James Stuart’s Illegitimate Children

Sir James Stuart, Joseph Beaubien’s great-uncle, was a distinguished lawyer who became Chief Justice of Quebec. He married Elizabeth Robertson and had four legitimate children. Earlier, he had three illegitimate children, two of whom were previously unknown. The identity of their mother, Josephte Dufresne, was found in notarial and court records. Eleanor Stuart married Henry Starnes, twice mayor of Montreal. William James Stuart married Mary Ann Oliver and practiced as a physician in Napierville. They have living descendants, but none named Stuart.

# The Family of Elizabeth Robertson, wife of Sir James Stuart

Sir James Stuart, Joseph Beaubien’s great-uncle, was a distinguished lawyer who became Chief Justice of Quebec. He married Elizabeth Robertson, daughter of Alex Robertson and his wife Mary. A.H. Young, biographer of the Stuart family, notes that Alex Robertson was “of the Robertsons of Faskally, Perthshire”. That is all that has been published about Elizabeth Robertson’s ancestry. There are no birth or death records for Alex Robertson in the church records in Canada. Though mentioned incidentally, he has no page in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, and no obituary in Montreal papers. We show here that Alex Robertson and several siblings came with their parents from Perthshire to Canada via the United States, that he settled in Montreal as a merchant and fur trader in partnership with his brother James, married Mary McPherson from a family in Trois-Rivières also linked to the fur trade. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Caroline. Alex died at sea on his way to London on one of his annual trips to buy goods to trade for furs. François Trottier Desrivières, 2nd cousin of Dr Pierre Beaubien, stepson and partner of fur trader James McGill, then became the tutor of Alex’s minor children.

Agathe Perrault, veuve et philanthrope

Née en 1787, mariée à 24 ans à Maurice Nowlan, un lieutenant dans l’armée britannique, veuve à 26 ans après la mort de son mari sur le champ de bataille de Fort Niagara, Agathe Perrault hérite en 1816 du quart des biens et de l’usufruit de la succession son père, Joseph Perrault, père (1742-1805. A la mort de son frère Joseph, fils, décédé célibataire en 1831, elle hérite en plus du tiers de sa part de la succession de son père. Jeune, à l’aise, et sans enfants, Agathe aurait sans doute pu se remarier, mais elle choisit plutôt de dévouer son temps et sa fortune pour le bénéfice de sa famille et de la société. Elle appuie sa nièce Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin dans la création et le financement des Sœurs de la Providence.

Georges-Philippe Bailly de Messein :

un Canadien français dans la Royal Navy

Georges-Philippe Bailly de Messein, cousin-germain de Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, s’est engagé à Londres en 1808 comme matelot sur La Belle Poule, une frégate de la marine française capturée par la Royal Navy et mise en service contre la France dans la Méditerranée. Bailly fait carrière militaire jusqu’à la fin de la guerre napoléennes puis travaille pour la East India Company. Il finit ses jours comme pensionnaire au Royal Naval Hospital de Greenwich. Il a épousé Ann Hart et eu cinq ou six enfants, dont certains ont de la descendance à nos jours.

**A Short History of** **The British and Benington’s Tea Company**

George Benington was a partner in a tea importing business in London called British and Benington’s Tea Company, founded in 1896. The firm was profitable through the end of World War I, but hit upon hard times when price controls on tea imports were then lifted. It went out of business in 1936 but was not finally liquidated till1949, after losing its building during the London blitz. Arthur Benington, George’s son and Herbert Benington’s father, came to Canada in the 1870s as a representative of one of B&B’s predecessor companies.

Charles-Hubert Perrault

Après une formation comme ingénieur métallurgiste, Charles Perrault, fils de Jean-Julien Perrault et Laurette Beaubien, a travaillé pour plusieurs firmes comme métallurgiste avant de devenir vice-président puis PDG chez Casavant Frères, facteur d’orgues de Saint-Hyacinthe. En 1969, il fonde et devient premier président du Conseil du Patronat du Québec, poste qu’il détient jusqu’en 1975. Il fut ensuite directeur de plusieurs compagnies canadiennes, y compris l’Aluminerie Alouette dont il préside le conseil au cours de la construction de leur aluminerie à Sept-Iles, maintenant la plus grosse aluminerie en Amérique.