## NEW ORLEANS NOSTALGIA
Remembering New Orleans History, Culture and Traditions
By Ned Hémard

Grandfather of New Orleans

Located at the center of French colonial New Orleans was what was then called the *Place d'Armes* (a military parade ground). A trio of historic buildings, the Cabildo, the St. Louis Cathedral and the Presbytère are situated on its north side. The Lower and Upper Pontalba Apartments lie east and west, and Decatur Street and the Mississippi River are to the south. During the Spanish rule of the city, the square was called *Plaza de Armas*, but in 1815 it was renamed Jackson Square in honor of the hero of the Battle of New Orleans.

It should come as no surprise that, up in Québec Province, Canada, Montréal also has a *Place d'Armes*. After all, New Orleans is a city with Canadian parentage.
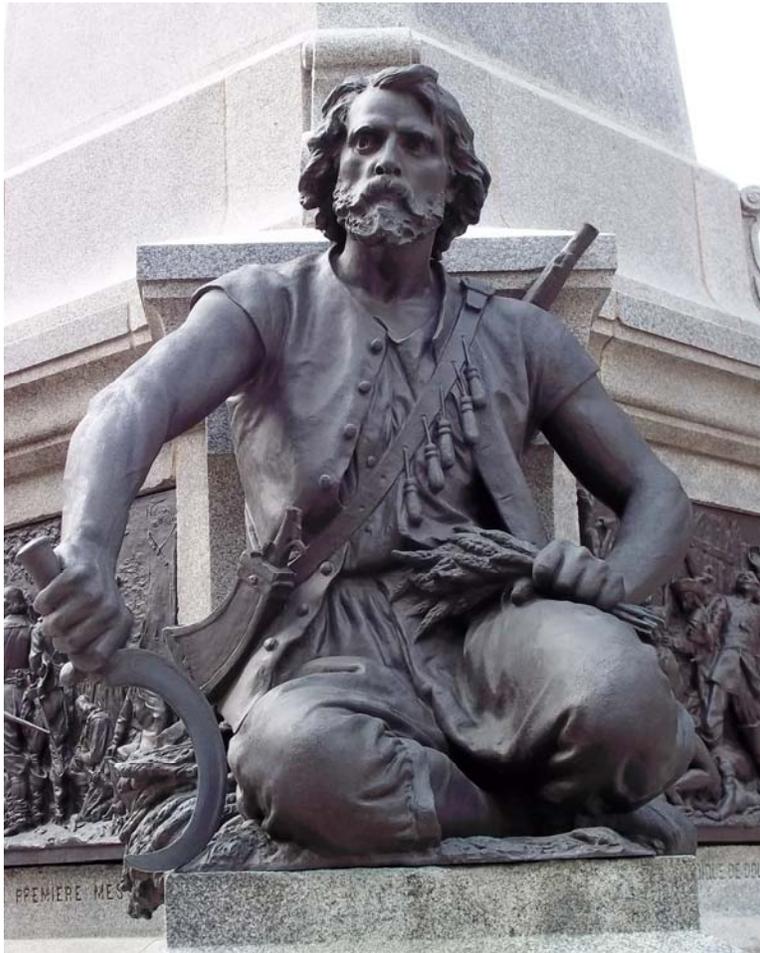
Charles Le Moyne in the Place d'Armes, Montréal, Canada

In Montréal's *Place d'Armes*, an impressive statue of a bearded man (with powder horn and musket holding a sickle) makes a powerful impression. He was the father of Iberville and Bienville, and his name was Charles Le Moyne, Sieur de Longueuil et de Châteauguay (August 2, 1626 – February 1685). Soldier, trader and interpreter of Indian languages, he started his life as the son of an innkeeper in Dieppe, France. His statue is part of the larger Maisonneuve Monument by sculptor Louis-Philippe Hébert, erected in 1895. One will notice an unknown Iroquois. Le Moyne is facing left and to the Iroquois' right.

Maisonneuve Monument: Le Moyne facing left, Iroquois facing forward

Statuary of Lambert Closse and Jeanne Mance are at the other two corners, while Paul Chomeday de Maisonneuve, founder of Montréal, stands atop the central pedestal. Closse was a notary, Indian fighter and Sergeant Major of the garrison at Ville-Marie (original name of Montréal). Jeanne Mance established the city's first hospital, the *Hôtel-Dieu de Montréal*, in 1645.

On the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River directly across from Montréal is the city of Longueuil (population 231,409 in 2011). Charles Le Moyne founded Longueuil (today Montréal's second largest suburb) as a *seigneurie* in 1657. Abbé Faillon relates that Charles Le Moyne named Longueuil after a village in Normandy, in the district of Dieppe (his home town). In France, the spelling is "*Longueil*", but in Canada the misspelling endured. Being landed and a *seigneur* were great accomplishments, but it didn't happen overnight.

Charles Le Moyne (son of Pierre Le Moyne and Judith Du Chesne) first came to New France, as Canada was then called, as an indentured servant to the Jesuits in 1641. His initial four years were spent in Huron country where he was adroit at learning Indian languages. By 1645 he was posted to the Trois-Rivières garrison as a clerk, an interpreter and a soldier. In 1646 Le Moyne moved to Ville-Marie (Montréal) where he spent the rest of his life. There were constant skirmishes with the Indians, who attacked the fort unceasingly for many years. During a 1655 ambush, Le Moyne and Lambert Closse took half a dozen Indians prisoner, including a chief.

The previous year (1654), at Ville-Marie, Charles married Catherine Thierry (1640 – 1690), the adopted daughter of Antoine Primot and Martine Messier. Together they had two daughters and twelve sons, most of them of considerable renown.

For his valiant service, Charles Le Moyne received many honors, both monetary and in the form of land grants. In the year of his marriage, Le Moyne received from Paul Chomeday de Maisonneuve a gift of money and a grant of ninety acres of land. In 1657, the Lauson family granted an additional fief of 5,000 acres, and in the early 1670s Governor Frontenac and Intendant of New France, Jean Talon, confirmed his title to the seigneury of Longueuil and augmented its depth to one and a half leagues. Due to "the zeal that he has always shown in the service of the king," Frontenac also granted him a seigneury at Châteauguay. In 1676, his seigneury was extended even more.

Charles and Catherine's third oldest son, Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville (July 16, 1661 - July 9, 1706) was a successful soldier and explorer. Eager to succeed in colonizing the lower Mississippi River Valley for France (where LaSalle had failed), Iberville became the founder of the French colony of Louisiana. Four of his brothers (Joseph Le Moyne de Sérigny; Antoine Le Moyne de Châteauguay; Gabriel Le Moyne d'Assigny; and Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, founder of New Orleans in 1718) would also make the trip. Iberville and crew left Brest, France, before finally anchoring in Mobile Bay on January 31, 1699. Iberville and Bienville co-founded the City of Mobile in 1702 as the first capital of the French colony of Louisiana.

Here's a brief rundown on Charles and Catherine Thierry Le Moyne's incredible family. Their children included:

Charles Lemoyne, Baron de Longueuil (December 10, 1656 - June 07, 1729), the eldest brother, was the only native Canadian made a baron in New France. He served as governor of Trois-Rivières and later of Montréal and acting administrator of New France. By his marriage to Claude-Elisabeth Souart, the couple had eight children. After her death in 1724, he married Marguerite Legardeur.

Jacques Le Moyne de Sainte-Hélène (April 16, 1659 - December 03, 1690) married Jeanne Dufresnoy Caron in Montréal, and the couple had three children, one of whom (Jacques) made a career in Louisiana. In 1686, Jacques, Sr., with his brothers, Paul and Pierre (Iberville) and the Chevalier de Troyes set out for the Hudson Bay to oust the English and give back the territory to France. In February 1690, Jacques led a retaliatory attack known as the Schenectady Massacre. Iberville was second in command. Sainte-Hélène died from a leg wound he received in battle. It worsened after a few days, and he died in the *Hôtel-Dieu de Québec* hospital.

Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville died in Havana (probably of yellow fever) July 09, 1706. He was married to Marie-Thérèse Pollet, and the couple had five children. After his death, his estate took more than thirty years to settle. Iberville's fortune had been acquired by unclear means. His widow was obligated to pay back a large part of her inheritance.

Paul Lemoyne, Sieur de Maricourt (December 15, 1663 - March 21, 1704) married Marie-Madeleine Dupont and Gabrielle-Francoise Aubert.

François Lemoyne (March 10, 1665 - June 07, 1691) was shot in an encounter with a group of Onneyouts (or Oneidas) at Repentigny. The Oneidas were one of the five founding nations of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Joseph Lemoyne de Sérigny et de Loire (July 22, 1668 - September 12, 1734) returned to France where he became the Governor of Rochefort, where he died. He married Marie-Elisabeth Heron, and the couple had two children. Departed with Iberville and Bienville in 1698 on mission to establish the French colony of Louisiana.

Catherine-Jeanne Lemoyne (born November 15, 1675). She married Pierre-Jacques Payan, and the couple had five children.

Louis Lemoyne (January 04, 1676 - October 04, 1694), was killed in battle with the English at Fort Nelson, Hudson Bay.

Marie-Anne Lemoyne (born August 13, 1678). She married Jean-Baptiste Boulet.

Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Sieur de Bienville (February 23, 1680 in Montréal - March 07, 1767 in Paris, France). Just as his older brother Iberville had done, Bienville attended the Sulpician Seminary of Montréal before entering the French navy as a midshipman at the age of twelve. He accompanied Iberville and three of his other brothers on the 1698-1699 voyage to establish the Louisiana Colony. September 1699, Bienville cleverly and boldly bluffed the captain of an English corvette (armed with twelve guns) anchored in the Mississippi River (just a few miles below what would become New Orleans). He told the Englishman to turn back to "whence he came", since a well-fortified French fort was just upriver (or so he was made to believe). This became "English Turn". In addition to co-founding the City of Mobile in 1702 and founding the City of New Orleans in 1718, Bienville was repeatedly made governor of French Louisiana, appointed four separate times during a period spanning the years 1701 - 1743.

Gabriel Lemoyne d'Assigny (November 13, 1681 - November 24, 1701). Made voyage with Iberville and Bienville in 1698 to establish Louisiana colony.

Antoine Lemoyne, Sieur de Châteauguay (July 07, 1683 in Montréal - March 24, 1752 in Rochefort, France). He served as governor of French Guiana. He also made the trip with Iberville and Bienville in 1698.

Le Febvre de La Barre, Governor of New France, claimed that Charles Le Moyne, Sieur de Longueuil et de Châteauguay, had accomplished more than any other person in the colonists' ongoing war against the Iroquois. He began as an indentured servant and by the time of his death, his estate amounted to more than 125,000 livres. He was the richest Montréal citizen of his day, and (with such a notable family, especially his sons Iberville and Bienville) he can truly be called the Grandfather of New Orleans.

NED HÉMARD