

very independent person, for the family wove its own cloth, made its own shoes and the knitted toque of many colours, and grew its own tobacco, besides the general produce of the farm. Happy and contented in disposition, fond of music, especially that of the ballad and the dance, they enjoyed the long winter evenings.

The other great man of the seigniory was the curé, or priest, for generally the parish and the seigniory had the same boundaries. The church was near the seignior's manor house and often in the early days the curé and the seignior lived together. It was supported by a tax by which each habitant brought to the curé one-twenty-sixth of the grain he raised. In every way the church was the centre of the community life. In it all children were baptised, all marriages performed, and all burial services held. It was the source of all information on secular, as well as religious affairs, and the curé was the general counsellor of the parish as the seignior was the judge. Matters of local or national importance which could not be discussed in the church were explained after mass in front of the church, a custom which prevails to this day.

The seigniory was sometimes held, not by one man, but by a church corporation such as