

Louis J. Depocas dit Joanis (1800-1884)
Marie-Anne Marengère (c1815-1901)

Our 3rd great grandfather, Louis, was the 4th child of Jean-Baptiste and Marie-Claire. He was born in St. Martin parish and raised there and in the Saint Benoît area. He is not listed in the 1825 census, but was probably living at home working on the family farm in Côte St. Pierre. In 1830 in Saint Benoît parish, he married Marie-Desanges Guindon, 17-year-old daughter of Joseph Guindon, a neighbouring farmer.

There is no listing for Louis in the 1831 Census. But the record for Joseph suggests Louis and Desanges may have been living with, and Louis working for, Joseph on his 105-acre farm. A widower, Joseph had one of the largest farms in Côte St. Pierre. Louis and Marie-Desanges' first three children were baptized in Saint Benoît parish.

Patriotism in Saint Benoît

The independence movement experienced in other countries like America and France, was strong in French Canada. Trouble had been brewing throughout many parts of Lower Canada, led by Louis Joseph Papineau and others. Opposition to the colonial government and its favoritism shown to English in granting lands and administrative positions, was widespread. For the *Patriotes*, the protection of French Canadian interests was paramount.

Deux Montagnes saw its share of patriotism in the early 1800s. In the years leading up to the 1837 Rebellion, the area became a hotbed of Patriote activity. And the spirit was evident in the St. Benoît and St. Eustache areas. Many residents of St. Benoît were patriots and participated in the insurrection. And the village felt the wrath of retaliation when it was attacked, set afire and largely destroyed

by government troops in the days following the infamous Battle of St. Eustache in December 1837.¹

Without records we can't be certain if Louis Depocas and his siblings participated in the movement and the hostilities. Possibly. They may have at least been sympathizers. However, no Joanis family members or relatives are listed among those charged with insurrection activities. And only Louis' younger brother Isidore, who was living in Côte St. Pierre in 1837, claimed for damages during the Rebellion. He claimed £5 13 shillings 2 pence.

Migration Westward

The aftermath of the Rebellion, with its physical damage and destruction, and the ensuing economic downturn, added to the list of citizen complaints: increased rents from Seigneurs, reduced wood supply due to cleared lands, the potash industry in decline, and the lack of employment and lands available for descendants. All were contributing factors leading to many residents of the area migrating further westward along the Ottawa River in the 1830s for work opportunities, particularly in the logging and sawmilling industries.



The village of Saint-Benoît, after the fire of December 1837.
Engraving published in *L'Opinion Publique* of August 2 1877
From a drawing by Jean Joseph Girouard

Older brothers Jean-Baptiste and François were the first Joanis siblings to leave Saint Benoît when they settled in the Rigaud area c1819. They both married local girls and had large families. In the mid-1820s, they lived in the St. Andrews East area of Argenteuil Seigneurie (now St. André d'Argenteuil). By 1831, they had both returned to Rigaud, living in the Côte Fourche concession, where François was a cartwright/wheelwright and Jean-Baptiste a carpenter.

Louis and his family moved to St. Andrews about 1837 or 1838. His brothers Vincent and Joseph and their families joined him about the same time. They were all likely working in local sawmills and in logging camps in the winters.

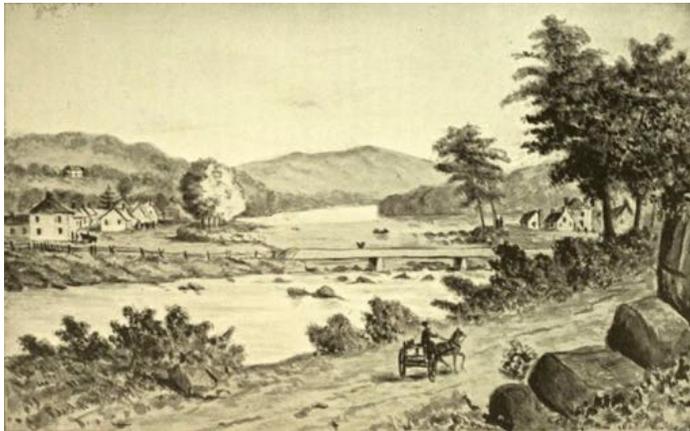
Despite being only 15 kms to the west of St. Hermas, which allowed for regular return

visits to see family, St. Andrews was a different world. Unlike largely agrarian Deux Montagnes, it was a bustling centre of economic growth with farming, commerce and manufacturing. Furthermore, whereas St. Hermas and Saint Benoît were largely populated by French Canadians, St. Andrews East (as distinguished from St. Andrews West on the St. Lawrence in Upper Canada), had a large English speaking population.

The St. Andrews area already had earned a place in New France lore. Originally a trading post in the early 1600s, neighbouring Carillon, at the foot of the Long Sault rapids on the Ottawa, was the site of the Battle of Long Sault in 1660. Adam Dollard des Ormeaux and 16 companions were massacred by 700 Iroquois. The valiant efforts of the French habitants weakened the Iroquois, deterring them from carrying through with their plan to attack Ville Marie (Montreal) downriver.

Argenteuil was originally settled by Scottish immigrants about 1800. With the beginning of the squared timber trade by raft via the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers to Quebec, the timber industry in the Laurentian and Gatineau hills became, for most of the 1800s, an important source of employment in winter shanties and in several local sawmills during other seasons. Both English and French settlers participated. St. Andrews was also the site of the first paper mill in Canada, built in 1803. And the Carillon Canal, completed c1830, also contributed to the river trade and economic growth of the area.

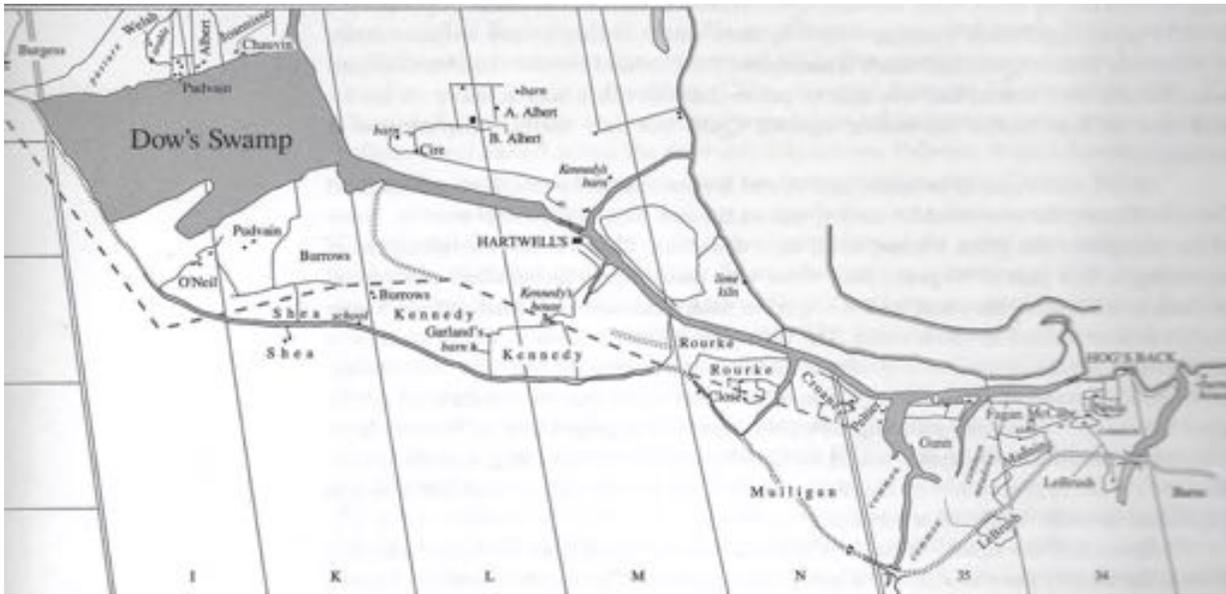
Louis and Marie-Desanges had four children, the youngest of whom, Jean Baptiste, was born in St. Andrews in December 1838. Marie-Desanges died in 1840 at the young age of 29. In her burial record, Louis' occupation is noted as *journalier*. The following year he



St. Andrews East c1850



Carillon c1850



Dow's Lake area 1847 - Vincent Joanis's property is top left

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remarried, to Marie-Anne Émaranger (Marangère) of St. Andrews, daughter of Charles Émaranger and Marie-Louise Desjardins. Marie-Anne's grandfather, Guillaume Amringer, was from Alsace. He settled originally in Vaudreuil, but moved his family to the Petit Chicot concession in Milles-Îles Seigneurie about 1775. Her parents lived in St. Hermas.

In 1842, Louis, Marie-Anne and their four children were living in Argenteuil Seignory, likely in Carillon². He was possibly a carpenter employed at one of the sawmills on the North River. On September 2, 1843, he acquired a property, half of Lot 2 on the north side of Queen Street in Carillon Village. It was sold on April 13, 1848 for £30.³ See Appendix 3.

On to Bytown

About 1839, brother Vincent Depocas left St. Andrews for Bytown, and by the mid-1840s, he and his family were squatting on land to the north of Dow's Swamp. The location was approximately between Queen Elizabeth Drive, Lakeview Terrace and Lakeside Avenue, prime real estate in today's Ottawa. At that time, this area was part of Ordnance

lands stretching to Hog's Back, and not available for sale. It had been occupied by Irish colonists after completion of the Rideau Canal. Gradually, French Canadian settlers replaced the Irish on lands now occupied by Carleton University. They would remain, despite government attempts to have them evicted, until 1870 when the lands were sold.⁴

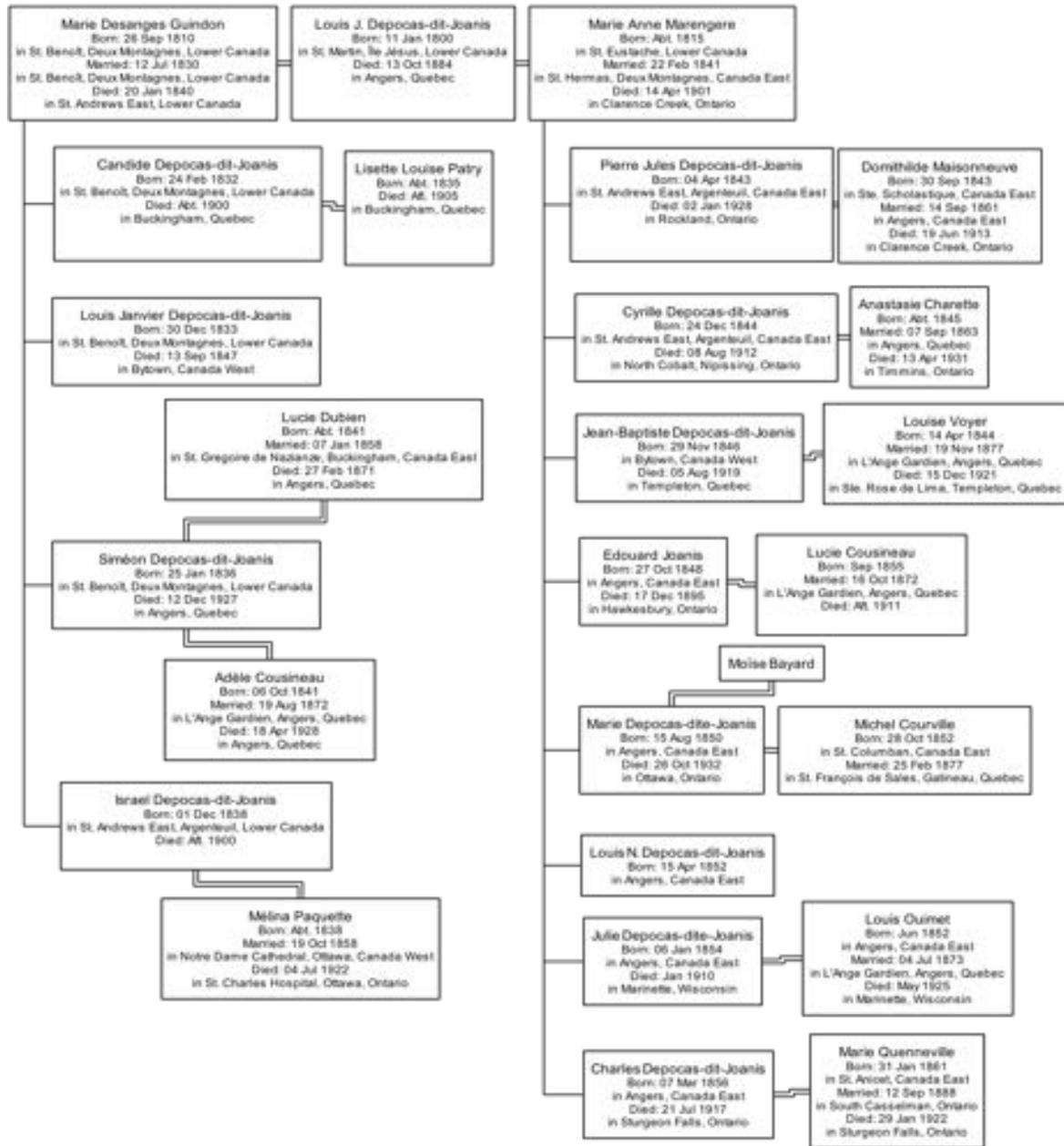
Vincent was a labourer and may have been employed at a local sawmill. By 1842, his brothers Jean-Baptiste and François had joined him in Bytown, relocating from Rigaud. They would have likely lived in the same area. François was a blacksmith. The brothers are listed as "Jwanish" and labourers in the 1842 census for Nepean⁵.

About 1845 Louis moved from Carillon to Bytown. His son Jean-Baptiste was born in Bytown in November 1846. A son from his first marriage, Louis Janvier, died at age 13 in September the following year. By 1848, Louis had moved to a 100-acre property on the Ottawa River near Angers.

Settlement in Angers

With acquiring land in Bytown nearly impossible, and growing families with an event-

Descendants of Louis Depocas dit Joanis



tual need for property, the Joanis brothers moved to Angers in Buckingham Township.

Some general background on land ownership and the area follows. In the 1850s, Argenteuil and Petite Nation were the western-most seigneurial lands in Quebec. Lochaber, Buckingham and Templeton townships had been surveyed by Joseph

Bouchette in the late 1700s. These lands were divided into 200-acre rectangular lot parcels, in British style, and had been made available for grants or sale. Templeton had been settled largely in the early 1830s by Irish and Scottish workers from the Rideau Canal construction (including my Cullen ancestors). Buckingham



Location of Louis Joanis' land south view
at 140 Rue Brabant, Masson-Angers



Ruisseau Joanisse north view
Route 148 at Rue Brabant, Masson-Angers

Township had initially been settled a few years earlier, but was also home to many canal workers. Most of the area was dedicated to farming. There were two sawmills in Buckingham and timbering in the winter was thriving in both townships.

For the Joanis families, the prospect of outright land ownership, and logging employment in the winters, were likely overriding incentives to move.

The Joanis families were joined in the Angers/Masson/Thurso areas in the 1850-1865 period by many former Deux Montagnes residents, including our Quévillon, Maheu and Maisonneuve ancestors. They purchased lands in Buckingham and Lochaber townships. Many of the lots were subsequently divided into long narrow strips in seigneurial style to provide relatives and others with smaller properties.

Louis purchased 100 acres at Range 1 Lot 16 in Buckingham Township. His youngest brother Laurent purchased the other 100 acres on the same lot. Brother Vincent purchased 200 acres on Lot 17.⁶ Brother Jean-Baptiste bought 200 acres in Range 2 in Templeton Township, about 8 km to the west. Vincent's purchase may have occurred later as he and his son are listed as farmers in the 1851 census for Nepean Township. Isidore later purchased land in Range 3. Joseph acquired property in Ste-Cecile-de-Masham.

The properties held by Louis, Laurent and Vincent fronted the Ottawa River and are about 2km west of Masson. Because the river flooded each spring, the properties were not fully cultivated. But the brothers could work the northern part of their land which was more amenable for farming.

In 2014, I toured the area where the brothers settled. Autoroute 50, Route 148 and the CPR rail line bisect the properties, and a short street, Rue Brabant, forms a crescent south off Route 148. A Joanis descendant was then residing on Rue Brabant. Baie Clement bisects the southern part of the lands. The lands south of Route 148 extend to the Ottawa River, are low lying and contain a mix of scrub trees, meadows and marshes. A small creek, now known as *Ruisseau Joanisse*, flows into the Ottawa River through Vincent's property. Today, the creek is little larger than a trickle.

In the early days it would have supplied water to his property.

Despite an extensive search of Archives Quebec files, we have been unsuccessful in locating the land purchase records for these properties. Furthermore, the 1851 census records for Buckingham Township are missing, leaving us without information and farming data for the family's early years there, except for church baptism, marriage and burial records.

The 1861 census is the first evidence of residence and activity. At that time, Louis and Marie-Anne were living in a 1½ story log house with seven of their children. Another child, Louis N., born in 1852, was unaccounted for. It's noted on the census that neither Louis nor Marie-Anne could read or write.

Louis was a small farmer. He had only 13 acres cultivated, equally in crops and pasture. The balance was wooded or, in the Baie Clément and Ottawa River area, low-lying and marshy. Louis valued his farm at \$1,200 and his implements at \$20. The previous year,

he had produced 80 bu. of peas and 100 bu. of potatoes on 4 acres. He had a horse and a colt, a bull, a milk cow and 2 heifers, and one pig, all valued at \$280. For transportation and pleasure outings, he also owned a carriage worth \$40. He had such a relatively small farming operation that one suspects he still worked at least part time as a carpenter or millwright, perhaps at a sawmill in Angers, Masson or Buckingham.

In winters, with mills closed, Louis, his brothers and their children would have worked as timbermen in the shanties. The Ottawa River and its tributaries, the Gatineau, Blanche and Lièvre rivers were among the important Canadian timbering areas in this period. The abundant stock of pine and other fir fueled the squared timber and sawn lumber industries and provided much needed employment for settler farmers. They possibly may have worked for my Cullen ancestors who operated timber shanties in the mid-1800s.



Masson-Angers area showing locations of Joanis properties

By 1871, Louis, Marie Anne and children Baptiste, Edouard, Charles and Julie had relocated to neighbouring Templeton Township, on ½ acre on Lot 9, Range 2⁷. As well, a 2-year-old girl “Lalweas”, relationship unknown, was in the household. Louis was a labourer and Baptiste, a carpenter. A review of the census reports shows that Louis did not have property or livestock. Louis and Baptiste were probably working at Samuel Dustin’s sawmill, located on neighbouring Lot 10 on the Blanche River. In 1870, this mill had produced 75,000 feet of lumber⁸.

About this time Louis’ health began to deteriorate and he no longer had the ability to support himself and Marie-Anne. By 1875, their situation had become desperate, and their children, through a legal arrangement, agreed to contribute 60 piastres quarterly to care for their parents.⁹ See Appendix 3.

By 1881, aging Louis and Marie-Anne were living with daughter Julie and her husband Louis Ouimet on their farm in Angers. Louis died in 1884 in Angers in his 85th year and is buried in the L’Ange Gardien parish cemetery. Marie-Anne died in 1901 in Clarence Creek where she had been living with son Jules for several years.

Louis was predeceased by his son Louis Janvier (1847 in Bytown). Also by his siblings Marie Josèphite, Rosalie, François and Jean-Baptiste. Brothers Joseph and Laurent died in 1887. Brother Vincent’s death record has not been found, but he is believed to have died about 1890 in Angers.

Our Relatives in Angers

Angers was a village with a population of about 250 residents. In 1880, it had two stores, three hotels and a post office. The village was situated in Range 1 Lot 23.



Thomson & Company Mill
Fall on the Lièvre at Buckingham E. Whitefield 1870

Judging by the number of entries in the L’Ange Gardien parish records, the Joanis family was one of the largest and influential families in the area in the 1850-1900 period. Others were the Monçons, Mongeons and Maisonneuves. All were mid-1800 transplants from Bytown or the Deux Montagnes/St. Eustache area.

Our analysis of land and census records and local directories also shows that our Maisonneuve, Quévillon and Maheu ancestors were of some influence.

In 1871, Isidore Depocas was a carpenter and his son, Mathias, a hotelkeeper.¹⁰ In 1880, Felix Maisonneuve was a councillor; Mathias, now listed as Joanis, was Secretary-Treasurer of both the Council and the school board and Clerk of the Commissioners Court. Émerie Quévillon, brother of our great-great grandfather, Isae, was on the school board. One of the Maisonneuves was a grocer and hotelier. There were three *mécaniciens* in the area, all sons of Louis Joanis: Jules, his half-brother Candide, and his brother Cyrille.¹¹

Many of the elders of the families became prosperous in Angers. Some appear as *rentier* in census records, indicating a person of means or private wealth.

The village site was originally owned by our great-great grandfather Félix Maisonneuve, father-in-law of Jules Joanis Sr. As the village expanded, he participated in many land transactions and subdivisions to accomm-

odate its growth. He was likely a wealthy man as a result.

¹ For readers interested in a detailed review of Patriote activities in Deux-Montagnes in the 1830s, see Richard Brown's blog, *Looking at History*, 21 October 2010, <http://richajohnbr.blogspot.ca/2010/10/deux-montagnes.html>

² familysearch.com, Canada East Census 1842, Deux Montagnes, Argenteuil Seigneurie, St. André, Pages 1211-1212

³ ancestry.ca; *Quebec Notarial Records, 1626-1935*; sale agreement dated 13 April 1848, notary Édouard-Gédéon Coursoles, No. 60; original purchase of 2 September 1843 referenced; see Appendix 3

⁴ The Dow's Lake description and map are taken from *The City Beyond: A History of Nepean, Birthplace of Canada's Capital 1792-1990*, by Bruce S. Elliott, City of Nepean, 1991, pages 22-28

⁵ familysearch.org; Upper Canada Census 1842 Carleton, Bathurst, Nepean, pages 10-11 and 12-13

⁶ The map of Angers/Masson area on page 93 is courtesy of The Atlas of Canada – Toporama;

atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/English/Toporama/index.html#

⁷ 1871 census, Quebec, West Ottawa Municipality of Templeton, Schedule 1, page 6 and Schedule 4, page 1. My 3rd great grandfather, John Cullen, settled in Templeton in 1828 on Lot 8, Range 2. In 1901, Jean-Baptiste was farming on 100 acres in Templeton on Lot 8, Range 5; he also farmed another 73 leased acres; my great-great grandfather, Bernard Cullen, had his homestead three lots east of Jean-Baptiste.

⁸ *ibid*, Schedule 7, page 1

⁹ *BAnQ*, Notarial agreement of "constitution de rente" dated 30 October 1875, by which Candide Joanis and his siblings agreed to support their parents; notary Xiste Tétreault, No. 933; see Appendix 3

¹⁰ Lovell's *Province of Quebec Directory*, Montreal, 1871, page 157

¹¹ *Indicateur Villes et Villages sur Le Chemin de Fer Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa & Occidental et ses Embranchements*, 1880, pages 256-257

13th April 1848 } Bargain or Sale By } No 60.

Louis Depocas dit Joanniffe
 So Robert Thomson
 Copy delivered

BEFORE the undersigned public notaries, duly commissioned and sworn in and for that part of the Province of Canada, formerly called the Province of Lower Canada, residing in the District of Montreal

personally appeared Louis Depocas dit Joanniffe of the Township of Buckingham in the County of Ottawa District of Montreal in the Province of Canada who

acknowledged and confessed to have bargained, sold, assigned transferred, and made over, and by these presents do bargain, sell, assign, transfer, and make over, from henceforth and forever, with promise of warranty, (*garantie*) against all gifts, dowers, mortgages, substitutions, alienations, disturbances, (*troubles*), and other hinderances whatsoever, to Robert Thomson of the Seigneurie of Argenteuil Lumberer

here present and accepting thereof. A Certain piece or tract of Land Situate in the Village of Carillon in the said Seigneurie of Argenteuil being the just half of Lot Number Two on the North side of Queen's Street bounded in front by the said Queen's Street in the rear by John Rowe or his representatives joining on one side to lot Number one the property of James Barclay and on the other side to the other half of the said Lot Number Two the property of Samuel Cushing Esquire with all the Buildings thereon Erected

R S
 Jy

(Large scribbled signature area)

with all and every the members and appurtenances thereunto belonging, all of which the said purchaser declare to have a perfect knowledge, have seen and viewed the same previous hereto and therewith *he is* content and satisfied, without any reservation of any part, or portion, of the aforesaid bargained and sold premises, on the part of the said vender who *is* lawfully seized thereof, in virtue of good and sufficient Title Deeds thereof, acquired *the same with large quantity from Mrs Elizabeth Robertson widow of the late Gordon Davis Esquire by Deed executed before the undersigned Notaries on the second day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty three*

The aforesaid, hereby bargained and sold *piece or parcel of land* and premises, depending and holding of the Seigniori of *Argen-levul* and subject to the payment of such *Cens et Rentes* towards the domain thereof, as may be legally due and owing thereto, but which the said parties cannot at present ascertain; the aforesaid *piece or parcel of land* and premises, however, being free and clear of all arrears of *Cens et Rentes*, up to the *eleventh day of November last past* and of every other charge, burthen and incumbrance ~~either of dower, gift, mortgage debt, or other hindrance~~ generally whatsoever, as the said vender now hereby declare **TO HAVE, HOLD USE AND ENJOY** the aforesaid *piece or parcel of land* and premises herein before sold and transferred ~~or mentioned and intended so to be~~, with all and every their rights, members and appurtenances, unto the said *Robert Thomson his* heirs and assigns as *his* and *and* their own proper freehold for ever, by virtue of these presents, **To** enter upon and take possession of the aforesaid *piece or parcel of land and premises forthwith*

THE PRESENT BARGAIN AND SALE is so made in manner aforesaid, subject only to such Seigniorial rights as *may in future arise and become due thereon, and for and in consideration of the sum of thirty pounds Current Money of this Province which sum the said vendor hereby acknowledges to have had and received of and from the said purchaser at or before the execution of these presents thereof therefrom he acquits release and for ever committes the said purchaser his heirs assigns giving him & them in final and general acquittance*

and for security whereof the said purchaser do hereby specially and particularly bind, mortgage, and hypothecate (*hypothèque*) the hereby granted, bargained, and sold _____ and premises;

AND in consideration of the Premises, the said vender do hereby transfer and set over to the purchaser all right of property, claim, title, interest, demand, seizin, possession, and other rights whatsoever, which the said vender can have, demand, or pretend in or upon the aforesaid hereby bargained and sold *piece or parcel of land* _____ and premises of which *he* _____ hereby divest *himself* in favour of the said purchaser *his* heirs and assigns, consenting, and agreeing, that the said purchaser be and remain seized and invested with the full and entire possession thereof, as of right; and for that purpose, hereby constituting the bearer of these presents *his* Attorney to whom all necessary power and authority to that effect is hereby given and granted.—For thus, &c.

AND for the due execution of these presents, and of every the premises, the said parties have elected their domicile, at their and each of their respective places of residence above mentioned.—Where, &c.—Notwithstanding, &c.—Promising, &c.—Obliging, &c.—Renouncing, &c.

DONE AND PASSED at *Argenteuil en la Vallée of St Andrew* in the office of *G. Courville* _____ one of the said Notaries, on the *fourteenth* day of the month of *April* _____, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty *eight*, in the fore noon, the vender signed by his ordinary *Mark of a Cross* having declared that he held *not wrote* of the purchaseres signed with us the said Notaries, these presents, having first been duly read in their presence *forty one* words erased *are null void* & one *Marginal Not good*

Louis Depocas dit Joanis
mak

Robert Morrison

J Geo Lett
ms

Dame Marie Maringer
 — son épouse, leur mère
 belle-mère, sont pauvres, infir-
 mes et assez avancés en âge pour
 ne plus être capable de pourvoir
 à leur subsistance d'une manière
 convenable, suivant leur âge & capa-
 cité.

Lesdits comparants déclarent
 de plus qu'ils ont l'intention de pourvoir
 + comme par eux mêmes à la subsistance de
 lesdites personnes nécessaires à la vie
 ils se taxent pour leurs parents en comparant
 & s'imposent au Code Civil du Bas-Canada,
 pour un chapitre cinquième, articles
 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171. & 172,
 la vie durant,

Lesquels se
 desdits Louis sont taxés et satisfaits, pour le sou-
 Laanis père et tien commun susdit, jusqu'à
 son épouse — le montant de la somme de six cent
 dix-sept livres et six piastres, cours actuel, par chacun
 l'année la somme de six piastres, payable
 le premier jour de chaque mois, sans inter-
 nés susdits jusqu'à l'expiration de chaque
 mois compris paiement, en commençant à payer
 rants, qui se le premier de l'année prochaine,
 rants obligés par le commencement à l'année des
 ledit Louis Joanis ce jour,

Pierre seulement Pour et par moi et intervenu
 Le 18 Mars et était présent le dit sieur Louis
 Joanis père, demeurant dans le
 Township de Templeton, susdit.
 L. P. J. J. Lequel ayant pris connaissance
 P. V. cation des présentes, les a pour
 agréables, et s'en déclare content

L. D. J. e. a.

satisfait, et accepte les présentes,
Les dites parties sont convenues
et entendues, qu'à chaque semestre
les dits comparants déposeront leur
argent à son équilibre, entre les
Mains de Matthias Joanis, leur
Maire, demeurant dans la dite
paroisse de S. Ange - Gardien, qui
lui sera autorisé de donner
receu pour et au nom du dit Louis
Joaquin, qui lui ce dernier au
sujet de sa paroisse, s'oblige de prendre
ses paiements au lieu sus men-
tionné.

Et pour l'exécution des pré-
sentes les parties élisent domicile
en la dite paroisse de S. Ange - Gardien,
dans la dite paroisse en la pa-
roisse de S. Ange - Gardien, en
le Magasin du dit Matthias Joanis,
le vingt trois Octobre mil huit
cent soixante et quinze, sans
numéro ou en cent trente trois.

Quelques uns ont signé
avec nous Notaire et le témoin
ci après nommé, les autres ont
déclaré ou le savoir faire de ce
requis, en présence de M. H.
Miqueron fils, forgeron, de la dite
paroisse de S. Ange - Gardien,
témoin exprès requis et
qui a signé après lecture
faite en présence

des

des parties
Gordic Joanis
Simeon Joanis
Louis N° Joanis
Louis Duimet
Jean Baptiste Joanis
Louis Joanis
Mls Joanis, Cyrille Joanis
Edouard Joanis

L. Létang
N.P.