

## Chemin du Montargis June 2023

**Footsteps** in the town of Montargis where 2 of my French ancestors were born:

1. Nicolas Monjeon my 7th great grandfather (matrilineal line) born 1685, left France in 1699.
2. Marie Pelletier my 9th great grandmother (matrilineal line) born 1645, left France in 1669.

Both Nicholas and Marie were baptized in L'Eglise Sainte-Marie-Madeleine, which is highlighted red on the above picture on the top left. On the top right of the picture above is the Chateau de Montargis (red highlight). Also, described here are **footsteps** in the **countryside surrounding Montargis**.

**ORIGIN FILE FOR my ancestor NICOLA MONJEON who was a pioneer in NEW FRANCE see <https://www.fichierorigine.com/>**

<b>MONGEON, Nicholas</b>	<b>021078</b>
Status	Married
Date of birth	Around 1685
Place of origin	Montargis (Loiret) 45208
current location	Montargis
Parents	Nicolas and Andrée Brillart
Parents wedding date	14-08-1677
Parents wedding venue	Montargis (Ste-Marie-Madeleine) (45208)
Wedding contract	Beauport, 07-06-1716
Notary	Jean-Robert Duprac
First mentioned in the country	1716
Occupancy on arrival	migrant
wedding date	06-07-1716
Wedding venue	Beauport
Spouse	Madeleine Vachon
Death or burial	Beauport (Notre Dame), 04-01-1757
Remarks	His paternal grandparents are Nicolas Mongeon and Mathurine Lioret, m. on 07-13-1654 in Montargis (Ste-Marie-Madeleine),
Identification*	DGFQ, p. 823
Researcher(s)	Jean-Marie Germ; David Bourgeois
Reference*	AGCF, No. 53, 2021
Archive Folder	<a href="#">digitized</a>
Modification date	2022-02-26

Nicholas Mongeon is the French forefather to my 5<sup>th</sup> great grandmother Josephte Monjon who was born in Quebec city in 1757. Nicholas Mongeon was baptized around 1685 at Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Church in Montargis. The Mongeon family was based in Montargis for many years. Both Nicholas's parents and grand parents were married in Montargis.

Nicholas Mongeon was a cabin boy on 2 merchant ships (1699 and 1701) from Bordeaux to the Americas and beyond. The ship records list Jean and Pierre Mongeon as captain and pilot. (no New France records for these possible relatives were found). Nicholas' 8th child Alexis Rene(born in 1736) is noted as being a navigator by Tanguay which is an interesting connection.

Nicholas was 14 in 1699 and 17 in 1701, which suggests a birth date of 1685. And a census record for Quebec City in 1716 records his age as 33 which suggests birth date of about 1683.

The census record for 1716 in New France does not list an occupation for Nicholas, whereas nearby neighbors are listed as being merchants. It is plausible that Nicholas became a merchant after spending his early days on the seas, he could have made some useful connections during that time. Charles Perthuis is noted as a witness to his first marriage, several members of this family were merchants in New France.

Nicholas was married twice. In 1716 he married Marie Madeleine Vachon at Beauport. They had one child. In 1723 he married Marguerite-Geneviève Chevalier, at Beauport and they had 11 children together. Nicolas had 12 children in total, 6 boys and 6 girls, family search records indicate they were all born at Beauport, QC. Nicolas had his last children (twin girls) in 1740 at age 55. Nicolas was buried in Beauport in 1757, approximate age 72.

**ORIGIN FILE FOR my ancestor MARIE PELLETIER who was a pioneer in NEW FRANCE see <https://www.fichierorigine.com/>**

<b>PELLETIER, Mary</b>	<b>243215</b>
Status	Bride
Date of baptism	12-05-1645
Place of origin	Montargis (Ste-Madeleine) (Loiret) 45208
current location	Montargis
Parents	François PELLETIER and Michelle Chasles
First mentioned in the country	1669
Occupancy on arrival	King's daughter
wedding date	07-10-1669
Wedding venue	Quebec (Notre Dame)
Spouse	Mathurin Renaud or Renaud
Death or burial	Quebec (Hotel-Dieu), 30-06-1707
Remarks	The following acts are in Beaune-la-Rolande (St-Martin) (45030). Two brothers and a sister were born and baptized: Claude Pelletier, 24-08-1653; Élisabeth Pelletier, 07-06-1656, d/s under Isabel Peltier, 04-08-1656 and Sivain Pelletier, 03-07-1657. His mother was named Michelle Chaslier in 1645 and Lachalle in 1669.
Identification*	DGFQ, p. 975
Researcher(s)	Guillaume Leveque; Lise Dandonneau
Modification date	2013-09-13

Marie Pelletier is the French Ancestress (grandmother) to my 7<sup>th</sup> great grandmother Marie Louise Renaud dit Canard who was born in 1705 in Charlesbourg, Quebec. My ancestress Marie Pelletier was baptized in 1645 at Eglise Sainte-Marie-Madeleine in Montargis. Her father died when she was only 5 years old.

Marie was a Filles du Roi (King's Daughter). She was 24 years old when she sailed to New France. The ship was the Saint-Jean-Baptiste, it was 300 tons in size, and it departed Dieppe, France on June 22, 1669. To get to Dieppe from Montargis would have been a long journey in those days. It is likely that Marie Pelletier walked with other sponsored women and stayed in churches along the walking route.

More than 100 Filles du Roi travelled on this ship, 90 sailed from the Port of Dieppe and 11 or 12 boarded the ship in La Rochelle. Her first marriage was to Mathurin Renaud (Renault, Renaud) who had arrived in New France together with his mother, her second husband and a younger sister. Marie received a dowry of 100 pounds from the King. Marie would marry a total of 3 times:

1. October 7, 1669 Mathurin Renaud, a Jesuit servant, born in France, died in 1677. Between 1670 and 1677, they had 4 children who were all baptized at Notre Dame de Quebec. Mathurin died at the age of 36 in 1677, was it a disease, accident or the Iroquois?
2. October 19, 1677, Pierre Canard, born in France, died in 1700. They had one child who was baptized at Charlesbourg in 1678.
3. September 23, 1703, Jean Joubert, a miller, also born in France, died in 1728, no children.

Marie Pelletier was buried on June 30, 1707, at Quebec City, less than 4 years after her third wedding. She was 62 years old.



Montargis - La Venise du Gâtinais

la Poste

la Poste

Brasserie de la Poste



CHOCOLATERIE

## MONTARGIS is known as “La Venise du Gâtinais.”

Gâtinais is a former French county and natural region extending over the territory of several departments in 3 regions of France. The departments are all named in capital letters on the map to the right.

The Gâtinais region was traditionally divided between French Gâtinais, which depended on the government of Ile-de-France under the Ancien Régime, and Gâtinais Orléanais, which depended on the government of Orléanais. (See the dividing line on the map to the right.)

The capital of French Gâtinais was Nemours and the capital of Orléanais Gâtinais was Montargis.

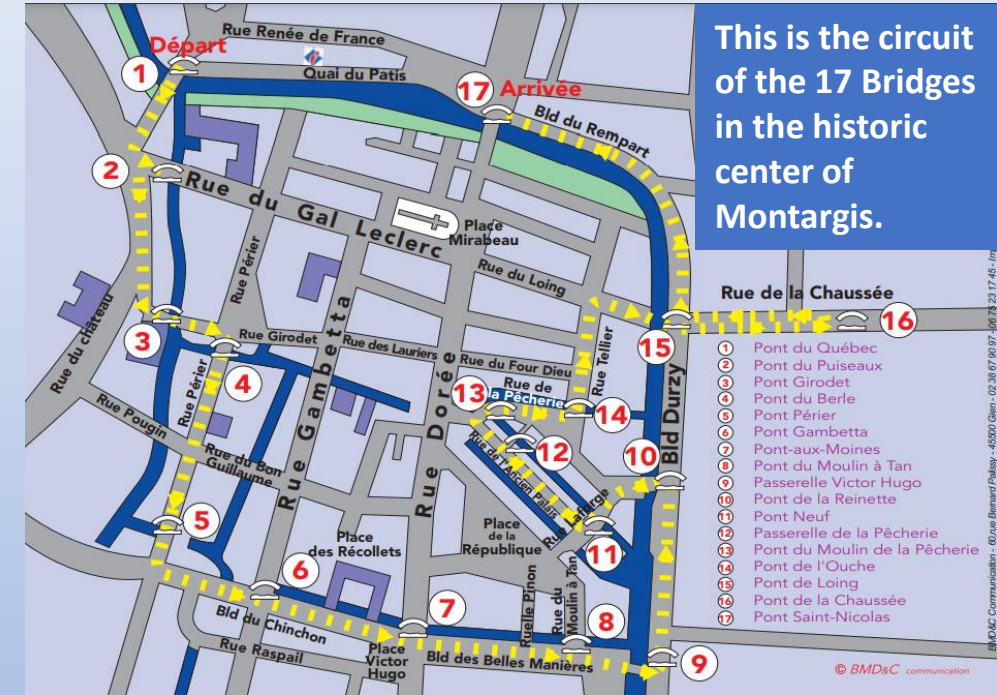
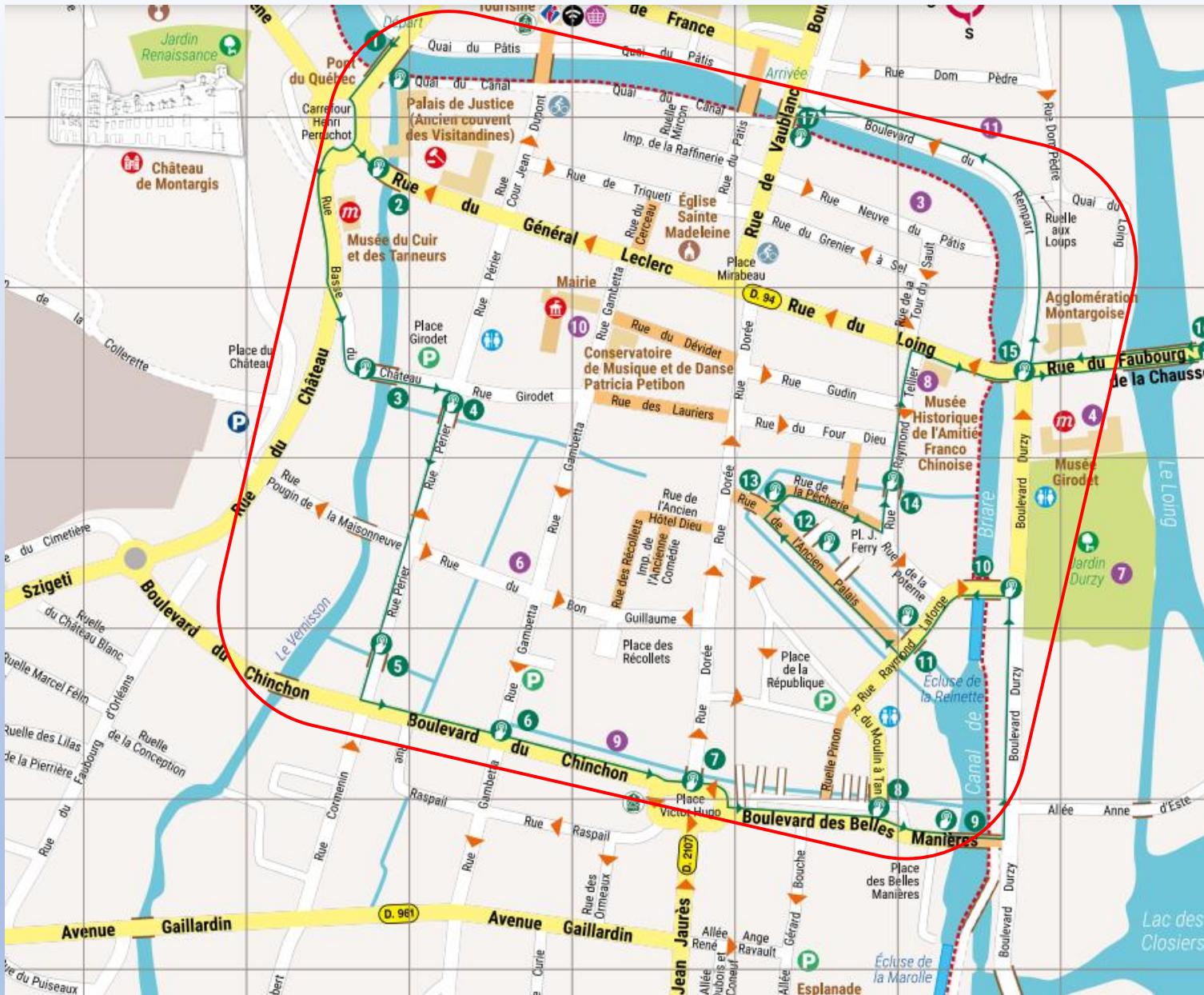
Gâtinais ceased to exist after the French Revolution.



Historical limits of Gâtinais.

# MONTARGIS TOWN PLAN TODAY

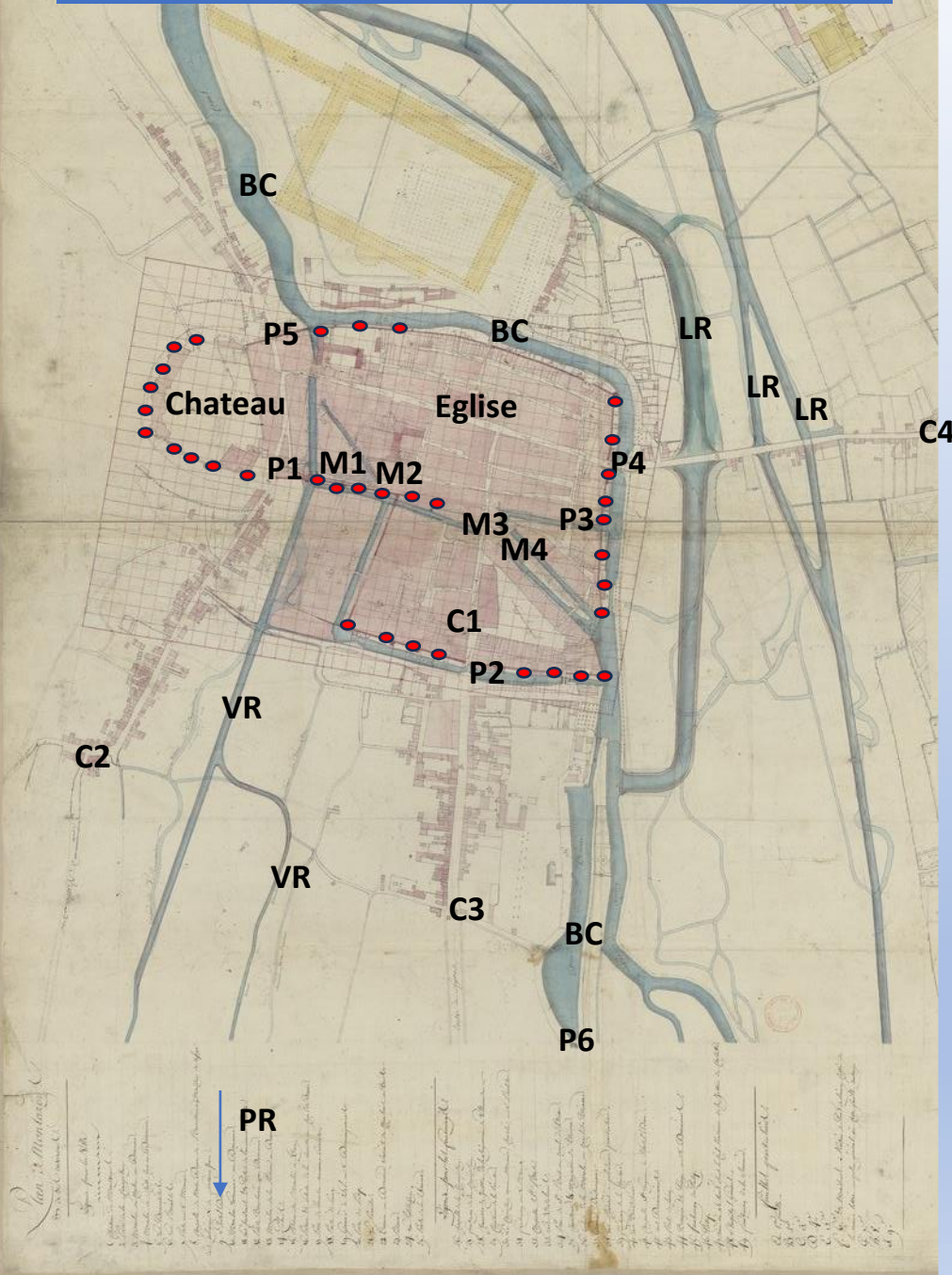
The location of the circuit of the 17 bridges is outlined in red.



Source: <https://www.tourisme-montargis.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/circuit-ponts-montargis.pdf>  
 Accessed 8 Sept 2023

Source: <https://www.tourisme-montargis.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/plan-montargis.pdf> Accessed 8 Sept 2023

## ANCIENT MAP OF MONTARGIS circa 1700s



### The waterways surrounding Montargis:

BC: Briare Canal –completed 1642

LR: Loing River

PR: Puisseaux River

VR: La Vernisson River

### Some of the town features:

C: Chapelle (Chapel) M: Moulin (Mill) P: Porte (Gate)

C1: Chapelle de Notre Dame

C2: Chapelle de la Conception

C3: Chapelle de St Roch

C4: Chapelle St Lazarre

M1: Moulin de Chateau aux Domaine

M2: Moulin de C?

M3: Moulin Lit?

M4: Moulin de la Pecherie aux Domaine

P1: Porte aux Chateau

P2: Porte aux Moimer

P3: Porte de Souche

P4: Porte de Loing

P5: Porte de la Sireinne

P6: Porte de St Roch au canal de Briare

Imagining the town of Montargis during the time that my ancestors lived there is difficult as most of the town walls and towers, the chateau walls and towers, and the tannery mills no longer exist.

Each of the red dots along the boundary of the town on the ancient map represents a tower of the ancient town wall (see next slide)

The next slide should assist your imagination as to what the town looked like during the time period that my ancestors lived there.

Source: [gallica.bnf.fr/Bibliothèque nationale de France](https://gallica.bnf.fr/Bibliothèque_nationale_de_France)

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53022977z?rk=128756;0> Accessed 9 Sept 2023

## CHATEAU DE MONTARGIS 16<sup>th</sup> C (3D Recreation)

Here is a representation of the Chateau and the walled town of Montargis in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

I imagine that this closely approximates the views of the Chateau and town that my ancestors Nicholas Mongeon and Marie Pelletier would have experienced in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Note: The orientation of this view differs from that of the previous 2 slides.



From 1560 to 1575, the Château de Montargis served as the residence of Renée de France. Born in 1510 at the Château de Blois, the second daughter of Louis XII and Anne of Brittany lived for 32 years in Northern Italy with her husband, the Duke of Ferrara. Becoming a widow in 1559, the princess returned to France and settled on her lands in Montargis. There she finds an ancient castle which served as a residence for the kings of France and their itinerant court in the Middle Ages.

Upon her arrival, Renée de France began renovating and beautifying her new living space. This architectural project is characterized by the creation of magnificent gardens directly inspired by a very famous model during the Renaissance.

This ambitious project led Jacques Androuet du Cerceau , Renée de France's architect, to immortalize the Château de Montargis in his work *The Most Excellent Bastiments of France*, alongside those of Chambord, the Louvre and Vincennes . These representations reveal magnificent semi-circular gardens featuring the castle at its heart.



# CHATEAU DE MONTARGIS



The magnificent polygon shaped castle enclosure with towered walls, a moat and circular gardens (shown on the previous slide) existed to the end of the Ancien Regime (1791). The circular gardens were however ceded to the town in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> C. My ancestors would therefore have viewed the Chateau, walls and moat.

Built in the 12th century. Demolished after the Revolution, it was partly rebuilt in the second half of the 19th century. Kings Charles V, Charles VII, Francis I, Henry IV and Renée de France all stayed in this Château.



View towards the East from the Chateau de Montargis

Briare Canal



I stayed here



Eglise Sainte Marie-Madeleine



## EXTERIOR VIEWS OF EGLISE SAINTE-MARIE-MADELEINE



Marie Pelletier was baptized here in 1645 and Nicholas Monjeon was baptized here in 1685. The Spire was not built until the 19<sup>th</sup> C, but the bell tower did exist in the 17<sup>th</sup> C.

## INTERIOR VIEWS OF EGLISE SAINTE-MARIE-MADELEINE



This church was built, restored, and added to over the centuries, like many churches in Europe. This church dates from the 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was restored during 1863. The church was originally built in the 12<sup>th</sup> C, the bell tower is 16<sup>th</sup> C, while the stained-glass windows and the steeple are 19<sup>th</sup> C. The nave is 23 m in height.

Sources: <http://www.montargis.fr/L-eglise-Sainte-Madeleine>, <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montargis> Accessed 8 Sept 2023

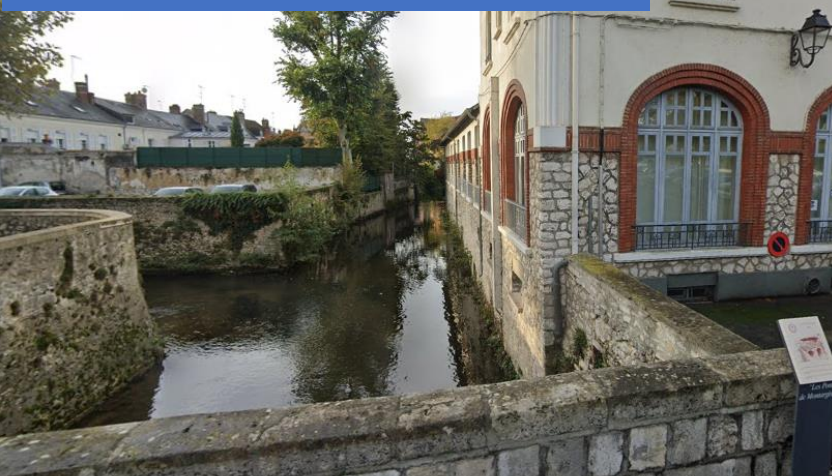
The **BRIARE CANAL** has a prominent position in the town of Montargis. The canal borders the eastern and northern boundaries of the historic center of the town. The Canal de Briare was the first major watershed canal to be built in Europe. It originally linked the river Loire at **Briare** to the river Loing at a point 5km north of **Montargis**. For centuries it was a lifeline for Paris, food, wine and fuel (wood and coal) being brought to the capital by barge from the upper Loire and Allier valleys. The canal was completed in 1642 so it existed when my ancestors lived in Montargis.



Location map for Briare Canal



Detailed map for Briare Canal



**Pont Girodet** This bridge crosses the old moat of the town. The old defensive wall of the town running along the moat was demolished during the French Revolution.



**3. Pont Girodet**



View North  
from Pont  
du Puisseaux



**Ecole Girodet** The mill of the chateau once stood on the site of the Girodet school. The steps lead to the Chateau.



**2. Pont du Puisseaux**



View South from **Pont du Puisseaux**  
A lovely half-timbered 16th century dwelling exudes the atmosphere of the tanneries of times gone by.



**8. Pont du Moulin a Tan**

**LEFT: This bridge straddles the waters of the old 14<sup>th</sup> C moat of the town. It was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The building behind the bridge stands on the site of a former tanning mill.**

**RIGHT: An old corner tower that was part of the 14<sup>th</sup> century town wall was found behind the Gambetta building (Circuit stop 6.)**



**9. Passerelle Victor Hugo**



**View from the Passerelle Victor Hugo includes a tower from the 14<sup>th</sup> C ramparts (defensive walls) of the town.**

12. Passerelle de la Pêcheurie



Quartier De La Pêcheurie  
This area is one of the oldest parts of town. The bridge to the right borders the wall of the big old Pêcheurie mill that functioned until 1958.



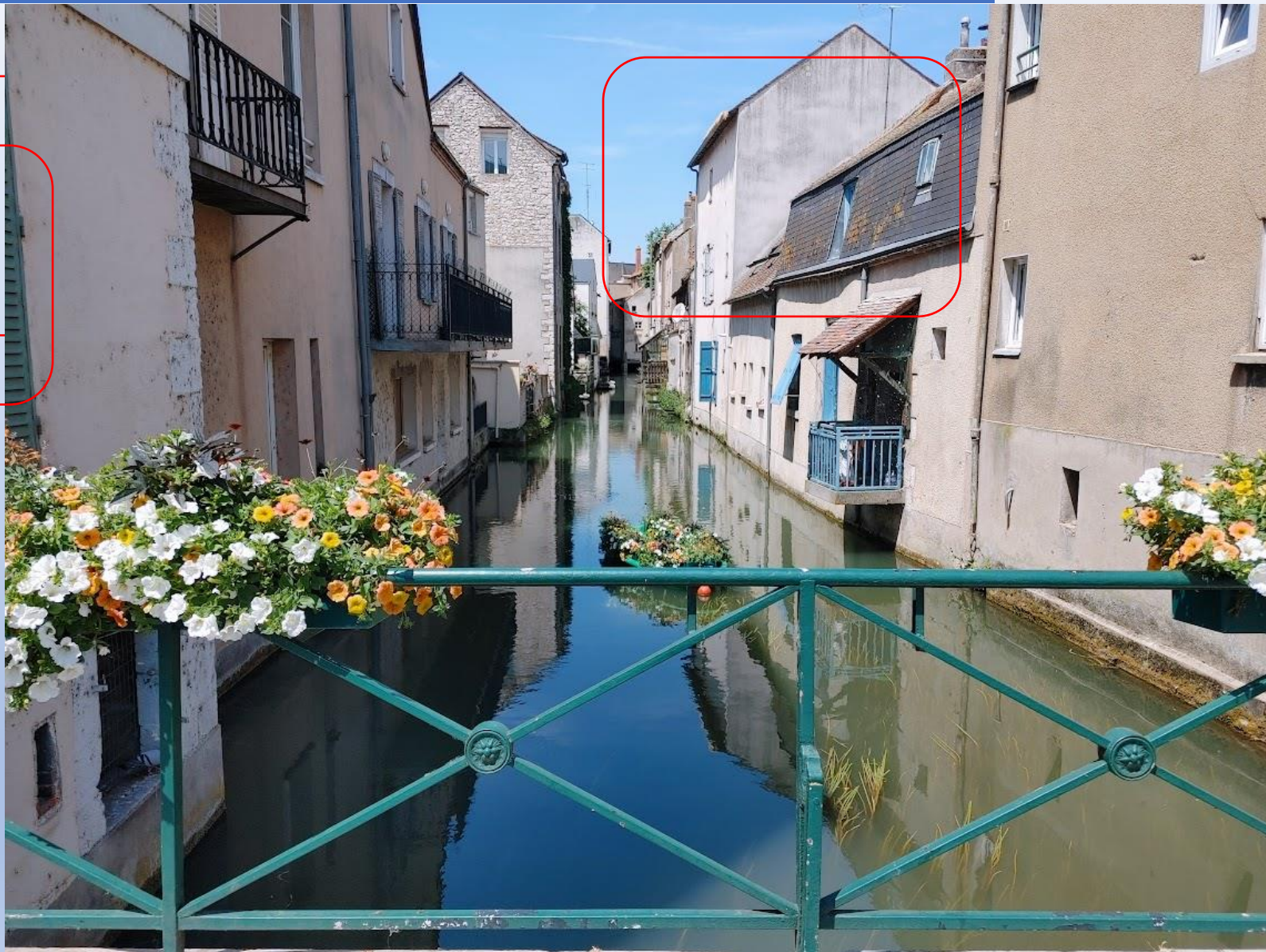
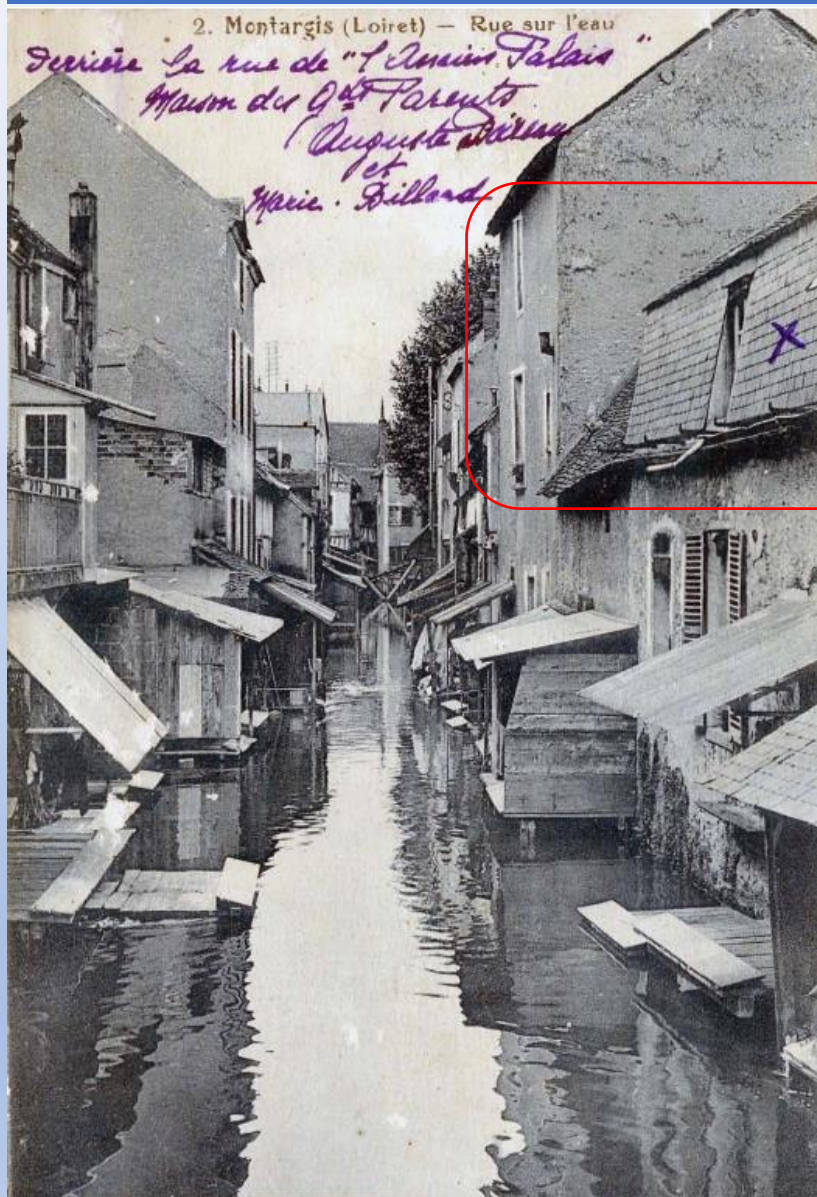
13. Pont du Moulin de la Pêcheurie



Like Venice the houses have one façade overlooking the water and another one on the street.



**COMPARE THES 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> C Pictures of LA RUE DEL LA ANCIEN PALAIS in Le Quartier De La Pecherie.  
Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century on Left and 2023 on Right -the canal level "porches" have all but disappeared.**



Les vieilles tanneries. La ville de Montargis comptait de nombreux tanneurs dès le XVIe siècle.

The old tanneries. The life of Montargis included many tanners from the 16th century, however I did not discover any evidence of these buildings during my visit. I believe these buildings were located where the Tannery museum exists today.

*le 4 juin 1917*



**MONTARGIS  
SOME ADDITIONAL VIEWS**



**View from 14. Pont de l'Ouche**



**Rue Dorée**



**Rue des Lauriers**

## HOTEL DESORMEAUX

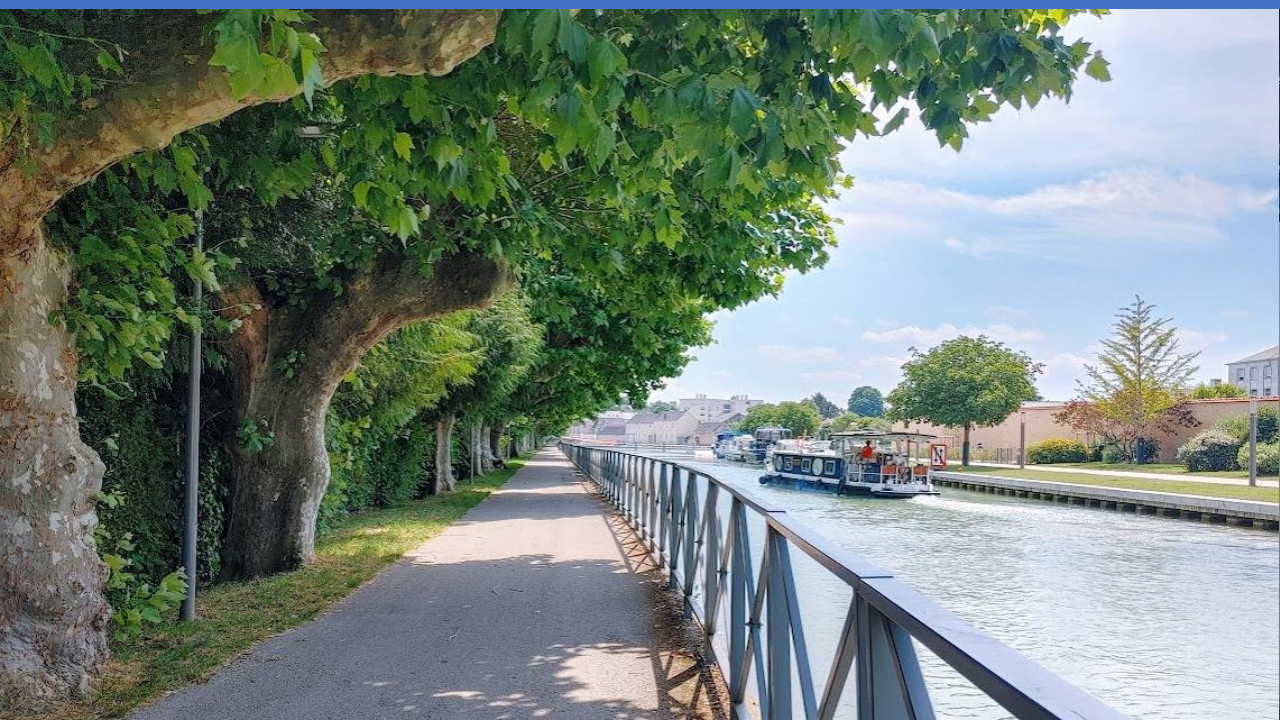
This is a private mansion built in 1775 which took the name of its owner, Simon Desormeaux, receiver and steward of the Duke of Orléans. This building subsequently housed the canal administration. René Dumont, "the father of ecology", lived in this house for a while before running in the 1974 presidential elections.

Today it is a private home which is not open to the public, but it remains very recognizable with its large tower visible as you walk along the boulevard du rampart.





I made a short visit to Lac Des Closiers then walked along the Briare Canal enroute to the Bardin Mill .



# The BARDIN MILL is located along the Briare Canal, 3km walking distance from Montargis. Did my ancestors walk this route?



## THE BARDIN MILL 500 Years of History.

In the early 16<sup>th</sup> C there were 2 mills at this location –a wheat mill and a tanning mill. (The tan mill made it possible, thanks to pestles operated by a camshaft, to reduce oak bark to powder to obtain the tan necessary for the manufacture of leather or tannery, an important activity in Montargis.)

The mills were owned by Pierre Bardin and then his sons, and then they changed hands several times. In 1639 the company of the Lords of the Canal of Briare purchased the mills. They remained the owners for 220 years. In 1710 the construction of a large tanning mill in Montargis led to the demise of the tanning mill at this location. The wheat mill ceased activity in 1970. A heritage restoration project is underway.



A la découverte du patrimoine du Loiret  
**Le Moulin Bardin à Amilly**

Siège entre le Loiret et le chemin de halage du canal de Briare, à deux kilomètres en amont de la ville d'Amilly, le moulin Bardin témoigne du passé industriel du territoire. Il a repris vie grâce à la municipalité et l'ASAMBA, association en charge de sa sauvegarde et de sa valorisation.

**Plus de 500 ans d'histoire**

À partir du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle, cet édifice connu sous le nom de moulin de Polletier, comprenait deux moulins, l'un à blé et l'autre à tan, appartenant à deux communautés différentes. Au début du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle le local des tanneurs est repris par les Bards. Une autre famille montargisienne, qui est le propriétaire du moulin, a une idée : elle occupe par deux fois le moulin, d'abord pour le tan, puis pour le blé. En 1639, les Bards prennent possession du moulin à tan. En 1710, ils le vendent à la Compagnie du Canal de Briare. En 1970, le moulin est racheté par la municipalité d'Amilly. En 2010, l'ASAMBA reprend le moulin à tan et le moulin à blé.

**Le moulin moderne**

Le moulin à tan est entièrement reconstruit en 1980 et équipé de trois paires de meules pour le tan. Le moulin à blé est équipé de trois paires de meules pour le blé. Le moulin à tan est équipé de trois paires de meules pour le tan. Le moulin à blé est équipé de trois paires de meules pour le blé.

**LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?**

Cet édifice est inscrit au patrimoine de la Loiret. Le moulin à tan est inscrit au patrimoine de la Loiret. Le moulin à blé est inscrit au patrimoine de la Loiret.

**Amilly, the Bardin mill**

Located between the Loiret and the Briare Canal, the Bardin mill is a remarkable example of industrial and historic heritage. It has been listed as a historical monument since 2010. The mill is a witness to the industrial past of the region. It has been restored and is now open to the public. The mill is a witness to the industrial past of the region. It has been restored and is now open to the public.

[www.loiretmetropole.com](http://www.loiretmetropole.com)



Strolling along the Boulevard du Rempart



## HISTORIC MONTARGIS

The town was ceded in the 12th century by Pierre de Courtenay to Philippe-Auguste; thus, Montargis belonged to the royal domain until the 17th century. It then passed into the hands of the house of Orleans, which kept it until the French Revolution. Philippe 1, the first Duke of Orleans, reigned over Montargis from 1661 until 1701.

The forests nearby Montargis were known as the royal forest of Paucourt from the 12th to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The kings of France came to hunt wolves there. At the end to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was re-named to the Montargis forest.

Tanneries were established from the 16th century onwards in the fishing quarters and near the old castle, on the island of the tanners. This activity experienced a real boom in the 18th century. The surname Pelletier comes from the Latin word pellis and means one who prepares, works or sells skins, furs. So, Marie Pelletier's surname is likely a nod to the profession of some of the members of her family.

The Briare canal was started in 1604. The project was stopped after the king was assassinated in 1610, revived in 1638 and completed in 1642. It was a huge construction project that employed 12,000 workers over the years. Witnessing the barge/boat traffic on the canal would have been a part of the daily life of my ancestors Marie Pelletier (born 1645) and Nicholas Mongeon (born about 1685). Living in Montargis with its numerous natural waterways plus the canal no doubt would have made Nicholas very comfortable to start his ocean voyages as a teenager.



## MONTARGIS TODAY

**LOCATION:** Montargis 70 km East of Orleans in the Loire Valley, 110 km south of Paris, and 118 km north of Bourges. Montargis is located within the Loiret department of the Center Val de Loire region.

**POPULATION:** Just under 15,000 inhabitants in 2020.

**ECONOMY:** Montargis is near the large national Montargis forest (4100 Hectares). In addition to wood production, this national forest is managed for the social role of the forest, hunting, the landscape and soil protection.

Today, Montargis has light industry and farming, including saffron. In the 1880s, Hutchinson SA built a rubber factory in Châlette-sur-Loing near Montargis (less than 5km away). It today employs 2000 workers to produce tires and parts for vehicles and appliances.

Upon my arrival to Montargis I was unable to hire a taxi at the railway station. A local woman noticed me and offered to share her taxi ride with me. When I thanked her during our short ride into town, her response was “of course dear we must all help each other.”

During my visit to Montargis I noted that the historic center of the town has retained a medieval charm. The numerous canals and bridges within the town are lovely to view, especially with the flowers lining the bridge guardrails and in small green boats in the canal and river waterways. Part of the semi-circular gardens of the Chateau that were created in the late 16<sup>th</sup> Century are now a cemetery. I attended a music concert within the Quartier De La Pêcherie, where a local band played to the restaurant patrons (located on an outdoor communal patio area) in this historic part of the town. It was a nice summer evening and there were local people of all ages who enjoyed the music, a nice meal and some coke, wine or beer.

