

known throughout the colony for his treatment, especially of cancer.

In 1742, he settled in St. Anne de la Pérade, a village on the north side of the St. Lawrence, about fifty miles above Quebec, at the mouth of the river St. Anne; a village in what is now Champlain county, with a present population of about 1,500, and even then of some relative importance. He was held in great esteem by the people and his reputation as a surgeon increased and broadened.

In 1735, there came to consult him Jean Bilodeau, a farmer of the Parish of Cotte (*Côte*) St. Francis, on the Island of Orleans (*l'île d'Orléans* as the contemporary manuscript has it). Bilodeau was suffering from a cancer in an advanced stage; it had already eaten into the lower lip on the left side. He had been attended by a competent surgeon of St. Jean on the Island of Orleans, Jean Mauvide, who treated him for several months without success and gave an alarming prognosis. Bilodeau then went to Quebec and consulted *Sieur Berthier*, surgeon to the Hôtel Dieu and the Jesuit, Boispeineu; they both told him that his case was hopeless and that the malady would cease only with his life.

The fame of Phlem came to his mind and he went to consult this cancer doctor, empiric as he was. Phlem gave him encouragement as is the wont of quacks, and promised to cure him, which is also the universal custom. Phlem kept a private hospital or boarding house for patients residing at a distance and requiring constant attention; and accordingly Bilodeau went to live with him, September 16, 1735. Phlem took no chances: he went with his new patient to the curé of the parish and had a written agreement drawn up and signed in presence of two parties. To make certain that the document could not be repudiated, the witnesses were of the highest station, the *Seigneur Longval de la Pérade* and *Joseph Gouin*, the captain of militia in the place.

The *soi disant* surgeon agreed to look after the patient in the best manner possible, for six months