

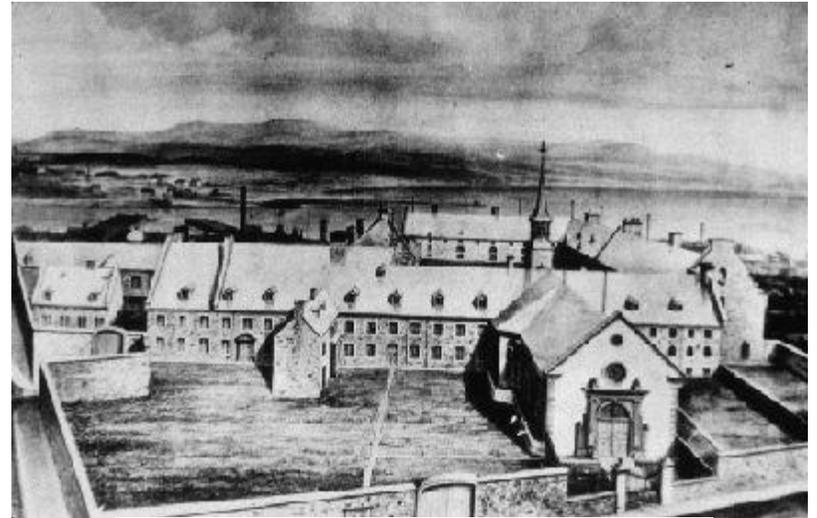
## ANTOINE'S HOSPITAL STAYS from Kevin Farlev

*July 12, 1709*

On the 12th of July, 1709, an ailing patient entered the care of the Augustine nuns of the l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec<sup>(1)</sup>. He was young, about nineteen years old <sup>(2)</sup>, and foreign—a peculiarity that would not go unnoticed by his caretakers. He would remain hospitalized for six days. In the sparest of terms, the Augustines registered their patient: “**Antoine farly Irlandais valet de Mr Dussy sorty le 17me**”<sup>(3)</sup>.



Hôtel-Dieu room, reconstructed at the Canadian Museum of Civilization



Hôtel-Dieu de Québec – 1638

The document offers only nine words relating to Antonei Farely, yet establishes an early residence in Québec and a possible scenario for his immigration to New France <sup>(4)</sup>.

The record of the Augustine nuns connects Antoine to le Chevalier d'Ussy. The significance of this connection to d'Ussy is that it establishes a connection to the palais de l'Intendant <sup>(5)</sup>. D'Ussy was the nephew and cousin of co-Intendants Jacques Raudot and Antoine-Denis Raudot and the son of the elder Raudot's sister Françoise Margueritte Raudot and Jean Baptiste Carcavy d'Ussy, seigneur d'Ussy-sur-Marne. Chevalier de St-Lazare. Ironically, for all his rank and social stature, his first name was not recorded in New France.

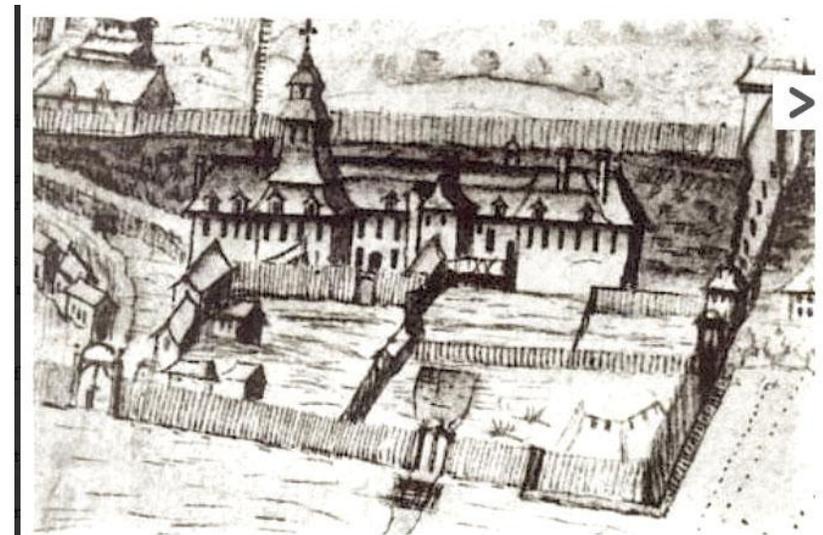
It was on September 7, 1705 that the Intendants and their retinue, including d'Ussy and a staff of valets, laquais, secretaries, aides de cuisine and other domestic help, landed in Québec. Upon their arrival, the Raudots set up household in the Palais, the colony's official residence of the Intendants. As d'Ussy's valet, Antonei would live in the Palace as well.

The Intendant's Palace was situated in la basse-ville to the north east on the banks of the Saint Charles River. "The spot is assuredly very pleasing and most convenient"<sup>(6)</sup>. "A large house, a quarter of which is built of stone and the rest in carpentry," <sup>(7)</sup> and 190 feet long <sup>(8)</sup>, the Palace was formerly a brewery owned and operated by Jean Talon, Canada's first Intendant. Purchased and renovated by Louis XIV in 1688, it served as the official residence of the Intendant as well as the seat of the Conseil Souverain, New France's judicial body. Parts of the building also served as the jail and the king's stores.

Common practice in 18th century France was to divide palais and chateaux into smaller living quarters or apartments. The



St. Charles River, Quebec City, 1690



Palais de l'Intendant, 1699  
Image 1 of 3

simplest of these apartments consisted of a chamber and a bedchamber. In New France, this practice of division into such chamber-bedchamber units was extended to the larger bourgeois houses as well, and: proprietor, employees, servants and tenants shared the same hallways, staircases, latrines and kitchens in non-hierarchical traffic patterns that meant that everyone had to go through each other's rooms to get to their own <sup>(9)</sup>.

The palais de l'intendant was no exception. Its upper levels were fashioned into apartments divided by pine plank walls <sup>(10)</sup> where an assembly of valets, lackeys, cooks, and secretaries lived. No less than eight served as lackeys and valets alone, including Antonei Farely <sup>(11)</sup>.

Outside, the palais backed up to the rise of land that formed the boundary of the flood plain of the Saint Charles River. Not as steep as the cliffs on the Saint Lawrence side at Rue Champlain, this northeast escarpment was a weak spot in the defenses of the city, and the palais being at its base was undefended from British hostility. After Phipps' fruitless attack in 1690, the palais was protected by a ten-foot picket curtain. "The fortifications began at the Intendant's Palace, on the shore of the Little River Saint Charles, ascending towards the Upper Town which they enclosed"<sup>(12)</sup>. The Palace grounds were surrounded by picket and masonry walls. A large rectangular basin formed a small, man-made harbor for boats on the Saint Charles. Numerous outbuildings complemented the compound, and formal gardens enhanced the landscape.

It was during his residence at the palais de l'Intendant that Antonei became ill and first entered the care of the nuns of the Hôtel-Dieu, which brings us back to our original document. An epidemic had spread through the Palace in the summer of 1708-09, requiring hospitalization of four of the staff, including Antoine. The causes of these illnesses were not

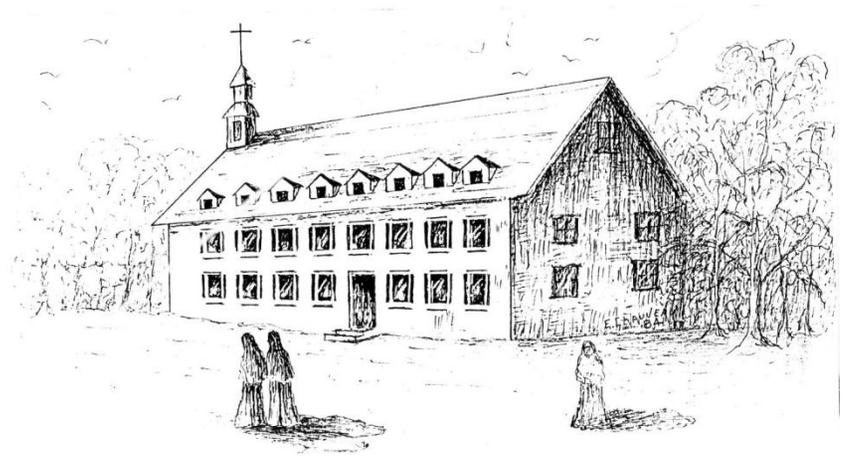


St. Charles River, Quebec City

recorded in the Hôtel-Dieu registers, but the annals <sup>(13)</sup> indicate that the previous spring pleuresies had become epidemic. Mal de Siam (yellow fever) also reached epidemic proportions in 1709.

When Antonei first entered the Hôtel-Dieu, the Augustine nuns had been providing both medical and spiritual care for seventy years. The hospital served all who came at the Crown's expense. Poor and intigent, "savages", captives and foreigners, as well as nobles, clergy and military were welcome.

The convent, "a great building of stone, three stories high," <sup>(14)</sup> stood on the northeastern edge of the city. In 1709, it was comprised of two perpendicular wings. One served as the residence for the nuns, and the other was the hospital. The hospital of about forty beds consisted of two large halls, and some rooms near the apothecary shop. In the halls were two rows of beds on each side. The beds next to the wall were furnished with curtains, the outward ones being without them. In each bed were fine bedclothes with clean double sheets. . . . There are good iron stoves, and fine windows in this hall <sup>(15)</sup>.



A royal physician consulted with the patients once or twice daily to “look after everything and give prescriptions”<sup>(16)</sup>. The nuns also attended to the sick, bringing food and other necessities. Cleanliness and order was pervasive. Patients’ beds, though in large halls, were sufficiently spaced, “two to three yards distant”<sup>(17)</sup>. Meticulous care and cleanliness paid off, as nine out of ten patients were cured or relieved (soulagés)<sup>(18)</sup>. In 1709, Antoine’s physician was Michel Sarrasin.

After six days, Antoine was well enough to leave. Le Chevalier d’Ussy was hospitalized earlier in the year, in February and never truly recovered. By September of 1709 he had returned to France “to reestablish his health”<sup>(19)</sup>.

*November 12, 1709*

It’s hard to know if Antonei Farely continued to reside in the Intendant’s Palace after the departure of d’Ussy, though likely he did not. In fact, by the time *Antoinne varly* reentered the Hôtel-Dieu on November 12, 1709 the record makes no connection to the Palace, and furthermore, unlike prior Palace epidemics where many employees were hospitalized, with the exception of Raudot’s secretary, Lamber, no other Palace staff was ill enough to seek care at that time. Antoine stayed nineteen days this time, leaving on the 30th. Two months later, on February 17, 1710, Antonei married Marie Basquin, and by the early summer, the family left Québec to establish themselves in Montréal.



Michel Sarrazin  
1699-1734. (18a)

## *Endnotes*

(1) Québec's Hôtel-Dieu, established in 1637 by the Augustine nuns, served as a charitable hospital.

(2) This estimate is derived from two other citations in the *Registre des malades de l'hôtel-Dieu de Québec* where his age is recorded as 20: November 1709 and April 1710

(3) *Registre des malades de l'hôtel-Dieu de Québec*. Mr Dussy refers to the Chevalier Dussy, nephew of Jacques Raudot, Intendant of New France 1705-1711.

(4) This topic will be addressed in a future article

(5) The Intendant was the colonial administrator appointed by the King who was responsible for finance, economic development, and the administration of justice (law and order) of New France. He also presided over the *Conseil Souverain*. (The *Conseil Souverain* exercised authority over administrative, criminal, judicial and civil issues of New France.) He shared the colony's administration with the Governor and the Bishop who were also royal appointees. The appointment of co-Intendants was unprecedented.

(6) *Lettre de M. de Meulles au ministre*. November 12, 1684. MG1 C11A v6. folio 410v.

(7) *Lettre de l'intendant de Meulles au ministre*. November 12, 1682. MG1 C11A v6. folio 86-86v. Translation mine.

(8) *Lettre de M. de Meulles au ministre*. November 12, 1684. MG1 C11A v6. folio 410v. "trente toises"

(9) Canadian Encyclopedia Online  
<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1SEC83...> 2006 Historica

(10) Lettre de Clairambault d'Aigremont, contrôleur de la Marine, au ministre. February 17, 1713. MG1-C11A v 34 folio 105

(11) The following staff roster was gleaned from Registre des malades de l'hôtel-Dieu de Québec. An unnamed Lambert was Raudot's personal secretary. Timothé Prouvau (Prouvau/Provost), Michel Laverdure, and Lafleur served the Intendants as lackeys; Pierre Permentie (Parmentier), Jacques Monthygnie (Montigny), and Ignace Lecour were their valets. **Dussy's two known valets were Antoine Farly and François Defarge dit Saint Germain.** Finally, Joseph is recorded as Raudot's "sauvage." The source does not distinguish between Jacques and Antoine Denis Raudot. It was common to have more than one lackey or valet serving different functions. The Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française 1st Edition, 1694 defines these distinctions. The majority of the known staff were not Québec-born, and it appears that they did not remain in Canada after the Raudots returned to France.

(12) Hawkins, Alfred. 1834. Picture of Quebec; with historical recollections. Quebec: Neilson & Cowan. p. 161. The author attributes this statement to François Xavier de Charlevoix, famed eighteenth century historian.

(13) Juchereau de Saint Ignace, Soeur Françoise. Histoire de l'hôtel-Dieu de Québec. A Montauban, Chez Jerosme Legier. Et se vend a Paris, chez Claude-Jean-Baptiste Herissant, Libraire rue Notre-Dame, aux trois vertus. p 438.

(14) Peter Kalm's Travels in North America: The English Version of 1770 ed. Adolph B. Benson (New York: Dover

Publications, Inc.). 444. Pehr Kalm travelled throughout settled North America from 1748 to 1751.

(15) Kalm. p 446.

(16) Kalm. p 446.

(17) Kalm p 446. He noted that as soon as a patient left, the bed was cleaned and remade.

(18) Virtual Museum of New France at  
[http://www.civilization.ca/vmnf/collect/August/augus\\_3f.html](http://www.civilization.ca/vmnf/collect/August/augus_3f.html)

(18a) Virtual Museum of New France at  
<http://www.civilization.ca/virtual-museum-of-new-france/daily-life/health-and-medicine/>

(19) Lettre de Jacques Raudot au minister. September 20, 1709. MG1-C11A v30 , folio 226.

### *Illustrations*

Detail from J.-B. Louis Franquelin's 1699 map showing the Palais, its wooden pickets, outbuildings and bassin. Archives Nationale de Canada, C-46450.

Detail from an anonymous engraving of the city of Québec, first half of the 18th century, showing the two wings of the hotel-Dieu (G).