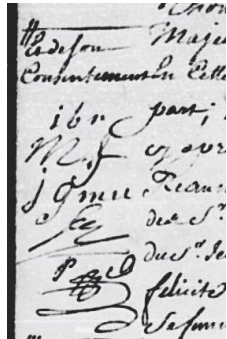


**The 3 September 1747 Marriage Contract of
Jean Baptiste Réaume, *fils* (the son), and Félicité Javillon dite Lafeuillade**

The Text of the Contract

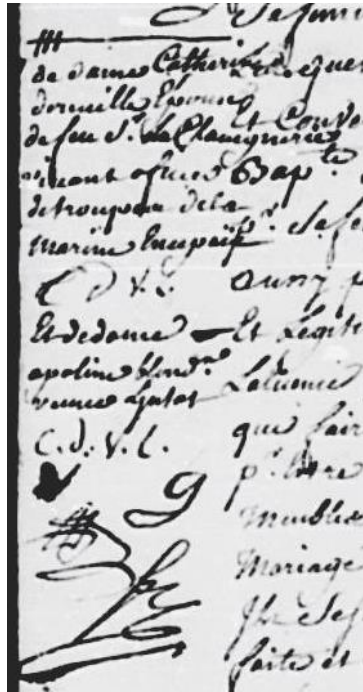
Before the notary [abbreviation] was present *jean bapte reaume fils* [son] of deceased *jean bapte Reaume* interpreter for the king for the Indians [*sauvages*] of the *pays d'en haut* [the country up river from the mother colony] and *dame Marieanne*

Thomas [?] _____ [See image below; blank line] his father and mother as one party, at this present time an adult [*Majeur*, 25 or older in this period]; and *marianne Chavillon dite Lafeuillade* acting on the part of *dam(selle) felicite Chavillon* her daughter # [in the margin: # **and with her consent**, initialed *jbr, mf, jg, mu, Su?, pg*, as well as the *paraphe* of Dufresne] as the other



party; the which parties with the agreement and counsel of their relatives and friends hereafter named, Be it known [*Scavoir*]: on behalf of the said Sr Jean Bte Reaume of S[ieur]s *pierre St. germain* [seemingly crossed out], friend; of *philibert Laroque*, friend; of *Sr. jean gouneau dit LaCouture*; of *dame Marie hurtebise*, wife of the said *Sr. jean gouneau*, friends, for one party; and on the part of the said *dam[selle]*

felicite Chavillon; # [in margin: # of *dame catherine douville*, spouse of deceased *Sr de Lachavignerie*



when alive *oficier* [*sic*] in the marines of this country, {initials} *cd, v ?* and of *dame appoline blond^{eau}*, widow *Ljntot* {Lintot}{initials} *c.d. v.l. v g*, two *paraphes*; {and, next main text line}]

of *Sr Matthieu Latour* and *Louise Leduc*, his wife for the other party. ////////////// [diagonals to fill out this line] the which parties have voluntarily recognized and confessed having made the agreements and conventions of marriage that follow, Be it known, that the said Sr. Jean

Bte Reaume has promised and promises to take the said dame[selle] *felicite Chavillon* as his legitimate wife; the which *dam[selle] felicite Chavillon* also promised and promises to take the said Sr. Jean Bte Reaume as her legitimate future husband and to have the marriage celebrated and solemnized before a representative of and with the consent of our mother Holy Church apostolic and Roman [*en face de l'eglise*] as soon as it can be done and that they decide and agree that

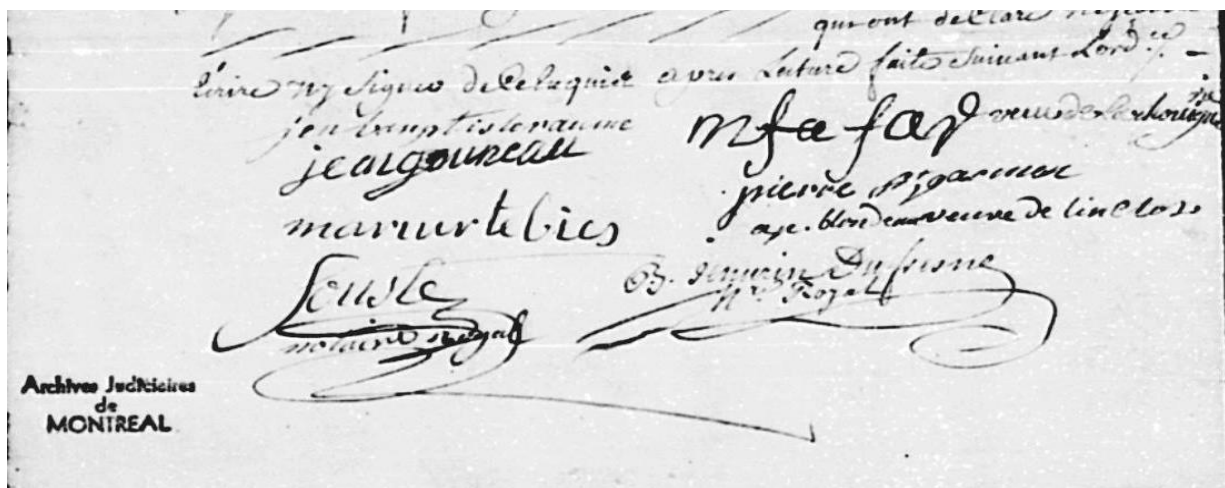
the future spouses will be one and common in all possessions [*biens meubles* (household goods, tools, animals, clothing, etc.)], unmoveable goods [*acquêts*, usually real estate inherited before or during the marriage]. and those immovables [*conquêts immeubles*, usually real estate) acquired while married] during the said future marriage according to the **Custom of Paris** [*Coutume de Paris*] observed in this country to which they submit; [they] will not be held responsible for debts or mortgages [*hypotheques*], one nor the other, that were made and created before their espousals [;] to the contrary, if there are any [debts] they will be

paid and acquitted by the one who is the debtor and from his / her possessions [*Biens*] without the other being held liable; the said future husband has dowered and dowers [*doué et doüe*] the said future wife with the customary dower [*doüaire coutumier*] or of the sum of **five hundred livres of doüaire préfix** or the customary [*doüaire*] at her or her children's choice when the time comes [at the husband's death. The wife is first to receive the *doüaire* and then the children.] without being required to ask for it legally nor to have to pay any debts owed to the said future [marital] Community, the **préciput** [goods or money to go to either of the surviving spouses] will be equal and reciprocal in the amount of **two hundred and fifty livres** to be taken by the surviving spouse from the possessions [*Biens meubles*] of the future Community after the appraisal of an inventory that will be taken and without an additional charge [*Crüe*, small payment for the evaluation] or in cash money [*deniers comptant*]; the future wife will be allowed to accept the said future Community or to renounce it, And in renouncing it she will be allowed to take freely and fully all that she brought to it, what she acquired and what came to her, as much through inheritance [end page 1]

gift or otherwise, and her dower's portion [*doüaire*] and *préciput* as above without being held liable for debts to the said future Community even if she is obliged or condemned [legally] in which case she will have her *actions* [legal costs] indemnified and mortgaged by all the *Biens* present and to come of the future husband;]]] and for the good affection the future spouses hold one for the other and as a token of it, they have made through these presents [this document] a pure and simple donation between living persons of all and every possession personal and real [*biens meubles et immeubles*] that will be found to belong to the first to die, to be enjoyed, transacted, and disposed of by the last to die as his / her personal possessions [*propre biens*] and [also] of the legitimate acquisitions [*Loyal acquêts*], provided that no children] will have been born or are about to be born to the said future marriage, in which case this donation will be null and void and as if never made; and to have this document to be put in full force and effect [*insinuer*] in the jurisdiction of Montreal or everywhere else, as needed or will be needed, within four months according to the regulation, the said parties have named as their power of attorney [*procurateur*] the bearer of it to whom they give power as required to act and seek action, for in this way & promising & obligating & renouncing & made and passed *au quartier St Joseph* [St. Joseph Quarter] in the house of *Sr Jean Gouneau dit LaCouture* **in the year seventeen hundred forty seven the third day of September** in the afternoon [;] and have with us, the said notaries, signed with the exception of the said future female spouse [I read *epouse*, female spouse, or wife] and the said persons named above
/ / / / / / / who have declared being unable to write or sign when asked after a reading was made according to the regulation [*ordonnance*]

{Signatures follow and standardized names as found in Jetté.¹}

¹ René Jetté, *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines à 1730* (Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal: 1983).



Ecrire ny Signer de Ce enquis apres Lecture faites Suivant Lord[onnance]

*jen baupliste reaume**

jean gouneau

mari urtibies

Souste

notaire royal

*mfafar** veuve de lechauvign****

*pierre st garmen*****

a ? blondeau veuve de linctot

B. janvrin Dufresne

Ntre Royal

[Note: No religious ceremony record survives to indicate that the promises made herein were kept. The future bride, *marie javillon dite la feullade*, by 1755, had legally married the witness who signed *pierre st garmen*; and the future husband, Jean Baptiste Réaume, married **Marie Matchiouagakouat** 15 August 1754 at Michilimackinac.²

² James Paquette comments in his unpublished family history (2012): “The 1754 marriage at Michilimackinac apparently solemnized their 1752 ‘custom of the country’ marriage.” Marie Matchi8agak8at (Menominee) was also baptized on 15 August 1754. I thank James Paquette for sharing his research.