

The Marriage Contract of Jacques Samson & Marie Anne Metru

13 novembre 1641

Le mariage de Jacques Samson & Marie Anne Metru...
Je Jacques Samson...
Je Marie Anne Metru...

Sixante et deux...
L'acte de mariage

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Je Jacques Samson...
Je Marie Anne Metru...

Marie Couillard
Jacques Metru
Brisot Claude Brisot Marie Brisot
Brisot Claude

*The above copy of the original marriage contract of Jacques Samson & Marie Anne Metru was provided by Louis Samson of Levis Quebec. It was drawn up by the notary Romain Becquet of Quebec City on November 13, 1671 at the house of Francois Bissot, Sieur de la Riviere. The transcription of the text was provided by Louis Samson, and the translation was provided by Louis Samson and Charles Samson.*

13 November 1671

"Appearing before me, the notary public Romain Becquet, are present in person, Jacques Sanson resident of the Coast of Lauzon, son of Toussain Sanson and Catherine Chevallier, his father and mother of the parish of St. Grastien, diocese of Lissieux , on the one part; and Marie Anne Metru, daughter of Sieur Claude Metru agent of Monsigneur Larche Levesque of Paris and Jeanne Crisot, an honest woman, her father and mother of the parish of Ste. Marie Ville, diocese of Ste. Marie Marine Ville, Archdiocese of Paris, on the other part. Gathered here in good faith and full consent are the couple's friends and family, namely, Pierre Bernard Esquire, Sieur de Grandville, Le Sieur Guillaume Couture, Marie Couillard, honest woman and wife of Francois Bissot sieur de la Rivière, Nicolas Métru, Geneviève Bissot, Claude Bissot and Marie Bissot.

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*[These lines indicate that there were other persons present, but only the individuals able to sign are identified]*

In making the following agreement and promise of marriage, the said Sanson vows to take the said Metru as his wife and legal spouse, and the said Metru also vows to take the said Sanson as her husband and legal spouse. The solemn marriage shall take place between the couple in our Holy Mother Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church as soon as possible and deliberately between them, in the presence of family and friends. God and our good and holy Mother Church consent and grant to them their future commitment and that their acquired furniture and possessions, and those yet to be acquired before the marriage, shall be placed in common ownership, following the custom in Paris. But the future spouses are not bound by the debts created by each other before the marriage. The future bride shall be given a dowry in the sum of 400 pounds, according to the regular custom, in a fixed payment, to be paid as the future bride chooses. She shall also select the best and clearest goods of the future groom. The future groom shall take the bride with all her rights, name, reasons and actions that she has currently, or may come to her by succession, donation or some other manner in the future. The groom also recognizes that the bride has brought and placed in the community property the sum of 400 pounds, half of which will remain as community property and the other half for her own use or those of her side or family. In addition, the sum of 100 pounds that was given to her by His Majesty [the King] in consideration of her marriage shall also be retained by her or those of her side or family, and at the dissolution of their marriage if there are no children by them. And especially, that all the goods and personal property that the future groom and bride give to each other, and acquire and contribute remain theirs at the time of one of their deaths. At the time of the first demise, the sum of 100 pounds given to the bride by His Majesty in consideration of her marriage, and retained by her or those of her side or family, and before the dissolution of their future marriage, having not procreated any children by the spouses, shall be given to one or the other. The contributions of each, including all contents, movable goods, furniture, acquisitions, buildings, which are theirs at the time of death, shall be retained by the surviving spouse and will become their possessions, following the prescribed four months. The spouses give to the Procurer General [Minister of Justice], and any special caretaker of their descendants, whom they have given authority to act on their behalf, require the act of promise and obligation, and to each the acceptance of the law, at the Coast of Lauzon, in the house of Francois Bissot, sieur de la Riviere, in the year seventy one [1671], before mid-day on the 13th day of the month of November, in person for Jean Baptiste Gouet and Martin Bouffard, made in Quebec in the presence of the following witnesses who signed."

The persons who signed are:

- Anne Metru
- Marie Couillard
- Degradvillier
- G. Cousture
- Genevieve Bissot
- Métru (notary cleric)
- Claire Bissot
- Marie Bissot
- Bouffard
- Gosset
- Becket N.R.