

in tracing from various sources the history of the leader of this colonizing scheme, and the fate of his company of Frenchmen. The sources of information are fourfold: First, tradition; which, although having a substratum of fact, cannot always be relied upon, as from an unimportant circumstance a wonderful structure of mingled fact and fancy often arises. Second, actual history; references in works of that day relating to it. Third, original letters and documents preserved in the Archives of Canada, or in the possession of private individuals. Fourth, traces left; as of houses built, or pictures of that period.

We find that the Count de Puisaye was an historical character mentioned in Lamartine, Thiers, Carlyle, Allison, the Annual Register, in their account of the French Revolution, but it is from the Dominion Archives in Ottawa that we derive the most complete and accurate information of his connection with the history of our country.

When in Ottawa a few months ago, in that wonderful room, lined from floor to ceiling with bound volumes of original documents, public and private letters, containing the hidden history of our country, I found references to the Count de Puisaye, and since then found, in the voluminous reports of several years, the history of the Count. From all these sources, we see a noble, pathetic and tragic figure, a man who had suffered much—had seen his friends of noble birth and his king and queen perish by the guillotine; in his command of the army in La Vendee had seen his force scattered and defeated; worse than all, was called a traitor by his own party, his name held in execration (unjustly, as we believe), his scheme in a foreign land fail, some of his party blaming him with misrepresentation, his last days in England sad and lonely, embittered with controversy, and he dying in obscurity.

The youngest son of a noble family, Count Joseph de Puisaye was born in 1755, intended for the Church, but entering the army at eighteen, soon had a command in the Swiss Guards. In the Convention of the States General, he was the representative of the nobles of La Perche, and at first took the popular side, advocated reforms, and supported the demands of the Tiers Etats, but, alarmed at the excesses of the ultras, was soon engaged in raising an army to secure the safety of the king in 1791. In 1792 he was obliged to flee, a price being set on his head, but he was the heart and soul of the rising in Brittany, and in 1794 was in communication with the British Government, and urged the landing of 10,000 men, with which he would answer for the re-establishment of the Royalist cause. Accordingly, a French corps of