

Is it significant that Jacques is referred to as a soldier while Godefroy is listed as an interpreter? Or had Jacques taken up a new profession? ¹⁴⁴ Jacques is elsewhere referred to as an "interpreter living in 1629 in Quebec (ville)" ¹⁴⁵

In a biography ¹⁴⁶ of Francois-Joseph Hertel, the only known son of Jacques, we find the following:

"M. Jacques Hertel, Sieur de la Freniere, head of this family in Canada, was still a child of the beautiful country which gave us the de Longeuils, the de Repentigny's, the Godfroys, etc. and, one can say, the major part of the first inhabitants. He left Fecamp, his native village, to go to Canada, towards the beginning of the 16th century Taking pains, in 1626, to study the wild [Indian] languages, he became one of the most capable and useful of interpreters." ¹⁴⁷

It was not long before the French were beginning to expand their contacts with the Mohawk Valley tribes. It seems that they concentrated their efforts in the area around Oneida Lake. Their trading began to worry the Dutch. Finally, in 1634, the Dutch sent an expedition into Iroquois country to investigate the decline of the fur trade, possibly caused by French incursions, and to negotiate a new price structure for the furs. Harmen Meyndertz van den Bogaert was the leader of this 1634 expedition.

In 1633 the French were trading with the Mohawks. Harmen van den Bogaert states in his journal that at one of the villages he visited, the chief explained how the French had traded with them in August 1633 for French shirts, coats and razors. This same chief also told van den Bogaert that the French gave them six hands of sewant for one beaver as well as other gifts.

At that time, interpreters were well-rounded men. They were entrusted by government and by companies, negotiating affairs and maintaining relations with the Native tribes. Adopted by the nation, they were regarded as brothers and had great authority in the Councils. So it was for Jacques Hertel. At the same time that he was an interpreter, he was also a Lieutenant in the troops, which gave him entry into the better families. He benefited from their regard and was able to establish himself advantageously.

Jacques was granted two other parcels of land by Montmagny in 1636. In the records for Trois Rivieres, Jacques Hertel attended the baptisms of many children,

¹⁴⁴ *Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie de l'Incarnation* translated and edited by Joyce Marshall

¹⁴⁵ *The French Canadians 1600-1900* V.2 ed. by Noel Montgomery Elliot, *La Ville de Quebec Sous le Regime Francais* par Pierre Georges ROY, Vol. Premier, p. 109.

¹⁴⁶ *Histoire des grandes familles francaises du Canada ou Apercu sur le Chevalier Benoist et quelques familles contemporaines* (Montreal: Eusebe Senecal, 1867)

¹⁴⁷ translated from the French by Dale T. Alexander 1995

including numerous Natives (children and adults) as early as 1636.¹⁴⁸ It is not known if Jacques was present at earlier baptisms since the Trois-Rivieres baptismal records do not begin until 1635.

In the spring or early summer of 1637, Jacques made a trip on the River des Prairies with Nicolet and St. Jean. The story of their adventure is told in the Jesuit Relations:

"They perceived a canoe prowling around the Islands on the lookout for some Hiroquois [sic]; they immediately fired several shots from the arquebuses to summon it to them. The Savage who was in it, seeing the bark, brought his canoe alongside. After he had been questioned about various things, he was asked if he would not like to go to the three Rivers, as Monsieur de St. Jean and sieur Hertel desired to go there. He replied that he greatly wished to go there, but that the Hiroquois [sic] would be sure to kill him on the way. Sieur Nicolet rejoined that he ought to fear nothing when these two young men, both of them courageous, and children of brave Captains, were with him; that they were armed with good arquebuses, and that no misfortune could befall him in their company."¹⁴⁹

Jacques Hertel, already a Lieutenant in the troops, was elected syndic of Trois-Rivieres.¹⁵⁰ In 1641 Jacques, aged 38, married Marie Marguerie, age 15, the sister of his friend and fellow interpreter, Francois Marguerie.¹⁵¹ Such seemingly young marriages among girls were not uncommon for that time period and location. Women in New France were in demand, and girls as young as thirteen married and raised families. New France had very few women and many settlers formed liaisons with native women. King Louis XIV of France wanted New France populated by French, not mixed-blood individuals, and he began the scheme known as the Filles du Roi (daughters of the King), wherein young impoverished girls were given a dowry if they would agree to sail to New France, and marry a settler. While Marie was not a Filles du Roi, she did come to New France at the urging of her brother Francois to help colonize the settlements.

¹⁴⁸ The baptism records for Trois-Rivieres begin in 1635

¹⁴⁹ JR

¹⁵⁰ DCB, HTR

¹⁵¹ Francois Marguerie de la Haye, baptised 12 Oct. 1612 Rouen, Normandy France, spent his early youth with the Algonkins on Allumette Island. As an interpreter to Champlain he travelled a great deal, including to Huron country in 1636. He acted as guide and interpreter to the Jesuits on their trips and missionary endeavours until 1637. At that time he returned to Trois-Rivieres as chief interpreter of the village. In 1641 he and Thomas Godefroy were captured by Iroquois and kept prisoner for several weeks. He and Godefroy were used as guides in an Iroquois plan to attack Trois-Rivieres. Marguerie was released to negotiate with the authorities of Trois-Rivieres with Godefroy kept as hostage to ensure Marguerie's co-operation. Francois warned the governor not to accept the Iroquois proposals since it was a trap, and then he returned to the Indians so that his friend and fellow interpreter Godefroy would not be harmed. Eventually Jean Nicollet and Father Ragueneau negotiated on their behalf and the hostages were freed. Marguerie married Louise Cloutier in 1645. He drowned when his canoe capsized in the St. Lawrence River off Trois-Rivieres on 23 May 1648. He is buried at Quebec. DCB: V 1: pp 489, 490

Following is the marriage contract for Jacques Hertel, from the notarial records (Vol. 6, 1980), signed on 23 Aug. 1641.

Jacques Hertel, res: Trois-Rivieres. Origin: France, Normandy, Rural
 Marie Marguerie, res: Trois-Rivieres. Origin: France, Normandy, Urban
 Nicolas Hertel, res: France, Normandy, Rural. Father of groom, married, deceased.
 Jeanne Miriot, res: France, Normandy, Rural. Mother of groom, married, deceased.
 / Marguerie, res: France, Normandy, Urban. Father of bride, married
 Marthe Romain, res: France, Normandy, Urban. Mother of bride, married
 Martial Piraube, notary

Following the marriage of Jacques Hertel to Marie Marguerie on 23 Aug. 1641, both of their names begin to appear together in numerous Trois-Rivieres baptism records. Most of these were Native baptisms. Their three children were baptised at Trois-Rivieres, as follows:

- Francois-Joseph Hertel baptised 3 July 1642. His uncle, Francois Marguerie was the godfather. Father Jean de Brebeuf ¹⁵² himself officiated.
- Marie-Madeleine Hertel, born 2 Sept. 1645, baptised 2 Sept. 1645.
- Marguerite Hertel, born 26 Aug. 1649, baptised 26 Aug. 1649

Jacques Hertel was elected official receiver for Trois-Rivieres for the Compagnie des Habitants in 1645. ¹⁵³ He built a small house on his property at l'Arbe-a-la-Croix in 1644, which he abandoned in 1647 because of the fear of Iroquois attack.

In the spring of 1647 Jacques is mentioned in the Jesuit Relations as having carried, with three other residents of Trois-Rivieres, the Canopy at the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. On Easter Day of 1648, Jacques was named godfather of a young Huron boy named Sa:ondionrhens, from the village of la Conception. Jacques gave him the name of Charles. ¹⁵⁴

Jacques lived at Trois-Rivieres until his sudden and accidental death at the home of Antoine Derosiers ¹⁵⁵ on 10 Aug. 1651. His wife Marie was only 25 years of age ¹⁵⁶

In the Jesuit Relations we read:

¹⁵² Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649, was a Jesuit priest who was tortured and killed at St. Ignace, Simcoe County, Ontario by Iroquois who had overrun the Jesuit village St. Marie Among the Hurons. Father Brébeuf was made a martyr.

¹⁵³ HTR

¹⁵⁴ JR: 1647-48 p.81

¹⁵⁵ Antoine Desrosiers was married to Anne Du Herrison, who was the daughter of Michel Leneuf du Herisson, an important official in Trois-Rivieres. DCB: VI 467

¹⁵⁶ Dictionnaire General du Canada_ by R.P.L. LeJeune; _Can-Francais_ Vol. I & II. _JR_ V 36 p. 137

"On the 14th [of Aug. 1651], a shallop arrives [in Quebec] from Three Rivers, which brings news of the death of Monsieur Hertel, who died on St. Lawrence's day. Otsie'Ka moritur [Otsie'Ka died]." ¹⁵⁷

This is the first mention of Jacques as Otsie'Ka. It is not known whether this was a name given him by his native tribe, or by the Jesuits.

An inventory taken of Jacques Hertel's effects after his death, reads as follows in French:

"Dans l'inventaire des meubles de Jacques Hertel, en 1651, il est fait mention de cinq barriques de bouillon. Ce breuvage, qui n'est plus connu en Canada, etait, au dix-septieme siecle, tres repandu parmi les pauvres gens en Picardie. Le dictionnaire de Trevoux note qu'il avait beaucoup de rapport avec le chousset des Turcs, lequel est fait de pate crue mais levee, qu'on cuit dansun chaudron plein d'eau, et quand elle est rassise puis séchée , l'on en prend la grosseur d'un oeuf qu'on jette dans l'eau pourboire."

Translation: In the inventory of Jacques' effects in 1651, five casks of bouillon are mentioned. This beverage, which is no longer known in Canada, was, in the 16th Century, very widely known among the poor people of Picardy. The Trevoux dictionary notes that it had much in common with the chousset of the Turks, which is made from fermented corn pulp, cooked in a cauldron of boiled water until sticky, then boiled until dry, at which point a whole egg is thrown into the water. ¹⁵⁸

Sulte gives an additional comment on the death of Jacques Hertel's death at the home of Antoine Desrosiers.

"... we do not have anything interesting to record in regard to it." (... nous n'avons aucun fait interessant a constater a son egard. ...) ¹⁵⁹

One would think that the sudden and accidental death of man aged 48 would warrant an explanation or a comment, but we are left to wonder how and why Jacques died. Jacques was buried in a side chapel of the parish church in Trois-Rivieres.

¹⁵⁷ JR

¹⁵⁸ translated by Rosemary Houston and Dale T. Alexander. The use of the egg would most likely have been to clarify the mixture, and Jacques would have used seagull or chicken eggs.

¹⁵⁹ IIR

There are no pages 87 through 90.

JACQUES HERTEL (de LA FRESNAYE)

by Madeline H. Carey, Scot Vandelinder and Arlene Coppernoll Cuba

1603

"JACQUES HERTEL, born at Fecamp in Caux country of Normandy, France, was the son of Nicolas Hertel and Jeanne Miriot".

Source: "History of the Village of Trois-Rivieres", by Benjamin Sulte, pub. in Montreal, 1870.

1615

"Jacques Hertel came to Canada in 1615 as a young man, employed by Champlain to serve as an Interpreter and Liason agent with the Indians".

Source: "History of Trois Rivieres" by Benj. Sulte.

"History of Canada", by Gustave Lanctot.

"The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents; Travels of the Jesuit Missionaries in North America, 1610-1791", pub. by the Burrows Bro. company, 1896, '97, '98, '99, 1900, '01, Vol.9.

1620

"Hartell, the French trader, among the most famous of the woodsmen-traders in the Mohawk Valley about 1620, whose Mohawk wife was "queen" of Hog Island at Schenectady, had two children: Ots-toch who married Cornelis Antonissen Van Slyck and Kenutje who married a Bradt. Ots-toch was wild and savage like her mother while Kenutje was small and very white like her father, Hartell".

Source: "History of the Mohawk Valley", by Nelson Greene

1620

"The object of Champlain in enlisting Brule, Nicolet, Marsolet, Hertel, Marguerie and other grown up boys for service in Canada from 1608 to 1620, was to educate them as interpreters. They could all read and write; some of them were even perfect scholars".

Source: "Annals of the Ottawa", in the Ottawa Evening Journal, January 12, 1889, copied from "The History of Brule's Discoveries and Explorations". Writer for the paper was Benjamin Sulte.

1624

"In early July 1624, six delegates from the Five Nations came to propose a treaty of peace and shortly thereafter, thirty-five Iroquois canoes came down the Richelieu River to barter furs with the Frenchmen for the first time".

Source: "History of Canada" by Lanctot.

(It is possible that Hertel could have been involved in achieving this peace with the Iroquois, however, there is no proof recorded.)

1628 "Lived with tribes during years Quebec was occupied by Kirke brothers (English). Hertel had acquired a taste for 'la vie des bois' (love of the woods) during his 14 years of service". "Hertel returned to Champlain in 1633".
Source: "Dictionary of Canadian Biography" and "History of Trois Rivieres" by Benj. Sulte.
"Dictionnaire General du Canada", by R.P.L. Lejeune

1633 "On Dec. 3, 1633, the Hundred Associates Company, seigneurs of New France, granted Jacques Hertel, two hundred acres of land in Trois Rivieres, thus making him the first land-owner there. At this time, Hertel was granted the seigneurie de La Fresnaye".
Source: "Dictionary of Canadian Biography" and "History of Trois Rivieres", by Benj. Sulte.

1636 "Jacques Hertel was granted two smaller estates by M. de Montmagny (successeur de M. de Champlain), on the 18 August 1636". "On 30 April 1636, he was godfather of a little Indian boy at his place of residence".
Source: "Jesuit Relations", Volume 9 and "History of Trois Rivieres", by Benj. Sulte.

1637 "In 1637, two days after Easter, Hertel; Sa. Ondionshens, a Huron from the village of Conception who had wintered here (Three Rivers), was baptized; his godfather was M. de la Fresnaye who named him Charles"
Source: Volume 9 of "The Jesuit Relations".

1640 "In 1640, about one hundred women and girls were asked to come over from France; hopefully able to make families for the settlers and populate the country other than by Indian girls".
Source: "Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents"

(1641)
1641 "Jacques, baptized 6 March 1641, godson of Jacques Hertel and the lady of the Potherie who was known in his youth by the name of Vieux-Point"
Source: "History of Trois Rivieres", by Sulte; also from "Jesuit Relations", Volume 9.

1641 "On 26 August 1641, Jacques Hertel married Marie Marguerie, sister of the Interpreter, Francois Marguerie. Jacques and Marie M. had three children: Francois, born 3 July 1642; Madeline, born 2 September 1645; and Marguerite, born 26 August 1649".
Source: "Dictionary of Canadian Biography" and "History of Trois Rivieres" by Sulte, pages 195, 106.

1647 "Jacques Hertel, allready a lieutenant in the troops was elected syndic (mayor) for Trois-Rivieres which proves the confidence inhabitants of this city had for his ability to handle their interests".
Source: "Dictionary of Canadian Biography" by Sulte and "History of Trois Rivieres", pgs. 105,106.

1651 "Jacques Hertel died 10 August 1651, accidentally, at the home of Antoine Desrosiers".
"He was buried in a side chapel of the parish church in Trois Rivieres. His wife was only 25 years of age. She, later, married Quentin Moral and had 4 more children. Marie M. (Hertel) ~~Quentin~~ Moral died November 24, 1700 and was buried according to her wishes next to her first husband, Jacques Hertel".
Sources: "Dictionnaire General du Canada" by R.P.L. LeJeune.
"Can-Francais", Vol. I and II.
"Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents", Volume 36, page 137.

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Research of JACQUES HERTEL by:

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Many years ago some long forgotten family researcher shared this Jacques Hertel compilation with me. As I have been unable to locate a current source for this material or find a copyright issued for it, I have taken the liberty of including it. I have personally consulted *Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents*, *the Dictionary of Canadian Biography* and the various sources authored by Benjamin Sulte cited here and am truly appreciative of the concise manner in which these authors have presented the materials.

In my most recent forays into Jacques Hertel research, it is noteworthy that even some Canadian researchers are now acknowledging that Jacques probably had a liaison with an Indian woman which resulted in the half-breed daughter who became the wife of Cornelis Van Slyck.

E. M.

From: "The Jesuit Relations And Allied Documents", Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in North America, 1610-1791
 Pub. by The Burrows Brothers Co., Cleveland. 1896, '97, '98, '99, 1900, '01, 1925, 1961, latter by Albert & Charles Boni, Inc.

Volume IX.

Page 305 (note #3) "JACQUES HERTEL, a native of Normandy, came to Canada in 1615. He was long employed by Champlain as an interpreter, and, upon the capture of Quebec, took refuge with the savages. In 1633, he obtained a grant of land at Three Rivers, where he was the first settler (see vol. iv., note 24); and two other estates that were granted him by Montmagny, Aug. 18th 1636. Five years later he was married to Marie Marguerite; their son, Francois was ennobled by Louis XIV. He died at Three Rivers, Aug. 10, 1651." (See Sulte's "Can-Francais", Volumes i, ii.)

Volume XII.

Page 177. "In 1637, 18th of June, Monsieur de saint Jean requested a Savage to go down to Three Rivers as Monsieur de St. Jean and sieur Hertel desired to go there. At first, he refused, fearing "the Hiroquois" would be sure to kill him on the way. Later, the savage agreed to go. "They encountered nothing else than water and woods". (note: Both men, above referred to as Captains.)

Volume XXXVI.

Page 137. "August 14, 1651, a shallop arrives from Three Rivers, which brings us the news of the death of MONSIEUR HERTEL, who died on St. Lawrence's day. Otsie'ka moritur.

Volume XLVII.

Page 315. "FRANCOIS HERTEL. This youth was the son of JACQUES HERTEL (vol. ix, note #3), and was at this time but nineteen years of age. He had entered the militia at Three Rivers at least three years previously, and was long prominent in the military affairs of Canada. In 1664, FRANCOIS (who bore the title of sieur de la Freniere) married Marguerite de Thauvenet, by whom he had thirteen children. He died in May 1722."

Volume XLVII, page 315. (note #4. (p.87), "Quentin Moral de St. Quentin, a lieutenant of the king, married (1652), at the age of thirty, the widow of JACQUES HERTEL; they had four children, all daughters. St. Quentin died in May 1686.