

*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.

<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.