

Joseph (Talbot) Gervais

Born in Maskinonge, Québec died July 14, 1861 Oregon, USA

Prepared by J.A. Douglas Gervais

www.gervaisree.ca

© copyright 2017 All rights reserved

(provided for use of oregonpioneers.com January 2017)

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.gervaisree.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 fathers 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.gervaisree.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 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

1789

M
A
S
K
I
N
G
E

PAROISSE
ST-JOSEPH
CO. MALLACHENE
QA

REGISTRES
PHOTOCOPIES
AU
GREFFE
DES
TRES-ZENES
P.C.

B. de
Joseph Gervais.
 L'an mil sept cent quatre vingt huit le vingt deux
 jour de Janvier au dit Maskinonge a été baptisé
 Joseph enfant légitime de Joseph Gervais et de
 Marie-Anne Leduc la femme a été Antoine
 Langford dit Gervais et la marraine marraine
 Anne-Anne Gervais de Joseph Gervais les quels ont
 déclaré se flaver ainsi de ce jour le present
 Joseph Gervais

L'acte ci-dessus daté de vingt deux de Décembre
 l'an mil sept cent quatre vingt huit a été
 enregistré au dit Maskinonge le
 vingt deux de Janvier 1789. Joseph Gervais

Signé le 22 Janvier 1789
 A. Deault
 P. R.



ANNEX ii

Baptême		N° 524939			
Maskinongé		1788-12-22			
Birth :1788-12-21					
Rank	Name	Age	M.S.	Pr.	Sex
01	JOSEPH GERVAIS	---	c	p	m
02	BENONI GERVAIS FATHER OF 01	---	---	p	m
03	MARGUERITE DEZIEL MOTHER OF 01	---	---	p	f

Family # 66508

of **BENONI TALBOT GERVAIS**and **MARIE MARGUERITE DEZIEL LABRECHE**Father : **JOSEPH TALBOT GERVAIS**Father : **JEAN BAPTISTE LABRECHE DEZIEL**Mother : **MARIE JOSEPHE PATRY**Mother : **MARIE ANNE LAMPRON LACHARITE****Marriage: 1788-11-24 Maskinongé****Children born before 1800 :**

Sex	Birth Place	Marriage Place	Death Place	First name of the child Name of the spouse
m	1788-12-21 Maskinongé			JOSEPH
f	1790-05-18 Rivière-du-Loup (Louiseville)		1792-07-20 Maskinongé	MARGUERITE
m	1791-10-09 Maskinongé			FRANCOIS
m	1793-07-27 Maskinongé			AMABLE
m	1794-11-16 Maskinongé			GABRIEL
m	1796-07-15 Maskinongé		1798-05-18 Maskinongé	PIERRE
f	1797-10-09 Maskinongé		1798-07-27 Maskinongé	JOSEPHE
m	1799-06-03 Rivière-du-Loup (Louiseville)			LOUIS

Couple # 24090

of **JOSEPH TALBOT GERVAIS**and **MARIE JOSEPHE PATRY**

Burial : 1796-06-20 Maskinongé

Burial : 1795-01-19 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**

Children married before 1800 :

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

Family # 10637

of **JACQUES TALBOT GERVAIS** and **CATHERINE LAMARRE**Father : **NICOLAS TALBOT**Father : **PIERRE LAMARRE**Mother : **MARIE DUCHESNE**Mother : **MARIE LOUISE PAULET****Marriage: 1710-04-28 Montmagny**

Children born before 1800 :

Sex	Birth	Marriage	Death	First name of the child
	Place	Place	Place	Name of the spouse
m	1711-02-02	1735-10-19	1796-06-20	JOSEPH
	Montmagny	St-Pierre I.O.	Maskinongé	with MARIE MADELEINE NOLIN
f	1712-09-10	1734-02-21	1760-06-20	MARIE CATHERINE
	Montmagny	Lieu indéterminé (au Québec)	St-Pierre-de-la- Rivière-du-Sud	with CHARLES ROUSSEAU
f	1714-03-15		1714-11-13	ANNE FRANCOISE
	Montmagny		Montmagny	
f	before 1716	1735-11-06	1785-02-11	MARIE GENEVIEVE
	Lieu indéterminé (au Québec)	Lieu indéterminé (au Québec)	St-François-de-la- Rivière-du-Sud	with PIERRE BAUDOIN
m	before 1718	1743-09-23	1749-12-08	AUGUSTIN
	Lieu indéterminé (au Québec)	St-Pierre-de-la- Rivière-du-Sud	Montmagny	with MARIE GENEVIEVE MIGNEAULT AUBIN

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'isle, 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 coton, 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

