

THE LE NEUF FAMILY NOBILITY EVIDENCE

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This version is based on the draft sent to the publisher in 1990 with some minor grammar and spelling corrections and formatting changes. I have resisted making any substantial changes. Any additional comments I do make will be found in the footnotes between square brackets.

Although I stand by what I wrote in 1990, please understand that much more research has been done on the Le Neufs since that date. It is essential to consult the work of Roland–Yves Gagné published in the *Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne–française* starting in autumn 2012 for the most up–to–date information on the Le Neuf family. Most importantly the reader should understand that Gagné’s research indicates that the Canadian Le Neufs are not an example of downward mobility and degradation, but rather all the Le Neufs—both in France and Canada—were upwardly mobile and went to great effort to hide their mutual bourgeois ancestry.

Full citations for the published works regarding the Le Neufs can be found at <http://habitant.org/leneuf/index.htm>.

THE LE NEUF FAMILY NOBILITY EVIDENCE

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Jacques Le Neuf, sieur de la Poterie, and his brother Michel Le Neuf, sieur du Hérissou, came to New France from Normandie in 1636 with their mother, a sister, and their in-laws, the Le Gardeur family. They were the first nobles to permanently settle in Canada.¹ The Le Neuf brothers eventually became active in the affairs of the colony. Although they were recognized as nobles, their behavior was typical of the petit bourgeois. They continually put their own interests ahead of the welfare of the struggling colony.² They were more concerned with profiting from the fur trade than they were in practicing noblesse oblige. In 1666, Jacques Le Neuf returned to France on a visit. While there he acquired some of the information he later submitted in New France to prove his nobility in 1675. This translation consists of these documents, the testimony of his relatives, and the judgment of the officials in New France.

Jacques Le Neuf proves his nobility by having his noble Le Neuf kinsman back in France declare that he is a member of the family and entitled to bear the arms of Le Neuf. He also presents a summary of evidence which proves how a kinsman named Jaques Le Neuf from Le Havre de Grâce descends from Richard Le Neuf, sieur de Vaucongrin (or Valcougrin), in the 15th century. Despite the numerous genealogical details contained in the submitted documents, he never clearly shows his exact family relationship to any of these kinsmen or his noble ancestors. This evidence was enough to prove his nobility to the satisfaction of the Conseil Souverain (Sovereign Council). Besides direct pedigree proof, the government would settle for indirect evidence, such as, official documents showing that kinsmen were called nobles, the testimony of acknowledge nobles regarding their kinsman, or proof of the maintenance of other kinsman as nobles. It was not necessary to provide a fully documented pedigree showing noble descent of the person in question. Nevertheless, this form of evidence is a disappointment to modern genealogists. It is a mystery as to why Le Neuf did not clearly spell out the exact genealogical relationships.

This set of Le Neuf family documents was printed in George–Pierre Roy's *Lettres de noblesse, généalogies, érections de comtés et baronnies insinués par le Conseil Souverain de la Nouvelle–France*.³ This work consists of evidence submitted to prove noble status by a number of

*This article is dedicated to the memory of the late Leona C. Derosia. She was the secretary of the French–Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan since its formation and was also very interested in the Le Neuf family. For a number of years she collaborated with Mary J. Barry, Robert Lonsway, and John P. DuLong on researching the Le Neufs.

¹*Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, hereinafter *DCB* (12 vols., Toronto: Univ. of Toronto, 1966–on going), vol. I, pp. 467–468.

²Raymond Douville, “Le dictature de la famille Le Neuf,” *Cahiers des dix XX* (1955):61–89. Mary J. Barry has prepared a typescript translation of this article.

³(2 vols., Beauceville: L’Éclaireur, Ltée., 1920), vol. I, pp. 57–65.

Canadian families. The originals are located at the Archives nationales du Québec among the papers of the Conseil Souverain. The Conseil Souverain was the ruling body of New France. This translation only concerns the Le Neuf family. It is divided into three parts. Part one is a summary of the case. Parts two and three present abstracts of the submitted evidence and testaments.

In France, these proofs were submitted periodically because the King would frequently request the nobles to prove their status. To be a noble in France meant that a person paid few if any taxes. Therefore, noble pretenders were tax frauds and the King was interested in detecting them. Although taxes were minimal in New France, the assumption of noble status was still considered a breach of social norms and was frowned upon. The registration of proofs of nobility was meant to catch people trying to usurp the status of noble. The problem of make-believe nobles also plagued New France. The most famous example of a pretend nobleman in New France would have to be Antoine Laumet, known in history as Antoine de Lamothe Cadillac. He was after all just the son of a humble Gascon magistrate. Cadillac was never official uncovered and made to pay fines for his usurpation of nobility. In the case of the Canadian Jacques Le Neuf, he voluntarily registered his proofs of nobility. In contrast, it is interesting to note that his kinsman, the French Jaques Le Neuf, was required by the court to submit his proof.

This translation was made by Mary J. Barry of Alaska with editing done by John P. DuLong. It is presented as a summary of the available evidence and to satisfy other family researchers that these documents do not contain the solution to the Le Neuf pedigree problem. Consequently, this paper poses a genealogical question to be answered: how do the Canadian Le Neufs tie into the Norman Le Neufs? The editor hopes that the publication of this translation will spur interests in the Le Neuf's origins in France.⁴

Some notes on editorial comments and decisions are in order. Introductory and clarifying comments are in italics. Informative footnotes are provided to help define vague technical terms and to identify the various actors. Words that are unclear are translated as best as possible. Neither the translator nor the editor are experts in seventeenth century French legal terms. Moreover, the French language skills of the editor are limited. Hence the awkwardness of some expressions. Words in square brackets are French terms we have taken a guess at in the translation. Many antiquated and legal terms are also found in brackets since we were unsure of the precise translation. Whenever possible the original spellings, punctuations, and capitalization are maintained. With one exception, the run on paragraphs are also kept as this was the fashion in the seventeenth century. In general, the editor has sacrificed a fluent translation for an exact one retaining many of the less appealing features of a seventeenth century document (such as, the excessive use of the phrase “the said”). The editor has compared the printed version with several photocopied pages of the original documents from the Archives nationales du Québec.

⁴[Comment: I have removed a call to form a research team from this footnote. Several researchers did band together and successfully traced the Le Neufs back in France, see the citations for their publications at <http://habitant.org/leneuf/index.htm>.]

PART I: SOVEREIGN COUNCIL OF NEW FRANCE

This part summarizes the information from documents copied in France. It ends with the decision of the Conseil Souverain to recognize the nobility claims of Jacques Le Neuf, sieur de la Poterie. The pages here correspond to pp. 57–58 in the Roy book and were also printed in New France, Conseil Souverain (ou Supérieur), Jugements et délibérations du Conseil Souverain (ou Supérieur) de la Nouvelle–France [1663–1716], dated 24 September 1675.⁵ The original document is available from the Archives nationales du Québec in the papers of the Conseil Souverain de la Nouvelle–France.⁶ The next two parts of this translation presents the evidence summarized in this part.

Tuesday Twenty–four September 1675

To the side of the original in the margin appears the note: Nobility of M. de la poterie le neuf.

The assembled Council were Master [M^{re}] Louis de Buade Frontenac⁷ knight Count of Palluau Councilor of the King in his Councils, Governor and Lieutenant general for His Majesty in this country, Acadia Isle of Newfoundland and other lands of northern France. Master [M^{re}] Jaques du Chesneau⁸ knight also Councilor of His Majesty in his Councils, Intendant of Justice police and finances in said lands, the sieurs⁹ de Villeray, Detilly, Damours, Dupont, de Lotbinière, de Peiras and de Vitré Councilors and the attorney general of the King.¹⁰

⁵(6 vols., in 12, Québec: Imprimerie Joseph Dussault, 1885–1891), Vol. I, Part II, pp. 996–997

⁶A photocopy of the original for this part is available from La Fédération des Familles–Souches Québécoises, Inc., C.P. 6700, Sillery, Québec G1T 2W2. Ask for dossier ANQ 971.

⁷Louis de Buade de Frontenac et de Palluau, Count, Governor–General of New France, 1672–1682 and 1689–1698, *DCB*, Vol. I, pp. 133–142.

⁸Jacques Duchesneu de la Doussinière et d'Ambault, knight, counsellor to His Majesty, Intendant of New France from 1675–1682. *DCB*, vol. I, pp. 287–290.

⁹Sieur is a polite legal term for Mister and should not be confused with Sir used as title of knighthood in England. In France a knight was called a chevalier. Although in law the term sieur was applied to people from many social backgrounds, including the bourgeois and craftsmen, in common usage it was often employed to indicate that a person was a seigneur of a particular piece of land. Hence, Le Neuf, sieur de Vénoix, would mean Le Neuf the seigneur of Vénoix.

¹⁰This opening paragraph names all the administrators serving on the Conseil Souverain of New France. Louis Rouer de Villeray, first councilor in the Conseil Souverain, 1663–1700. Charles Le Gardeur de Tilley, was the brother–in–law of Jacques Le Neuf, councilor, 1663–1695. Mathieu d'Amours de Chauffours, councilor, 1663–1695. Nicolas Dupont de Neuville, councilor, 1669–1716. Louis–Théandre Chartier de Lotbinière, councilor, 1663–1680, attorney general, 1664–1666. Jean–Baptiste de Peiras, councilor, 1673–1701. Charles Denys de Vitré, councilor, 1673–1703. Lastly, Denis–Joseph Ruette d'Auteuil, attorney general, 1674–1679. *DCB*, vol. I, pp. 579–583, 447–448, 245, 201–203, 584–585, vol. II, pp. 204–205, 514, 179–180.

Seen [veu] by the Court, stamped collated Copy on paper signed fabry, Secretary of the King¹¹ of the ancient College,¹² of a Ordinance of the General Commissioners of the Court of Aids¹³ of Rouen, of the thirteenth September 1658 for the execution of the declaration of the King of the fifteenth March 1655.¹⁴ Between the attorney general of the King in the said Court, and commission prosecution and proceedings of Master Jean Duport¹⁵ charged by His Majesty with the recovery of taxes made and to be made on the usurpers of the title and quality of noble and of Esquire¹⁶ of the first part, and Jaques Le Neuf¹⁷ esquire councilor and procurator of His Majesty in all the Royal Jurisdictions of Le Havre de Grâce¹⁸ called upon [adjourné] in order to take his declaration if he intended to maintain himself in the said quality, or else to see ordered that he would be entered on the tax roll [employé au rouille] as having usurped the said quality of the other part, by which the said Jaques Le Neuf had been discharged of the said prosecution, decree of the Council of state¹⁹ of the fourth December 1659 rendered between the said Duport, plaintiff of the first part, and the said Jaques Le Neuf, defendant of the other part, by which the parties will have been taken outside of the Court and of the process on the objection of the said plaintiff, This act [faisant] ordered that the ordinance of the said commissioners would be executed according to its form and terms, and in consequence the said Le Neuf is maintained in the said quality of noble. Inquiry made at trois Rivières at the request of Jacques Le Neuf sieur de la Poterie by Master [M^{re}] Claude Bouterouë²⁰, former Intendant of Justice police and finances in this country the second June 1669. Certificate and attestation of Monsieur Pierre Le Neuf, priest sieur de Courtonne and François Le neuf esquire sieur de Montenay brothers dwelling at Caen, passed before Ollivier and Bougon, royal scriveners²¹

¹¹The Secretaries of the King were important clerical assistants attached to the chancellery. They drafted and issued documents for the King. The position conferred the status of noble on the office holder. See Robert Mousnier, *The Institutions of France Under the Absolute Monarchy, 1598–1789: Society and the State*, trans. Brian Pearce (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1979), p. 762.

¹²The college mentioned here could refer to a number of institutions. It might be a local school. It is more likely a reference to the Collège des Secrétaires du Roi, formally known as the Collège des Six-Vingts. This was a guild-like mutual benefit society for Secretaries of the King such as the Monsieur Fabry mentioned here. It is unlikely to be the French College of Heraldry which was moribund by this time. *Ibid.*, pp. 437–438.

¹³The court with the responsibility for judging disputes relating to the collection of taxes.

¹⁴The King ordered the court of aides to investigate false nobles in Normandy on this date. *Ibid.*, p. 136.

¹⁵Maître, or Master, was a title usually given to lawyers and was often abbreviated as M^e. The abbreviation M^{re} is also used in this document and is translated as master and indicated in square brackets. The surname of this attorney is Duport in the original document and not Dupont as in Roy's transcript.

¹⁶Écuyer or esquire is a squire, it is the lowest rank of nobility in France and is reserved for those nobles without a knighthood or a title (such as, comte, marquis, or duc).

¹⁷This Jaques Le Neuf was born in France around 1635 and died in May 1676. His exact relationship to the Canadian Le Neufs is unknown. This French Jaques Le Neuf should not be confused with the Canadian Jacques Le Neuf, sieur de la Poterie.

¹⁸Le Havre de Grâce in Normandie is now called Le Havre. It is about 213 miles north east of Caen.

¹⁹The Conseil d'Etat, or Council of State, was an administrative body concerned with the general direction of the kingdom's affairs. It was usually but not always involved with fiscal concerns. See David Buisseret, *Henry IV* (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1984), p. 221. The councilors would issue arrêts, or decrees, to resolve issues brought before them.

²⁰Claude de Bouterouë d'Aubigny intendant of New France from 1668 to 1670 when he returned to France, *DCB*, Vol. I, pp. 119–120.

²¹Scriveners were called tabellions in France. They were similar to notaries and could draw up legal agreements between people. However, these documents had to be registered with notaries to become official.

at said Caen the fifth May 1673, bearing that the said sieur de la Potterie formerly dwelling at said Caen is of the same family and carries their same name and arms, request of the said sieur de la Potterie to register the decrees inquiry and certification or attestation of filiation in order to be of worth and to serve him with the titles [pour luy valoir et servir de titres] and to have recourse there if need be. Conclusion of the Attorney General to whom all would have been communicated the seventh of the current month. All considered. The court conformably to the said conclusions, has ordered and does order the said decrees from the state Council, ordinances of the said general commissioners and attestation of filiation to be registered in the Registrar's office here, in order to serve and to be of worth [pour servir et valoir] as reasonable.

[Signed] DuChesneau

PART II: THE SIEURS LE NEUF MAINTAINED IN THEIR NOBILITY

*The following section is a summary of a case brought against Jaques Le Neuf living in Le Havre de Grâce accusing him of usurping the status of a noble. The pages here correspond to pp. 59–60 of the Roy book. The original can be found in the collection of the Archives nationales du Québec among the papers of the Conseil Souverain de la Nouvelle–France.*²²

The General Commissioners deputized by the King, of the Court of Aids of Normandie for the execution of the declaration of His Majesty of fifteenth March 1655 duly [deuement] verified, assembled in the Council Chamber of the said Court,²³ in the cause between the Attorney General of the King in said Court and Commission, prosecution and proceedings by Master Jean Duport charged by His Majesty with the recovery of taxes made and to be made [faites et à faire] on the usurpers of the title and quality of noble and of Esquire in this Province, plaintiff causes to be summoned by him [en adjournement par luy faict faire à] Jaques Leneuf, Esquire, councilor and Procurator of the King in all the royal jurisdictions of Le Havre de Grâce in order to consider his declaration if he intends to maintain himself in the said quality, otherwise to see ordered that he will be entered on the tax roll [employé au roole], as having usurped the said quality, of the first part, and the said Leneuf summoned defendant, present, and by Master Nicolas Le Carpentier, his attorney, of the other part; After which the said Duport has concluded at the end of his request, by fault of [faute par] the said Leneuf to consider his said declaration, and that by this the said Leneuf has been said to maintain himself in the said quality of noble, in which he has taken his origin of nobility from Richard Leneuf Esquire, sieur de Valcougrin who married damoiselle Jeannette de Maulnoury,²⁴ from which marriage would be issued Jean Leneuf, Esquire, sieur de la Vallée who married with damoiselle Jeanne Belot, of which Jean, first of the name, would be issued in legitimate marriage Jean Leneuf, Esquire, second of the name, and Pierre Leneuf, also esquire; which Jean second married damoiselle Cardine de Lalonguy, of the marriage of whom would be legitimately issued

²²This is the only part for which the editor has not seen a photocopy of the original. La Fédération des Familles–Souches Québécoises, Inc., probably has it on microfilm.

²³Probably in Rouen, Normandie, about 77 miles east of Caen.

²⁴A damoiselle is a young lady of quality, a damsel in English.

Jaques Leneuf, first of name, Gilles and George Leneuf, also esquires sieurs de la Serverie and de la Vallée; and of the said Jaques first and of damoiselle Françoise Plaimpel issued in loyal marriage Jean Leneuf, third of that name, and Thomas Leneuf, this Jean third espoused damoiselle Marguerite Laisné, of which would have issued in loyal marriage the said Jaques Leneuf procurator of the King in the said Jurisdictions of Le Havre who espoused damoiselle Margueritte de la Barre, and of the said Pierre Leneuf, brother of the said Jean, second of the name, who married damoiselle Catherine LeBoucher, would be issued in loyal marriage Pierre Leneuf, Esquire, sieur de Montenay who would have married Damoiselle Marie de la Roque, of which would be issued Antoine Leneuf, sieur de Courtonne who was married to Damoiselle Margueritte du Hautlondel, of whom would be issued Jean Leneuf, Esquire, sieur de Montenay; by means of which and seen [veu] that he appears well justified of the descent of nobility, the same acquittal obtained on equal summons by the said Jean Leneuf sieur de Montenay his cousin of the eleventh March 1656,²⁵ sustained that he ought to be acquitted of the said summons and prosecution of the said Duport with interests and expense. On which parties heard and that the said Duport remained in agreement with the said filiation, bringing himself to the Chamber to order his acquittal, ordered. The said commissioners have acquitted and acquit the said Jacques Leneuf of the said summons and prosecution of the said Duport to the terms of the decrees of the Court interposing on the verification of the Edit, Command and Commission. Done in the Council Chamber of the said Court of Aids, the thirteenth day of September 1658, signed “Bottey.”

PART III: EXTRACT OF THE REGISTERS OF THE STATE COUNCIL

This last part consists of abstracts taken from evidence brought back from France. Most of it involves the proofs submitted by the French Jaques Le Neuf to prove his noble status. It ends with the testimony of two French Le Neuf brothers that the Canadian Jacques Le Neuf is a relative. The pages here correspond to pp. 61–65 of the Roy book. The original of this document is also at the Archives nationales du Québec, “Insinuations du Conseil Souverain de la Nouvelle–France,” cahier 1st, folio 67.²⁶ The original is followed here since it differs in several minor details from the transcript found in Roy's book.

Between Master Jean Duport charged by His Majesty with the recovery of taxes made on the usurpers of the quality of noble and of Esquire in the province of Normandie in consequence of the declaration of the 15th March 1655 plaintiff at the end of the writ [aux fins de l'exploit] of the 29th July 1659 of the first part. And Master Jaques Leneuf, Esquire, Councilor and Procurator of the King in all the Royal Jurisdictions of Le Havre, defendant, of the other part. Seen by the Council of the King the Ordinance of the general Commissioners from the Court of Aids of Rouen for the

²⁵This Jean Le Neuf would again be maintained in his nobility with his brothers François and Pierre in 1667. Guy Chamillart, *Recherche de la Noblesses en la Généralité de Caen* (Caen: Henry Delesques, 1887), p. 802.

²⁶An insinuation is a registration of legal documents in the records of an office which makes them official. That is, the mere registration of them “insinuates” that they are authentic or reliable. A photocopy of the original for this part is also available from La fédération des familles–Souches Québécoises, Inc., C.P. 6700, Sillery, Québec G1T 2W2. Ask for dossier ANQ 1148.

execution of the said Declaration of the 15th March 1655, interpleaded the 13th September 1658, between the Attorney of the King of the said Commission, prosecution and proceedings of the said Duport, plaintiff, to that which the said Leneuf had to declare if he intends to maintain himself in the said quality of noble, otherwise to see ordered that he would be entered on the roll [employé au rouble] of the said taxes as having usurped the said quality, of the first part. And the said Leneuf, defendant, of the other part; by which Ordinance after the parties have been heard and that the said Leneuf has said that he intended to maintain himself in the said quality, following the filiation by him deduced in his speech for the defense, and that the said Duport delayed agreement with the said filiation, and would bring himself to the Chamber to order from the said acquittal requested by the said Leneuf; the said Chamber has discharged him from the summons and prosecution of the said Duport by the terms of the decrees of the Court, interpleaded on the verification of the Edict, Royal command and Commission dispatched in consequence the said writ of the 29th July 1659 contained the declaration of the said Duport that he was opposed to the execution of the said Ordinance of the 13th September 1658, as having been surprised by the said Leneuf on a false statement, and through other means to deduce in time and place and in order to proceed on the said opposition and other conclusions which were taken by the said Duport; summons would have been given from the Council to the said Leneuf. The fixed settlement [L'appointement de règlement] placed on the said Council between parties in the present Instance of the 12th August 1659, to communicate, write, and produce, and without that the qualities may prejudice, in which the said Leneuf has concluded that the said Ordinance of the 13th September 1658, to be executed, that he be maintained in his quality and privilege of Noble, with protection from the said Duport and all others to trouble him.²⁷

The section below is a list of the documents submitted showing that various Le Neufs were regarded as nobles. It is part of the above paragraph.

Contract of the 20th December 1455, by which Richard Leneuf, Esquire, and Damoiselle Jeannette de Maulnoury, his wife, leasing in fiefs to the Sieur Dubreuil the inheritance there mentioned. Contract of marriage of Jean Leneuf, Esquire, with Damoiselle Jeanne Belot of the 8th November 1493. Another contract of marriage of Jean Leneuf Esquire, with Cardine de Lalongny of the 24th September 1522. Four Acts and Contracts of the 10th May 1545, 12th July 1556, 6th October 1597, and 19th July 1607. The first containing the conveyance made to noblemen Jean and Pierre Leneuf, brothers, of property and contents, the second, the treaty of marriage of the said Pierre Leneuf with Damoiselle Catherine le Boucher, and the two others treaties of marriage of Damoiselle Isabeau Leneuf with the Sieur le Bigot. Other contract of marriage of George Leneuf with Damoiselle Jacqueline de May, of the 15th July 1573. Act passed before the Notary at Thury the 9th December [X^{bre}] 1588, by Gilles, George and Jaques Leneuf, children of Jean Leneuf, in which they are qualified Nobles and Esquires. Other Contract of marriage of Jaques Leneuf, son of Jean, with Demoiselle Françoise Plaimpel in the month of January 1601. Other Contract of the 9th October 1624 in which Jacques Leneuf is qualified noble at the said contract of marriage of Thomas Leneuf, son of Jaques Leneuf, Esquire of the tenth of April 1645. Six other contracts for the years 1632, 1633, and 1638 in which Jean Leneuf is qualified Esquire. Three other contracts of the 24 January 1641, six October 1656 and eighteen November 1658, in which messieurs Jean and Jaques Leneuf

²⁷Monsieur Duport appears to have objected to Jaques Le Neuf's claims until the bitter end of the proceedings.

are qualified nobles. Other file of fourteen acts and contracts of the years 1597, 1598, 1599, 1602, 1607, 1620, 1628, 1629, 1637, 1655 and 1656, in which Gilles, François, Ollivier and Philipes Leneuf are qualified Esquires. Copy of a decree of council of the 7th June 1644 for Antoine Leneuf, Esquire, guardian of Jean Leneuf, is discharged from the taxes of freeholds on his fief of Vevoix because of the consent of Jean Baptiste Palerlogne tax-farmer of the said tax. Ordinance of the Commissioners of the said freeholds of the month of January 1656, by which Jean Leneuf and the widow of Antoine Leneuf Esquires are discharged of the tax of the freeholds. Another Ordinance of the 11th March 1656 by which Jean Leneuf and his brothers, heirs of Antoine Leneuf sieur de Courtonne, are discharged of the demand of the said Duport by reason of the said taxes made on the Usurpers of Nobility. Writings and production of the said defendant. Request of the said Duport of the third September 1659 served the fourth. Used for the production in the present instance, that the said Leneuf be taxed by the Council as a usurper of the said quality of noble and of Esquire: Hear the report of the Sieur de Fieux, Commissioner in the dispute, and all considered. The King in his Council, makes right on the suit, has placed and does place on the opposition of the plaintiff the parties outside the Court and the process; this done [ce faisant], has ordered and does order that the Ordinance of the said Commissioners of the 13 September 1658, will be executed according to the form and terms, and in consequence has maintained and does maintain the said Leneuf in the said quality of Noble, without expense between the parties; made at State Council of the King held at Paris, the fourth day of December one thousand six hundred and fifty-nine, signed “Galland” and marked [à costé], collated, and further down is marked also by Stamp [Impression]. Collated²⁸ to the originals by my Councillor, Secretary of the King, House and Crown of France and of his finances, and is written in the hand of the ancient Colledge, signed “Fabry” with flourish.

This next paragraph is the only one in this third part which refers directly to the Canadian Jacques Le Neuf and his relationship to the French Le Neufs. It is the testimony of two Le Neuf brothers that he is related to them, but the nature of that relationship is not detailed.

Today, Friday, fifth May 1673, at Caen, before the royal scribes of said place undersigned, appearing in the ordinary handwriting of the said scribes Noble persons Master [M^{re}] Pierre Leneuf priest sieur de Courtonne, and François Leneuf Esquire, sieur de Montenay, brothers, dwelling in this city of Caen parish of Saint-Julien, whom have certified and attested, do certify and attest to all whom it appertains, that Jaques Leneuf, Esquire, sieur de la Potterie, dwelling at the market town of Trois Rivières in New France, isle of Newfoundland and Acadia, formerly living in this said city of Caen, are of same family and carry the same name and arms, this that the Sieurs de Courtonne and de Montenay have signed the year and day below in the presence of Julien de la Croix and Estienne Crestien of the said Caen witnesses, and have signed, “Leneuf” “Leneuf” “Crestien” “de la Croix” “Ollivier” and “Bougon” each with a flourish.

This last paragraph states that the above information collected in France and brought as an abstract to New France is officially registered.

²⁸Collated means to arrange in order and then compare critically so as to verify the content of documents.

Registered heard and this consenting the Attorney General in order to serve and to be of worth [pour servir et valoir] as reasonable, following the decree of this day at Québec the twenty–four September one thousand six hundred and seventy–five.

[Signed] Peuvret²⁹ with a flourish.

PARTIAL FAMILY TREE OF THE LE NEUFS IN FRANCE

The following pedigree shows the relationship between the kinsmen whom the Canadian Jacques Le Neuf, sieur de la Poterie, used to prove his nobility. It turns out that they were related to one another as third cousins. Again, nowhere in any of this documentation is the relationship of the Canadian Le Neufs to their French cousins established. Note that this table is only part of the known and published information about the Le Neufs in France.³⁰

²⁹Jean–Baptiste Peuvret Demesnu, chief clerk and secretary of the Conseil Souverain, 1663–1697 with a brief respite from 1664–1666, *DCB*, Vol. I, pp. 542–543.

³⁰For more information see Louis–Pierre d'Hozier, *Armorial général de la France* (13 vols., Paris: Firmin–Didot, 1738–1908), vol. 9, part 2, 5th registry, pp. 861–868 and a following large fold out pedigree chart.

