

Chemin du Châteaudun June 2023

Footsteps in the town of **Châteaudun** where Marie Chevreau my 9th great grandmother (matrilineal line) was born (1645) and lived until she left France in 1665.

L'Église Saint Valérien where Marie was baptized is at the top center of the picture (see red outline). Église de la Madeleine is to the right of the Chateau.

Also, described here are **footsteps** in the **countryside surrounding Châteaudun**. These include walking along the Loir River to a forested natural preserve "Le Bois des Gâts"

CHEVREAU, Marie	240898
Statut	Mariée
Date de naissance	26-09-1645
Date de baptême	26-09-1645
Lieu d'origine	Châteaudun (St-Valérien) (Eure-et-Loir) 28088
Lieu actuel	Châteaudun
Parents	Catherin et Étienne Jallu
Première mention au pays	1665
Occupation à l'arrivée	Fille du roi
Date de mariage	29-10-1665
Lieu du mariage	Québec (Notre-Dame)
Conjoint	René Réaume ou Réame
Décès ou inhumation	Château-Richer, 27-02-1724
Remarques	Sa mère est baptisée à Châteaudun (St-Valérien) le 08-02-1615. En France, elle est prénommée Estienne, Anthoinette et Thiénette, dans les actes des enfants. Devenue veuve, Thiénette Jallu, m-2 à Châteaudun (St-Valérien), le 30-09-1653 avec Philippe Pastier. Quatre frères et quatre soeurs sont nés et baptisés à Châteaudun (St-Valérien) : Claude, le 05-10-1636 ; Jean, le 18-04-1638 ; Rose, le 16-03-1639; Julien, le 08-02-1641; Suzanne, le 26-01-1643 ; René, le 01-12-1647 ; Marguerite et Michelle (jumelles), le 28-02-1650. En 1665, ses parents sont nommés François Chevreau et Antoinette Jallée. Ses grands-parents maternels sont Jean Jallu et Catherine Joncquet.
Identification*	DGFQ, p. 970
Chercheur(s)	Denis E. Amyot ; Lise Dandonneau ; Roger LeBlanc
Référence*	DGO, tome 1, p. 93

Marie Chevreau was a Filles du Roi (Daughter of the King)-she is mentioned in my Blog story [Atlantic Crossings of my French Ancestors -Part 2](#). Her dowry of 200 L was large for the times (most often the dowry was 50L), she had 4 brothers and 4 sisters, and her father died when she was only 7 years old. Her mother, who was an only child, Etienne Jallu remarried in 1653 to Phillippe Pastier (no children).

Marie Chevreau crossed the Atlantic together as part of one of the largest contingent of Filles du Roi. The ship was Saint-Jean-Baptiste (300 tons) carrying about 90 Filles du Roi and 30 Engagees. The ship sailed from Dieppe and arrived in Quebec city on October 2, 1665.

Less than a month later, on October 29, 1665 Marie would marry Rene Reaume, a master carpenter from Aytre, New Aquitaine France. Marie and Rene had 13 children together! They had 11 boys and 2 girls. 5 of their sons would become voyagers. Voyageurs transported goods and furs by canoe.

Their 6th son (Rene -not a voyageur) became a captain of the militia on the Beapre coast. Some believe that this son died on the battlefield of the Plains of Abraham defending New France.

The couple are considered as founding pioneers for Charlesbourg, QC. The life story for Rene Reaume and Marie Chevreau is written up in volume 1 of "Our French Ancestors" by TJ La Forest.

Marie Chevreau most likely would have walked from Chateaudun to Dieppe, a journey of about 300 kms. Marie was one of only 5 pioneers of New France originating from Chateaudun that are documented in [Ces Villes et Villages \(Volume 6\)](#). Marie Chevreau is my French born ancestress ascending from the matrilineal line of my paternal grandmother Andrea Timm.

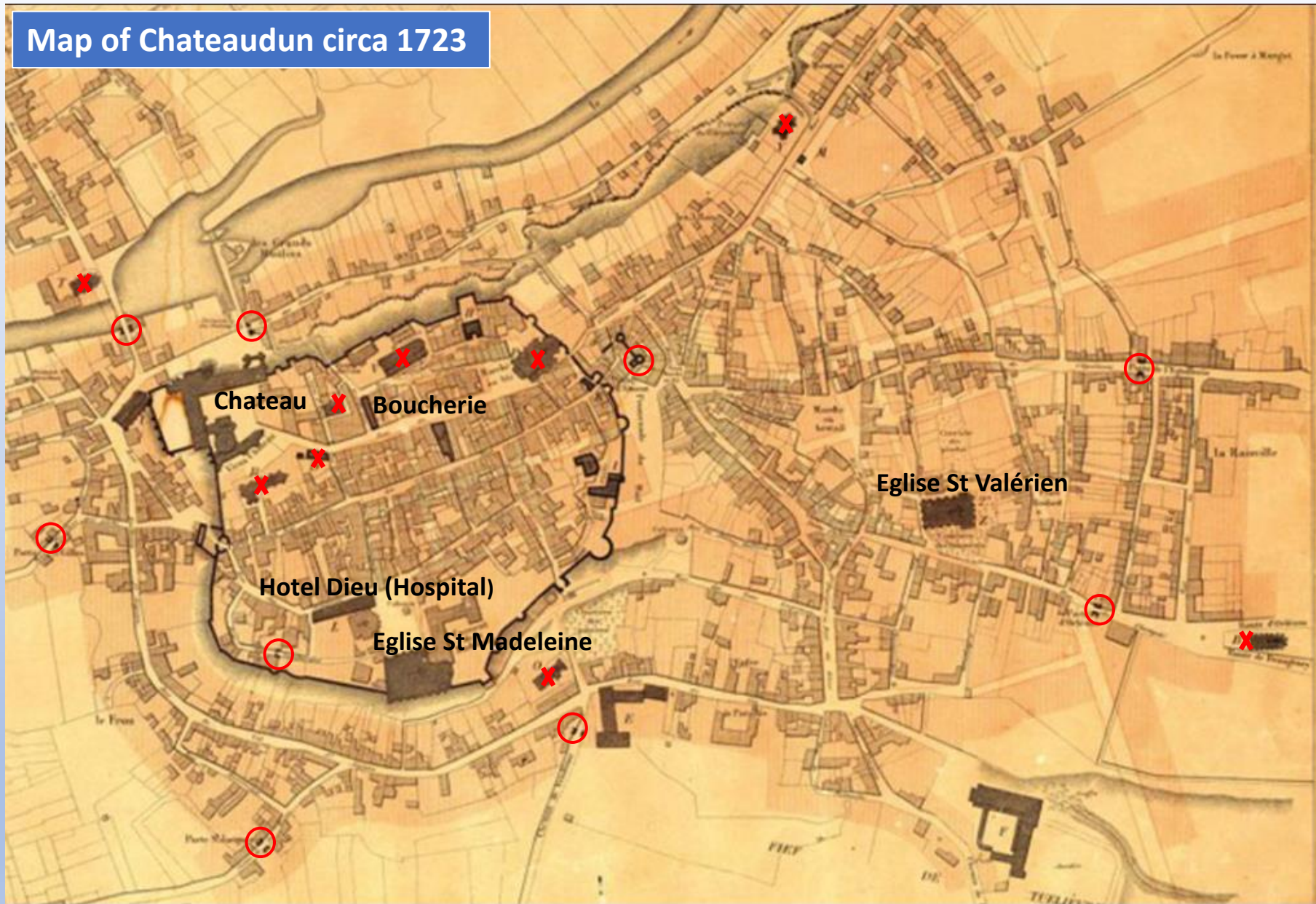
Aerial View of Châteaudun that includes some ancient town walls.
Eglise de la Madeleine is on the far right –Eglise Saint-Valérien cannot be seen in this view.



An image of Chateaudun showing the ancient town walls circa 1644.
Marie Chevreau my 9th great grandmother was born here in 1645.



Map of Chateaudun circa 1723



Chateaudun had many churches. On the map to the left, they are marked with a red X except for Madeleine and Valerien, which are labelled with their names.

The gates to the town are marked with a circle. Unfortunately, these town gates have disappeared over the years.

Some of the town walls are outlined in black.

Plan of the town of Châteaudun before the fire of 1723

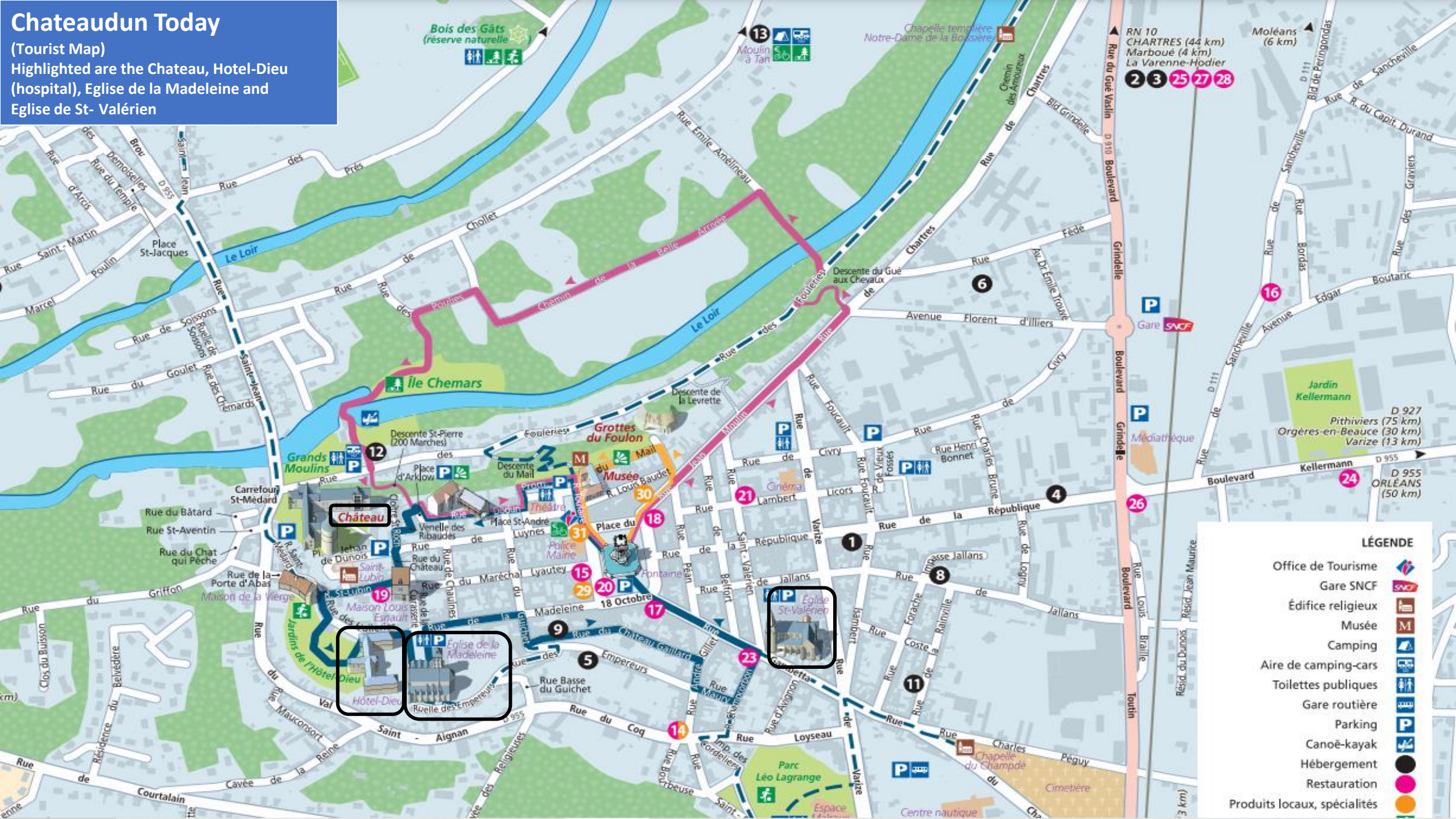
Source for Map: <https://www.chateaudun-tourisme.fr/planifier/visites/histoire-de-la-ville> Accessed 15 August 2023

Source for Map Details: Gallica.bnf.fr /Bibliothèque nationale de France

Chateaudun Today

(Tourist Map)

Highlighted are the Chateau, Hotel-Dieu (hospital), Eglise de la Madeleine and Eglise de St- Valerien



LÉGENDE	
Office de Tourisme	
Gare SNCF	
Édifice religieux	
Musée	
Camping	
Aire de camping-cars	
Toilettes publiques	
Gare routière	
Parking	
Canoë-kayak	
Hébergement	
Restauration	
Produits locaux, spécialités	



TOWN HALL

The Town Hall was destroyed by the great fire that ravaged the city in 1723 and was only rebuilt in 1777 by Pierre Touffaire.

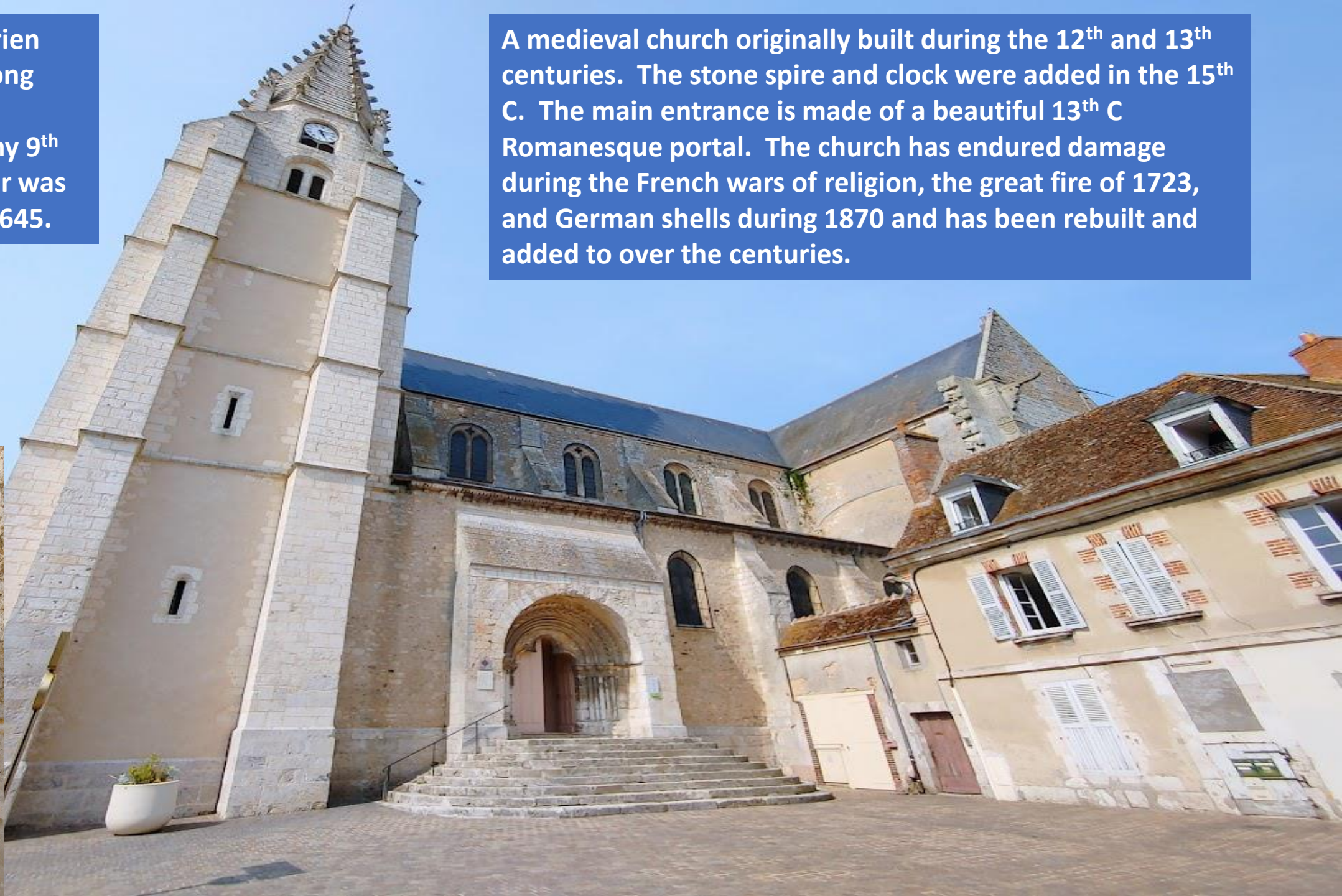
Louis XV charged Jules Hardouin, architect of the king, to rebuild the city with a new plan which is a model of 18th century city planning.

The Town Hall was built on the former Place Royale, which became Place du 18 Octobre in 1884, in memory of the fierce battle that took place here in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War.

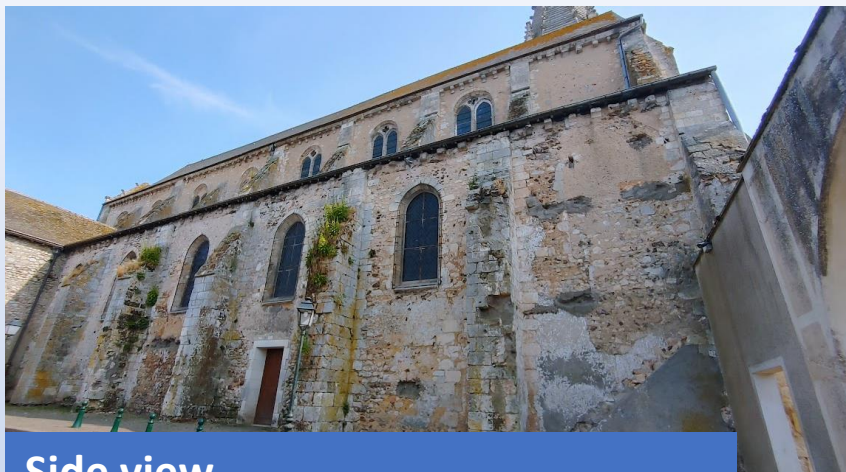
This heroic resistance allowed Châteaudun the right to display the Cross of the Légion d'Honneur on its coat of arms.

EGLISE Saint-Valérien
Front Entrance along
Rue Gambetta
Marie Chevreau my 9th
great grandmother was
baptized here in 1645.

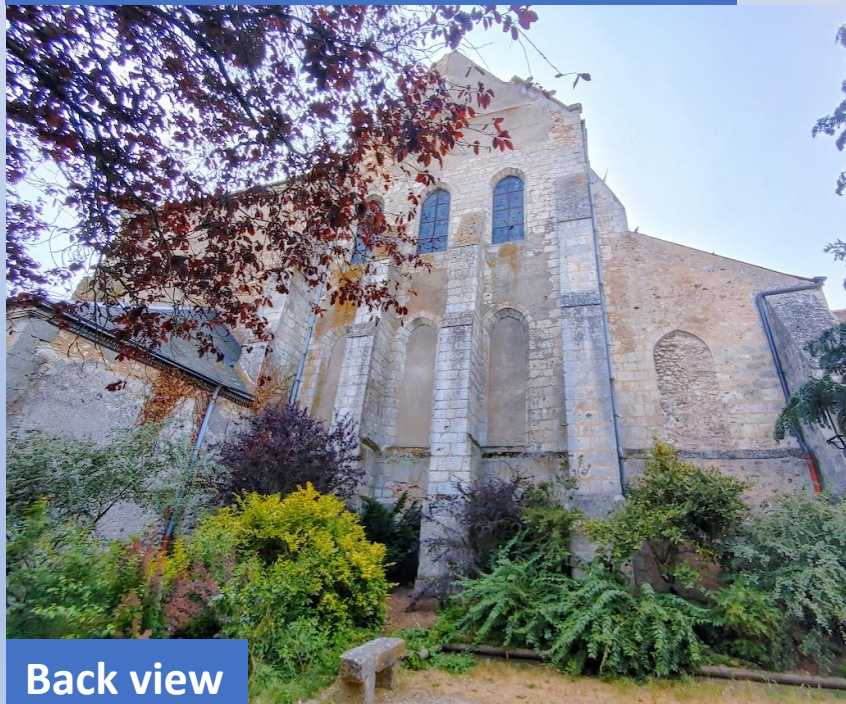
A medieval church originally built during the 12th and 13th centuries. The stone spire and clock were added in the 15th C. The main entrance is made of a beautiful 13th C Romanesque portal. The church has endured damage during the French wars of religion, the great fire of 1723, and German shells during 1870 and has been rebuilt and added to over the centuries.



EGLISE Saint-Valérien Additional Exterior Views



Side view



Back view



Side view along Rue Saint-Valérien

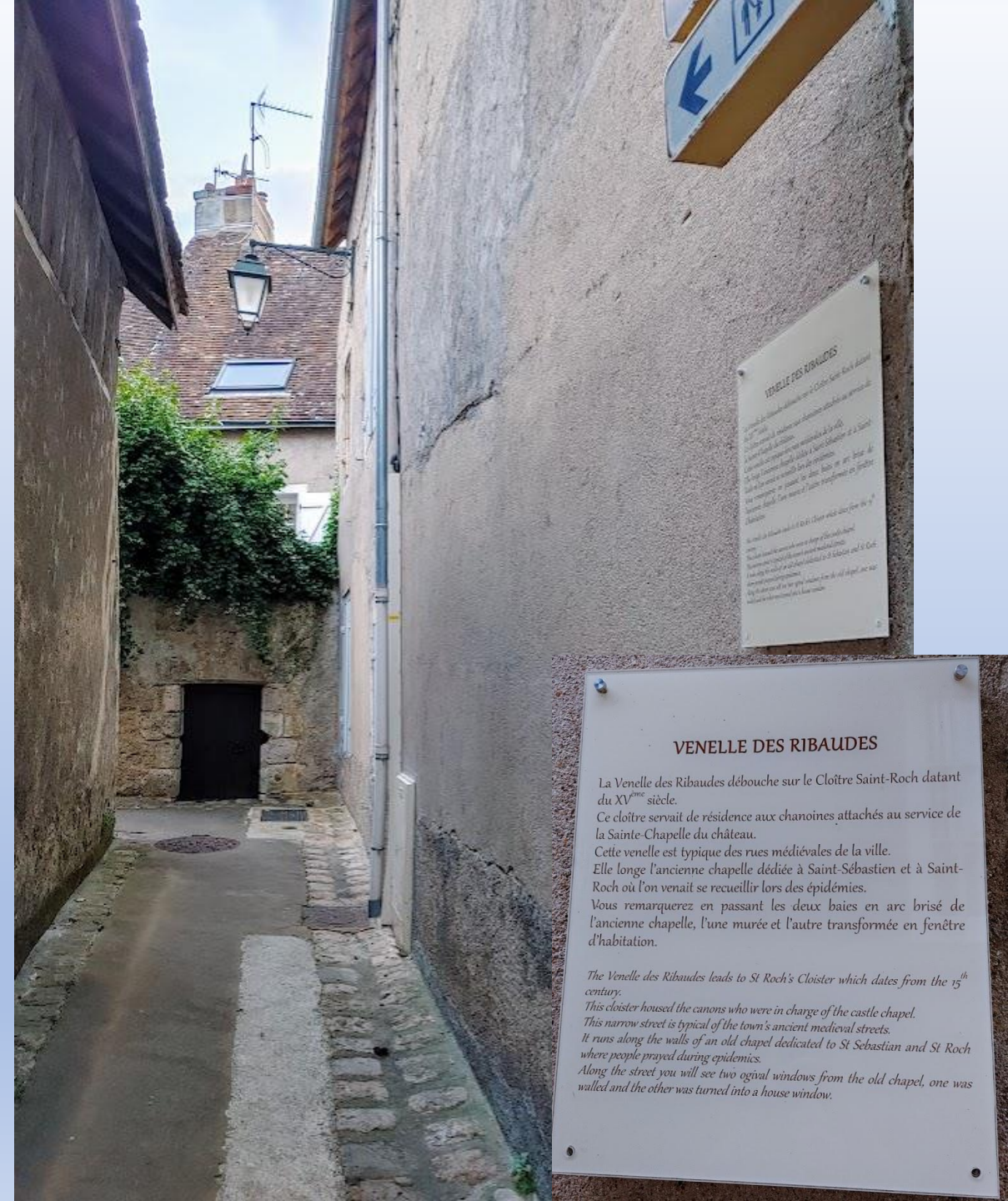


EGLISE Saint-Valérien Interior Views

VENELLE DES RIBAUTES

Right: This narrow street is typical of the town's medieval streets. It runs along the walls of an old chapel dedicated to St Sebastien and St Roch were people prayed during epidemics.

Below: Further along this street you see two original windows from the old chapel, one was walled and the other was turned into a house window.



VENELLE DES RIBAUTES

La Venelle des Ribaudes débouche sur le Cloître Saint-Roch datant du XV^{ème} siècle.
Ce cloître servait de résidence aux chanoines attachés au service de la Sainte-Chapelle du château.
Cette venelle est typique des rues médiévales de la ville.
Elle longe l'ancienne chapelle dédiée à Saint-Sébastien et à Saint-Roch où l'on venait se recueillir lors des épidémies.
Vous remarquerez en passant les deux baies en arc brisé de l'ancienne chapelle, l'une murée et l'autre transformée en fenêtre d'habitation.

*The Venelle des Ribaudes leads to St Roch's Cloister which dates from the 15th century.
This cloister housed the canons who were in charge of the castle chapel.
This narrow street is typical of the town's ancient medieval streets.
It runs along the walls of an old chapel dedicated to St Sebastian and St Roch where people prayed during epidemics.
Along the street you will see two ogival windows from the old chapel, one was walled and the other was turned into a house window.*

ST ROCH'S CLOISTER

Far Right: This 15th century gate allowed the cloister to be isolated during epidemics.

Below: The gate is attached to the building which is situated at the start of the Place Jehan de Denois.



15th C Gate



CLOÎTRE SAINT-ROCH

La Maison du Chapitre constituait l'ancien « chartrier » des chanoines, où les chartes étaient conservées. Elle est dénommée aujourd'hui Maison Lumière en référence à la famille d'Ernest Lumière, maire de la ville de 1870 à 1872. La Maison du Belvédère, à droite, était la demeure du Prévôt des chanoines de la Sainte-Chapelle et de Saint-Roch. La porte du XV^{ème} siècle, sur la gauche, était chargée d'isoler le cloître en cas d'épidémie.

ST ROCH'S CLOISTER

La Maison du Chapitre housed the library of the canons where charters were kept. It was named after Ernest Lumière, a former owner who was also mayor of the town from 1870 to 1872. La Maison du Belvédère, on the right, was the house of the head of the canons who were in charge of the castle chapel and St Roch's chapel. The 15th century gate, on the left, allowed the cloister to be isolated during epidemics.

CHATEAU Châteaudun

The big tower on the left was built in the 12th C. The tower was embellished and the extended in the 15th C (Dunois wing). During the 16th C the building on the far right was added (Longueville wing). So, this impressive chateau existed when Marie Chevreau lived in Châteaudun for the first 20 years of her life.

Big Tower

Dunois Wing

Longueville Wing



PLACE JEHAN DE DUNOIS
Half timbered medieval
house located steps away
from the Chateau.



MAISON LOUIS ESNAULT located along Rue St Lubin.

Louis Esnault was an architect of the *Bâtiments de France* (Buildings of France) who restored this house. This half-timbered house is an upper middle-class house from the 16th C.

Picture to Immediate Right: The top floor is half-timbered with beams forming Saint Andrew's crosses. The end of each joist (between top floor and ground floor) is carved with medallions and human heads.

Picture Far Upper Right: The ground floor stone façade features Renaissance pilasters.



MAISON LOUIS ESNAULT
(Ancien architecte des *Bâtiments de France*)

Maison à pans de bois, demeure bourgeoise du XVI^{ème} siècle.
La façade en pierre au rez-de-chaussée est soulignée par des pilastres d'époque Renaissance.
L'étage, en léger encorbellement, est constitué de décharges formant des croix de Saint-André.
Les extrémités des solives présentent des médaillons et des bustes sculptés.

Louis Esnault was an architect of the Bâtiments de France who restored this house. This half-timbered house is an upper middle class house from the 16th century. The ground floor stone façade features Renaissance pilasters. The corbelled first floor is half-timbered with beams forming Saint Andrew's crosses. The end of each joist is carved with medallions and humans heads.

RUE SAINT-LUBIN

It is likely that this street was the town's main street during the years that Marie Chevreau lived there.

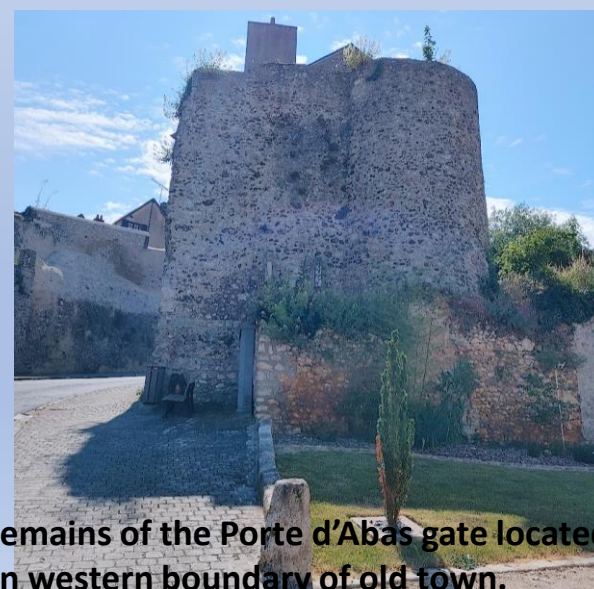


A large part of the town of Châteaudun was destroyed during a fire that swept the town in 1723. Here are some pictures of buildings and gates that survived. They are located on the southwestern edge of the old town.



MAISON DE LA VIERGE This half-timbered house which used to lie against the town wall was the house for the gatekeepers.

SOME OF THE MEDIEVAL TOWN WALLS ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE OLD TOWN



Remains of the Porte d'Abas gate located on western boundary of old town.

**Left: ST PIERRE DESCENT 200 steps from the old city center of Châteaudun to the Jardin des Grandes Moulins at the foot of the castle along the Loire River below.
Right: View from the clifftop in the old city center of Châteaudun.**



BELOW: MAISON DITE DES ARCHITECTES DU CHATEAU

This house was built in the first half of the 16th C.



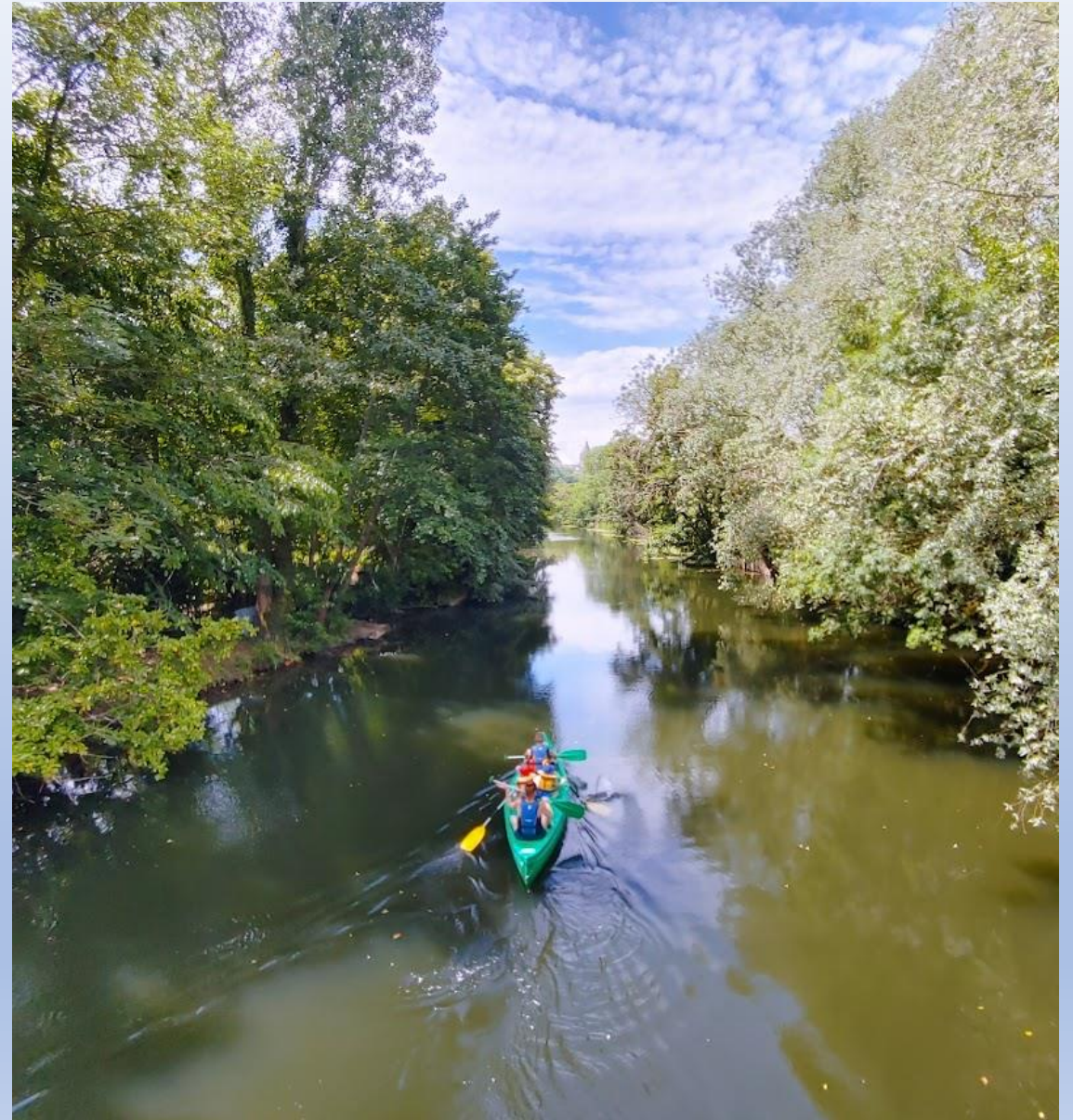
BELOW: At the foot of the Chateau along Rue des Fouleries. The location of the former ST MEDARD'S CHURCH is outlined in red. It was one of the oldest churches in Chateaudun. The church was set on fire during the French Wars of Religion in 1590, it was partially rebuilt and used during the French Revolution. The western part of the church was destroyed in 1851 to widen the road.



GRAND MOULINS SITE at the base of the Chateau Châteaudun.
The old water mill (outlined in red) has now been transformed into a gite for guests to the area.



**Chemin de la Belle-Arrivée: A beautiful walk along the northern shore of the Loir River.
It starts at the base of the Chateau Châteaudun.**





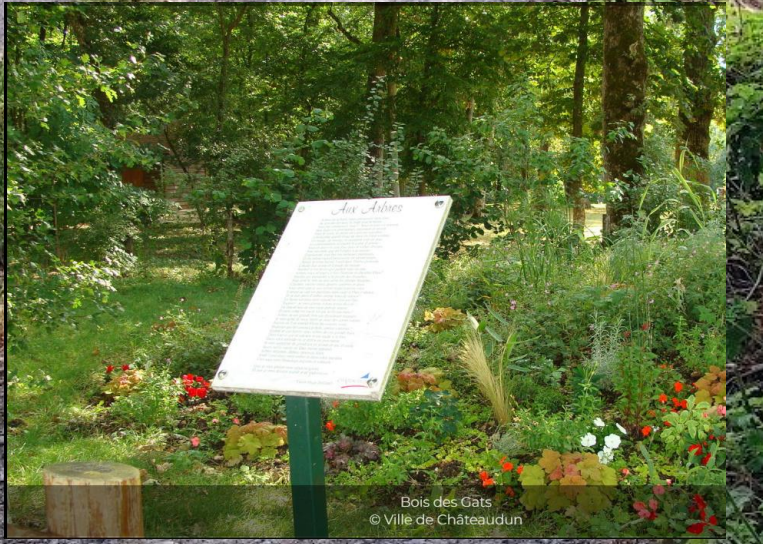
Aux Arbres

Arbres de la forêt, vous connaissez mon âme.
Au gré des envieux, la foule loue et blâme ;
Vous me connaissez, vous ! - Vous m'avez vu souvent,
Seul dans vos profondeurs, regardant et rêvant.
Vids le savez, la pierre où court un scarabée,
Une humble goutte d'eau de fleur en fleur tombée.
Un nuage, un roseau, m'occupent tout un jour.
La contemplation m'emplit le cœur d'amour.
Vous m'avez vu cent fois, dans la vallée obscure,
Avec ces mots que dit l'esprit à la nature.
Questionner tout bas vos rameaux palpitants,
Et du même regard poursuivre en même temps,
Pensif, le front baissé, l'œil dans l'herbe profonde,
L'étude d'un atome et l'étude du monde.
Attentif à vos bruits qui parlent tous un peu.
Arbres, vous m'avez vu fuir l'homme et chercher Dieu !
Feuilles qui tressaillez à la pointe des branches,
Nids dont le vent au loin sème les plumes blanches,
Clairière, vallons verts, déserts sombres et doux,
Vous savez que je suis calme et pur comme vous.
Comme au ciel vos parfums, mon culte à Dieu s'élance.
Et je suis plein d'oubli comme vous de silence !
Là haine sur mon nom repand en vain son fiel
Toujours - je vous atteste, ô bois aimés du ciel !
J'ai chassé loin de moi toute pensée amère,
Et mon cœur est encor tel que le fit ma mère !
Arbres de ces grands bois qui frissonnez toujours,
Je vous aime, et vous, hier au seuil des antres sourds,
Rayons où l'on entend filtrer les sources vives,
Buissons que les oiseaux pillent, joyeux convives !
Quand je suis parmi vous, arbres de ces grands bois,
Dans tout ce qui m'entoure et me cache à la fois,
Dans votre solitude où je rentre en moi-même,
Je sens quelqu'un de grand qui m'écoute et qui m'aime.
Aussi, taillis sacrés où Dieu même apparaît,
Arbres religieux, chênes, mousses, forêt,
Forêt ! c'est dans votre ombre et dans votre mystère,
C'est sous votre branchage auguste et solitaire.

Que je veux abriter mon sépulcre ignoré,
Et que je veux dormir quand je m'endormirai.

Victor Hugo 1802-1885

CHATEAUDUN



Walking in Marie Chevreau's footsteps? We walked along a part of the Camino de Santiago route (a variant of the Paris route through Chartes and Châteaudun to Tours) to the Le Bois Des Gats- a natural park .

HISTORICAL CHATEAUDUN

A fortified Gallic town inhabited by the Carnuti overlooked the Loir from the heights of the rocky crag, on the site of the current town. The Celtic word “*dun*” means a fortified high place and is present in the town’s name. The first fief count of Châteaudun was Thibaud le Tricheur, first count of Blois and later of Tours, Chartres and Châteaudun, in the mid-tenth century. The town was already defended by a fortified castle made of wood and a wall that got progressively larger through the Middle Ages. Le Dunois remained in the hands of the Counts of Blois for almost 450 years, down to the fifteenth century – the counts delegated local authority onto viscounts.

Duke Louis d’Orléans acquired the earldoms of Blois and Dunois in the late fourteenth century, together with the vice-earldom of Châteaudun.

The town prospered up to the seventeenth century thanks to the textile industry and the production of woolen cloth, serge and covers. Tanneries prospered, and textile craftsmen made great use of the mills along the River Loir. Châteaudun also grew numerous crops and there were plenty of vineyards – another important aspect was the production of cereals.

On June 20, 1723, a terrible fire destroyed most of the high part of the town (the castle, the abbey of La Madeleine, and some streets between the two monuments, including the Rue Saint Lubin, were preserved).

The State sent the royal architect Jules Michel Hardouin to design a new plan for the town. The town was rebuilt in the classical style, a sober and refined planning model. The new town was organized around a large new rectangular square which became the heart of the town.

Since the Middle Ages there had always been numerous religious buildings in the town – over twenty churches and chapels for a town of 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants, although some of these buildings that had survived the fire or been rebuilt were finally destroyed in the Revolution when religious buildings were sold off and for some, mutilated. Of the seven parishes from before the Revolution, only three remained after 1795: La Madeleine, Saint Valérien and Saint Jean.



We stayed at “Le Relais Dunois de Napoleon” (outlined in red) located in the 18th C square in the center of the town.

CHATEAUDUN TODAY

LOCATION: Châteaudun is a commune in the Eure-et-Loir department in Northern France, within the Centre-Val-de-Loire Region of France. It is located about 45 km northwest of Orléans, and about 50 km south-southwest of Chartres. It lies on the river Loir, a tributary of the Sarthe. The Loir and Loire Rivers –are not the same river. The Loir River and its valley is geographically close to the Loire River and its' valley, but they are two separate Rivers and Valleys. (see location map on the right). The chateau in town is known as being the first on the road to the Loire Valley from Paris.

POPULATION:In 2020 just under 13,000

ECONOMY:The area is rich agricultural land, but a major local employer is the [Châteaudun Air Base](#) just to the east of the town, and much larger than the town itself.

My visit to Châteaudun was short and focused on the old part of the town where Marie Chevreau and her family would have spent some of their daily lives. The tourist Information center provided a useful map for a walk around the historic center of Châteaudun. An afternoon was spent in the countryside along the Loir river, imagining that I was walking and making footsteps where Marie Chevreau walked during the years of her life in France.

