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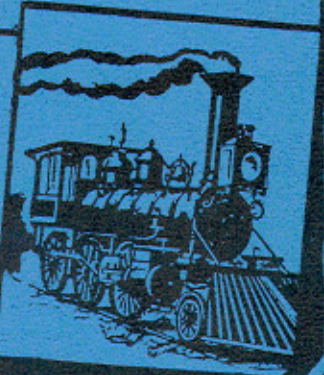


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# The De Marle *LIVRE DE RAISON*: Gateway Document To A Royal Lineage

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## PART I: THE LOUVIERS MANUSCRIPT AS A KEY TO A ROYAL PEDIGREE

### Introduction

We no longer live in an age of lineages. Many of us trace our ancestry for the enjoyment of it, but certainly genealogical knowledge is not as crucial for social placement as it once was. In our relatively egalitarian society, our education and occupation are often more important than our ancestry in determining our social status. However, this was not always the case. In Medieval and Renaissance Europe, knowledge of one's ancestry was crucial because who one was in society was determined by the ancestors. Many families went to great efforts to record and embellish their ancestry.

In France a tool often used to preserve the family heritage was a *livre de raison*, a ledger. This was also known as a *liber domus meae*, that is, "the book of my household." According to Roland E. MOUSNIER:

A *livre de raison* usually comprised three sections. First, there was the origin and history of the family, its genealogy, kindred, and marriage connections, with dates of marriage, children's birthdays, and dates of deaths. Next, everything to do with the patrimony and with the management of property, income, expenses, savings, and investments. Finally, counsels concerning religion, morals, behavior--great basic principles, duties to God, one's neighbor, and one's self; the respect, honor, and obedience due to one's mother; the affection and deference to be shown to parents; and the unity to be maintained between brothers.<sup>1</sup>

Although a son could start his own *livre de raison*, he would usually inherit the father's and just keep adding to it. The book would pass down through the generations and solidify the idea of lineage.

The *livre de raison* translated in this paper comes from the Bibliothèque de Louviers [the town library], Normandie (Eure), France, and will be henceforth referred to as the Louviers manuscript. The Louviers manuscript is not a typical

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*livre de raison*. It is missing the story of the family's origins, the details of family business, and quaint philosophies of domestic life. Nevertheless, it is alive with intriguing genealogical information. Its crucial importance lies in the fact that this document is the key to the royal ancestry of Catherine DE BAILLON, the ancestor of many French-Canadian families including: MIVILLE-DESCHENES, NIQUET, and HAREL.<sup>2</sup>

This article is divided into four parts. The first part covers briefly the story of Catherine de Baillon, her de Marle ancestry, and the role of the Louviers manuscript in proving her royal pedigree. The second part is an introduction to the translation of the Louviers manuscript that follows in the third part. The fourth part is a critical examination of Louviers manuscript and the evidence of a connection to royal ancestry.

### Catherine de Baillon

Catherine (or Marie-Catherine) DE BAILLON was born around 1645, probably at Montfort-l'Amaury, Ile-de-France (Yvelines), France.<sup>3</sup> Her parents were Alphonse DE BAILLON, Écuyer, Seigneur de La Mascotterie, and Louise DE MARLE. She immigrated to New France as a *filles de roi* probably around October 1669. As a Daughter of the King she was part of a royal government sponsored program to bring suitable young women into the colony for the purpose of marriage. On 12 November 1669 at Notre-Dame de Québec she married Jacques MIVILLE-DESCHENES, the son of Pierre MIVILLE-LE SUISSE and Charlotte MONGIS. Her marriage contract reveals that she had a dowry of 1,000 livres. This was exceptional compared to most other Daughters of the King. The King usually provided them with a modest dowry of 50 livres. In addition, many women had other funds raising their dowries up to several hundred livres, but few had a thousand livres. This confirms in part that her mother gave her a considerable sum before her departure.<sup>4</sup> Catherine and Jacques had seven children and she died at Rivière-Ouelle, Kamouraska County, Québec on 27 January 1688, on the same day her husband died.

### The de Marle Family

In the 1940s, Père Archange GODBOUT published the results of his research on the DE BAILLON and DE MARLE families back in France.<sup>5</sup> Most of his research was based on documents found in the collection of the d'Hozier family of royal genealogists in the *Bibliothèque nationale de Paris*, and the papers of the Châtelet de Paris, register of insinuations, at the *Archives nationales de Paris*. He was able to establish Catherine DE BAILLON's ancestry back seven generations. It is her mother, Louise DE MARLE, and her ancestry that interests us here. The summary of DE MARLE lineage according to GODBOUT is as follows:

Jean I, Seigneur de MARLE, was married to a Gillette DE THIENBRONNE [sic.], from the country of Flanders, and they had a son:

Jean II de MARLE, Seigneur de Villiers-St-Paul [near Creil, Ile-de-France (Oise)], flourished around 1485, and Sibylle LE BLOND, had a son:

Waaast I de MARLE, Écuyer, Seigneur de Vaugien [near Paris, Ile-de-France (Yvelines)] and part of Villiers-St-Paul, flourished 1487-1522, and Jacqueline DUPUIS, had a son:

Claude de MARLE, Écuyer, Seigneur de Vaugien and de Sargis [in the parish of St-Rémy, near Chevreuse, Ile-de-France (Yvelines)], flourished 1549-1571, died before 15 January 1571, marriage contract by Michel VINDRAS, tabellion, Épernay-sur-Marne, Champagne, (Marne), France on 20 July 1545 to Antoinette LHUILLIER, had a son:

Waaast II DE MARLE, Écuyer, Seigneur de Vaugien, flourished 1586-1608, married by 18 July 1586 to Marguerite LE SUEUR, had a son:



Mathurin DE MARLE, Écuyer, Seigneur de Vaugien, de Ragonan, and de la Vacheresse, and Anne BIZET, had a daughter:

Louise DE MARLE, the wife of Alphonse DE BAILLON and mother of Catherine DE BAILLON.

Although GODBOUT recorded the parents of Jean II DE MARLE as Jean I DE MARLE and Gillette de THIENBRONNE, he was skeptical of this connection and any preceding ancestors. He based this lineage mostly on the *Cabinet d'Hozier*, vol. 228, and neglected to include the earlier generations listed in the *Dossiers Bleus*, vol. 429, because he was suspicious of the source.

Godbout shared his notes referring to these earlier generations with a fellow Montréal Franciscan, Henri DESNOYERS, alias Père PACOME. PACOME privately printed a genealogical table tracing his descent through Catherine DE BAILLON to the Emperor Charlemagne. PACOME's work relies on the *Dossiers Bleus* materials that GODBOUT refused to consider.<sup>6</sup> Apparently, the DE MARLE family, or the genealogist they hired, was sophisticated enough to know the famous COUCY family in an earlier generation went by the name DE MARLE.<sup>7</sup> The pedigree they submitted to prove their nobility extends back to the COUCY family. Despite the fact that this pedigree can be easily disproved for the earliest generations, this information has been in circulation since 1944 and some genealogists have taken it seriously. However, it does not provide sufficient proof of a DE MARLE pedigree going back to royalty.

### The Royal Connection

The key to a pedigree leading to royalty is not through extending the de Marle line any further than Jean DE MARLE. Rather, it depends on proving the identity of Gillette DE THIENBRONNE. René JETTE, made this breakthrough using the Louviers manuscript.<sup>8</sup> He focused in on the following statement in the manuscript:

This Jehan DE MARLE was allied through marriage to a noble damoiselle named Damoiselle Gilles DE THIENBRONNE daughter of the nobleman named Jehan de THIENBRONNE, Seigneur de Merquenets and de Marle, near Callonne Ricouart near Bethune.<sup>9</sup>

Using this clue about the name of her father, JETTE searched for information about the THIENBRONNE family. He found in Père Anselme's classic work on the French peerage that the real name of the family is BOURNEL, Seigneurs de Thiembronne. According to this work, Jean BOURNEL, Chevalier, was the Seigneur DE THIENBRONNE, de Bauchain, de Lambersat, etc., and was active around 1461-1467. He was married to Julienne de Monchy. They had a daughter named Gille BOURNEL, the wife of Louis [sic.], Seigneur DE MARLE.<sup>10</sup> Despite the name being Louis instead of Jean, JETTE believes that this confirms the link between the DE MARLE family and the BOURNEL DE THIENBRONNE family. It is through the BOURNEL lineage that Catherine DE BAILLON can claim royal ancestry.

Using printed sources and the Louviers manuscript, JETTE documented this royal lineage in his *Traite de genealogie*.<sup>11</sup> In brief, Jean BOURNEL, the spouse of Julienne de MONCHY and the father of Gillette (or Gilles) BOURNEL DE THIENBRONNE, was the son of Louis BOURNEL, Chevalier (who was active around 1417-1444), and Marie-Louise DE CROY, the daughter of Jean, Sieur DE CROY and de Renty, and Marguerite DE CRAON.<sup>12</sup> It is through the CRAON family and its connection to the House of Flanders that Catherine DE BAILLON ultimately descends from royalty.<sup>13</sup>

### Conclusion

A *livre de raison* is unlike many other genealogical records that family historians work with. It does try to link the main actors from generation to generation along a particular surname, but it does not necessarily provide dates and places of events like births, marriages, and deaths. Nor is the linkage between generations always clearly identified.



The Louviers manuscript only takes the DE MARLE name back four generations from the sponsors, the brothers Waast and Nicolas DE MARLE. Its purpose was not to recall a noble surname lineage back to the early Middle Ages. Rather it was designed to build a spider's web of relationships for the de Marles. This web fastens the family to other prestigious families and places it in a social context. Moreover, this web is woven in such a way that it clearly indicates possible sources for inheritance, such as from the DELETTES family.<sup>14</sup> The social need of the DE MARLE family to be associated with other noble families was more important than recording detailed genealogical information. Hence the reason why this document can be so confusing to modern genealogists. We wish to know specifically the relationship between generations through vital records and not the prestigious position of distant relatives whose relationship is only ambiguously identified. This document can be especially frustrating because it will often point to a relationship between cousins and yet leave out the linking generations. It is only through secondary sources that we have been able to figure out some of these relationships, especially with the DE MAILLY family.

Despite the drawbacks of the Louviers manuscript, it is an exciting document because of the clues it provides and the gateway that it opens to a royal lineage. Moreover, the end of the document does provide some dates to help pinpoint the chronology for the later generations.

To fully appreciate the value of the Louviers manuscript, and to assess its validity and reliability, we have undertaken this critical translation. Before we proceed with the actual translation, in Part III of this series, we will address the history of the document in Part II. We will also include some editorial comments for the reader. We then present the translation of the manuscript in its entirety. After the translation, in Part IV, we will comment on the contradictions between it and other sources. We will evaluate what the Louviers manuscript can contribute towards understanding the connection between the DE MARLE and BOURNEL DE THIEMBRONNE families.

#### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Roland E. Mousnier, *The Institutions of France under the Absolute Monarchy, 1598-1789: Society and the State*, Brian Pearce, trans. (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1979), p. 50.
- <sup>2</sup> Raymond Ouimet, with the collaboration of Suzanne Miville-Deschênes, *Pierre Miville: Un ancêtre exceptionnel* (Sillery: Les Éditions du Pélican, 1988), pp. 122-123.
- <sup>3</sup> Marriage contract between Catherine de Baillon and Jacques Miville, Pierre Duquet de Lachesnaye, notary, 19 October 1669, Québec, Archives nationales du Québec. Marriage Record of Jacques Miville and Catherine Baillon, 12 Nov. 1669, Notre-Dame-de-Québec, Québec, Parish Register, abstracted in Hubert Charbonneau and Jacques Légaré, *Le Répertoire des actes de baptême, mariage, sépulture et des recensements du Québec ancien [1621-1765]*, 47 vols. (Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1980-1990), vol. 1, no page, 1669-11-12. Burial Record of Marie-Catherine Bayon, 30 Jan. 1688, Notre-Dame-de-Liesse-de-la-Rivière-Ouelle, Québec, Parish Register, *ibid.*, vol. 3, no page, 1688-01-03. Ouimet, *Pierre Miville*, pp. 82-88. Joy Reisinger and Elmer Courteau, *The King's Daughters*, rev. ed. (Sparta, WI: Joy Reisinger, 1988), pp. 3-4.
- <sup>4</sup> Ouimet, *Pierre Miville*, p. 86 and 122-123; Donation from Louise de Marle to her children, Antoine de Baillon, Écuyer, Sieur de la Mascotterie, Louise de Baillon, and Catherine de Baillon, Paris, 25 October 1673, Archives nationales de France, Y 227, f. 679.
- <sup>5</sup> Archange Godbout, "Baillon--de Marle--Le Sueur" *Mémoires de la Société Généalogique canadienne-française* 1:1 (January 1944): 37-43. For a translation of this article see Gail F. Moreau, trans., and John P. DuLong, ed., "Archange Godbout's Baillon, De Marle, and Le Sueur Families of France," *Michigan's Habitant Heritage*, 13:2 (April 1992): 40-51.
- <sup>6</sup> Henri Desnoyers alias Pacôme, "Recherches Généalogiques," Montréal, 1944, copy in Père Godbout's papers at the Archives nationales du Québec, Centre d'archives de la Capitale. Both Pères were in the O.F.M., that is, Order of



Friars Minor, or Franciscans. Although Godbout refused to credit these earlier generations, and d'Hozier, the royal genealogist, was also critical of them, we cannot help but wonder if further research might not confirm some of these named people as relatives or ancestors of the de Marles. For example, the Louviers manuscript mentions that the mother of Jehan de Marle was a cousin of Seigneur de Bergettes in Boulonnais. Louviers Mss., no. 42, f. a verso. Pacôme's pedigree refers to a N. de Bergettes, the wife of Thibaut de Marle and the ancestress of Jean de Marle. Despite this tempting clue, the generations shown in Pacôme's pedigree are demonstrably incorrect, confused, and are in contradiction with some of the information in the Louviers manuscript. Godbout's rough notes concerning the *Dossiers Bleus*, vol. 429, are available on microfilm. However they are extremely difficult to read. Fond Archange Godbout, "Paris, Titres," vol. 1, Archives nationales du Québec, Centre d'archives de la Capitale, bobine 154-23, Marle, pp. 583-585 and 606-611. Rather than speculate on what his notes might say, we prefer to acquire photocopies of the original documents in the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris. We are now in the process of arranging the photocopy of these documents.

- <sup>7</sup> Wilhelm Karl Prinz zu Isenburg, Frank Baron Freytag von Loringhoven, and Detlev Schwennicke, eds., *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, new series, 14 vols. in 17 parts (Marburg: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1980-1991), vol. 7, tables 80-82. The surname change from Coucy to de Marle is described in Barbara Wertheim Tuchman, *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century* (New York: Knopf, 1978), pp. 7-14.
- <sup>8</sup> John DuLong had also found the manuscript, acquired a copy of it, and asked Gail Moreau to help him translate it. This was in the Summer of 1990. At the Michigan Genealogical Council Annual Seminar, in October 1990, we met Jetté who was a speaker at the conference. When he found out that we had the document and we were translating it, he very kindly shared his findings with us. However, he asked that we keep his breakthrough confidential until he published his *Traité de généalogie*. René Jetté to John P. DuLong, 17 October 1990, personal correspondence. This lengthy letter includes a draft of the sections of the *Traité de généalogie* dealing with Catherine de Baillon's royal ancestry. It also includes a seven generation ascendancy table for Marguerite de Craon, an ancestor of Catherine de Baillon.
- <sup>9</sup> Louviers Mss., no. 42, f. h, recto and verso.
- <sup>10</sup> Père Anselme de Ste-Marie, [alias Pierre de Guibours], *Histoire généalogique et chronologique de la Maison royale de France, des pairs, grands officiers de la Couronne et de la Maison du roy et des anciens barons du royaume*. . . , 9 vols., continued by M. Du Fourmy; 3rd ed., reviewed, corrected, and augmented by Père Ange and Père Simplicien, (Paris, 1723-1733; reprint ed., Paris, Editions du Palais royal; New York and London, Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1967), hereinafter *Maison royale*, vol. 8, p. 155.
- <sup>11</sup> René Jetté, *Traité de généalogie* (Montréal: Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1991), pp. 112-114 and 593-598.
- <sup>12</sup> Jean de Croy was the Grand Butler of France, Chamberlain and Councilor to the King of France as well as the Dukes of Bourgogne. He was killed at the battle of Azincourt in the service of France, 26 October 1415. *Maison royale*, vol. 8, p. 565.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid., vol. 2, p. 744, vol. 5, pp. 636-637, vol. 8, pp. 151-153, 565, and 570-572. Jetté believes that she might also descend from royalty through the Monchy via Ghistelles and Thiembronne via Guines lines. René Jetté to John P. DuLong, comments on a letter dated 19 January 1992.
- <sup>14</sup> Louviers Mss., no. 42, f. e, recto and verso.

Lucille Lamontagne, ACGS #1252, knew her death was near. She visited our library with her charts and documents, looking for help. Frank Binette, ACGS #1411, offered to complete a fan chart for her. Two days later, the fan chart was ready. Ms. Lamontagne died recently, of cancer. In her will, she left \$10,000 to ACGS's Building Fund. Lucille and Frank, we thank you both.



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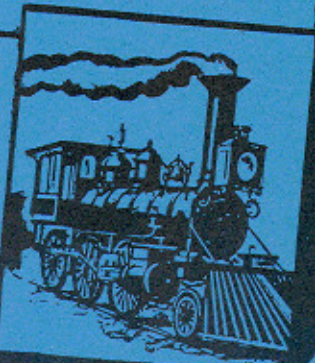
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## THE DE MARLE LIVRE DE RAISON: GATEWAY DOCUMENT TO A ROYAL LINEAGE

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### PART II: THE LOUVIERS MANUSCRIPT

#### The Provenance of the Louviers Manuscript

Gaston Saffroy cites the Louviers manuscript in his authoritative bibliography.<sup>2</sup> It carries the title "[C]'est la généalogie des nobles homes Vaast de Marle escuier seigneur de Vaugien et Nicolas de Marle escuier Seigneur de La Fallaise, Frères. . . ." which are the first few lines of the manuscript. According to the Bibliothèque de Louviers, this manuscript is on parchment, consists of 15 folios, and measures 137 by 78 millimeters. The Bibliothèque de Louviers believes that it was written during the sixteenth century.<sup>3</sup> From the work we know that it is based in part on earlier charters from about 1448.

The provenance of the document is vague. All we know for sure is that it was donated by a certain M. Lalun. We know that members of the de Marle family used it as a *livre de raison* from before 9 June 1541 to 22 January 1563 to record their family information.<sup>4</sup> It was last used in 1563 and was in the Bibliothèque de Louviers by 1903. What happened to it in the intervening years is a mystery.

The town of Louviers, Normandie (Eure), is only about 60 kilometers northwest of La Falaise, Ile-de-France (Yvelines). La Falaise is where Nicolas de Marle held his seigneurie and where his branch of the family settled.<sup>5</sup>

Although the document ultimately rested in the Bibliothèque de Louviers in the province of Normandie, it mostly concerns families living during the late Middle Ages, the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, living in the provinces of Picardie, Artois, and Flandres (the modern departments of Somme, Pas-de-Calais, and Nord). In particular, most of the places mentioned in the document are in a region called Boulonnais on the coast of the English Channel between Calais and Montreuil. See Figure 1 for a map of the region.<sup>6</sup>

Based on handwriting changes in the manuscript, there appears to have been at least three authors, all anonymous. Folios a recto to m verso are in the same distinctive late medieval hand. This was the work of the scribe that Waast and Nicolas de Marle sponsored

to record their family history. This first author based his work in part on family charters dating from before 1448. This charter was prepared for Jehan de Marle, the son of Loys de Marle, and the grandson of Guille de Marle.<sup>7</sup> However, the first author does not clearly state what these charters involved, how many there were, and their various dates. This first author provides information about the family between roughly the 1350's and 1500's. From folio n recto to o recto the handwriting changes to a less studied style and is more difficult to read. This is the work of a second author and because the pages are unclear it is the most difficult to read. This is the information that the son of Nicolas de Marle recorded about his family. The last author starts at p recto and ends at r recto, the last page. This is much clearer writing and he is the only one to record dates. It is very possible that this last author was a member of the de Marle family.

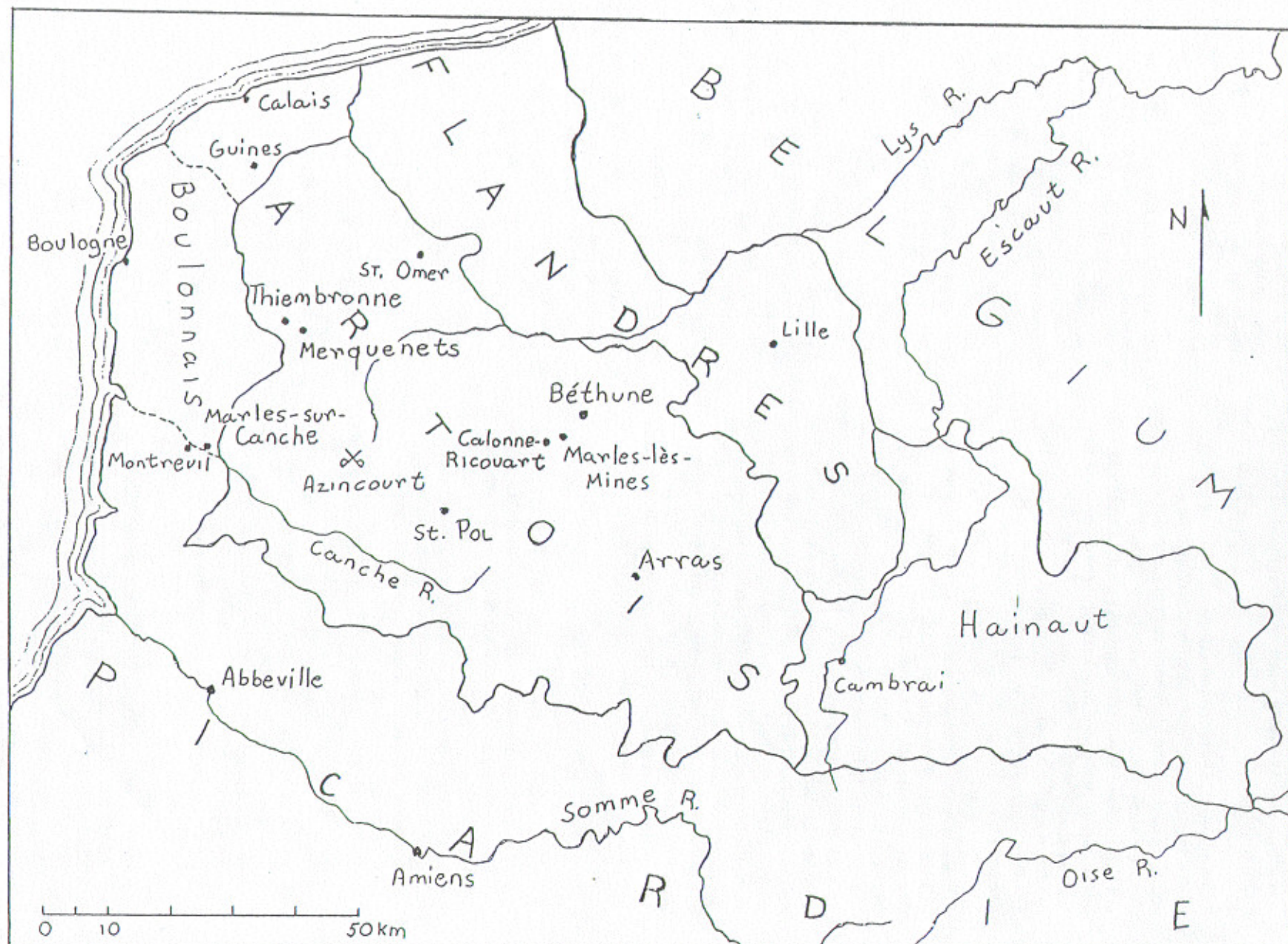
#### Editorial and Translation Conventions

There are several editorial conventions we have followed that must be explained for the benefit of the reader. The original manuscript is not numbered. Rather several of the pages bear letters as page numbers. However, the authors let this numbering scheme get out of sequence. Therefore, we have labelled each folio page with letters, starting with a, as was intended in the original. Unlike the original we carry them throughout the document in the appropriate sequence. Also, the folio pages are marked either recto or verso. Recto is the first page you read on the right-hand side, and verso is the second page you read on the left-hand side.

Any text between square brackets is our own and not in the original manuscript. Within the square brackets we place the folio letters, numbers for written out years, guesses of personal and place names, and translations of French words for various social roles. We have used endnotes for more detailed information pertaining to the people and places mentioned in this manuscript.



Figure 1  
Map of Flandres Artois, and Picardie





A question mark in square brackets means that we have some doubt about our transcription of a word. A blank line means that a word or a fragment of a word is unreadable.

Since spelling, sentence punctuation, and capitalization were not yet fully developed or standardized in the sixteenth century, we have imposed some modern usages where appropriate to aid the reader. We have indicated next to the folio letter, again in square brackets, the readability of the text on that page. Finally, for the convenience of the reader, we have also included a genealogical diagram showing the main de Marle lines covered in this document, see Figure 2.

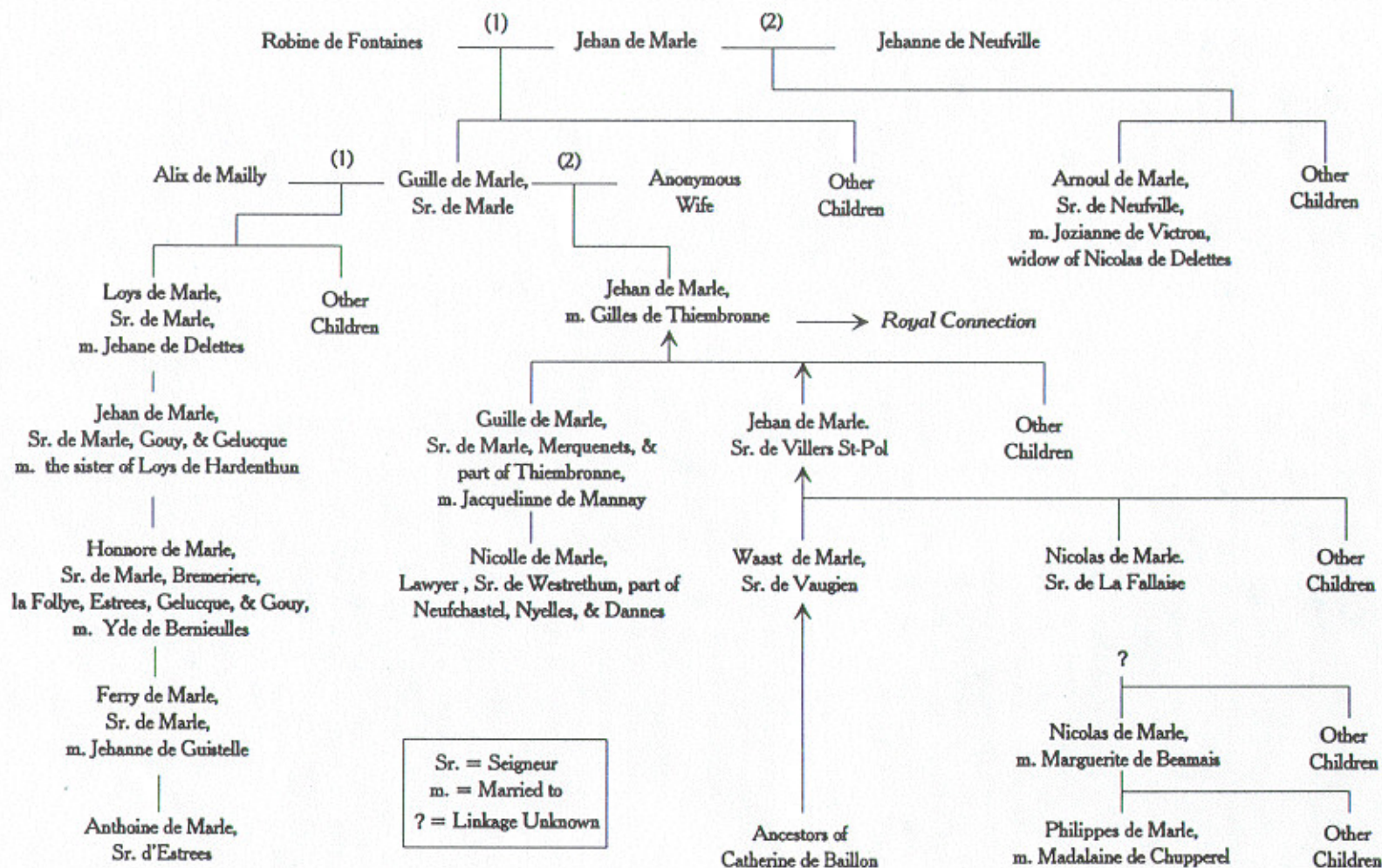
Finally, a warning to the reader. This is not an easy or pleasurable document to read. It requires that you pay attention to the detail and make comparison between facts separated by several pages. We suggest that you read it through once to get the feel of it, then go back over it more thoroughly on a second pass, and only on the third pass delve into the numerous endnotes. It has been our experience that every time we read through the Louviers manuscript we find facts that had escaped us before. Although we have been very careful, we still expect that you will notice mistakes or misinterpretations in our work and we welcome your comments.<sup>8</sup> Our goal in doing this translation is to open the document up to the scrutiny of our fellow genealogical researchers.

## NOTES

1. Gail F. Moreau is a French teacher and head of the Foreign Language Department at Pontiac Northern High School, Pontiac, Michigan. She has a Master of Arts in French. John P. DuLong is the manager of the Computer Section of the Division of Biostatistics and Research Epidemiology, Henry Ford Health Sciences Center, Detroit, Michigan. Both are active with the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan. René Jetté is one of Québec's leading genealogists. He is the author of *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec* and *Traité de généalogie*. He holds faculty positions teaching history and genealogy with the Collège de Saint-Hyacinthe and the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. He is also the counselor to the Institut généalogique J. L. & associés, Inc. He has kindly read over this paper and offered critical advice. Any errors that remain are the fault of the translator and editor and not M. Jetté.
2. Gaston Saffroy, *Bibliographie généalogique, héraldique et nobiliaire de la France, des origines à nos jours, imprimés et manuscrits*, 5 vols. (Paris, G. Saffroy, 1968-1988), vol. 3, p. 506. Also noted in *Catalogue général des Manuscrits des bibliothèques publiques de France* (Paris: Plon-Nourrit & Cie., 1903), vol. 41, p. 654, Louviers, no. 42.
3. Bibliothèque de Louviers to John P. DuLong, 12 September 1990 and 21 June 1991. We wish to thank M. O. Georget, the librarian at Louviers, for sending us not one but two copies of this manuscript. When we wrote back explaining that the last few pages were difficult to read, he graciously sent us a much better photocopy that allowed us to do a more accurate translation.
4. Jetté read the last few pages of the Louviers manuscript as indicating that Nicolle de Marle, the first cousin of Nicolas de Marle, had inherited this manuscript. However, the pages we received make it clear that it is Nicolas and not Nicolle. René Jetté, *Traité de généalogie* (Montréal: Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1991), pp. 596-597. Jetté, in his comments on the last draft of this paper, has acknowledged that he made an error in his *Traité*. He also has observed that not only are the names different, but Nicolle de Marle was an adult already by 1509-1522, while Nicolas de Marle was only married in 1541. The translator and editor of this paper, in contrast to Jetté, believe that the children of Nicolas de Marle, Seigneur de La Falaise, inherited this manuscript and used it to record family information. However, Jetté cautions us that the Nicolas de Marle mentioned in these last few pages as marrying in 1541 might be the son of Guille de Marle, Seigneur de Merquenets, and not the son of Nicolas de Marle, Seigneur de La Falaise. Unfortunately, the Louviers manuscript does not provide sufficient information to clearly identify the parentage of Nicolas de Marle whose eldest son, also named Nicolas, married Marguerite de Bionnais and whose descendants used the Louviers manuscript as a *livre de raison*.
5. The nearness of La Falaise to Louviers strengthens the hypothesis that it was the La Falaise branch of the de Marle family that used the Louviers manuscript to record their family information.
6. This map is based on "Fig. 3--Flandre et Artois à la fin de l'Ancien Régime," from Jean Lestocquoy, "Histoire de la Flandre et de l'Artois," *Que sais-je?* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1966) no. 375, p. 78.
7. Louviers Mss., no. 42, f. c verso.
8. Please send your observations and suggestions to John P. DuLong, Ph.D., 959 Oxford Road, Berkley, MI 48072. He can also be reached through CompuServe electronic mail: 71501,256.



**Figure 2**  
**The de Marle Family Tree**  
**Based on the Louviers Manuscript**





# American – Canadian Genealogist

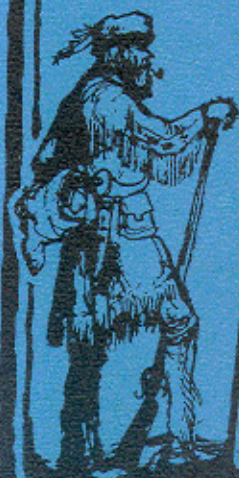
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**THE DE MARLE LIVRE DE RAISON:  
GATEWAY DOCUMENT TO A ROYAL LINEAGE**

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with the collaboration of  
René Jetté, Ph.D.

**PART III: TRANSLATION OF THE LOUVIERS MANUSCRIPT**

[title folio, in a modern hand]  
Fragment of a manuscript from the XVI Century  
15 folio pages  
137 by 78 millimeters  
Gift of M. Lalun fils  
n. 42

[folio a, recto] This is the genealogy of the noblemen Waast de Marle Escuier [Écuyer or Squire] Seigneur [Lord] de Vaugien and Nicolas de Marle Escuier Seigneur de la Fallaise brothers come from and issued [from and] bearing the arms of Jehan de Marle Seigneur of the said place, de Gouy, and de Gelucque and of Messire [Sire] Honore de Marle Chevalier [Knight] his son and heir, Seigneur de la Bremeriere de la Follye and de Noully Le Dyen.<sup>1</sup> As well as through the father as through the mother was regenerated this present genealogy in the year one thousand four hundred and forty-eight [1448] on the old and ancient charters which belonged to my Chevalier Seigneur de Marle.<sup>2</sup>

[folio a, verso, unclear] In the first place Monsieur Jehan de Marle who was the Seigneur of the said place of Marle and that the said Jehan de Marle was a great and notable Seigneur and with a great reputation and was a second cousin to Seigneur de Brimeur [Brimeu?] and through Madame his mother a first cousin to Seigneur de Bergettes in Boullenoy and to Messire Thomas de Bergettes Chevalier de Jerusalem and to the Seigneur des Près and likewise through Madame his mother to Seigneur de Brimebrecq.<sup>3</sup> Monsieur Jehan de Marle was allied through marriage to Madame Robine de Fontaines daughter of Monsieur de Fontaines.

Item and from this marriage there issued among [folio b, recto] other children namely a son named Guille [Guillaume] and two daughters who died in their young age. Guille de Marle was a very noble Chevalier and Seigneur of the said place of Marle as the heir of the said Chevalier Seigneur his father.

Item and Guille de Marle was the first cousin of Monsieur de Beaufort, the children of two sisters and was allied through marriage to Alix de Mailly one of the daughters of Messire Payen de Mailly also known as Messire Collard de Mailly and of Madame Jehanne de Picquegnny and the said Seigneur de Beaufort first cousin of the said Messire Guille de [folio b, verso, unclear] Marle married the other daughter of the said Messire Payen de Mailly and from the marriage of the said Messire Guille de Marle [there] issued five sons and ten daughters of which some died very young.<sup>4</sup> Only one son and four daughters remained from this first said marriage. From the second marriage [there was] a little son named Jehan de Marle. The son and heir of the said Messire Guille de Marle from his first Marriage was named Messire Loys [Louis] de Marle, father of the said Jehan de Marle and grandfather of the said Honnore de Marle and as for the [folio c, recto] four sisters of the said Messire Loys de Marle, daughters of the said Messire Guille de Marle and of Madame Alix de Mailly two were married in the country of Languedoc: namely the oldest to Monsieur Jehan de Delettes Chevalier Seigneur de Pucelicon and de Sauveterre and the youngest to Pierre Guillart Escuier.<sup>5</sup> The two others: one to Monsieur the Baron de Noielle Seigneur of the said place and the other to a nobleman Robert du Val père de Belhuet du Val. From these marriages there issued several children of whom most died.



[folio c, verso, very unclear] Item and to tell about the said Monsieur Jehan de Marle father of the said Messire Guille de Marle grandfather of the said Jehan Seigneur de Marle for whom this present genealogy was put in writing in the year one thousand four hundred and forty-eight [1448].<sup>6</sup>

This Monsieur Jehan de Marle after the death of my said Dame [Lady] Robine de Fontaines, his wife, was married in a second marriage to Madame Jehanne de Neufville Dame of the said place and from the second marriage there issued two sons and three daughters namely Messire Arnoul de Marle and Messire Thomas de Marle. The said Messire Arnoul de [folio d, recto] Marle, while alive Seigneur de Neufville, was a great Governor of the country of Languedoc and a Seneschal [agent in charge of a lord's estate] of Agenetz and was allied in marriage--this Messire Arnoul de Marle Seigneur de Neufville--to Madame Jozianne de Victron who had been married before to Messire Nicolas de Delettes Seigneur de Puchelicon and de Sauveterre and from the second marriage namely from the said Messire Arnoul de Marle and Madame Jozianne de Victron there were [came or issued] no children. But from the said Messire Nicolas de Delettes and the said [folio d, verso, unclear] Dame Jozianne de Victron there was a son and a daughter. The son was named Messire Jehan de Delettes and the daughter was called Jehanne de Delettes.<sup>7</sup>

Item and the said Messire Jehan de Delettes was allied through marriage to Madame Blanche de Marle, eldest sister of the said Messire Loys de Marle, aunt of Jehan de Marle Seigneur of the said place, father of Messire Honnore his son and heir and the said Dame Madame Jehanne de Delettes, sister of the said Messire Jehan de Delettes, was allied through marriage to the said Messire Loys de Marle, Seigneur of the said place, father and mother of the said Jehan de Marle.<sup>8</sup>

[folio e, recto] Item Messire Jehan de Delettes and his said sister, uncle and mother of Jehan de Marle Seigneur of the said place, were very noble lords descended from a great and ancient line like the Messires de Burlatz and from several other great lords. As was said, this Messire Jehan de Delettes Seigneur of the lands and the cities of Pulchericon, de Vitron, de Villars, the land of Sauveterre, and of several others which could be inherited by the said Jehan de Marle Seigneur of the said place and by Messire Honnore his son and heir if those Delettes who remained [folio e, verso] in the country of Languedoc died without leaving a legitimate heir of their flesh.

Item and to tell about the sisters of the said Messire Arnoul de Marle, uncle of the said Messire Loys de Marle, one named Jehanne de Marle was allied through marriage to Jean Hemond. From this marriage there were several children who all died young except for one daughter who was named Madame Jehanne de Hemond who in her time was married to Monsieur de Leschancie father and mother of Collard and Baudoyne de Leschancie and of Jehanne de Leschancie damoiselle [Damsel, young lady of quality] d'Anocq and the Damoiselle de [folio f, recto] Baudricourt and by this were the said Jehan de Marle, Colard, and Baudoyne de Leschancie and their sisters children of the two first cousins. The other sister of the said Messire Arnoul de Marle named Alix de Marle was twice allied through marriage. The first time to a nobleman Jacques de Contes who died in the battle of Agincourt and the second to Messire Baudo de Crequi, father and mother of Madame de Fourny, mother of Monsieur de Fourny at the present and thus the said Jehan Seigneur de Marle and Monsieur de Fourny are children of two first cousins.<sup>9</sup> The other last sister of the said Messire Arnoul de Marle was named Jehanne de Marle and [folio f, verso] was allied through marriage to a young escuier named Jacques d'Annun Seigneur de Questrecque from whom there were no children.<sup>10</sup>

Item and to tell about the mother's line of the said Messire Loys de Marle the grandmother of the said Jehan de Marle as previously said above was Madame Alix de Mailly who was the aunt of Madame de Mailly, mother of Jehan de Mailly, Messire Hugues de Mailly, of Madame de Sobrin and of Madame de Beaupré, mother of Mademoiselle de Humbercourt and by thus are the Chevalier Jehan de Mailly, Messire Hugues and their said sisters and the said Jehan de Marle children of two first cousins.<sup>11</sup>

[folio g, recto] Item and the said Jehan de Marle, father of Messire Honnore de Marle is of the same degree to Monsieur de Beaufort dit Messire Payen and to the older sisters as Madame de Viury and others and to the children of Monsieur Abart in the same degree.



Item this mother was a cousin two times to Monsieur de Mailly and to Monsieur de Noyon and to Monsieur Robinet de Mailly who was the Grand Panetier [the King's royal store-keeper] of France, of Messire Collard de Mailly, of Madame de Beauvoir, sister of Madame Desquenues and Madame wife of Messire Matelict Decoz and of Madame l'Abbesse at present of Bertaucourt, all sisters of the Chevaliers Seigneurs de Noyon, Messire Robinet, Messire Collard [folio g, verso] and Messire Ferry de Mailly and so was still the mother of the said Loys de Marle a cousin two times to Madame the grandmother of Madame de Fermessent and of the same degree to Mademoiselle the grandmother of Monsieur du Biez and also this mother of the said Messire Loys de Marle and of Madame the grandmother of Monsieur de Torcy and de Blanville, of Monsieur de Beaumont and of Monsieur the Provost [a royal or seigneurial agent with divers judicial, administrative, and military functions] of Paris and of Madame de Commynes. Their sisters were cousins, children of a brother and a sister.<sup>12</sup>

Item and thus by what is written above one can clearly know that this Jehan de Marle, his son and [folio h, recto, unclear] heir are noblemen on both sides, both through the father as well as through the mother.

Item that the said Jehan de Marle Seigneur of the said place was allied through marriage to the sister of Loys de Ardentun [Hardenthun] and from this marriage came the said Messire Honnore de Marle their only son and heir. From the succession of this Damoiselle de Hardenthun came to the said Messire Honnore de Marle several good and large lands that are still in the hands and the domain of the Seigneurs de Marle.<sup>13</sup>

Item and as was said above of the second marriage of the said Messire Guille de Marle father of Messire Loys issued among other children a son who was named Jehan de Marle. This Jehan [folio h, verso] de Marle was allied through marriage to a noble damoiselle named Damoiselle Gilles de Thiembronne daughter of the nobleman named Jehan de Thiembronne, Seigneur de Merquenets and de Marle, near Callonne Ricouart near Bethune and from the said marriage there were several children, namely Guille de Marle, their oldest son and heir, Bauldrain de Marle Seigneur and Captain of Remy, Jehan de Marle Seigneur de Villers Saint Pol in part, Maistre Jehan de Marle, Doyen [Dean, a religious position, in charge of a chapter or faculty of a college and often associated with a diocese or archdiocese] de Beauvays [a diocese] and Anthoine de Marle and Damoiselle Jehanne de Marle all brothers and sisters, cousins and relatives of Monsieur de Thiembronne and of Messieurs the [folio i, recto, shows h] Seigneurs de Herouval.<sup>14</sup>

Item this Guille de Marle their eldest son after the death of the said mother and father was the Seigneur of the said lands of Merquenets, of Marle, and of part of Thiembronne and was allied through marriage with Damoiselle Jacqueline de Maunay [sic., Mannay] eldest daughter of the Noble Person Jehan de Maunay Escuyer Seigneur de Beaufossé and of Damoiselle Marguerite de Guynchault [d'Enguinehaut] who was the eldest daughter of the Noble Person Jehan de Guinchault Seigneur of the said place and of Damoiselle Mehault de Bernieulles.<sup>15</sup>

[folio i, verso, unclear] Item and from the marriage of Seigneur Guille de Marle Escuyer and Damoiselle Jacqueline de Maunay his wife was born Maistre Nicolle de Marle Escuyer licensed in law Seigneur of Westrethun and in joint-tenancy of Neufchastel, Nyelles [sic.] and Dannes in Boullenoys.<sup>16</sup>

Item and to tell about the genealogy and the line of the maternal side of this Maistre Nicolle de Marle he is the first cousin to Hierosme [sic., Jérôme] de Maunay Escuyer Seigneur de Bilque and de Belbet and to Loys de Maunay Escuyer Seigneur de Conde his brother, children of a brother and sister and to Monsieur Maistre Jehan de Maunay [folio j, recto, show i] their uncle, Archdeacon of Laon in Lannoys.<sup>17</sup> Also is the said Maistre Nicolle de Marle from the side danguinehaut [d'Enguinehaut] a second cousin to the Chevalier de Biez Escuyer Seigneur de Beroud and danguinehaut and to Messire Lancelot du Biez Chevalier Seigneur de Caurroy brothers, children of two first [female] cousins and to Messire Jehan de Hardenthun, Chevalier Seigneur Destrelles Relingthon [sic.].<sup>18</sup> Likewise from the side of the house of Bernieulles of which the said Damoiselle Mehault de Bernieulles was a daughter as was said [sic.] and the grandmother of the said Maistre Nicolle de Marle. This Maistre Nicolle de Marle was a relative and cousin [folio j, verso] to Messieurs Messeigneurs [sic.] de Crequi, brothers to Madame de Neufville their sister and to those two who were issued



and from this same House of Bernieulles and also the said Maistre Nicolle de Marle cousin to Monseigneur Messire Ferry de Marle, Chevalier at present Seigneur of the said place because of my said Dame Yde de Bernieulles his mother who was also the mother of my Dame Jehanne de Marle Dame de Bazoches, mother of Monsieur le Baron de Collemberg and Anthoine de Marle Escuier Seigneur D'Estrées and to Madame de Turbinguen [Turbinghen] his sister, children of the said Messire Ferry de Marle and also to Anthoine de la Potoye [folio k, recto] Escuier Seigneur de Saint Morice and to Lambert du Tertre Seigneur du Boursin and to the successors of the deceased Raoul de Bernieulles and de la Haye all descended from their grandfathers or grandmothers from the said House of Bernieulles and from this same House of Bernieulles the said Maistre Nicolle de Marle is a cousin and close relative to several gentlemen living and residing in the said country of Boullenoy which would be too long a thing to tell and write about.<sup>19</sup>

Item and as for the said Jehan de Marle Seigneur de Villers Saint Pol in part in Beausin and brother [folio k, verso, unclear] of the said Guille de Marle were issued from him Waast de Marle Escuier Seigneur de Vaugien and Nicolas de Marle Seigneur de la Falaise brothers but as for the said Baudrain, Anthoine, Maistre Jehan doyen and Jehanne de Marle their sister, they all died without leaving any heirs.

Item and to tell about and to continue this genealogy on that which touches the said Messire Honnore de Marle Chevalier Seigneur of the said place of Marle, of Bremeriere, la Follye, Estrees, Telucque [Gelucque?], and Gouy this Messire Honnore de Marle was allied through marriage to Madame [folio l, recto] Yde de Bernieulles, one of the four daughters of Monseigneur Messire Jehan de Bernieulles Chevalier Seigneur of the said place and of Madame Yde d'Abbeville called de Boubers alias Diuregny and from the marriage of these Messire Honnore de Marle and from Madame Yde de Bernieulles came Messire Ferry de Marle Chevalier, at present Seigneur of the said place of Marle and Madame Jehanne de Marle his sister who was married to Messire Raoul de Condette Chevalier Seigneur de Bazahes from whom is descended Messire Francoys de Condettes Chevalier Seigneur de Collemberg.<sup>20</sup>

Item and the said Messire Ferry de [folio l, verso, unclear] Marle Chevalier Seigneur of the said place was allied in marriage to a very notable lady named Madame Jehanne de Guistelle in Flanders from whom descended Anthoine de Marle Escuier Seigneur de Estrees their son and heir and Madame Katherine de Marle his sister, Dame de Turpinghen [Turbinghen] wife of Messire Jacques Blondel Chevalier Seigneur Baron de Bellebronne and of the said Turbinghen, Valet Tranchant Ordinaire [Gentleman Carver at the court] of the King, Seneschal de Ponthieu and Bailiff and Captain of Estaples.<sup>21</sup>

Item and to tell about the said Messire Ferry de Marle Chevalier [folio m, recto] Seigneur of the said place and Anthoine de Marle Escuier Seigneur Destrees and the said Dame de Turbinghen, his children, are the very close relatives to the Messieurs of the House of Melun, Seigneur d'Anthoing Comte Despinay and because of this the said Dame Yde d'Abbeville called de Boubers alias Diuregny grandmother of the said Messire de Marle Seigneur de Marle and sister of Madame Danthoing and of Madame de Ligne as cousins coming from three sisters, cousins [female] likewise as [at the end of this folio appears the letters L and M in another hand] [folio m, verso] the said Anthoine de Marle Seigneur Destrees and Dame de Turbinghen his sister, relatives and very close cousins to Messieurs the children of Monsieur Monseigneur Loys de Halluym Seigneur de Piennes, Chevalier de l'Ordre [probably the Order of the Holy Spirit], Governor General and Lieutenant of the King in the country of Picardie.<sup>22</sup> All of this because of the late Dame de Piennes daughter of Guistelle his wife of whom the late Dame de Marle mother of Chevalier Anthoine and Dame de Turbinghen his sister was very [stops abruptly, the next two lines are illegible and in a second hand, but it looks like the signature of two different people].<sup>23</sup>

[folio n, recto, very unclear, and in a second hand] Item as for Nicolas de Marle eldest son of the said Nicolas de Marle married Marguerite de Bionnais [Beamais or Beauvais?] Damoiselle \_\_\_\_\_ and from these two came two sons named Chevaliers Jehan de Marle and Loys de Marle.<sup>24</sup>



And Adrien de Marle second son married Anne \_\_\_\_\_ [de Mont or Dumont?] Dame de Chandun from whom issued two sons and two daughters namely [unable to read further, but does not look like they are listed by name].

[folio n, verso, very unclear, and in a second hand] And Gilbert de Marle third son married Damoiselle Adrienne de Pardieu.

Jehan de Marle fourth son was \_\_\_\_\_ Seigneur de Confortes.

Emille de Marle fifth son married Adrienne de Sericourt Damoiselle de Tenremont.

And Inez de Marle their sister married François de Pehier, Seigneur de Luz.

[folio o, recto, very legible, and in a second hand] Item as for Philippes de Marle eldest son of the said Nicolas de Marle married Damoiselle Madalaine de Chupperel daughter of the deceased Adrian de Chupperel Seigneur de Bonival and Fontaines and of Damoiselle Clere [Elene?] parent [or relative] of Damoiselle de Haudivillers and the aunt [?] of Étienne de la Neuville in Haye \_\_\_\_\_.

[folio o, verso, blank except for hand drawn lines]

[folio p, recto, very legible, and in a third hand] The year one thousand five hundred and forty-one [1541] was married Nicolas de Marle with Marguerite de Biaunoys the ninth of June.

The year one thousand V hundred and forty-two [1542] was born their eldest son named Philippes. The XXVIII [28] of June hour of vespers and his Godparents were Messire Philippes de Roncherolles Seigneur and Baron de Hugueville and Jehan de Biaunoys Seigneur d'Arnecourt and Françoise de [At the bottom of this page someone practiced their fours, fives, and sixes.] [folio p, verso] Lenemont mother of the said Marguerite de Biaunoys.<sup>25</sup>

The year one thousand five hundred forty and three [1543] the eighteenth of February was born their second son named Jehan and his Godfathers were Pierre de Lenemont [Leuemont?] uncle of the said Marguerite Captain in the Guards of the King and Pierre de Lenemont Seigneur of Monflamis. His Godmother was Mademoiselle de Hallot the only daughter of Monsieur de Mondraguon.<sup>26</sup>

[folio q, recto, very legible, and in a third hand] The year one thousand five hundred and eight [1548] the XXIX [29] day of May was born their third son named Jacques and his Godparents were Jacques de Hallwin Seigneur de Piennes and Andrien de Chazey Seigneur of the said place and Mademoiselle de Coruat wife of Robert de Tomperier Seigneur of said Coruat.

The XXVII [27] day of March MDXLIX [1549] was born their daughter named Suzanne [folio q, verso, very legible, and in a third hand] and her Godfather was Monsieur de Buguenot brother of Monsieur de Piennes.<sup>27</sup> Her Godmothers Madame de Heugueville and Mademoiselle Damecourt.

The IX [9] day of November five hundred fifty-two [1552] was born at ten o'clock at night their second daughter named Adriane and her Godmothers were Adriane de Boulainvillier, Damoiselle de Thiergeville, and Mademoiselle du Manoir Denier my sister and Guille de Marle Godfather my brother.

[folio r, recto, the top half is legible, the bottom half is barely legible, both are in the same third hand but look like they are written at different time or with different ink] The XV [15] day of July five hundred fifty and four [1554] was born the fourth son named Louis and his Godfathers were Jehan de Hallot eldest son of the House of Goussonville and Gilbert de Marle my brother and his Godmother Mademoiselle de Fossez.



The year MCLXIII [1563] the XXII [22] day of February was married Philippes de Marle eldest son of the said Nicolas de Marle with Madalaine de Chupperel daughter of the deceased Adrian de Chupperel Seigneur de Bonival.

## NOTES

1. Godbout identified Vaugien as being in the parish of St-Rémy, near Chevreuse, Ile-De-France (Yvelines). Archange Godbout, "Baillon--de Marle--Le Sueur" Mémoires de la Société Généalogique canadienne-française 1:1 (January 1944): 37-43. Michelin Road Atlas of France (New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1987), map 57, section D3. La Fallaise is also in Ile-de-France (Yvelines), near the town of Mantes, *ibid.*, map 56, section C1. There are several towns in France with the name Gouy. One of these is just west of Rouen and north of Louviers in Normandie (Seine-Maritime), *ibid.*, map 31, section F2. Another likely candidate is Gouy-St-André, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais), *ibid.*, map 8, section C2. The others are in Picardie (Pas-de-Calais and Somme), *ibid.*, index under Gouy. The manuscript uses "venus et issus" to describe the relationship between Jehan de Marle and the brothers Waast and Nicolas de Marle. It does not use "fils de" to indicate that they were his sons. However, this manuscript clearly states that Honnore de Marle is the son and heir of Jehan de Marle. The Jehan de Marle mentioned here is the first cousin once removed of Waast and Nicolas de Marle and not their father. When Honnore is next discussed in detail, later in the document, it is clear that he is the cousin (second cousin) of these brothers and the son of Jehan de Marle, see f. g recto and verso. For clarification, please refer to the family tree in Figure 2.

2. This sentence does not mean that this genealogy only treats the family before the year 1448. Rather, it is based on documents the family had dating from that time. Many of the relationships and kinsmen discussed are from after 1448.

3. Boulenoys and its various spellings is the region of Boulonnais. This is the area near Boulogne-sur-Mer, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais). Thomas de Berguette was a knight in the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Louis-Eugene de La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques sur les comtés de Ponthieu, de Boulogne, de Guines, 4 vols. (Boulogne-sur-Mer: Imprimerie Camille Le Roy, 1874-1877; reprint ed., Paris: Éditions du Palais royal, 1974), vol. 1, p. 147. The de Berguette family was related to the Près family through marriage, *ibid.*, p. 147. According to La Gorgue-Rosny, Thomas de Berguette was the commander of Beauvoir. Beauvoir might refer to a site in Morea, Principality of Achaia, in Latin controlled Greece, Jonathan Riley-Smith, ed. The Atlas of the Crusades (New York: Facts On File, 1991), pp. 87 and 137. Or it might be a reference to one of many places of that name in north eastern France. He is also recorded as a member of the temple and hospital of Oisemont on 3 December 1397. This probably refers to the former Knights Templar house at Oisemont in Picardie. The Templars had been suppressed by 1312 and their property turned over to the Hospitallers, *ibid.*, pp. 124-125.

4. The de Mailly family is identified in Père Anselme de Ste-Marie, [alias Pierre de Guibours], Histoire généalogique et chronologique de la Maison royale de France, des pairs, grands officiers de la Couronne et de la Maison du roy et des anciens barons du royaume..., 9 vols., continued by M. Du Fourny; 3rd ed., reviewed, corrected, and augmented by Père Ange and Père Simplicien, (Paris, 1723-1733; reprint ed., Paris, Editions du Palais royal; New York and London, Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1967), hereinafter Maison royale, vol. 8, pp. 624, 653, and 656. Anselme reports that Colart de Mailly, alias Payen, was married to Marguerite de Picquigny, the daughter of Jean de Picquigny, Seigneur de St-Huyn and Marie d'Amiens, Dame de Canaples. However, he also claims that Colart de Mailly is the son of Jean de Mailly, called Maillet, Siegneur de L'Orsignol, and Jeanne de Picquigny, who has the same parents as Marguerite making them sisters. Since Canon Law forbids a nephew to marry his aunt, this must be incorrect. The problem is that Anselme claims Colart's brother as his father. Jean and Colart de Mailly, were brothers who married sisters, Abbé Ambroise Ledru, Histoire de la maison de Mailly, 2 vols. (Paris: Librairie Emile Lechevalier, 1893), vol. 1, pp.



248-249, and 313-314. Anselme only records a single marriage for Alix de Mailly to N. Froissart, seigneur de Beaufort in Artois. Ledru basis his information about her on Anselme's Maison royale. Neither author makes any mention of a de Marle connection.

5. The Delettes family is identified in Maison royale, vol. 7, p. 188.

6. Jetté believes that the Jehan de Marle referred to in this paragraph as the person who sponsored the writing of a previous document in 1448 is not the same as the Jehan de Marle who married Gilles de Thiembronne. This latter Jehan de Marle would probably have been too young in 1448.

7. Nicolas de Lettes, grand-master of the Water and Forests of Languedoc was married first to Illande, Dame de Campendu. His testament dates from July 1383. His second wife was Jaucionde, Dame de Sauveterre, Diocese of Castres, Languedoc. Jaucionde remarried Arnaud de Merle and was living in 1406. He had a son named Jean from his first marriage and a daughter named Jeanne from his second marriage. Maison royale, vol. 7, p. 188.

8. Jean de Lettes, Chevalier, Seigneur de Puechlicon was married to a Blanche de Merle [sic.]. His testament is dated 1444. His step-sister, Jeanne de Lettes, married as her second husband Louis de Merle. Except for the name being spelt Merle and these children being step siblings, the Louviers manuscript agrees with the information concerning the De Lettes family in the Maison royale. Ibid., vol. 7, p. 188.

9. The battle of Agincourt occurred on 25 October 1415. The Crequy family is documented in Maison royale, vol. 6, pp. 777-806. However, no mention is found of a Baudo de Crequi.

10. Questrecque is a village in Boulonnais, La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques, vol. 3, p. 1201.

11. Marie de Mailly was the daughter of Gilles de Mailly, Seigneur de l'Orsignol and de Bours, and Jeanne de Builly, Vicomtesse d'Ouchies. Gilles was the brother of Alix de Mailly and son of Colart de Mailly, alias Payen. Therefore, as the manuscript indicates, Alix de Mailly was the aunt of Marie de Mailly who was married to her cousin Colart de Mailly, the son of Gilles VI de Mailly and Jeanne de Donquerre. This Colart de Mailly died at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, and Marie remarried David de Brimeu, Seigneur d'Humbercourt. She died on 16 September 1456. Among her children to her first marriage with Colart de Mailly were Jean de Mailly, Hue or Luc de Mailly, Jeanne de Mailly, wife of Robert Fretel, Chevalier, Seigneur de Sombrin, and Marie de Mailly who was married twice, first to Jean de Brimeu, Chevalier, Seigneur d'Humbercourt, and second to Hue de Berghetes, Seigneur de Beaupré and de Toullemont. Maison royale, vol. 8, pp. 631-632 and 656. Ledru, Mailly, vol. 1, pp. 120, 136-140, 316-318.

12. This paragraph is referring to the first cousins once removed of Alix de Mailly. They are the children of Jean IV de Mailly, called Maillet, and Jeanne de Crésecques. He was the son of Jean III de Mailly and Jeanne de Picquigny and the nephew of Alix's father Colard de Mailly, called Payen. The children of Jean IV de Mailly were: Jean de Mailly; Robert de Mailly, Grand Panetier; Jean de Mailly, Bishop of Noyon; Colard de Mailly, Seigneur de Blangy-sur-Somme; Ferry de Mailly, Seigneur de Talmas; Marie de Mailly, wife of Jean de Beauvoir; Marguerite de Mailly, the wife of first Pierre called Ferrand des Quesnes, Vicomte de Poix, and second to Renaud de Quinquempoix; and lastly, Catherine de Mailly, wife of Jean d'Anch, called Martel, Seigneur de Tilloy. Maison royale, vol. 8, pp. 653-654. Ledru, Mailly, vol. 1, pp. 258-259.

13. Hardenthun is in Boulonnais. La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques, vol. 2, pp. 729-731. It is near the town of Marquise, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais), but not shown on the map, Michelin, map 2, section C3.



14. The Marle seigneurie that Jehan de Thiembronne owned is probably Marles-lès-Mines, near Calonne-Ricouart, which is in turn near to Béthune, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais). Thiembronne is also in Picardie (Pas-de-Calais). Merquenets is probably now the village of Merck-St-Liévin, just four kilometers east of Thiembronne. J. C. Dupuis, Institut Géographique National, to John P. DuLong, letter, 29 January 1992. August-Charles Henry comte de Manches de Loisne, Dictionnaire topographique du département du Pas-de-Calais (Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1907), p. 251. Michelin, map 3, section E4, and map 9, sections F1 and E1. The surname Herouval might be Héronval from Boulonnais, La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques, vol. 2, p. 754.

15. The surname appears as Maunay throughout the manuscript, but it should read Mannay. Jean de Mannay, who held the fief of Hesdigneul in Boulonnais, married Marguerite d'Enguinehaud, daughter of Jean, Sieur d'Enguinehaud, and Mahaut de Bernieulles. On 18 February 1490, he feudally withdrew the Seigneurie of Bellebée, near Collemberg, on to Nicolas de Marles. Nicolas de Marles, advocate of the King in the seneschal district of Boulonnais in 1478, had purchased this Seigneurie from Jean de Bellebée, 10 June 1489. The link between this Nicolas de Marle, the lawyer, and the other de Marles in this paper has not yet been established. La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques, vol. 1, p. 155, vol. 2, pp. 939, and 953. Bernieulles is in Boulonnais, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais), Michelin, map 8, section B1. Note that Guille de Marle is now referred to as Seigneur de Marle. However, this is probably Marles-lès-Mines, and not Marles-sur-Canche near Montreuil. Marles-sur-Canche was held by the elder branch of the family. It is significant that Guille de Marle inherited the Marles-lès-Mines property through his mother's father, Jean Bournel de Thiembronne, and not through his own father.

16. Maître Nicole de Marle, licensed in law, Sieur de Westrethun and de Neufchâtel, in joint tenancy, in 1509, was the Vicomte de Fiennes in 1521 (this last title does not necessarily mean that he was a Viscount, he might only have been the caretaker for the de Fiennes estate). La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogique, vol. 1, pp. 458-459, vol. 2, pp. 953, 1059, and 1066-1067, vol. 3, p. 1551. Westrethun might be Westrehem near Calonne-Ricouart, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais), Michelin, map 9, section E1. Nyelles has not been clearly identified. However, it might be Nielles. There are three places called Nielles in Picardie (Pas-de-Calais), near Calais, Ardes, and one a little north of Thiembronne, *ibid.*, map 3, sections D2, E3, and E4. Dannes is near Neufchâtel-Hardelot in Boulonnais, *ibid.*, map 2, section C4.

17. Lancelot de Mannay, Écuyer, was the father of Jérôme de Mannay, Sieur de Bilque, in 1553. Bilque is in Boulonnais. Belbet might be Bellebée, owned by the Mannay family and the de Marle family. La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogique, vol. 1, pp. 156 and 178-179, and vol. 2, p. 939. Nicole de Marle, Seigneur de Vvethrehin [sic.] and Neufchastel, was a witness to the marriage contract of his first cousin Jérôme de Mannay, Sieur de Bilque, to Marie de Poix, dated 11 March 1509. Jerome Bignon, Nobiliaire de Picardie, généralité d'Amiens: Contenant l'extrait des titres et les généalogies (S.l.: s.n., 1717), bound manuscript in the Special Collection of Michigan State University Library, see "Généalogie de Mannay," folio 217.

18. Du Biez and Hardenthun are both in Boulonnais. The Hardenthun family were also seigneurs of Réclinghen and Estraielles (Estréelles). *Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 175, vol. 2, pp. 514-515, 531-532, 730 and 939, vol. 3, pp. 1227-1228.

19. There was a Catherine de Crequy, Dame de Villers au Bocage, who married by contract 16 May 1503, Jean de Neufville, Seigneur de Boubers. Her parents were Jean VI de Crequy and Françoise de Rubempré, Dame de Bernieulles and de Blequin, the daughter of Jean de Rubempré, Seigneur de Bievres, Chevalier in the Order of the Golden Fleece, and Catherine, Dame de Bernieulles, du Mesnil, and de Blequin. Her parents were married by contract 1 September 1478. Jean VI de Crequy's son, Philippe de Crequy, became the Seigneur de Bernieulles. Maison royale, vol. 6, pp. 783 and 785. Lambert, Écuyer, Sieur du Tertre and d'Hardinghen, man-at-arms, under Maître de La Fayette in



1514, was married to Jeanne de Marle. She was the daughter of Nicolas de Marles, advocate of the King. Her father was also the Seigneur de Bellebée and purchased a hôtel of the *Grand Cigne* at Boulogne, near the church of Notre-Dame and built a tower there that he called Beauvoir. La Gorgue-Rosny, *Recherches généalogiques*, vol. 2, p. 953, and vol. 3, p. 1410. It is unclear what, if any, relationship exists between the tower called Beauvoir and the place called Beauvoir that Thomas de Berguette commanded, see endnote 9.

20. A Maître Honoré, Sieur de Marles-lès-Montreuil, was married to Ide de Bernieulles, the daughter of Jean, Sieur and Baron de Bernieulles and his wife Ide d'Abbeville, called de Boubers. La Gorgue-Rosny, *Recherche généalogiques*, vol. 1, p. 155. He had a daughter named Anne who was married on 15 October 1480 at Montreuil to Raoul de Condette. The de Marle or de Marles family also held interests in the following seigneuries or fiefs: Courset, Wissant, Thiembronne, Estrées, Rombly, Cormont, Maroiville, Disque, Brequesent, Bellebée, Étaples, Engoudsent, and the fief of the Abbé de Samer. Ibid, vol. 2, pp. 953 and vol. 4, pp. 166-176. As stated in endnote 7, there is only one Honnore in this document. He is the heir of the main branch and hence the reason why he and his descendants retain the de Marle seignury and the other nearby ones, like Estrées. This Marles-lès-Montreuil is undoubtedly the modern Marles-sur-Canche, near Montreuil, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais). Estrees might refer to Estrée near Montreuil, or Estrées-lès-Crécy near the battlefield of Crécy, Picardie (Somme). A Maître de Marles held the seignury of Estrées from the Comté de Boulogne in 1477. Ibid, vol. 2, p. 533. *Michelin*, map 8, sections B1, C2, and C3.

21. Marguerite de La Motte, Dame de Bellebronne and de Waben, was married to Colart Blondel, Bailiff of Étaples and Baron de Bellebronne. They were the parents of Jacques Blondel, Chevalier, Sieur de Turbinghen and de Lannoy, Bailiff of Étaples, and Baron de Bellebronne. Jacques Blondel was the "échanson et valet tranchant du Roi" [cup-bearer and gentleman carver for the King]. In 1524 he was the Governor and Seneschal of Ponthieu. He was married to Catherine, the daughter of Ferry, Sieur de Marles. La Gorgue-Rosny, *Recherches généalogiques*, vol. 1, pp. 133 and 189-190. Bellebronne or Bellebrune is in Boulonnais, near Boulogne-sur-Mer, Picardie (Pas-de-Calais), *Michelin*, map 2, section C3. Ferri de Marle, Seigneur de la Folie and d'Estrées, is recorded as marrying Madeleine, the daughter of Jacques de Guistelle and Marie de Fontainet. He was a Chevalier, Seigneur de la Motte, Mayor of St-Omer in 1478, and Sovereign Bailiff of Flanders. François-Alexandre Aubert de LaChesnay-Desbois et Badier, *Dictionnaire de la noblesse*, 19 vols., 3rd ed. (Paris, 1863-1876; reprint ed., Paris: Berger-Levrault, 1980), vol. 10, p. 151.

22. Jean de Melun, Vicomte de Gand, Seigneur d'Antoing and d'Epinoy, Chevalier in the Order of the Golden Fleece, was married on 5 April 1421 to Jeanne d'Abbeville, the younger daughter of Edmond d'Abbeville, Seigneur de Boubers, and Jeanne, Dame de Relly. They had a daughter named Bonne de Melun who was married to Josse de Hallwin, Seigneur de Piennes, the second son of Jean de Hallwin and Jacqueline de Ghistelles. *Maison royale*, vol. 5, p. 228.

23. Louis de Hallwin, Seigneur de Piennes, Bugenhout, and Maignelais, was made Governor and Lieutenant General of Picardie in 1512. He was the son of Josse de Hallwin through his third wife Jeanne de la Tremoille. Louis was married to Jeanne de Ghistelles, Dame d'Esclabecq and de Ledinghen, daughter of Jean, Seigneur d'Esclabecq and Jeanne de Bruges-la-Gruthuse. *Maison royale*, vol. 3, pp. 911-912, and vol. 9, p. 54. La Gorgue-Rosny, *Recherches généalogiques*, vol. 3, pp. 1137.

24. Jetté, in his comments on the last draft of this paper, believes that the order in which these last folies should be read might be first of all ff. p, q, and r, latter f. o, and finally f. n. The authors might have skipped to the last few pages, filled these out, and then had to use the blank pages they had skipped over before as they ran out of space. We have preserved the original order in the manuscript. However, the reader should take this possible folio sequence into account.



25. Louis de Hallwin had a daughter named Françoise who married Louis de Roncherolles, Seigneur de Hugueville, Baron du Pont-St-Pierre. Maison royale, vol. 5, p. 912.

26. Jeanne de Montdragon, the only daughter of Troilus, Seigneur de Montdragon, was married to François de Monmorency, Seigneur de Hallot. Maison royale, vol. 3, p. 587.

27. There was a Guillaume de Hallwin, of the de Piennes family, who was the Seigneur of Bughenot. Maison royale, vol. 3, p. 909.

## Pauline Moll Tougas, ACGS #908, Dies at 100

Pauline MOLL-TOUGAS died 1 JUL 1993, in Bedford, New Hampshire, two months short of her 101st birthday. In their obituary, the Union Leader referred to Mrs. TOUGAS as a Franco-American leader as she surely was. She was born in Cambridge, the daughter of physician Louis A. MOLL and Lena LABONTE. She married Army Major Eugene L. TOUGAS and had two sons and two daughters.

Pauline MOLL-TOUGAS was founding president of the Manchester Chapter of l'*Alliance française*, founding president of the *Federation feminine franco-americaine*, in addition to her membership in ACGS. According to the Union Leader (2 JUL 1993), "Musician, artist, linguist, Mrs. TOUGAS exercised leadership in the cultural affairs of the French-Canadian ethnic community. In 1948, she received the *Diplome d'Honneur de l'Alliance française* and in 1960 the *Grande Medaille de l'Alliance française*. In 1961, she was named *Officier de l'Ordre du merite franco-americain* and in 1965, she was named *Chevalier, l'Ordre des palmes academiques de Paris*."

Pauline MOLL-TOUGAS' ancestral line was researched by Mark O. GAUTHIER, #346.

## Moll-Molle Ancestral Line

	Germany	
Adam Molle	Marie Chedel	Ohrenforth, Saxony, d. Wirtsbourg
	I	
Michel Molle (Adam/Marie Chedel) With Brunswick Troops,	Marie Vernier-Duvernier-LaDouceur (Laurent Vernier/Charlotte Boin-Dufresne)	10 JAN 1785, Notre Dame, Montreal (ACGS 26B)
	II	
Jean-Marie Molle (Michel/Marie Vernier)	M.-Catherine-Louise Finchelay (Thomas Finchlay/M.-Catherine Chene)	5 SEP 1814, Montreal, Cte. Ile-de-Montreal (ACGS 26B)
	III	
Louis-Joseph Moll (Jean-Marie/Catherine-Louise Finchley)	M.-Josephthe-Valerie Douaire-Bondy (Jos. Douaire-B./M.-Claire Fauteux)	27 APR 1841, Assomption, Cte. Assomption
	IV	
Louis-Arthur Moll (Louis/Josephine Valerie Douaire-Bondy)	M.-Lena Labonte (J./Eloise Cossette)	9 NOV 1891, Wayland, Massachusetts (Mass. tapes, 1891, Vol 416, p. 385)
	V	
Pauline Moll (Louis/Lena Labonte)	Major Engene L. Tougas, U. S. Army	



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## THE DE MARLE LIVRE DE RAISON: GATEWAY DOCUMENT TO A ROYAL LINEAGE

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with the collaboration of  
René Jetté, Ph.D.

### PART IV: EVALUATING THE MANUSCRIPT

In evaluating the Louviers manuscript it is important to differentiate between the concern for proving its reliability and validity versus judging if it adequately documents the linkage between the de Marle and Bournel de Thiembronne families--the gateway to European royalty. As indicated in the endnotes throughout the translation, there are several secondary printed sources that confirm much of the information presented in the Louviers manuscript. In fact, we were unable to find any significant contradiction between the Louviers manuscript and the published sources that was not resolved after carefully evaluating all the available information. We therefore judge that the Louviers manuscript is a credible document. Although the Louviers manuscript contains clues regarding the connection between the de Marle and the Bournel de Thiembronne families, it fails to clearly establish the relationship between the families. There are still a number of disturbing contradictions that require consideration. Ultimately, the problems associated with the de Marle and Bournel de Thiembronne connection must be resolved by conducting research in original sources in France.

#### Doubts Concerning the Evidence

Because of the silence of the Louviers manuscript on points of interest to modern researchers there remain several unsettling contradictions regarding the de Marle and Bournel de Thiembronne connection. Let us deal with each of them in turn:

1. Père Anselme in the Maison royale states that Gille Bournel was married to a Louis, Seigneur de Marle, and not to a Jean de Marle.<sup>1</sup>

We know from the Louviers manuscript that Jehan de Marle had a half-brother named Loys or Louis. We also know that this Loys was married to Jeanne de Lettes and not to Gille or Gillette Bournel de Thiembronne. Furthermore, Guillaume or Guille de Marle, the eldest son of Jehan de Marle and Gilles de Thiembronne was a Seigneur of part of Thiembronne. If Gilles was really married to Loys de Marle, then it is unlikely that his nephew would receive any part of his wife's estate. The fact that Anselme shows the husband's name as Louis rather than Jean should not be taken as a serious contradiction. It might only be a mistaken reading of the original evidence he used but did not cite. We need to trust the Louviers manuscript only in so far as it accurately discusses the grandparents (Jehan de Marle and Gilles de Thiembronne) and great-grandparents (Guille de Marle and Jehan de Thiembronne) of the manuscript's sponsors (Waast and Nicolas de Marle). In this case, the *livre de raison* is supported by the, albeit weak, information in the d'Hozier Cabinet de Titres, *Dossiers Bleus*, vol. 429.

No genealogical work, including both Anselme's Maison royale and the Louviers manuscript, is free of errors. However, where there are differences in names, as in the case of de Merle and de Lettes rather than de Marle and Delettes, the Louviers manuscript usually corresponds in general outline to Anselme's work or actually surpasses it in some details. Nevertheless, until we know exactly how Anselme documented that Gille Bournel was the daughter of Jean Bournel and the wife of the Seigneur de Marle we will feel insecure. Once the de Marle family's connection to this Jean Bournel de Thiembronne is accepted the link to a royal ancestry through the noble houses of Croy, Craon, and Flanders is easily proven using standard sources.<sup>2</sup>



2. Although the de Marles are mentioned as holding a sub-fief at Thiembronne, the information in Leroux's *Histoire de Thiembronne* indicates that it is Nicolas de Marle and his son Jean de Marle, and not Guillaume de Marle, who held a sub-fief.<sup>3</sup>

Anyone relying solely on Leroux's work would be misled because he only transcribed a portion of this 1477 "Role of Fiefs of the Boulonnais." La Gorgue-Rosny did a full transcription of it and besides the above information he also mentions a second Jean de Marle and a Lancelot Marlet (or Marles).<sup>4</sup> This second Jean de Marle could possibly be the husband of Gilles or Gillette Bournel de Thiembronne and the father of Guillaume de Marle.<sup>5</sup> The evidence is just not clear enough at this time to make a sound distinction. It suffices to note that there were several de Marles holding land in Thiembronne near the period we are interested in. Also, it is interesting to note that there is no Louis de Marle mentioned in the list of 1477 fief holders.

3. Though there is evidence that the de Marle family was in the same time and place as the Bournel family, this could be a different family than the de Marle family related to Catherine de Baillon.

The de Marles in the Boulonnais area during the fifteenth century were very likely our family of interest. The presence or absence of a trailing "s" on the surname, or for that matter the spelling "Merle" seen in several sources, are insignificant variations. Anselme does identify another noble de Marle family, apparently unrelated, but they held land elsewhere in northeastern France and are easily differentiated from the de Marle family of interest.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, the information in the 1477 role of sub-fiefs, La Gorgue-Rosny's work, and Godbout's findings clearly indicate we have identified the correct family and placed them in the same time and area as the Bournel de Thiembronne family.<sup>7</sup>

4. Jehan de Thiembronne, Seigneur de Merquenetz, could be a cousin of Jean II Bournel, Seigneur de Thiembronne.

According to Anselme the property of Thiembronne came into the Bournel family when Jean I Bournel, Seigneur de Puisieux, living in 1330, married Jeanne, Dame de Thiembronne.<sup>8</sup> However, he provides no information about the Thiembronne family. We know from La Gorgue-Rosny that there were other branches of the Thiembronne family before 1330 and Leroux indicates that there were members of the Thiembronne family thriving after 1330.<sup>9</sup> Leroux documents the case of Guillaume de Thiembronne, who was not a Bournel but might have been the nephew of Jeanne, Dame de Thiembronne. The implication is that Jehan de Thiembronne, the father of Gilles de Thiembronne, might not be a member of the Bournel family but only a distant relative.

5. The Seigneur de Merquenetz is not also identified as the Seigneur de Thiembronne, de Bauchain, de Lambersat, etc. According to Anselme, Jean Bournel, the father of Gille Bournel, held these seigneuries.<sup>10</sup>

Jehan de Thiembronne is never identified as the Seigneur de Thiembronne in the Louviers manuscript. Rather he is referred to as the Seigneur de Merquenetz and Marle lès Callone Ricouart. These two seigneuries are not associated with the Bournel family in any of the printed sources. We found Merquenetz (Merck-St-Liévin) adjacent to Thiembronne and identified Marle with Marles-lès-Mines near Béthune and well within the Bournel family's area of operation. It is not too unusual for sources to fail to mention all the seigneuries associated with a particular family. The authors of the Louviers manuscript might have concentrated on the Bournel seigneuries of interest to the de Marles. They might have simply neglected to mention the other properties. However, it is still a concern that the other known Bournel seigneuries in the area are not listed.

Furthermore, in 1477 Guillaume du Bourguet [sic.] was referred to as the Baron de Thiembronne indicating that it was not a mere seigneurie.<sup>11</sup> According to Anselme, Louis Bournel, the grandson of Jean Bournel, used the title of Baron of Thiembronne, but elsewhere he shows that other family members carried the title Baron de Monchy.<sup>12</sup> The appellation of Barony to Thiembronne is used haphazardly and it is easy to understand why someone writing about the family might neglect to mention it. There is simply not enough known to resolve these seigneurie related problems without further research.



6. There are many place names and people mentioned in the Louviers document that have not been clearly identified.

We set out with the intention of identifying every person and place mentioned in the manuscript. We soon abandoned this idea when we found well over 175 different people and places. Those that we have confirmed, such as the de Mailly and de Lettes, are placed in the endnotes. The work of La Gorgue-Rosny has also helped to clarify many people and places.<sup>13</sup> There are enough mysteries in this document to keep a team of genealogists busy for several years. We believed it was more important to make the translation available to as many people as possible as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, we believe that we have been able to identify several important facts that confirm the manuscript and strengthen its validity. The spelling in the manuscript might be archaic and the laying out of relationships between generations and cousins erratic, but in general the document appears to be credible.

7. The chronology of the implied successive marriages in the Louviers manuscript is very loose for the de Marles and very tight for the Bournels.

Because the Louviers manuscript lacks dates for all but the last few pages, it is very difficult to assign the people mentioned to periods. Also, until we properly identify how the Nicolas de Marle married in 1541 is related to the other de Marles, the last few pages with dates are unusable. We have to rely on dates--often vague dates--from other sources to try and lock these people into a period. Jetté has expressed two concerns relating to chronology. The first concern is that the Louviers manuscript might be missing a generation along the de Marle lineage. Jetté estimates that Guille de Marle's first marriage to Alix de Mailly took place about 1370-1380. They had fifteen children and it is likely that his second marriage was not until 1400-1410. The marriage of Jehan de Marle to Gilles de Thiembronne occurred about 1460-1470. This leaves enough room for a missing generation. Based on Leroux's incomplete transcription of the 1477 fief holders, Jetté speculated that a Nicolas de Marle may have been the son of Guille de Marle and the father of Jehan de Marle.<sup>14</sup> The second concern is that the length of time between the marriage of Jean Bournel to Julienne de Monchy roughly around 1430-1440 and the marriage of Jehan de Marle to Gilles de Thiembronne about 1460-1470 might be too short.<sup>15</sup>

The lack of solid chronological data makes it impossible to solve this problem without further research. Although the weak date information we do have casts some doubt on the number of generations, it is still conceivable that the proposed lineage in this paper are correct. Jetté has identified the concept of displacement of generations as the phenomena of the same ancestor appearing in different generations.<sup>16</sup> For example, a person might descend twice from the same ancestor but first in the seventh generation and second in the eight generation. There are many causes for this generational slippage, such as the birth rank, age at marriage, sex, timing of marriage, timing of births, etc. However, it is totally conceivable that a late marriage or parenthood on the de Marle side of the family and an early marriage and parenthood on the Bournel side would make the chronology fit. The chronology is suspicious but not impossible.

8. The Louviers manuscript never discusses the socially important noble houses that Jean Bournel de Thiembronne descends from, such as the Monchy, Croy, and Craon families.

The Louviers manuscript, as a *livre de raison*, is careful to document the prestigious Mailly, Melun d'Anthoing, Halluin de Piennes, and de Lettes families associated with the de Marle family. Why did the writer of the Louviers manuscript neglect to mention the important families associated with the Bournel family? This scribe who wrote the first section of the Louviers manuscript was given the task of recording the de Marle family's history based on the documents supplied to him and the information of the immediate family. This part of the document shows a preference for relating the family connections of the senior branch of the de Marle family. However, the Bournel family married into the junior branch of the family. Moreover, these illustrious houses are directly connected to the Bournel family and only indirectly associated with the de Marle family. It is difficult to determine how many other prestigious family ties are missing from the Louviers manuscript on other branches of the de Marle family. The scribe does mention in passing that the Thiembronnes are related to the Seigneurs d'Héronval. However, he fails to give any further detail about this obscure family. His silence about other more illustrious connections is disturbing. The selective nature of the scribe's work should not be the only measure of the possibility that the de Marles are related to the Bournel



de Thiembronnes.

9. Neither Anselme nor Ledru mention that Alix de Mailly had a husband named Guillaume de Marle.<sup>17</sup>

The de Mailly family does not directly involve the issue at hand, the de Marle and Bournel de Thiembronne connection. Nevertheless, it is important because it casts doubt on the accuracy of Anselme as a comparative source and it does demonstrate the accuracy of the Louviers manuscript. Anselme made several mistakes concerning the de Mailly family. For example, he confuses Colart de Mailly dit Payen as the son of his brother. Ledru corrects this mistake. However, Ledru only refers back to Anselme when he discusses Alix de Mailly. Both researchers missed the marriage of Alix de Mailly to Guillaume de Marle. She was only a daughter on a minor branch of the main family. They do not state that she only had one husband, and they are vague on the name of the husband they do know of for her, N. Froissart, Seigneur de Beaufort. The Louviers manuscript correctly suggest that the de Marles are related to the de Beaufort family through her.

10. Lastly, this attempt to associate the de Marle family with the Bournel de Thiembronne family could be merely the wishful thinking of genealogists bent on proving a royal lineage. It is only the juxtaposition of names and places and no real proof.

The leap from the name Thiembronne to Bournel can be criticized as the weakest link in this proposed pedigree. We know that since Jean Bournel, Seigneur de Puisseux, married Jeanne, Dame de Thiembronne, and founded the family around 1330 that members of the Bournel family often carried both surnames in a haphazard fashion.<sup>18</sup> There is much similarity between (1) a Gillette de Thienbronne, from the country of Flanders, married to a Jean, Seigneur de Marle in Godbout's research, (2) a Damoiselle Gilles de Thiembronne daughter of the nobleman named Jehan de Thiembronne, Seigneur de Merquenets, etc., married to a Jehan de Marle in the Louviers manuscript, and (3) a Gille Bournel, daughter of Jean Bournel, Chevalier, Seigneur de Thiembronne, de Bauchain, de Lambersat, etc., married to a Louis, Seigneur de Marle in the *Maison royale*.<sup>19</sup> We believe that the evidence indicates that Gilles de Thiembronne may indeed have been a member of the Bournel family. However, any attempt to prove it based solely on the Louviers manuscript and the other sources used in this paper leads to frustrating scholastic arguments such as the set of counterpoints found here.

## Conclusion

In summary, the Louviers document is far from an ideal piece of genealogical evidence. It lacks dates, places are not clearly identified, and the relationship between people is not always intelligible. Also, it is better in providing information on the more recent generations than the earliest ones. However, it is only the three generations connecting Catherine de Baillon's de Marle ancestors to the Bournel de Thiembronne family that really concern us. All of these shortcomings are to be expected in a *livre de raison*. These drawbacks do not mean that a *livre de raison* like the Louviers manuscript is worthless, only that it must be treated with caution and should be verified by using other sources.

This is all tantalizing speculation and might be accepted by some as an adequate preponderance of the evidence argument. However, we feel that this pedigree should be treated as a hypothesis that must be further tested against evidence. Until further evidence is uncovered in the Cabinet des Titres, notarial and tabellionage documents, and in late Medieval cartularies we should remain skeptical. If something is genealogically "true," then it usually means that other sound supporting evidence in original documents will be uncovered. Given an abundance of records in a particular locality during a specific period and for the nobility especially, as we have in this case, we believe such corresponding evidence will eventually be discovered.

Nevertheless, until that evidence is found, caution is advised. Sometime ago, Donald Lines Jacobus observed: "Unfortunately, as soon as most Americans delve into books that deal with the English gentry and peerage, their critical faculties seem to desert them entirely."<sup>20</sup> We want to avoid the same criticism being leveled at French-Canadian genealogists researching among the dusty volumes on French nobility. The authors of this translation have joined forces with René Jetté to form the De Marle Royal Connection Research Association. This private association has taken the initiative to employ a qualified genealogist in France to



thoroughly research Catherine de Baillon's royal lineage. The association plans to uncover supporting documents for the de Marle and Bournel de Thiembronne connection and eventually to verify the work of Godbout. These steps must be taken before this royal hypothesis can be accepted beyond the shadow of a doubt.<sup>21</sup> There is always the unsettling reality that a beautifully constructed pedigree can be ruined by the brutal introduction of raw facts.

# NOTES

1. Père Anselme de Ste-Marie, [alias Pierre de Guibours], Histoire généalogique et chronologique de la Maison royale de France, des pairs, grands officiers de la Couronne et de la Maison du roy et des anciens barons du royaume. . ., 9 vols., continued by M. Du Fourny; 3rd ed., reviewed, corrected, and augmented by Père Ange and Père Simplicien, (Paris, 1723-1733; reprint ed., Paris, Editions du Palais royal; New York and London, Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1967), hereinafter Maison royale, vol. 8, p. 155.
2. Wilhelm Karl Prinz zu Isenburg, Frank Baron Freytag von Loringhoven, and Detlev Schwennicke, eds., Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten, new series, 14 vols. in 17 parts (Marburg: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1980-1991), vol. 2, table 8, vol. 3, part 4, tables 721-722, vol. 6, table 98.
3. Abbé Jules Leroux, Histoire de Thiembronne (St-Omer: Imprimerie H. d'Homont, 1912), p. 123.
4. Louis-Eugene de La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques sur les comtés de Ponthieu, de Boulogne, de Guines, 4 vols. (Boulogne-sur-Mer: Imprimerie Camille Le Roy, 1874-1877; reprint ed., Paris: Editions du Palais royal, 1974), vol. 4, pp. 170-171.
5. Jetté notes, in his final review of a draft of this paper, that La Gorgue-Rosny refers to Nicolas de Marle as Master and wonders if he can be identified with the lawyer living in 1478. He also speculates that perhaps the Jean de Marle referred to here might be Jean de Marle, Seigneur de Villiers-St-Paul, who was living in 1485. This would be the son of Jean de Marle and Gilles Bournel de Thiembronne. He would have inherited part of the property through his mother. If this is the case, than the de Marle-Theimbronne marriage must have occurred earlier than 1460-1470.
6. Maison royale, vol. 6, pp. 381-386 and 641-648. The other de Marle family was founded by Henry le Corgne, dit de Marle.
7. There is some mention of the de Marle family in the Medieval charters of the town of Montreuil-sur-Mer near Marles-sur-Canche. However, there is not enough information to either support or contradict the other sources examined in this paper. Nevertheless, there are some leads indicating that the family was operating in the area as early as the thirteenth century. Georges de Lhomel, Le Cartulaire de la ville de Montreuil-sur-Mer 3 vols. (Abbeville: Imprimerie Lafosse et Cie., 1904-1910), vol. 1, pp. 63-66, 98-99, 151-152, 156, 306-308, vol. 2, pp. 444-446.
8. Maison royale, vol. 8, p. 152.
9. La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques, vol. 3, pp. 1414-1416. Leroux, Thiembronne, pp. 66-86 and 348-351.
10. Maison Royale, vol. 8, p. 153.
11. La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques, vol. 3, p. 1416.
12. Maison royale, vol. 8, pp. 155-156.



13. Although the title of La Gorgue-Rosny's work, Recherches généalogiques sur les comtés de Ponthieu, de Boulogne, de Guines, boasts that it is genealogical research, it suffers from some of the same problems as the Louviers manuscript. Foremost is that it is not laid out in an acceptable genealogical format. La Gorgue-Rosny scatters information about families throughout his four volumes and never pulls it together in a succinct fashion. The set also lacks an index. Despite these drawbacks, it is a valuable source for clues and partial confirmations.
14. René Jetté, Traité de généalogie (Montréal: Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1991), pp. 597-598.
15. René Jetté to John P. DuLong, personal correspondence, 9 February 1992. Maison royale, vol. 8, p. 155.
16. Jetté, Traité, p. 129.
17. Abbé Ambroise Ledru, Histoire de la maison de Mailly, 2 vols. (Paris: Librairie Emile Lechevalier, 1893), vol. 1, p. 314. Maison royale, vol. 8, p. 656.
18. La Gorgue-Rosny, Recherches généalogiques, vol. 1, pp. 236-237, vol. 4, p. 1415. Maison royale, vol. 8, p. 152.
19. Archange Godbout, "Baillon--de Marle--Le Sueur" Mémoires de la Société Généalogique canadienne-française 1:1 (January 1944): 40. Louviers Mss., no. 42, f. h, recto and verso. Maison royale, vol. 8, p. 153.
20. Donald Lines Jacobus, "Royal Ancestry," in The Genealogical Reader, ed. by Noel C. Stevenson (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), pp. 47-48.
21. For standards of evidence to use in judging this pedigree we will follow the guidelines of the Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain, alias, the "Royal Bastards." This lineage society has the most rigorous standards of genealogical evidence for proving a royal connection. Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr., "Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain," National Genealogical Society Quarterly 62:3 (September 1974): 182-191. In addition, we will rely on the discussion of the proofs from fact and proofs from circumstantial evidence found in Jetté, Traité, pp. 233-335.

