Available records surrounding Joseph's life in the USA are primarily of his period in and around the Oregon territories. Sketchy as it is most of that material is not in dispute but we are still left with the period prior to his "20th" birthday leading up to his departure from Maskinonge, Québec and arrival in the Oregon Territories.

Some (genealogists/historians) postulate that Joseph might have been born in 1777 and that he died in his 84th year in 1861. Reviewing the historical records I find that a certain amount of that data is made on undocumented evidence and supposition.

Taking as fact that Joseph came from and was possibly born in Maskinonge, Québec and that he left home around the age of 20 I ask myself what records exist from his birth to that state in time and knowing that vital BMD records in Québec (New France) carried a high degree of accuracy I turned to those archives in an attempt to trace Joseph’s birth and family in Maskinonge.

According to Parish records a Joseph Gervais was the first ever "Gervais" to be Baptized in Maskinonge, dated 1788-12-22 (with birth date stated as 1788-12-21). This information was initially retrieved from PRDH - University of Montreal (http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca) and reconfirmed by a copy of the original St-Joseph parish register.

The PRDH records also indicate that Joseph’s parents were married in 1788-11-24 a mere month before his birth, and that there are no subsequent local records indicating a marriage or death of this Joseph (Talbot) Gervais. Joseph’s parents, in the church’s baptismal register are listed as “Benoni Gervais” and “Marie-Marguerite Deziel”. Their marriage, registered in Maskinonge Québec, identifies Benoni as the son of “Joseph Talbot Gervais” who in turn is registered as the son of one “Jacques Talbot dit Gervais” who hails from the Parish of St-Gervais, Rouen, France. As was the practice at the time, Jacques Talbot, in honour of his local parish added Gervais to his family name to be become known in New France as “Jacques Talbot dit Gervais”. (See: http://www.gervaistree.ca/wc08/wc08_132.htm).
Conclusion is that, in all probability, this Joseph Gervais born in 1788 is in fact the same one who ended up in Oregon. Given these new time frames and evidence that shows he left home before his 20th birthday (1808) and eventually proceeded west in 1810/11 etc, against the fact that nothing exists that puts another Joseph Gervais in Maskinonge prior to 1788.

Regarding Joseph Talbot Gervais' surname it should be noted that the original "immigrant" to Canada (from France) family's surname was Talbot but that like most of his compatriots of the time took or was given an alias, nickname, or nom de guerre ("Gervais") during military enlistment. Thereafter and subsequently becoming known as Jacques Talbot dit Gervais following his arrival in Canada. Our Joseph Gervais is descended from this person.

Subsequent research finds that in fact many of Jacques Talbot dit Gervais' descendants either stuck with the original "Talbot" or otherwise, as they moved about dropped that and became simply "Gervais", or dropped the connective "dit" as appears in this case with Joseph's father's family.

Next I refer to research findings leading up to his voyageur years culminating with his departure from Maskinonge around his twentieth birthday.

It must be stated that, over a period several years, records show that Joseph's father Benoni (or Belonie) Gervais entered into a number of contracts for Voyageur services to undertake frequent travels to the "Wild" West. It stands to reason his children would have grown up with a keen interest in similar activity. When opportunities arose, as they grew, I am sure they would have accompanied their father on some of his journeys. A number of Benoni's Voyageur contracts can be found at: http://shsb.mb.ca/en/Voyageurs_database as can those for his sons Joseph, Francois and Louis.

Joseph's first confirmed Voyageur contract (copy attached) was prepared on July 1, 1808 when he was shy of 20 years of age, identifying Maskinonge as his Parish and noting that the contract was concluded with the consent of his Father Benoni Gervais, who also acted as guarantor. The length of this contract was for a period of one year to cover Michilimackinac (and Dependencies), L'isle St-Joseph, Mississippi and Missouri.

Ultimately DNA comparison between direct line descendants of Talbot dit Gervais born 1788 and those of Joseph Gervais who lived and died in Oregon might put final to the question, although research findings are enough to satisfy me, that the Joseph Gervais who died in Oregon in 1861 and the Joseph (Talbot) Gervais born in Maskinonge in 1788 are one and the same..

Anyone wishing to contact me on this subject can do so through my Web page at http://www.gervaistree.ca.
Note: Within the Oregon records there is mention of a Jean-Baptiste Gervais, born in 1791, said to be a relative or possible brother of Joseph. Again using the same basic research tools we uncover a cousin to Benoni, one “Jean-Baptiste Talbot dit Gervais” from the same family line but with different parents, born 1791.09.02 in Montmagny, Québec.

Another researcher has offered a Joseph Gervais born in Repentigny on 1778-3-06 as the Oregon City namesake but further research shows that this one as baptized 1778-3-25 and buried 1778-8-08.

SOURCES (copies attached)

i) St-Joseph Parish Parish Church Baptismal Register, Maskinonge, Québec - Drouin Collection

ii) PRDH (www.genealogy.umontreal.ca certificate #524939) Joseph’s birth & Baptism record

iii) PRDH (www.genealogy.umontreal.ca certificate #66508) Benoni Talbot Gervais Family Record

iv) PRDH (www.genealogy.umontreal.ca certificate #24090) Joseph Talbot Gervais Family Record

v) PRDH (www.genealogy.umontreal.ca certificate #10637) Jacques Talbot dit Gervais Family Record

vii) Talbot dit Gervais Descendant Chart
## ANNEX ii

**Baptême**

**Maskinongé**

Birth : 1788-12-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>M.S.</th>
<th>Pr.</th>
<th>Sex</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>JOSEPH GERVAIS</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>BENONI GERVAIS</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FATHER OF 01</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>MARGUERITE DEZIEL</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>f</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOTHER OF 01</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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www.genealogy.i
Family # 66508

of BENONI TALBOT GERVAIS and MARIE MARGUERITE DEZIEL LABRECHE

Father : JOSEPH TALBOT GERVAIS
Mother : MARIE JOSEPHE PATRY

and

DEZIEL LABRECHE

Father : JEAN BAPTISTE LABRECHE DEZIEL
Mother : MARIE ANNE LAMPRON LACHARITE

Marriage: 1788-11-24 Maskinongé

Children born before 1800 :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Birth Place</th>
<th>Marriage Place</th>
<th>Death Place</th>
<th>First name of the child</th>
<th>Name of the spouse</th>
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<td>Maskinongé</td>
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<td>JOSEPH</td>
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<td>1790-05-18</td>
<td>Rivière-du-Loup (Louiseville)</td>
<td>1792-07-20 Maskinongé</td>
<td>MARGUERITE</td>
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<td>m</td>
<td>1791-10-09</td>
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<td>FRANCOIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>m</td>
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<td></td>
<td>GABRIEL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>1796-07-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>1797-10-09</td>
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<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>1799-06-03</td>
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<td>LOUIS</td>
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</table>
Couple # 24090

of JOSEPH TALBOT GERVAIS and MARIE JOSEPHE PATRY
Burial : 1796-06-20 Maskinongé
Father : JACQUES TALBOT GERVAIS Father : ANDRE PATRY
Mother : CATHERINE LAMARRE Mother : MARIE CATHERINE PRUNEAU

Previous marriage with MARIE MADELEINE NOLIN

Marriage: 1744-10-12 Montmagny

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Date of marriage</th>
<th>First name of the child</th>
<th>Place of marriage</th>
<th>Name of the spouse</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>1768-10-24</td>
<td>MARIE ELISABETH</td>
<td>Montmagny</td>
<td>ALEXIS BELAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>1783-02-24</td>
<td>FRANCOIS NOEL</td>
<td>Boucherville</td>
<td>MADELEINE CHARON</td>
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<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>1788-08-25</td>
<td>AUGUSTIN CHARLES</td>
<td>Maskinongé</td>
<td>MARIE JOSEPHE MADELEINE SICARD CARUFEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>1781-11-26</td>
<td>CHARLES</td>
<td>Contrecoeur</td>
<td>MARIE FRANCOISE VALENTIN GREGOIRE</td>
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<td>m</td>
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<td>BENONI</td>
<td>Maskinongé</td>
<td>MARIE MARGUERITE DEZIEL LABRECHE</td>
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</table>

Children married before 1800:

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Family # 10637

of JACQUES TALBOT GERVAIS and CATHERINE LAMARRE

Father : NICOLAS TALBOT
Mother : MARIE DUCHESNE

Father : PIERRE LAMARRE
Mother : MARIE LOUISE PAULET

Marriage: 1710-04-28 Montmagny

Children born before 1800 :

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<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>First name of the child</th>
<th>Name of the spouse</th>
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<td>1735-10-19</td>
<td>1796-06-20</td>
<td>JOSEPH</td>
<td>MARIE MADELEINE NOLIN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Montmagny</td>
<td>St-Pierre I.O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>1712-09-10</td>
<td>1734-02-21</td>
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<td>MARIE CATHERINE</td>
<td>CHARLES ROUSSEAU</td>
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<td>Montmagny</td>
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<td>f</td>
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<tr>
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<td>before 1716</td>
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<td>1785-02-11</td>
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<td>St-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Printed Copy of Voyageur Contract

Nom de Famille: Gervais
Nom normalisé: GERVAIS
Prénoms: Joseph (fils))
Âge: 0
Date de l’acte notarié: 18080107 (age of approx. 19 ½ )
Lieu du notaire: Montréal
Durée de l'engagement: 1 ans
Notes au sujet de la durée de l'engagement: - & descendre a la fin de la dte. annee
Hivernant: Yes
Paroisse: Masquinongé lequel du consentement de Belonie Gervais son pere
Nom normalisé de la paroisse: Maskinongé
Métier: NL
Fonctions: MILIEU NL
Notes sur la fonction: NL
Destinations: Michilimackinac (et dépendences), L’île, St-Joseph, Mississippi, Missouri
Compagnie de marchand: Mess. de la Compagnie de Michilimakinac
Représentant de la compagnie: Toussaint Pothier
Nom du notaire: Chaboillez, Louis
Gages: 400 LIVRES
Avance au moment de la signature: 36 LIVRES
Avance au moment du départ: 36 LIVRES

Notes au sujet du contrat: - une Couverte de 3 points, trois aunes de cotton, une paire souliers et un colier - s’oblige de contribuer d’un pour cent sur ses gages pour le fonds des voyageurs - les dits bourgeois ne pourront être tenus de nourrir le dit engagé, dans quelque endroit qu’il puisse être pendant le présent engagement, qu’au bled d’inde ou autre aliment qu’ils ont ordinairement des sauvages

Source d’archives: BANQ, Greffes de notaires
No du microfilm: M620/1202
Nom de famille de la caution: Gervais
Prénoms de la caution: Belonie
Paroisse de la caution: NL
Métier ou profession de la caution: NL
Signature de la caution: NA
Notes sur la caution: lequel dt. Gervais pere se rend garant & caution envers les dts. Srs. Bourgeois
Nicholas Talbot & Marie Duchesne

Jacques Talbot dit Gervais
b. 5 Jul 1665, Veauville-Les-Banons, Rouen, Normandie, France
d. 27 Mar 1730, Montmagny, (Montmagny), Québec, Canada
& Catherine Lamarre
b. 21 Sep 1688, Montmorency, Québec, Canada
m. 28 Apr 1710, St-Thomas de Montmagny, Québec

Joseph Talbot dit Gervais
b. 2 Feb 1711, Montmagny, (Montmagny), Québec, Canada
d. 20 Jun 1796, Maskinonge, Québec
& Marie-Josephe Patry
m. 12 Oct 1744, St-Thomas de Montmagny, Québec

Benoni Talbot dit Gervais
b. 13 Mar 1761, Montmagny, (Montmagny), Québec, Canada
d. 2 Jul 1820
& Marie-Marguerite Deziel Labreche
m. 24 Nov 1788, Maskinonge

Joseph GERVAIS
b. 21 Dec 1788, Maskinonge, Québec
d. 15 Jul 1861
& Marie Angelique TCHINOUK
b. abt 1803
d. 9 May 1853, St-Louis, Marion Cty, Oregon, USA
m. 6 Jul 1840, Marion Country, Oregon, USA