

*One of the First Recorded Auction Sales at Montreal.*

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Lambert Closse, who came to Montreal with Maisonneuve, in 1642, was a man of great force of character, as well as of considerable diversity of avocations. He proved to be a host in himself in defending the infant settlement against the constant raids of the Iroquois. With his dog Pilote, so faithfully represented by Hébert on one of the corner pieces of the Maisonneuve Monument, he was ever on the alert to ferret out the lurking savage lying in wait for the lone townsman who might venture beyond the protection of the fort. In February, 1662, he was killed, while single handed he faced an overwhelming band to cover the retreat of his men.

Besides serving faithfully as major of militia,<sup>1</sup> labouring as a tiller of the soil and acting as clerk of the court, he practised as a Notary Public. Although he discharged all these duties faithfully, it is only with the latter we have to do on this occasion. While his notarial records are not numerous and a considerable number are missing, those that remain are most interesting, containing as they do details of some of the earliest business transactions of Montreal as well as the signatures of Maisonneuve, Lemoine, Daillebout, Mademoiselle Mance and others of its founders.

This document itemizes the sale of the furniture and other effects of Leonard Lucault dit Barbeau, which was conducted by Closse on the 21st of Sept., 1651.

The Leonard Lucault, whose effects were thus sold was born in Limousin, in France, in 1626. He must have arrived in Montreal, as early as 1646 or 1647, as according to the registers of Notre Dame, he married, in Ville Marie, on the 12th of October, 1648, Barbe Poisson<sup>2</sup> a young girl of fourteen years, who was born at St. Jean de Mortagne in Perche, France, in the year 1634.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Benjamin Sulte claims that Lambert Closse, although always styled "The Major" by Dollier de Casson, was probably only Sergeant Major. As the Militia of Montreal during the years 1642 to 1660 never exceeded 100 men, they were made up into squads only, consequently there were no captains and therefore no need for a major. A Sergeant-major was sufficient.

<sup>2</sup> Maturine Poisson wife of Jacques Aubuchon was a sister of Barbe. Their brother Jean Poisson who settled at Three Rivers was the father of the first Seigneur of Gentilly, not the seigneur himself as is asserted by Tanguay in Vol. 1, page 492 of his Genealogy.

On the first of July, 1650, a daughter was born to this couple, named Marie, who, in 1665, while yet under fifteen years was married to René Cuillierier, the founder of the family of that name in Canada, and of the branch, bearing the Anglicized form of "Spooner" in the United States.

During the year 1651 the Iroquois so harassed the town that it was dangerous for solitary travellers or even small companies to venture beyond the protection of the fortification which consisted at that time of a simple stockade. In any case no one durst attempt a journey into the country without being fully armed, with his sword at his side, a brace of pistols in his belt and an "arquebuse" on his shoulder. An incident relating to this constant state of peril, in which Lucault took part, is related in the following words, by Dollier de Casson:—

"Le 18 juin du même an, [1651] il y eut un autre combat qui fut le plus heureux que nous ayons eu, car un très grand nombre d'Iroquois ayant attaqué 4 de nos François, ces 4 hommes se jettèrent dans un méchant petit trou nommé Redoute qui étoit entre le château et un lieu appelé la Pointe St. Charles au milieu des abatis. . . . Là résolu de vendre chèrement leur vie ils commencèrent à la disputer à grands coups de fusil; à ce bruit un de nos anciens habitants nommé Lavigne accourut tout le premier étant le plus proche du lieu attaqué, ce qu'il fit avec une audace surprenante et un bonheur admirable, car passant seul avec une légèreté et une vitesse extraordinaire par dessus tous les bois abbattus, pour venir à ses camarades, il donna en 4 embuscades iroquoises les unes après les autres et essuya 60 ou 80 coups de fusil sans être blessé et sans s'arrêter aucunement jusqu'à ce qu'il eût joint ces pauvres assaillis, qui ne furent pas peu animés par son courage: Ce tintamare ne fut pas longtemps à émouvoir nos François qui étant toujours prêts de donner s'en vinrent secourir nos gens par l'ordre de M. le Gouverneur. Ensuite les Iroquois ayant imprudemment laissé aller leurs coups de fusil à la fois nos François qui eurent plus de patience les tirent alors à plaisir. Les Iroquois se voyant tomber de tous côtés par leurs décharges ne songèrent qu'à s'enfuir, mais comme les arbres étoient abbattus et fort gros, à mesure qu'ils se levoient pour s'en aller on les faisoit descendre à coups de fusil, enfin ils y laissèrent parmi les morts 25 ou 30 des leurs, sans les blessés qui s'en allèrent.<sup>1</sup>

Rousseau states that the four men, thus attacked, were, after Sunday morning Mass, returning with their guns on their shoulders, to the hospital which Mademoiselle Mance had set up at Point St. Charles for the treatment of the Indians, that the "redoubts" were thrown up and abattis cut down around along the road to afford them places of

<sup>1</sup> Histoire de Montréal par M. Dollier de Casson, Montreal, 1868, pages 78-79.

safety in cases of such surprises, that the squad sent out for the succour of the beleaguered men was commanded by Charles Lemoine, and that Leonard Lucault, who formed one of the relieving company, was so sorely wounded, probably by that first volley of the Iroquois, that he died two days afterward.<sup>1</sup>

On the death of a man intestate, or in community of property with his wife, it is necessary, according to French law, to have an inventory taken of his estate, so that his property be equitably divided among his heirs. The inventory of Lucault's estate, which was taken twelve days after his death, is unfortunately missing from among the records of Closse. But this loss is in a great measure made up by the sale, which practically goes over the same ground. This sale was undoubtedly hastened by the approaching marriage of the widow.<sup>2</sup> It may be well to note here the names of the different purchasers. Of the total amount of the sale which aggregated 634 livres 15 sols amounting to a little less than \$106 our currency.

	Livres Sols.
The widow bought in more than half . . . . .	371.5
Jean Desvesnes bought the calf for . . . . .	75.0
Lafleche soldat [otherwise called Sebastien Hodin] . . .	53.0
Pierre Gadoys . . . . .	28.10
André Dumay . . . . .	24.0
Lambert Closse bought a pistol, probably to replace one lost in a skirmish with the Iroquois . . . . .	18.0
François Desvennes . . . . .	18.0
Despatys [otherwise called Nicolas Forget] . . . . .	17.0
Desloriers [otherwise called Robert le Cavalier] . . . . .	11.0
André David (Nigret) . . . . .	10.0
Jean des Roches [Desroches] . . . . .	9.0
	263.10
Giving the total purchases apart from the widow as . . . . .	

In analyzing this sale and arranging and classifying the articles according to their use, with the aggregate amounts received from each class, as follows, a most interesting series of conclusions may be deduced regarding life in Montreal 260 years ago.

<sup>1</sup> Histoire et vie de M. Paul de Chomedey Sieur de Maisonneuve. . . . . par P. Rousseau, Montreal, 1886, page 105.

<sup>2</sup> Barbe Poisson, widow of Leonard Lucault was married, at Villemarie, on the 19th of November, 1651, to Gabriel Celle-Duclos, after a widowhood of less than five months.

*Clothing:—*

Two pairs of breeches, a doublet, a jacket, eight shirts, an old hat, a hunting cap, a pair of drawers, a pair of stockings and two pairs of old shoes. . . . .	lb 56.10	\$9.41
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*Bedding and house linen:—*

Four blankets, two old mattresses, three sheets, two table cloths and eight towels. . . . .	45.0	7.50
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*Cooking and household utensils:—*

A grill, four copper pots or pans, four pewter dishes, a pail, a water can, a crane or pot hanger, a pair of and-irons and two wooden chests. . . . .	40.5	6.70
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*Agricultural implements:—*

A churn, a shovel, a pitch-fork, a stable fork and four mattocks or hoes. . . . .	15.0	2.50
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*Grain:—*

Eight bushels of wheat, one of peas and four of maize. . . . .	62.0	10.35
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*Live stock:—*

Six fowls, a cow, a two years old ox and a calf. . . . .	329.0	54.85
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*Tools and house hardware:—*

Five saws, ten old axes, one adze, a pair of strap hinges, two door bolts, a hatchet, a billet or pruning hook, one hundred nails, some scrap iron for making nails, and a kind of chissel. . . . .	36.0	6.0
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*Implements of war:—*

An arquebuse, a brace of pistoles and eight pounds of powder. . . . .	56.10	8.50
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	634.15	105.81

As there is no mention of regular furniture or real estate in this sale it may be surmised that Léonard Lucault neither owned a house nor held one under lease, but lived at the "Chateau" or in barracks, along with a number of other citizen soldiers, and used with them in common, the dining table, benches, and other necessary furniture. And it is also shewn that, from the fact that he owned his bedding and cooking utensils, few and primitive as they appear, that each family did its own cooking.

From the agricultural implements enumerated, the stock of grain on hand and the fair nucleus of a herd of cattle, which constituted more than half of the whole value of the estate, it may be safely asserted that, although he had as yet secured no regular concession, he was allotted a portion of the "Corn lands that is of public right," which he tilled as opportunity offered or the incessant attacks of the Iroquois permitted. As he owned no large agricultural implements, it is probable he hired them from better equipped neighbours or more likely still was accorded the use of those provided by the Society of Ville Marie de Montreal.

From the fact that he owned five saws, ten axes and a few other tools there is presumption that he carried on a lumber business in a small way, cutting down trees and with the aid of an assistant or partner sawing them by hand into boards and beams.

The hundred board nails, with a set of strap hinges and two door bolts, go to show that he contemplated building as soon as he should secure his concession from the Seigneurs. He evidently employed his spare time in making nails, having accumulated a supply of scrap iron for the purpose.

The details of the clothing are interesting as giving an idea how these early colonists were prepared to meet the rigours of a Canadian winter. It may be possible to picture up Leonard Lucault as farmer, lumberman and warrior with his tapabor or hunting cap drawn over his ears; his doublet thrown over his short jacket, a pair of breeches and long stockings with souliers de boeuf to make up the balance of his outfit.

Then there should be added a brace of pistols in his belt, an arquebuse or a gun over his shoulder and an axe in his hand.

Thus this old document has served, after 260 years, to afford a glimpse of life in Montreal, when it was first founded, a view of these strenuous times and when the Iroquois kept the whole community under arms and on the alert to prevent absolute extermination.

FROM THE RECORDS OF LAMBERT CLOSSE, No. 14, 21ST SEPT., 1651.

Sale of the movable effects of Leonard Lucault dit Barbeau.

Vente des meubles de defunct leonard barbeau contenus dans l'Inventaire qui en a esté fait le deux Juillet 1651; a la requeste de barbe poisson veufve du dict deffunct barbeau faict en la maniere accoustumée au plus offrant et dernier enchérisseur.

Premieremt, quatre couvertures dellivrés à la ditte veufve pour vingt trois livres cy . . . . .	23 lb.	
Item deux vieux mattelas dellivrés à la ditte veufve pour cinq livres cy . . . . .	5 lb.	
Item une pelle de fer une grille une Cramailliere et une paire de Chenets dellivrés à la ditte veufve pour seize livres dix sols cy . . . . .	16 lb.	10 s.
Item quatre chaudières dellivrés a andré david (Nigret) pour dix livres cy . . . . .	10 lb.	
Item un sceau et un bidon dellivré a la ditte veufve pour quatre livres cy . . . . .	4 lb.	
Item deux feuilles de Scie de long deux de travers et une petite scie a main montée dellivrés a pierre gadoys pour dix livres dix sols cy . . . . .	10 lb.	10 s.
Item deux plats et deux assiettes d'estain dellivrés à la ditte veufve pour quatre livres Cinq sols cy . . . . .	4 lb.	5 s.
Item une barate dellivrée a la ditte veufve pour trois Livres cy . . . . .	3 lb.	
Item une arquebuse a fuzil et un pistolet dellivrés à laflesche soldat pour la somme de Vingt cinq Livres cy . . . . .	25 lb.	
Item un pourpoint et un hault de Chausse de drap et un bas de leyne dellivrés a françois dasvennes (arras) pour la somme de dix huit livres cy . . . . .	18 lb.	
Item un viel Chapeau un Justaucorps un tapabor un hault de Chausse et un Calson de frize dellivrés à laflesche pour quatorze livres cy . . . . .	14 lb.	
Item huit livres de poudre dellivrés a la veufve pour huit livres cy . . . . .	8 lb.	
Item huit chemises dellivrés a andré dumay pour vingt quatre livres cy . . . . .	24 lb.	
Item trois draps deux nappes et six serviettes dellivrés a despastys pour dix sept livres cy . . . . .	17 lb.	

Item une bezegue une paire de pentures avecq ses gonds un verrouil avecq les gonds et un aultre verrouil dellivrés a Jean des roches pour neuf livres cy. . . . .	9 lb.	
Item dix Vieilles haches quatre pioches un croc une fourche une thille une serpe et une broche dellivrés a pierre gadoys pour dix huit livres cy. . . . .	18 lb.	
Item Sept minots de froment un minot de pois et quatre minots de bled d'Inde dellivrés a la ditte veufve pour soixante et deux livres cy. . . . .	62 lb	
Item un Cent de Cloud a plancher avecq des ferailles dellivrés a desloriers pour Cent dix sols cy. . . . .	5 lb.	10 s.
Item un pistolet dellivré a lambert Clause pour dix huit livres cy. . . . .	18 lb.	
Item deux paires de vieux souliers dellivrés a la ditte veufve pour dix sols cy. . . . .		10 s.
Item Six pièces de volailles dellivrés a laflesche pour quatorze livres cy. . . . .	14 lb.	
Item une vache dellivrée a la ditte veufve pour quatre vingt sept livres cy. . . . .	87 lb.	
Item un bœuf de deux ans dellivré a la ditte veufve pour Cent Cinquante trois livres cy. . . . .	153 lb.	
Item un veau d'un an dellivré a Jean dasvennes (aras) pour Soixante et quinze livres cy. . . . .	75 lb.	
Item un Cofre de bois dellivré a La ditte veufve pour Cent sols cy. . . . .	5 lb.	
Item un Cofre de bois dellivré a desloriers pour Cent dix sols cy. . . . .	5 lb.	10 s.

fait a villemarye par moy Commis au greffe Et tabellionnage du dict Villemarye subsigné le vingt et un septembre mil six Cent Cinquante et un

LAMBERT CLOSSE.

Par la presente vente la veufve barbeau doibt 371 lb. 5s. dont Il fault quelle tienne compte

Plus gadoys doibt a la vente 28 lb. 10 s. Et desroches doibt a La ditte vente neuf livres, aras a payé les 93 lb. quil debvoit ainsy que J ay mis au bas de l'Invent.

Et le surplus de la ditte vente se montant a la somme de 132 lb. Je lay receu des particuliers ainsy que J en faict mention au bas de l'Invnt. de maisonneuve

la presente vente se monte a la somme de 634 lb. 15 s. surquoy la veufve doibt 371 lb. 5 s. partant reste de deub par les particuliers mentionnés en la ditte vente 263 lb. 10s. sauf 1 erreur de Calcul

Extracts from the registers of Notre Dame parish church, Montreal.

2. Marriage of Leonard Lucault dit Barbeau and Barbe Poisson.

Anno Domini 1648, mensis octobris 12. denuntiationibus præmissis inter Missarum solemniam tribus continuis diebus, omen festis ob rationem dispensandi hac in parte, licet alioqui præesente populo, nulloque legitimo jmpedimto detecto ego Petrus Bailloquet Sacerdos Societatis Jesu vices agens parochi huius Ecclesiæ Montisregalis, Leonardum Lukos filium francisci Lukos ac Magdalenæ Bagadon parochiæ Aureliensis ad Lemouicum, Et Barbaram Poisson, filiam Joannis Poisson et Barbaræ Broue parochiæ Sti Joannis Mortanii in Perchio in Ecclesiâ Stæ Mariæ Montisregalis interrogavi, eorumq; mutuo consensu habito, solemniter per uerba de præsentis matrimonio coniunxi præsentibus testibus notis Domino Paulo de Chomedey de Maisonneufue loci gubernatore, Gilberto Barbier Niuernensi, aliisque multis, eis postea benedixi ex ritu Stæ matris Ecclesiæ in missæ celebratione.

3. Baptism of Marie Lucault dit Barbeau.

Anno Dni 1650 die prima Julii Ego Andreas Richard Societatis Jesu vices agens hujus Parochiæ baptizavi Infantem natam eodem die ex patre Leonardo Lukos et Matre Barbara Poisson coniugibus Maria nomen ei fuit Impositum. patrinus fuit D. Paulus de Chomedaj hujus loci Gubernator, Matrina Adriana Duuiuier.

4. Burial of Leonard Lucault dit Barbeau.

Anno D. 1651, die 18 Junij Leonardus Lucos dictus Barbot ab Hirocis vulneratus, die 20 mortuus est, omnibus Sacraentis munitus, et eode. die in cemeterio sepultus est a me Claudio Pijart Soc". Jesu Sacerdote.

5. Second Marriage of Barbe Poisson.

Anno D. 1651, die 19 Novembris, denuntionib. præmissis tribus continuis diebus festivis inter Missarum solemniam, nulloque legitimo impedimento detecto, ego Claudius Pijart presbiter Soctis Jesu vices



agens Parochi Montisregalis, Gabrielem Celle filium Joannis Celle et Celasie Roquer, de Nonan diocesis Baiocensis, et Barbaram Poisson filiam Joannis Poisson et Barbaræ Broue, de St. Jean de Mortagne, pais de Perche, relictamque Leonardi Lucos, in sacello Montisregali interrogavi eorumque mutuo consensu habito, Solemniter per verba de præsentî matrimonio coniunxi; præsentibus testibus notis D. Carolo Dailleboust Gilberto Barbier, et Lamberto Closse.

6. Marriage of René Cuillerier and Marie Lucault.

Le 13me Avril 1665

A esté fait et solemnisé le Mariage de René Cuillerier filz de Julien Et de Juliene fait feu de la paroisse de Clermond pres lafleche Avec Marie Lucault fille de feu Leonard et de Barbe Poisson tous deux de cette paroisse les trois bancs estants publiez aparauant sans opposition. Led mariage fet en presence de Gabriel Celle beaupère de Lad Marie Lucault de Messire Paul de Chomedey Sr. de Maisonneuve gouverneur de ce lieu Parrain de Lad Espouse d'Adrienne du Viuiers femme de Robert Cauelier sa Maraine, du Sr. Zacharie du Puy Major, de Messre Charles d'ailleboust Sr. des Musseaux, Claude Robutel Sr de St André Et plusrs autres amys communs des parties qui ont declaré ne scavoir escrire ny signer. Et Adrienne du Viuiier aussy. Et Gabriel Celle de ce enquis.

Paul de Chomedey  
C. D'ailleboust

Dupuis  
C. Robutel

G. Souïart Curé.