M. Tibierge, “Report on Acadia. October 4. 1695 to October 27, 1696”, in John Clarence Webster, ed. *Acadia at the end of the seventeenth century; letters, journals and memoirs of Joseph Robineau de Villebon, commandant in Acadia, 1690-1700, and other contemporary documents* ( Saint John N.B., 1934), p. 144-151.

In order that you may know what has been happening here since I had the honour of reporting to you on October 1st, 1695, by way of Quebec, I continue my Journal and inform you of each incident, as it took place.

October 4th.-An Indian from Pentagoet arrived at the fort with news

that the Indians of that river had joined those from this river, and set out in

canoes to the number of 70 for a raid on the English ; as they proceeded along

the coast they encountered a small English vessel which they attacked and captured. It was bound for Pentagoet from Boston with the ransom for an

English sloop which M . Guyon, the elder, had taken early last autumn . The Indians took their prize into the Pentagoet river, pillaged her of all merchandise and money amounting to I 000 or 1200 livres, which they found on

board, and held her crew of 7 Englishmen as prisoners. M. des Isles, brother

of M . de Villebon, who had joined the Indians, was present when the vessel

was taken; the Indians afterwards separated, and a party , which included M .

des Isles, approached Fort Pemaquid, but, after remaining in the neighbourhood for five days, retired without making any attack. M. des Isles, who

arrived here on October 14, said he had been present at the capture of the

English boat and that the Indians had found 400 piastres and some merchandise aboard her which they had divided among themselves.

M . Dubreuil of Port Royal. who has been trading with the English , came to the fort on October 7th . He told us that he had been in Boston when the English frigate arrived after her combat with the King's ship , the Envieux.

She landed 25 to 30 wounded, some of whom died of their injuries; the English said 23 had been killed and 100 wounded, and they had also lost 8 or 9

men in a fight with M . Guyon, freebooter , which had taken place a day earlier. The frigate had great difficulty in reaching Boston because she had been hit in several places below the water line and was leaking ; if 20 rounds had been fired at her she would have surrendered.

October 1 0th.- Hiarim, Indian Chief of Richibucto, arrived at the fort; he had set out on the 6th with the intention of joining a party from Kennebec on August 28th . He told us that on reaching Pentagoet he learned that the Indians of this river and those of Kennebec had gone on, so he was forced to continue his way with the five men who accompanied him . At Fort

Pemaquid he picked up the trail of a party of Indians which he followed, coming at length on 16 Kennebecs with Aboumhamen, one of their chiefs. Having joined forces, they posted themselves near Fort Pemaquid, where they waited for two days, and, on the third, a party of 25 men came out of the fort, embarked in a large shallop and crossed the river in front of the fort to cut

some wood; they were about to land at the very place where the Indians lay in ambush ; the latter, allowed them to approach quite close and then fired several times in such rapid succession that the English had no chance to recover. Seeing this the garrison of the fort came to the rescue of their people, firing the cannon

at the Indians, who were forced to retreat into the woods. Hiarim assures us that, of the 25 Englishmen in the shallop, 23 were killed ; he had himself noted that only two had been taken ashore alive, and they were severely wounded .

M . de Thury who came to the fort in the spring confirmed this statement, and was positive that all had taken place in the manner I have set down ; indeed

the garrison of the fort had been so dismayed that they had returned to Boston , and the fort had been abandoned more than eight days before other men were sent to take their place.

I also learned from M . de Thury that, last winter , the Pentagoet Indians who had six English prisoners, the same who were taken with the boat

of which I have already spoken, resolved to go to Fort Pemaquid to parley

with the English about an exchange of the Indians captured by treachery about

three years ago. When M. de Thury heard of this he did all in his power to

dissuade them, pointing out that the English had betrayed them each time they

had attempted to negotiate with them, but, notwithstanding all he could say,

they were not to be turned from their purpose, and, to accomplish it, eighteen

or twenty set out at the end of February. They were Edgevemit chief of the Kennebecs, and Taxous, chief of the Pentagoet River Indians, their followers

and the prisoners. Having arrived at Fort Pemaquid they found means to

obtain an interview with the English, who, wishing to put them off their

guard, made much of them so that they might be lured into the fort ; they

engaged them thus for several days, giving them to understand that their Commandant was expected with valuable presents for them, and that their comrades,

who had been prisoners in Boston, would arrive shortly . The Indians

believing all these promises, imprudently surrendered the six English prisoners,

who provided the garrison with information about everything, and, when all

arrangements had been made for capturing the Indians, a day was at last set to discuss their business.

As they could not be induced to enter the fort, they were invited to approach within pistol range, which the two chiefs with a son of Edgevemit

and seven others proceeded to do. At first, the English appeared to be few in number, but about thirty of them gathered gradually around the Indians, when . considering the moment favorable, the Commandant of the fort , who stood between the two chiefs, drew two pistols from his pockets and killed Edgevemit and his son with two shots; other Englishmen seized Taxous and two

Indians, but five escaped. While the captives were being taken into the fort,

one of them, although he was being held by three Englishmen, found means to draw a knife which was in a sheath hanging from his neck, killed two of his

captors and wounded the third who made off. Seeing Taxous on the bank of the river in the hands of three Englishmen, this same Indian went at them, killed two and released Taxous. There were then two of them to rescue the third Indian who was being dragged away ; noting this, his captors let him go and no sooner was he free, than he stretched two at his feet, but being deter- mined to follow and kill the third who was running away, he was himself

killed by the musket-fire from the fort. Taxous with the other Indian withdrew. This affair will seem to you somewhat surprising, Sir, but M . de Thury

has assured me it was an absolute fact.

It has proved very advantageous to the French, because some of the Indians who took part in it had been inclined to make peace with the English, and nothing could have been more effective than their joining of us in urging war. Some of the Indians, who arrived here from Pentagoet with M. de Thury and Taxous, assured M. de Villebon that war on the English will be waged without quarter.

I also learned that M . de Thury that M. de Guyon, freebooter, who with a crew of 35, left the mouth of the river about April 15th in a sloop, armed with 6 cannon and 2 swivel guns, which he had chartered from M. de Villieu, had been captured by the English in the following manner: M. de

Guyon, while cruising off Boston, had taken a prize of considerable size and learned from its crew that another ship was due shortly; he therefore continued on the same course, but the English frigate, which we encountered on our arrival here last year, put out from Boston and, sighting M. de Guyon, gave chase, overhauled and captured him . One account states that he put up no defence, while another says that he fought extremely well. It is certain that once within range of the frigate's guns he could not escape capture.

While M . des Isles and Jean Mathieu, one of M. Baptiste's freebooters whom M. de Villebon had made cannoneer of the fort, were hunting near Jemseg on the property of M. des Chauffours, the said Mathieu met the Sr. de Pleine, one of the Srs. Damours , who told him that M. de Villebon had sent his brother, M. des Isles to Pentagoet to force the Indians to take the English vessel of which I have spoken; if M . de Villebon denied it, he was lying ; the Sr. de Pleine repeated this four times. The said Mathieu related this to M. de Villebon and the latter at once sent the Sr. des Isles, his brother, with an armed shallop, to bring the Sr. de Pleine to Jemseg ; when he was brought to the fort,

he stated that he had never said what Mathieu alleged. M . de Villebon kept him at the fort overnight and sent him back on the next day, October 26th.

November 3rd.- Thirty Meductic Indians in nine canoes came to see

M . de Villebon; among them were the chiefs Madokawando and Chebackouides. They begged M. de Villebon to continue his friendship towards them

and to write on their behalf to France. He assured them that the King would never abandon them, and that they would receive each year all the assistance

they desired. They then presented M. de Villebon with about 40 lbs. of

beaver skins, and excused themselves for not giving him a more valuable gift because so many of their young men and good hunters were dead. M. de Villebon in return gave them some presents.

I told you, Sir, in the dispatch which I had the honour of addressing to you last year by way of Quebec, that, shortly after I had arrived, M. de Villieu and M. de Montigny went to Quebec on leave, which had been granted by Count Frontenac. They returned on November 10th and saluted M. de Villebon on their arrival, and assured him they would do whatever he wished, so that he might be pleased with them. This lasted until Epiphany, when M .

de Villebon invited M. de Villieu to sup with him , but received no reply. The same day M. de Clignancourt, one of the Srs. Damours, came to see M. de Villieu, and asked him, in the presence of M. de Neuvillette, brother of M. de Villebon, to celebrate Epiphany with him, to which M. de Villieu replied that,

although he had already been invited elsewhere, he would, nevertheless, go to his house, because he was the best friend he had on the river.

On January 29th , the Surgeon-Major of the fort, wished to take some firewood which had been collected by the soldiers in the autumn for winter

use ; they would not allow him to do so and complained to M. de Villieu who referred them to M. de Villebon. Six of them presented themselves to the

latter and affirmed that the Surgeon-Major would not shave them, that he sold them moccasins for 25 francs which were ordinarily worth only 15, and would pay them nothing for the wood they had prepared for fuel. M. de Villebon

told them to find their captain so he might determine what the company should

pay for being shaved; he said they were to supply wood for the forge in accordance with the bargain they had made with the Armorer. The same chimney

served the surgeon, who had no other source of heat. A short time after, M .

de Villieu, with M. de Montigny and four soldiers came to confer with M. de Villebon, to whom the Sr. de Villieu said that the soldiers would not pay 24

frs. a year to be shaved, as M. de Villebon had told him had been arranged.

To which M. de Villebon replied that he had never spoken to him about the matter ; M. de Villieu again declared that he had, on which M. de Villebon rejoined that it was not true. M. de Villieu then flew into a rage and left the room. M . de Villebon said he was a trouble-maker and told M. de Montigny the

matter was to be adjusted within 24 hours ; otherwise he would do so himself. The next day M . de Villieu sent a sergeant to Villebon to apprise him that when the soldiers had themselves shaved they would pay the surgeon.

February 22nd- M. de Villieu went to M . de Villebon's room, and,

in my presence, asked permission to visit M. de Clignancourt, whose dwelling

was a league from the fort. M. de Villebon consented, but, as M. de Montigny had gone hunting the day before and M . Chevalier, ensign, lived outside the fort, M. de Villebon desired to inform M. de Villieu that the officers should not all be absent at the same time, whereupon M. de Villieu got very angry, and high words passed between them.

M . de Villieu, on June I 0th last, went to M . de Villebon's room and told him that Count Frontenac had written that he was to keep on good terms with him ; he had therefore come to ask for his friendship, and to assure him that he would do all he could to maintain amicable relations. M . de Villebon assured him that he would forget the past and they appear to have had a reconciliation.

l 2th .-M . de Villieu embarked in a sloop, the Deux Frères , half of

which belongs to the King and half to MM. Baptiste and Martel. bound for Minas to obtain provisions. If M. des Goutins, who has his own flour does not furnish it, the garrison will be without any, because the supply sent by the King has been exhausted.

I send you, Sir, a copy of a Memoir which I am forwarding to the Marquis de Chevry, which will give you an even better understanding of their

conduct and that of the Recollet missionaries. In connection with the latter,

I may add, furthermore, that it appears to me the chaplain of the fort does not pretend to limit himself to the fort, but extends his services to the settlers along the river, going frequently to say Mass here and there, and the garrison, are,

therefore, often without a celebration of the Mass on feast days and Sundays. I relate, Sir, the most trifling as well as the most important matters, so you may know all that takes place.

April 2nd.-M. Guyon, the elder, came to the fort and told me he had learned from M. Dubreuil. of Port Royal. who returned a short time since from Boston, that supplies were very dear there. M. Dubreuil went there in

a 30-ton vessel laden with wheat, which he had sold very profitably. M. de Villebon had told M . Dubreuil he did not wish him to return to Boston with wheat and flour, but he persisted in his purpose and set out about May 20th with one Marquis, also of Port Royal. in two vessels loaded with wheat. As a

result, freebooters who outfitted at Port Royal had to pay higher prices, and the provisioning of the Boston frigates was facilitated ; they were thus enabled to put out to sea at an early date and, thereby, the capture of M. Guyon was made possible. I also learned from the said M. Guyon, that he heard Alden, an Englishman, who had gone to Port Royal with ransom for vessels which Guyon had taken, say it was reported in Boston that eleven English warships, which had wintered in Virginia, were preparing for some expedition, although their plans were not known .

I told you, Sir, in the Memoir which I had the honour of sending you last year, that the settlers of this river had begun to cultivate the land. I have since found out how much wheat they raised. M. des Chauffours who sowed a considerable quantity last year reaped no harvest, for the worms had eaten the seed in the ground. M. de Freneuse, his brother, had a crop of about 15 barrels of wheat ; M. de Clignancourt, very little ; one Bellefontaine, had about 5 barrels ; the Sr. Martel a small amount , having only commenced to clear his land within two years, and the other settlers nothing at all unless it were a

small quantity of Indian corn. The brothers Damours, with the exception of the Sr. de Clignancourt have sowed a considerable amount of wheat this year, and M . Bellefontaine also. The other settlers planted some Indian corn, which will be worth nothing, for, owing to the inundation of their lands, it was put in too late. They sowed the wheat before the floods, and, although it was under water for more than fifteen days, it did not fail to come up abundantly, but there is danger that it will not mature, because the rain has been continual and it is not sufficiently advanced for the season.

M . de Villebon left the Fort on June 18 for Manawoganish to await the ships from France. A short time after, about 150 Maliseet Indians who live on this river and a few Micmacs made their appearance. The English had arrived at the mouth of the river in four vessels: the frigate which had fought

the Envieux last year, another frigate of 22 guns, the sloop which had been taken from M . Guyon, and another small vessel which they captured from one Quatre Boulle, of Port Royal, who was bringing provisions to this river. They propose to await there the ships which are expected from France.

July 8th.-Three soldiers who had been sent by M . de Villebon to get two cannon returned to the fort. They reported that, during the night of the

5th and 6th, 140 Indians, with MM. de Montigny and Chevalier, had placed themselves in ambush on the Island of Manawoganish, to attack the crews of the English vessels. At daybreak they saw a small craft loading wood on the island, but noting that the longboat of the large frigate was coming ashore,

they concealed themselves hoping to take its crew by surprise; unfortunately, an Indian fired his musket when the longboat was a pistol-shot from shore, and her course was altered. The Indians fired on the nine men who were aboard, and, instead of the eight who were rowing the longboat before the discharge, only two were to be seen after, which led to the conclusion that six had been killed or wounded. The Indians then went to the craft which they had noted in the early morning and found that the four Englishmen who had been in it had abandoned it and made their escape in a small boat; the Indians took possession of it, although the English came in another boat and did their best to prevent them. They took the boat up the river beyond the falls to a

point of land and hauled it up . The Indians of this river wished to present it

to M. de Villebon, and this displeased the Micmacs who set it on fire and with- drew to Chignecto. Several Indians have since come here, who have assured me

That it was Father Florentin, missionary of that Nation, who had urged them to burn the boat. It was the one the English had taken from the man

Quatre Boulle, as I have related above.

On the night of November 22-23rd, the river froze sufficiently to bear a man, and the ice did not break up near the fort until April 17th ; the river was not open before the 20th . Snow began to fall on Oct. 25th , and, during the entire winter, there were five or six feet on the ground in the woods, and , in the mountains, eight or nine, which did not begin to melt until March 20th . More snow fell on May 25th, but it soon melted and during the following night there was a hard frost.

On July 18th, we received news at the fort of the arrival at Manawoganish of the King's two ships, and of the capture by them of the English

frigate of 22 guns ; the larger ship escaped.

On the 20th, after loading all the furs of the Company, I left the fort, in a small vessel. and reached Manawoganish on the evening of the 21st . M. d' Iberville gave me a letter which you, Sir, had done me the honour to write. I have entrusted to M. de Bonaventure 18 moose tongues and two bearskins which I beg you to accept.

Postcript.

Added at Fort Nashwaak, Oct. 27, 1696

MM. d' Iberville and Bonaventure left the mouth of the river August

2nd two hours after noon. The former, on leaving the harbour of Manawoganish

ran on a rock, without, however, sustaining any damage to his vessel which floated off when

the tide rose.

On August 10th, Father Elizee, chaplain of the fort set out for Minas without taking leave of M. de Villebon, and abandoned the garrison which bad not heard Mass for a long time. On his return from Minas on the 20th he passed by the fort without entering it. During this period there were several soldiers sick at the fort; one even died without confession. M. de Villebon

reported this to his Superior who has said that he will send another from Quebec.

Father Simon arrived here on August 29th from Pemaquid bringing news of the capture of that fort by M. d' Iberville. I transmit to you, Sir, an

account of what took place there, which M. des Goutins sent me from Mount Desert.

Abraham Boudrot, of Port Royal, arrived here from Mount Desert on September 10th. He said that MM. d'Iberville and Bonaventure, left there

eight days ago for Placentia after waiting in vain for news from Boston, whither they had sent two small vessels, one after the other, to arrange an exchange

of prisoners; M. de Villieu had been sent to Pentagoet with his detachment and fifteen English prisoners to await there news from Boston.

M. Dubreuil, of Port Royal. arrived here the 23rd of this month from that place. He said that he had seen M. Guyon , who had been a prisoner in

Boston, but had been released with 19 other freebooters who were captured by the English last spring ; 29 Otounois Indians, who had been seized while fishing on the Grand Banks and taken to Boston, had likewise been set free. M. de Dubreuil said M. de Guyon and the freebooters told him that the English having learned that M. d ' Iberville was at Mount Desert, had equipped six vessels

to go in pursuit of him; two frigates of 32 guns each, three of 24, of which two were armed merchant vessels, and a brigantine. On reaching Mount Desert, however, they found M. d'Iberville was no longer there. Two frigates, one of 32 and the other of 24 cannon, were to remain as coast-guards.

Those which had come to the St. John River to lie in wait for the ships from France had received orders to return to England, but one of them had been captured. The Sr. Dubreuil also told us he had learned from the same source that another fleet , consisting of 24 pirogues and 6 brigantines or sloops with over 600 men, of whom 300 were Indians, had been equipped at Boston to go to the Kennebec river to demolish the fort and crops of the Indians. They were then to make a raid on this river as well.

We have heard no news of M. de Villieu and his detachment, which should have arrived here long since, for M . Guyon says that he saw him setting sail from Pentagoet bound for this place.

The first of the month M. de Falaise, the Company's captain who came this year, set out for Quebec, having obtained leave of absence from M . de Villebon.

I am etc., etc.,

Tibierge .