

Guillaume Couillard

Guillaume Couillard , Sieur de L'Espinay (c .October 11, 1588in Saint-Servan in France ¹ -March 4, 1663in Quebec ²), was the first French settler in New France knighted by King Louis XIV .

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Biography

Guillaume Couillard was born onOctober 11, 1588in Saint-Servan , now a district of Saint-Malo (Ille-et-Vilaine), Brittany , France . He was baptized there the same day. He is the son of Guillaume Couillard and Élisabeth de Vésins, or according to others, of André Couillard and Jehanne Basset ³ .

Guillaume Couillard was buried in the chapel of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec onMarch 5, 1663² .

The New World

Guillaume Couillard emigrated in 1613 to New France , at the age of 25. He was then a carpenter, sailor and caulker for the Compagnie des Cent-Associés in Quebec ⁴ . In 1638, the Company verbally promised him land of some fifty acres along the Saint-Charles River , at the mouth of the Saint Lawrence River , in Quebec. (The written title will not arrive, however, until thirty years later, in the name of his widow ⁵).

Guillaume Couillard



Guillaume Couillard, figure at Louis-Hébert Monument, Montmorency Park , Quebec

Biography

Birth	October 11, 1588 Saint-Servan-sur-Mer
Death	March 4, 1663(at age 74) Quebec
Activities	Carpenter , sailor , caulker
Joint	Guillemette Hébert (d) (from1621at1663)
Children	Elizabeth Couillard (d) Louis Couillard de Lespinay (d)

Marriage and family life

Guillaume Couillard was one of the first inhabitants to officially settle in the colony.

Guillaume Couillard and Guillemette Hébert , daughter of Louis Hébert and his wife Marie Rollet, pronounced their wedding vows on Thursday August 26, 1621 at Notre-Dame de Québec church in the presence of Samuel de Champlain and Eustache Boullé, brother of Hélène⁶ . This marriage is the first indicated on the parish registers of Notre-Dame de Québec.

He is the first to have had a posterity in New France ; he will have ten children. He succeeded his father-in-law in the farm and became a notable in New France, being, for example, churchwarden of the parish of Quebec. He would be the first to have used the April 27, 1627 a plow on Canadian soil; the culture gave good results, but until then very insufficient for the small colony.

In 1628, Samuel de Champlain speaks of him with praise.

Ennoblement and death

Guillaume Couillard was knighted in December 1654 , under the administration of the governor of New France Jean de Lauzon for " *his fine actions in the country of Canada* ". However, his letters of nobility were revoked, which officially made Pierre Boucher de Boucherville the first Canadian settler to be knighted; also first to be ennobled directly by Louis XIV in France , in 1661 . In 1668 , the letters of nobility were renewed in favor of two of his sons, Louis Couillard de L'Espinay and Charles-Thomas Couillard des Islets and Beaumont, as well as their descendants.

When he died in 1666, he was buried in the chapel of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec and a statue by Alfred Laliberté represents him in the public park located above the Château Frontenac⁷ .

His name was assigned to a township in Quebec in 1914, located in the region of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean , to a stream in Quebec and to six lakes in this province⁸ .

Arms, coat of arms and motto



Guillaume Couillard took the following coat of arms: " *Azure, to the dove flying extended and poured Or holding in its beak an olive branch Vert* " and as motto: " *God help the first settler* ".

The posterity of Guillaume Couillard and Marie-Guillemette Hébert

Louis Couillard de L'Espinay

Eldest son of Guillaume Couillard and grandson of Louis Hébert , Louis was born on May 18, 1629 in Quebec . He participates in seal hunting and cod fishing. the April 28, 1653, he married Geneviève Després, daughter of Nicolas Després (*attached to the French nobility*) and Madeleine Leblanc. He thus acquired the seigneurie of Rivière-du-Sud (Montmagny).

Knighted in 1668 by King Louis XIV , he died on September 24, 1678 in Montmagny. He is the ancestor of the Couillard-Després line in America.

Among his descendants, here are two of his sons:

- Jean-Baptiste Couillard de Lespinay, (May 2, 1657 in Quebec - March 8, 1735 in Quebec)
- Louis Couillard de Lespinay, (November 28, 1658 in Quebec - May 14, 1728 in Montmagny)

Paul Couillard-Dupuis is the son of the preceding as well as the grandson of Louis Couillard de L'Espinay. He took the nickname Dupuis in memory of his uncle Paul Dupuis de Lislois, *squire* , *ensign* , *king's attorney* and *lord of Ile-aux-Oies* .

Charles Couillard des Islets and Beaumont

Youngest son of Guillaume Couillard and grandson of Louis Hébert, Charles was born on May 10, 1647 in Quebec. Sieur des Islets, then de Beaumont, he married, the January 10, 1668 in Quebec, Marie Pasquiere de Franchieu, daughter of Pierre Pasquier de Franchieu - whose nobility is attested ⁹ , and of Marie Porta. They had six children.

the June 25, 1686 in Lauzon, he marries Louise Couture, daughter of Guillaume ^{and} Anne Émard. From this union were born ten children.

He had been ennobled in 1668 by King Louis XIV and had received as a concession, in 1672, the seignury of Beaumont , which remained in the family until the 19th century .

Charles de Beaumont dies on May 8, 1715 at Beaumont.

Current posterity of the Couillard-Hébert union

Several North American families can currently count among their ancestors one of the members of this illustrious noble family of New France . Note Philippe Couillard de l'Espinay , born on June 26 , 1957 in Montreal , Quebec , Premier of Quebec .

Here is a non-exhaustive list of families from the **Couillard-Hébert union still bearing the *Couillard* surname** :

- Couillard-de-Beaumont
- Couillard of L'Espinay
- Couillard des Islets
- Couillard-Despres
- Couillard Dupuis
- Couillard-Lislois
- Couillard

Notes and references

1. Other sources have him born in the parish of Saint-Landry in Paris; see Our Ancestors: Guillaume Couillard

2. “ Burial act of Guillaume Couillard (view 228/512) from sheet 199 of the year 1663 of the parish of Notre-Dame de Québec ” , on *FamilySearch* ,March 5, 1663 (consulted the November 27, 2017) - Rating. He died on March 4, 1663 in his house and was buried the next day at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec.
3. " Guillaume Couillard " , on *FileOrigine* (consulted onMarch 18, 2021)
4. *Genealogy Quebec*
5. C. Lapointe, A. Bain and R. Auger, *The archaeological site of the intendant's palace in Quebec* , ed. du Septentrion, Quebec, 2019, p. 17.
6. Guillaume Couillard, 1591-1663, *Journal Gaspésia*, Gérard Donaldson
7. Bernard Le Nail, *The Almanac of Brittany* , Larousse, coll. Jacques Marseilles2003 (ISBN 2-03-575106-3).
8. Bernard Le Nail, *The Almanac of Brittany* , Larousse, coll. Jacques Marseilles2003 (ISBN 2-03-575106-3).
9. Louis-Pierre D'Hozier, *Armorial général or register of the nobility of France, register II, 2nd part, pages 845-846* , Paris, France, Edition Palais royal (reprint Firmin-Didot frères, (1865-1908),1970, 537 to 1236 p. (ISBN 0366932810 and 978-0366932818)

External links

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- Record in a general dictionary or encyclopedia : *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*
- Authority records : *Virtual International Authority FileWorldCat Id*
- *Quebec noble families*
- *Letter of renewed nobility of Louis Couillard de L'Espinay*
- *Guillaume Couillard and his descendants by Jean Couillard, Montmagny, Quebec*