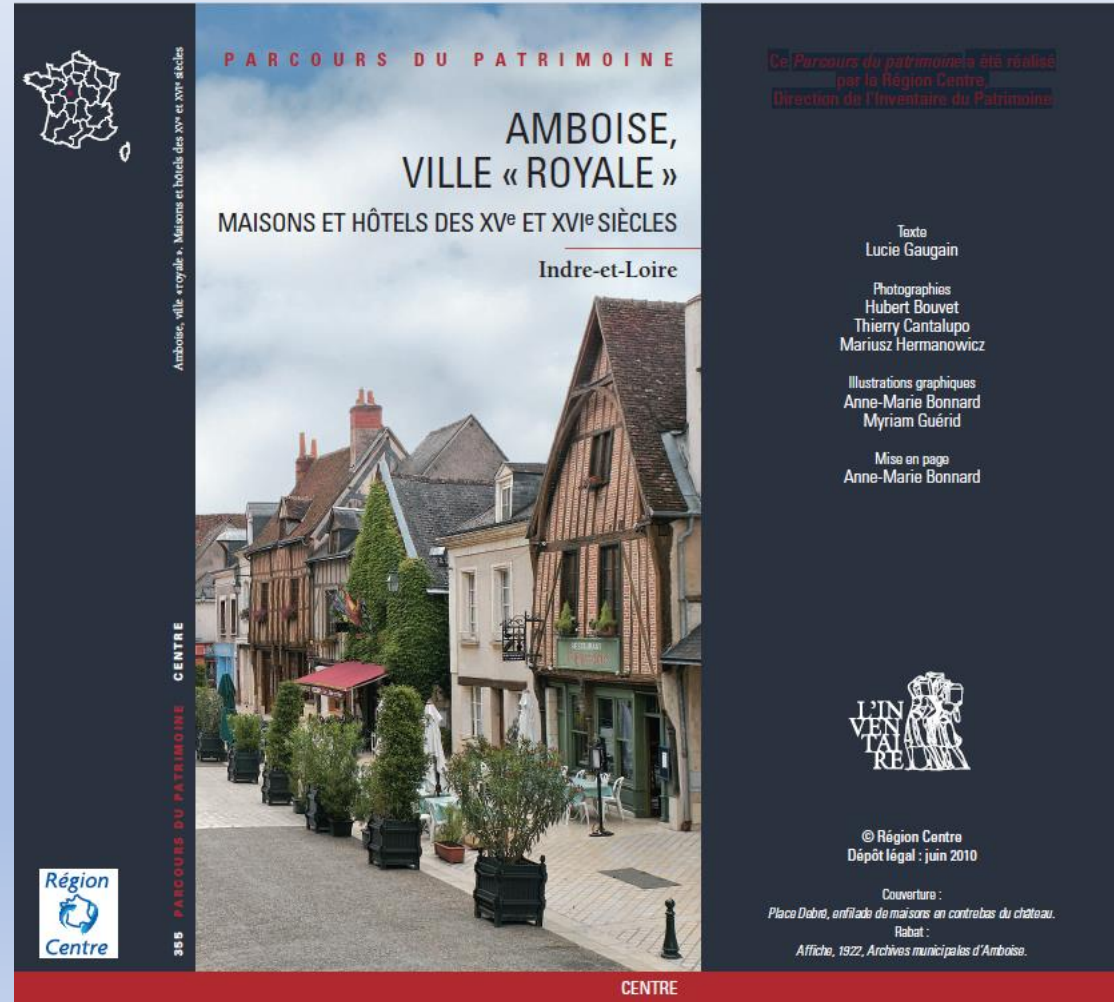
### 3. 66 rue de la Concorde



Below is an image of first page of the Heritage Trail document written by Lucie Gaugain for the Centre Region, Heritage Inventory Department of France.

It is available for download at

[https://www.academia.edu/40712411/Amboise\\_ville\\_royale\\_maisons\\_et\\_h%C3%B4tels\\_des\\_XVe\\_et\\_XVIe\\_si%C3%A8cles](https://www.academia.edu/40712411/Amboise_ville_royale_maisons_et_h%C3%B4tels_des_XVe_et_XVIe_si%C3%A8cles) Accessed 3 August 2023.



#### 5. 52 place Michel Debré

One of the narrowest facades in Amboise –there are two buildings on the plot – dated 1504 and 1543

#### 4. 54 place Michel Debré

Dated 1512 one of the best preserved and richest facades in Amboise



#### 6. 46 place Michel Debré

Parts of this building have been dated to 1485





7. 11 place Richelieu



We stayed at this half-timbered 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century hotel (see left) for one night and the gites (see above) for another 2 nights. The hotel site mentions that this building was first a boarding house for young girls. Is it possible that orphaned Françoise Hurteau may have lived here?

# HISTORIAL AMBOISE

- The site of Amboise has been occupied for more than 2000 years, first by Celts and then the Romans. Sadly, nothing remains of Roman Amboise. Chateau Amboise –a mighty fortress was that has been extensively built over many centuries dominated the town during the middle ages. It is still does that today. Chateau Amboise became a royal fortress when it was attached to the crown in 1434. Amboise was the political capital of the Kingdom of France from King Charles VIII to Francis I (1483 to 1547).
- A huge construction project at the Chateau Amboise took place during the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and early 16<sup>th</sup> century. At least 4 kings sponsored this major effort from 1492 to about 1560: King Charles VIII, Louis XII, Francois 1 and Henri 11. Imagine the town bustling with stone masons, carpenters, carters, boaters and labourers plus all the towns people providing food, lodging and supplies.
- In the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, the war between Catholics and Protestants (Wars of Religion), was followed by the plague and the events all but ended this ‘golden age’ of Loire Valley history. The French Kings retreated to Paris and their grand Chateaux became glorious relics of a bygone age.
- When my ancestor Françoise Hurteau was born during the 17<sup>th</sup> century (about 1666), Chateau Amboise was no longer a royal residence, it had been transformed into a prison.

What do we know about Amboise at the time that Françoise lived there?

Population: At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Intendant Miromesnil reports a population of about 3200 inhabitants.

Economy: Agriculture, winemaking, salt, were some of the major economic activities.

Religion: During this time, the re-establishment of the Catholic Church occurred. This meant there was an increase in the number of convents and seminaries within the Loire Valley.

Administration: From 1639 until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the Barony of Amboise a Bailli represented the king in the city.

Amboise was the seat of an Election, a Salt Granary and a Control of Waters and Forests.

## AMBOISE TODAY

**LOCATION:** Amboise is a small commune/market town located in the Indre-et-Loire department in central France. Amboise lies on the banks of the Loire river, 27 km east of Tours and 35 km southwest of Blois. The Loire river remains a wild river and is the longest river that is entirely in France. Amboise station, on the north bank of the Loire, has rail connections to Orleans, Blois and Tours.



**POPULATION:** 2017 just under 13,000.

### MAIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES:

Amboise has a thriving tourism-related business community. Until 2021, it was also the headquarters of Mecachrome, a precision engineering company that operates in the aerospace, motor racing, energy and defense sectors.

I stayed in Amboise for 3 nights in June 2023. The town is very tourist orientated with a lovely location on the banks of the Loire River. The Amboise chateau and its lovely gardens have a prominent position in the town. The main tourist street is located along the foot of the chateau walls and features some 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century buildings. Dinners included delicious local fish and traditional French “galettes”. A day tour of Chateau Villandry and Chateau d’Azay Le Rideau plus two wineries near Chinon was how I celebrated another birthday.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amboise> Accessed 4 August 2023