WHERE MONTRÉAL BEGAN

Who were the first Montréalistes?

Historians have long sought to identify all the first Montrealers, who at the time were also called Montréalistes. Knowledge available today allows us to say that 49 men and women left France in 1641 and were there on the point on May 17, 1642, when Montréal was founded, along with the authorities and notables come from Québec for the event. We know the following names.

The founders

Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve (1612–1676), Neuville-sur-Vanne (Champagne), military officer, founder and Governor of Montréal, age 30
Jeanne Mance (1606–1673), Langres (Champagne), founder and administrator of Montréal and the Hôtel-Dieu, caregiver, age 36

The first Montréal family: the Gadois-Godé family, Igé (Normandy)

Nicolas Godé (c. 1589–1657), master joiner, age 53
Françoise Gadois (c. 1593–1689), age 49
François Godé (1621–1658), master joiner, age 21
Françoise Godé (1626–1715), age 16
Nicolas Godé (1629–1697), master carpenter, age 13
Mathurine Godé (1637–1672), age 5

The other pioneers

Bernard Berté (?–1643), Lyon (Rhône), labourer
Guillaume Boissier (c. 1608–1643), Limoges (Limousin), carpenter, age 34
Jacques Boni, Auvergne, labourer
Jean Caillot (1618–?), Lyon (Rhône), baker, age 24
Pierre Didier, France, labourer
Jacques Haudebert, Orléans (?), labourer
Augustin Hébert (c. 1620–1653), Caen (Normandy), master mason and stonecutter, age 22
Pierre Laforest (?–1643), Auvergne, mason and stonecutter
Pierre Laimery (c. 1607–?), Le Havre (Normandy), sailor, age 35
David de La Touze, labourer
Catherine Lezeau (1613–1684), Marans (Charente-Maritime), caregiver and Jeanne Mance's companion, age 29
Pierre Néret, France, labourer
Jean Philippes, France, labourer
Jean Poppé, France, surgeon
Jean Robelin (1607–?), Paris, mason, age 35

…and 26 others whose names remain unknown. ∎