

Michigan's **HABITANT HERITAGE**



JOURNAL OF THE FRENCH-CANADIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Vol. 3 #2

Apr. 1982



RICHARD DULONG:
THE AUBERGISTE OF THE RUE ST.-GABRIEL

-- John P. DuLong

Richard Dulong was baptized on 3 May 1718 at St.-Martin-de-Lieurey, diocese of Lisieux, Normandie.¹ He was the son of the merchant Gabriel Dulong and Jeanne Boissiere. Probably around the mid-1740s, Richard came to New France. In 1748 he was recorded as a navigator on the bark Niagara.²

In Montreal, on 9 September 1748, Richard married Marie-Louise Judic dite Rencontre. They settled in Montreal and on 4 March 1754 Richard purchased a stone house on the rue St.-Gabriel from Jean-Baptiste Prevost, a cooper and baker, for the sum of 5,000 livres.³ The property was located on the west side of the rue St.-Gabriel between the rues St.-Jacques and Notre-Dame de Grace. On this site Richard operated an *auberge* or inn. A three-story stone dwelling was erected next to the house about 1760.⁴ Meanwhile, Richard's wife had died on 29 December 1754 and he married his second wife, Marie-Cecile Basinet, on 10 February 1755 at Pointe-aux-Trembles, near Montreal. Richard had twelve children, six with each wife. However, only Louise-Marguerite from his first marriage and Marie-Anne, Jacques, and Rene of the second marriage survived to adulthood.

The French troops in Montreal capitulated to the English on 20 September 1760. By 1763 Quebec had become a colony in the British Empire. With the conquest of Canada there came many changes. Richard lost some money because the French failed to back their currency, accounts and promissory notes in their former colony. When he tried to exchange his 8,429 livres of inflated French money he was allowed only 5,059 livres for it under the rules established by the English administration.⁵

¹ Lieurey Parish Register, Department of Eure, France, LDS microfilm no. 46337-4. The rest of the vital records information for this paper was collected during a visit to the Archives Nationales du Quebec à Montreal.

² According to J.-Raymond Denault, the name of the ship Richard served on can be found in the citation for his marriage contract of 1748, in the repertory of the papers of the Royal Notary François Simonnet; interview on 20 August 1981 at Montreal.

³ "Sale by Jean-Baptiste Prevost to Richard Dulong," by the Royal Notary Louis-Claude Danre de Blanzly, no. 5629, Archives Nationales du Quebec à Montreal.

⁴ Al Palmer, "*La Grande Dame du rue St.-Gabriel*," in a menu for the restaurant Auberge Le Vieux Saint-Gabriel, Montreal, ca 1973.

⁵ "*Les Ordonnances et Lettres de Change du Gouvernement de Montreal en 1749*," Rapport de L'Archiviste de la Province de Quebec, 1924-25, pp. 337 and 355.

John P. DuLong is a native of Detroit with roots in the Copper Country. He is presently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology, Wayne State University, majoring in social organization and the family.

Richard not only lost money in the transfer of Quebec from the French to the English, but also his German friend, Dr. Ferdinand Feltz, the surgeon-major for the French garrison of Montreal. Feltz had been a witness for Richard on both of his marriage contracts.⁶ With the defeat of the French, Feltz planned to return to France; however, the English ordered him to stay and care for the sick and wounded soldiers hospitalized in Montreal. Dr. Feltz was finally allowed to leave in 1766. When he departed he probably sold some of his belongings and his ten slaves. Feltz had more slaves, as a reflection of his wealth and social status, than did most of the elite in Canada.⁷ It was perhaps one of the children of these slaves that eventually was owned by Richard's son Jacques around 1790.⁸

The English also created laws to regulate the sale of liquor. On 11 April 1769, Richard Dulong was granted a license by the English "... to keep a Publick Ale-House, or Victualling-house, and to utter and sell strong Liquors by Retail..." on the restriction that he "... shall keep and maintain good Order and Rule and shall suffer no Disorders, or unlawful Games to be used in his said House..."⁹ This permit was renewed in 1771 and every year afterward until 1775.¹⁰

From 1775 to 1776 the American revolutionary forces occupied Montreal. Richard's inn was only a few blocks from the American headquarters in the Chateau Ramezay, so it is possible that he may have been host--maybe an unwilling host--to some of the officers and soldiers. With the withdrawal of the Americans, things returned to normal and, according to La Gazette de Quebec, Richard was issued permits around 1779 and 1780 to retail liquor in the Montreal area.¹¹

Richard Dulong made his last will and testament before the notary François LeGuay on 13 June 1787 and died on 30 June.¹² His wife

⁶ "Marriage contract between Richard Dulong and Marie-Louise Judic," by the Royal Notary François Simonnet, 7 September 1748, Archives Nationales du Quebec à Montreal. "Marriage contract between Richard Dulong and Marie-Cecile Bazinet," by the Royal Notary Louis-Claude Danre de Blanzay, 8 February 1755, Archives Nationales du Quebec à Montreal.

⁷ Gilles Jansen, "Feltz (Felx, Fels, Felts), Charles-Elemy-Joseph-Alexandre-Ferdinand," Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1979), vol. IV, pp. 264-266.

⁸ According to the parish register for Notre-Dame de Grâce, Jacques Dulong had a *negre* named Toussaint who died at the age of five months and was buried on 29 March 1790 (Archives Nationales du Quebec à Montreal). Presumably Jacques must have owned the child's mother as well.

⁹ "Liquor license issued to Richard Dulong of Montreal," Quebec and Lower Canada Bonds, Licenses, and Certificates, 1763-1867, R.G. 4, vol. 60, bond no. 27, Public Archives of Canada.

¹⁰ J.-Raymond Denault, "L'Hotel Saint-Gabriel," a typescript paper, Montreal, cal963, p. 4, copy in the author's possession.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² "Testament of M. Dulong, pere," by the notary François LeGuay, no. 249. This document is missing from the records of the Archives Nationales du Quebec à Montreal, but it is referred to in LeGuay's repertory of his papers.

Marie-Cecile died several years later and was buried on 30 August 1795. Both were interred in Montreal. The heirs--Jacques and Rene and Augustin Lemieux, husband of Marie-Anne--auctioned off the inn and sold it on 14 March 1796 for the sum of 9,100 livres.¹³ The buyer was Gabriel Franchere, a major in the Third British Division and later a harbor-master in Montreal.¹⁴ Franchere purchased the original inn and an ice house, stable, and other buildings that had been erected over the years.

The original Auberge St.-Gabriel no longer exists. It was demolished in 1963 to make way for the modern-looking Palais de Justice. However, the last owner of the inn, Rosario Depelteau, salvaged the fieldstones from the old inn's fireplace and dining room and had them placed in the reconstructed Auberge LaVieux St.-Gabriel.¹⁵ This restaurant on the rue St.-Gabriel is only about 500 yards south of the original inn's location. The visitor to this inn will be able to find a hall used for receptions, on the second floor, bearing the name of Richard Dulong.

¹³ "Sale by the heirs of Richard Dulong to Gabriel Franchere," by the notary Louis-S. Chaboillez, no. 1727, Archives Nationales du Quebec à Montreal.

¹⁴ Palmer, op. cit., p. 2.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

△△△

THE DULONG FAMILY LINE

▽▽▽

1. Holin(?) DuLong m. Catherine Baudry
2. Martin DuLong m. Suzanne Hercent(?)
ca Dec 1685, France
3. Gabriel DuLong m. Jeanne Boissière
28 Feb 1715, France (?)
4. Richard Dulong m. M.-Cecile Basinet
10 Feb 1755, Pte-aux-Trembles
5. Rene Dulong m. Marie Leblanc
1 Sep 1789, L'Assomption
6. François-Richard Dulong m. M.-Anne Trouillier dite Lacombe
14 Nov 1820, L'Assomption
7. François-Edouard Dulong m. Elise Mercier
26 Sep 1843, St.-Roch de L'Achigan
8. Emile (Meo) Eldreg DuLong m. Julia Marie Bourbonnaise
24 Sep 1891, Houghton, MI
9. John Leo DuLong m. Catherine Olive Stanton
2 Apr 1932, Hubbell, MI
10. John Patrick DuLong m. Patricia A. McGuinness
4 Sep 1976, Clawson, MI