



7400, place Cointerel  
Anjou, Québec  
H1M 1E7

Bulletin des Archambault d'Amérique  
no 70, December 2005



Archambault on the Oregon Trail

**Bulletin 70**

**Chief editor**

Pierre Archambault

**Revision**

Jacques Archambault

**Layout**

Diane Chabot

**Collaborators**

André G. Archambault

Daniel Archambault

Richard Archambault

**Translators**

Carole Archambault	Aylmer
Christine Archambault	Montréal
Jacques O. Archambault	Mont-St-Hilaire
Roger Archambault	Abbotsford, C.-B.
Lucienne Tong	Sault-Ste-Marie, Ont.

**Contact us**

Richard Archambault  
(514) 697-2439

**Visit our web site**

[www.archambaultdamerique.com](http://www.archambaultdamerique.com)

All rights to reproduce, edit, print, translate, adapt, present, totally or in part are reserved for all countries. The reproduction of any part of this publication by any means, both electronic and mechanic, especially by photocopier or microfilm, is strictly prohibited without written authorization from *Les Archambault d'Amérique*.

**Florissant (Missouri)**

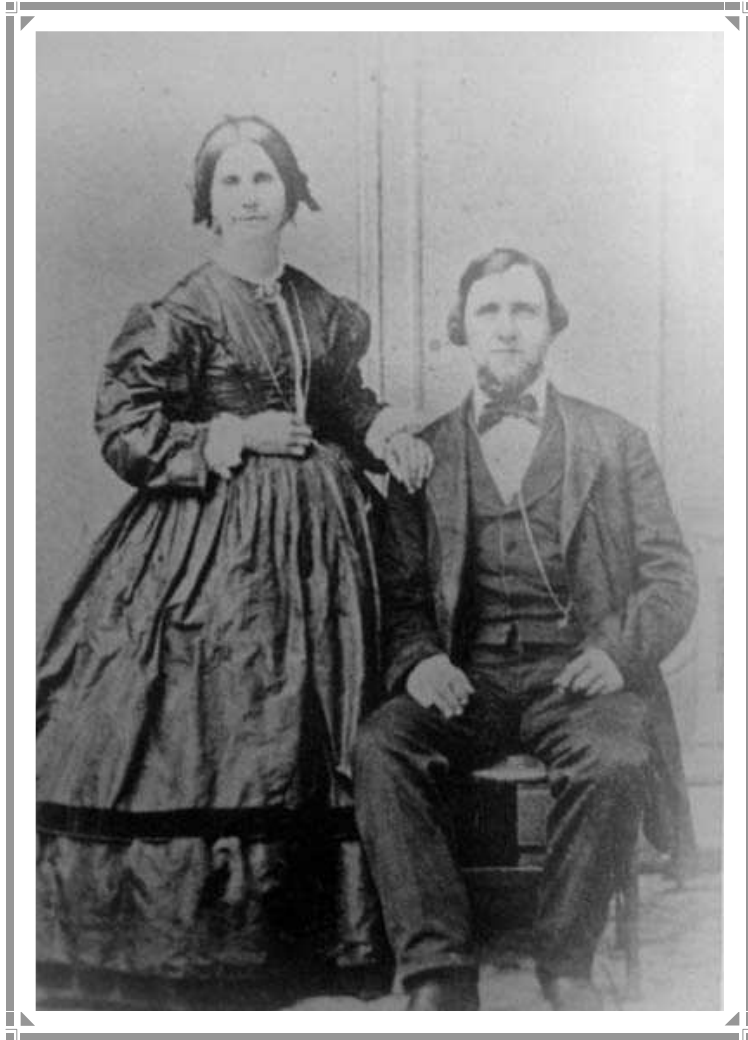
The Old Town Discript of Florissant, less than a square mile in area, is nestled just a few blocks from Lindbergh Boulevard and Interstate 270. The City of Florissant has designated the area as an Historic Zoned District, thanks to its rich, multi-cultural origins. French settlers came to the area in the 1760s. the Spanish formed the first civil government there in 1786. the area was platted in 1790 in a French grid pattern, with the streets christened after saints. These streets feature the same names today: rue Ste. Catherine, rue St. Louis, rue St. Denis<sup>1</sup> and so on.

An important landmark of the community is the old St. Ferdinand's Shrine, the oldest Catholic Church building between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. Auguste Archambault, son of Pierre and Josephe Foucher, and Amanda Perras (Piera) were married on November 21, 1848. thirteen childrens were born to the Archambault and they were beptized at St. Ferdinand's Church. Born in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, Québec on August 16, 1817, Auguste was carried to his final resting place in St. Ferdinand's Cemetery in December 15, 1880.

Historic Florissant Inc., exists to protect and preserve landmark structures in the community. Among them is the Archambault House, 603 rue St. Denis, a circa – 1850 home, complete with brick privy, build by explorer and guide Arguste Archambault.



<sup>1</sup>The names written form with dot in place of hyphen is English.



*Auguste Archambault  
Amanda Perry (Perras)*

**Chief editor:** Pierre Archambault

**Revision:** Jacques Archambault

**Layout:** Diane Chabot

**Collaborator:** Richard Archambault

Thanks to: Mrs. Rosemary Davison for this precious documentation published by Historic Florissant Inc,  
Mr. Dennis Northcatt, archivist, Missouri Historical Society,  
Mrs. Debra Archambault Selinger, great-granddaughter of Auguste and Amanda Perry (Perras)

All rights to reproduce, edit, print, translate, adapt, present, totally or in part are reserved for all countries. The reproduction of any part of this publication by any means, both electronic and mechanic, especially by photocopier or microfilm, is strictly prohibited without written authorization from *Les Archambault d'Amérique*.

Tous droits réservés – All rights reserved  
Dépôt légal 4<sup>e</sup> trimestre 2005  
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec.

Les Archambault d'Amérique  
Mrs. France Archambault  
7400, place Cointerel,  
Anjou, Québec, Canada  
H1M 1E7

[www.archambaultdamerique.com](http://www.archambaultdamerique.com)

## **The brothers Auguste and Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) Archambault respectively born in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan and Saint-Esprit-de-Montcalm**



House and farm of Pierre Archambault and of Marie Magdeleine Lebeau grandparents of Auguste and Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, Québec, Canada.

Auguste Archambault, born in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, Québec on August 16, 1817, is the son of Pierre and Josephe Foucher<sup>1</sup>.

It was told by Auguste grandchildren that Pierre's wife, Josephe Foucher, was a mixed blood, Iroquois Onandaga and his family deserved him. After having 13 children, the family relented and conjured up a phony french genealogy for her.

Auguste at approximately the age of 10 to 15 and his brother Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) born in Saint-Esprit-de-Montcalm, Québec, on March 28, 1822, left Canada to trap and hunt in Wyoming and in the mountains of the west. One can believe that the troubles of 1837-1838 were not strangers with their decision to immigrate to Wyoming. They wanted to trap together and then each one had their own trading post. They took their furs from Wyoming to St. Louis, Missouri to sell. They probably made several trips and it was told that the round trips took almost a year. In one of the trips to St. Louis, Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) met his futur wife Amanda Z. Shellinger.

In 1843, Auguste was the companion of Kit Carson, Denis Julian and Antoine Robidoux and he was with Jim Bridger on the Black Fork of the Green River. He joined John C. Frémont as a hunter and butcher at Fort Vintah and on his expedition of 1843-1844, and in Frémont's third expedition to California in 1845-1846. During the Mexican War, he enlisted on July 7, 1846 in the California Battalion of Mounted Rifleman under Captain Richard Owens. Auguste Archambault was also a guide to Captain Howard Stansbury in the exploration and survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake.

The two brothers had been trading with the Indians for several years prior to establishing each their trading post. Auguste's trading post was in 1852 at 1½ mile west of Devil's Gate on the Sweetwater River, Wyoming and Alfred on Big Sandy, east of Green River, (Missouri). Auguste was called by the Indians Utes, Toop-Chee, meaning Little Fellow, because he came out to their country when he was small. His brother Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) was call Tchupechee, meaning Fair Trader. He had built his post in 1853 in Big Sandy, west of Green River, at about 125 miles away from his brother. He had to escape 3 years later during the menace that the Indians represented.

After the Mexican War, Auguste married in 1848, in Florissant (Missouri) Amanda Perry (Perras) and build his house on St. Denis Street. That house was restored by Historic Florissant in 1973. Auguste and Amanda gave birth to 13 children, all baptized at St. Ferdinand church.

In July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1853, Auguste applied for citizenship in the St. Louis Courts. He was straight, tall, handsome man, 6 feet 2 inches tall, sandy hair and blue eyes. He usually wore mustache or a goate.

---

<sup>1</sup> Pierre Archambault, *Dictionnaire généalogique des Archambault d'Amérique*, vol. 3, p. 233.

**Auguste Archambault  
(1817-1880)**

**The last of the intrepid mountain men<sup>2</sup>**

**Son of Pierre and Josephe Foucher**

**born**

**August 16, 1817**

**in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, Québec**

---

<sup>2</sup> These pages are an adaptation of articles written by Margaret Amanda Archambault and published in *Florissant Valley Quarterly*, vol. 13, number 1, 2 and 3 from 1996 and vol. 11, number 3 from 1994.

## **Auguste Archambault the last of the intrepid mountain men**

“The story of the Mountain Men is the story of blazed trails and receding horizons and the fate of a young nation identified with Manifest Destiny. A basic history of the conquest of the West can be written in the lives of these men. They fit into the pattern of national evolution<sup>3</sup>.

From John D. Albert through George C. Young, including Robert Campbell, Auguste Chouteau, Kit Carson, Manuel Lisa and others, volumes have been written on the contributions of the Mountain Men to the inevitable expansion of national boundaries to the Pacific.

Little has been written, however, of one of the last of the Mountain Men, Auguste Archambault. His story has not been told except in a few sentences and footnotes in the stories of his contemporaries.

Auguste Archambault was born in Saint-Roch-de-l’Achigan (see appendix in page 35), Québec, Canada on August 16, 1817. The name *Archambault* is recorded as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century, under the Ferguson-Teutonic name system of France, England and Germany, *Archambault* appears as a corruption of the old German *Ercambald* which means genuine, pure<sup>4</sup>.

By the time of his birth all Canada had passed into the hands of the British as result of the French and Indian Wars. Québec City had fallen in 1759 and Montréal a year later. In 1763 the Treaty of Paris transferred Canada to England; Florida to Britain and in a previous treaty in 1762 France had ceded to Spain all of its territory west of the Mississippi River. The Québec Act of 1774 guaranteed religious freedom for Roman Catholics and retained the Seigneuries and French civil law.

Auguste’s parents were Pierre Archambault and Marie Josephe Foucher. She was either a full or part-blooded Iroquois Indian believed to have been born in 1785. He was born in Saint-Roch-de-l’Achigan in 1784 and for most of his life lived on Wolfe Street, Québec Ward, Montréal, Canada. He worked as a carpenter.

Pierre and Marie Josephe were married in Saint-Roch-de-l’Achigan, May 26, 1806 (see appendix in pages 36 and 37) and had twelve children, nine daughters and three sons. The daughters were Marie Josephe, Luce (Lucille), Théolise, Sophie (Sophronie), Alix (Alice), Aurélie and Ulalie, Perpétue and Elmire. The sons were Auguste, Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) (1822-1879) and Eusèbe. Pierre died in 1850 and Marie Josephe in 1866.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade*, vol. V, page 361, Joseph R. Walker by Ardis M. Walker.

<sup>4</sup> *Cutter, Genealogical Memoirs of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts*, page 214.

Certificate from the register of Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan – 1817

*B* Le seize Aoust l'an mil huit cent dix sept par nous  
Raizenne prêtre curé de la paroisse Saint Roch de  
Auguste baptisé Auguste né aujourd'hui d'un légitime ma-  
riage de Pierre Archambault cultivateur  
de cette paroisse et de Joseph Foucher le parrain  
a été Jacques Archambault et la marraine  
Marguerite Larose lesquels avec le père ont déclaré  
ne savoir signer.  
Raizenne prêtre

<i>B</i>	August sixteen the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen
Auguste	undersigned parish priest from St. Roch's parish have been
Archambault	baptized Auguste born today from legitimate marriage of Pierre Archambault farmer from this parish and Joseph Foucher; the godfather was Jacques Archambault and the godmother Marguerite Larose who with the father declared not being able to sing.
	Raizenne priest

Transcription in modern block capitals.

Shortly before Auguste was born an event took place in the United States that was to have a major impact on his life. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia became President of the United States and in 1803 he purchased on behalf of the government the territory owned by Spain which would be known as the Louisiana Purchase.

Reports of great numbers of beaver in this new United States territory turned attention to the western fur trade which had been in the hands of Canadian traders. John Colter, Manuel Lisa, and Andrew Henry were a few of the first Americans to trap and trade with the Indians. William Henry Ashley joined up with Andrew Henry and introduced a new idea in fur trading. Instead of depending on trade with the Indians to procure furs, he took the white men to catch their own beaver. Instead of trading posts he used the Rendezvous to bring the trappers and their furs together at designated times. The first Rendezvous took place in 1825. These annual meetings became the most significant and picturesque feature of the fur trade<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> *Fur trade of the Far West*, vol. 1, p. 75-82.



In 1826 William Reed arrived from Kentucky and teamed up with veteran trader Denis Julien. They traveled from Taos (New Mexico) into the Unita Basin (Utah) and established the Reed Trading Post (1826-1830)<sup>6</sup>. They were joined by James Scoot Reed, a nephew of William, who was about twelve or thirteen years old and called Toopechee Reed (little one) and by Auguste Archambault who was about ten or twelve at the time. The Indians called him “Sambo” because they could not pronounce Archambault. These men were the first to establish a trading post with the Utes Indians in Utah.

Denis Julien was called Julie. The 1802-1817 ledger of Pierre Chouteau records transactions in 1803 with Julien. Licenses to trade with the Indians were issued to Julien in 1807 and 1810. He also received licenses to trade on the Missouri on September 6, 1816 and October 10, 1817.

The Robidoux clan, proteges of Auguste Chouteau, organized and led parties between the western gateway at Fort Atkinson and Santa Fe in 1824, 1825 and 1826. Antoine Robidoux apparently reached the upper Green River in 1824.

William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs at St. Louis, issued permits to Michel, Isidore and Antoine Robidoux to trade in the Indian country. They purchased the Reed Post in 1832.



Kit Carson

In 1833 Kit Carson was at Fort Unita and had wintered there with Antoine Robidoux. In 1834 Carson became a free trapper<sup>7</sup> and joined Auguste Archambault and Jim Bridger in attendance at the Rendezvous on the Green River at Ham’s Fork in June or July. In 1835 they were with Dr. Samuel Parker and Dr. Marcus Whiteman, missionaries at the Rendezvous. Dr. Whiteman operated on Jim Bridger to remove a bent arrow hooked at the point measuring a full three inches in length. In 1839 they were at the Rendezvous at Green River with Dick Owens.

The last Rendezvous was held in 1840 for by that time every Indian tribe was known to the mountain men. In 1832 Robert Campbell and Bill Sublette worked out a business partnership and left for the east to arrange credit and goods needed to enter the upper Missouri River fur trade. By April they were back in St. Louis and took out a federal licence permitting them to trade in the Indian country. In 1837 Auguste Archambault bought a Hawkins rifle and traps from Pierre Chouteau.

The depression set off by the panic of 1837, struck the St. Louis area. On January 15, 1842, Robert Campbell, a Director of the Bank of the State of Missouri, and Bill Sublette dissolved their partnership. Fur trading was a dying enterprise, people were moving west. More than 500 assembled in western Missouri in the year that became known as the year of “the great migration”. In 1843 Auguste Archambault and Jim

<sup>6</sup>Two plaques, one called Murry’s Plaque and the other Hackfords’s, were still in existence as late as January of 1988 detailing the establishment of the Reed Trading Post. The Murry Plaque reads “Reed Trading Post established 1826-30. The Hackford Plaque reads”. By Jim Reed, Denis Julien, Toopechee Reed, Auguste Archambeau French Traders from Kentucky sold to Robidoux Party in 1832. First white men to establish a trading post with Utes in Utah. Antoine Robidoux Thesis, John D. Barton, August 1989, Brigham Young University.

<sup>7</sup>A free trader may have been carried on a company roll, but was free to trap alone or as part of a regular expedition. He usually sold his furs to the company.

Bridger began building a fort on the Oregon Trail to meet the needs of the emigrants. On December 10, 1843 Bridger sent a letter to Pierre Chouteau informing him of the post which would become an important military fort and pony express station on Black's Fork of the Green River. Later Louis Vasquez became Bridger's partner at the trading post.

Auguste Archambault and James Bridger became guides. Auguste joined John C. Frémont's second expedition at Fort Uintah on May 27, 1844<sup>8</sup> or June 5, 1844<sup>9</sup>. Auguste now twenty-seven years of age, an experienced trapper, was a valuable addition to Frémont's party. He was a straight, tall, handsome man well over six foot 2 inches tall, with sandy colored hair, blue eyes and sometimes a moustache and goatee.



John Charles Frémont<sup>10</sup>

The party reached Little Utah Lake which empties into the Great Salt Lake and kept around the south side to the last of the water. Frémont made up a reconnaissance party of three old hands: Basile Lajeunesse, Lucien Maxwell and Auguste Archambault. Frémont instructed the reconnaissance team to cross the desert which had never been crossed by a white man. Before they started it was arranged that at a certain time of the next day Frémont would ascend the mountain near his camp with his telescope. If the men found grass or water they were to signal Frémont with smoke which would be his signal to advance. The party traveled about sixty miles and found no water, grass or other vegetation until they reached the mountains on the west side of the lake where there was an abundance of water and grass. The fire was made, the smoke rose and Frémont saw it and moved on with the rest of the party. Auguste went back and met Frémont about half-way. The expedition camped on the desert one night and the next day at dusk they crossed the desert with the loss of only a few animals. They journeyed on to Sutter's Fort where they remained for a few days. Then they traveled

the San Joaquin Valley to Kings River. Traveling over rocks the cattle became very tender-footed. From the head of Kings River they started back for the prairie but when they arrived they had no cattle. They had all given out and they had to leave them behind except for the ones they killed for meat. They arrived at Fort Sutter safely and then started for San Jose. They expect to meet up with two other members of the expedition, Théodore Talbot and Joseph R. Walker.

Through some misunderstanding, Walker, who was guiding the main party, was not on the Tulare Fork where they expected to meet him. Carson and Owens were sent to look for him and found him on the San Joaquin. He guided them to San Jose where all the party were reunited. They then set out Monterey to get an out-fit (supplies).

About 30 miles short of Monterey they met Don Manuel Castro, a cousin of Don Jose Castro, who inquired what had brought the American officer to his country. Frémont replied that he was an American

<sup>8</sup> *Dear Old Kit*, Harvey Lewis Carter.

<sup>9</sup> *Frémont*, Ferol Egan, p. 253.

<sup>10</sup> Born in Savannah, Georgia in 1813, son of Louis-René Frémont born in Québec City, Canada, in 1768 and Ann Whiting. His grandfather, born in Saint-Germain, France is soldier for the Compagnie de la Marine. In 1751, he is in Québec and in 1764 he married Catherine Boucher great-grandfather of Pierre, founder of Boucherville.

army officer, that his errand was not military but peaceful, that he was in search of the best trade route to the Pacific. Further, his company was not made up of soldiers but of civilians.

Don Jose Castro, the military commander of California, gave Frémont permission to winter in the valley of the San Joaquin. They started for Peter Lawson's on the Sacramento River where Frémont intended to get supplies for his homeward trip. They stayed there ten days and while they were there some settlers were attacked by about one thousand Indians. Frémont was informed that Indians were preparing to attack the settlements in the vicinity and his assistance in driving back the Indians was requested. They found Indians in great force many were killed and the rest fled.

The party started for the Columbia River by going up the Sacramento and passing near the Shasta butte. They traveled without trouble from the Indians until they reached the upper end of Klamath Lake, which was hostile Indian country. The Klamath's attacked the camp killing Basile Lajeunesse, Auguste's friend and a native of Florissant, Missouri. In the same attack a Delaware Indian called Crane was killed. Frémont had chosen Crane for the expedition when he passed through the Delaware reservation in north-eastern Kansas. Twelve Delaware Indians had been chosen by their tribe to accompany Frémont. He described Crane as "a good judge of the country with a quick eye". Frémont took the loss of Basile hard and felt responsible for his death in that he had failed to post sufficient guards.

About this time word was received in California that war had been declared between the United States and Mexico. Frémont decided to return to California but to take a different route from that they had previously traveled, going on the opposite side of the lake. Lucien Maxwell and Auguste Archambault were traveling parallel with the party about three miles distant, hunting. They saw an Indian coming toward them. As soon as the Indian saw them, he took some young crows that were tied thereon from his quiver, concealing them in the grass. He continued to approach and when he was within forty yards he commenced firing. Maxwell and Archambault did not intend to hurt the Indian, wishing only to talk, but the Indian kept up a continuous fire, and after a close shot they were compelled in self-defence to fire on him. At the first shot the Indian fell. Maxwell and Archambault kept on their march to Peter Lawson's with no more trouble on the route, arriving at the ranch on May 24, 1846.

Auguste's war records are somewhat confusing. A document from the United States Archives dated March 21, 1849, signed by A. H. Gillespie, Major, California Battalion, states that Auguste Archambeau entered the service of the United States as a private in Company commanded by Captain Richard Owens of the California Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. J. C. Frimont (sic) on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1846 and served in that capacity until the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1847 when the said Battalion was discharged from the service of the United States by the order of General Kearney.

When Mrs. Archambault applied for a pension the Adjutant General Office of the War Department under date of July 8, 1889, stated that A. Archambeau a private of Capt. Owens Company "A", Frémont Battn Mounted Riflemen, Cal. Mex. War, volunteers, was enrolled on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1846 at Cosmace River, California for 3 months and mustered out January 8, 1847 and travel allowance or number of miles from place of enrollment not stated.

Frémont had been given the commission of Lieutenant Colonel in the Mounted Rifles. General Stephen Watts Kearney had arrived in California with orders from President James Knox Polk who had been elected to the presidency on the platform of western expansion, to occupy the province and organize a

civil government. Commodore Robert Field Stockton refused to acknowledge Kearny's authority, the navy under the command of Commodore Sloat having taken Monterey before the arrival of Kearney. Sloat pleading illness and age and turned his command over to Stockton.

On September 5, 1846 Kit Carson was ordered to Washington with fifteen men as a bearer of dispatches. They were ordered to make the trip in sixty days. For food they had dried meat. At a river village they were able to secure corn which they dried. They suffered from lack of food. On October 6, 1846 they met General Kearney who ordered Carson to join him as a guide on his march to California. Thomas Fitzpatrick continued on to Washington with the dispatches. It was at this meeting with Kearney that Kit Carson met Henry Smith Turner who was from Normandy, Missouri and married to Julia Hunt. The Californians had gained a position on the opposite hill from Carson and were firing on him and his men. Captain Henry Smith Turner and a Captain Emery took command of what dragoons were left and charged the enemy, routing them. Carson and his men remained during the night and decided to seek reinforcements from Stockton in San Diego. They reached San Diego the following night and Stockton ordered 160-167 men to Kearney's relief. They took the hill.

On February 25, 1847, Carson and his men again started as bearers of dispatches for the War Department. Their only attack came from Indians on the River Gila and they arrived in Washington in June of 1847.

On May 4, 1848 Carson was again ordered to Washington as bearer of dispatches. His party of 27 included Lt. George D. Brewerton and Auguste Archambault. The Grand River was high. To cross it they placed their six rifles, riding and pack saddles on the raft. It was near sundown, the river was turbulent and the raft capsized. The men who were on the raft were thrown into the river and the raft and all of its contents were lost. Nearly naked the men made it to the opposite shore and the following morning Carson sent a man over to them with an axe so that they could make another raft, and cross over. Some of the men



Old St. Ferdinand's Shrine  
1821

rode bareback to Taos. Brewerton credits Auguste Archambault, a strong swimmer, with having saved his life when the raft capsized. The *Santa Fe Republican* reported on June 28, 1848, the following arrivals at the United States Hotel from California : Lt. Carson, Lt. G. Brewerton, L. Simmons, Auguste Archambault, W. D. Bradshaw, T. Kellog, J. Dowell, Charles Harrison, G. W. Hadsbeth, T. Neal and J. Folcus.

It was 1848, the Mexican War ended. Father Pierre DeSmet's *Oregon Missions* was published. Father DeSmet was born in Belgium on January 30, 1801 and died in St. Louis on May 23, 1873. He first came west in 1840 with Andrew Dripp and attended the Rendezvous of that year on Green River. Famous as a missionary to the Flathead Indians, he earned the name of "Blackrobe".

After the Mexican War was over Auguste Archambault returned to Florissant, Missouri with Antoine Tesson. On November 21, 1848 he married Amanda Perry (Perras), daughter of Jacques Perras and Madame Thérèse Maréchal. Father Judocus Van Assche gave the nuptial blessing in St. Ferdinand's Church where the ceremony was witnessed by Antoine Tison (Tesson) and Alexis Peira.

In an interview with Paul W. Brown, *Chicago Record Herald*, on March 13, 1909, Amanda told of her married life with Auguste. In Florissant, French was still the language of the early settlers. Brown has recorded in his interview Amanda's struggle with the English language. "He go away mooch to de mountains, he go firs when we are married four months, and he stay eighteen months that time. He go three times wit General Frémont... all but last time. He say then, 'Maieu Frémont, I can't go wit you ; it too late in season; you will freeze to death. He give Frémont hees rifle and hees mule, but he not go. An so dey did, not Frémont heemself, but many of his men. Then when my firs boy was leetle child we go to Devil's Gate, on the Sweet River, beyon Fort Laramie. We went on the steamboat as far as Table Creek; then we went on in the ox wagons. The Indian had smallpox then. It came to theem by clothes dropped from emigrant wagons where they had it, and killed many of theem. An' cholera; I mos die wit that. Eet was in the evening, an I was ver sick; I had dreadful cramps in my shoulders. I remember ow they make a fire, and heat water and put in my feet and wrap me in blanket; then I go to sleep.' She fell silent a moment, and seemed to see, with her sightless eyes, the flickering of the shadows on the canyon walls, and the covered wagons, white and ghostlike, in the light of the fire.

'Once a partee of war come to meet us, Sioux. We stop and make wagon corral, and get inside; then man what spik good Indian (Auguste Archambault) go on, and he say you wan fight? An they answer: No, we hongry. Then we cook up fat meat cut into little piece an corn meal and we make coffee. Oh, they glad. Then the Indians go on, meet one wagon and keel one ox cause the man of the wagon no geev them food like the Frenchman.

At Devil's Gate, many Indians; my husban speak all Indian language. One big Sioux chief, he use come to my house to look at my clock; he always sit down before it, and look an look until it make one hour an strike. Then he say Ugh! That ees the sun and he go awy. Washawkee, that was hees names. The buffalo was all around us; they run off fifteen head of horses for us once.

Brigham Young 'e knew my 'usband; my 'usban take 500 teams around throo desert, save them from paying five dollar each for going over Bringham Young's bridge over deep canyon. Brigham Young preach in the church after that: There that man Archambault; I like have littl chat wid heem; but my 'usban he not go to have littl chat weeth Brigham Young."

The expedition mentioned by Amanda in the interview was John C. Frémont's fourth expedition to California. Old Bill Williams was on the Arkansas River November 21, 1848 when Captain Frémont arrived looking for a guide. In Florissant as Amanda said Auguste Archambault had warned Frémont that it was too late in the season to be crossing the mountains and that they would face severe weather. Despite the warning Frémont was anxious to cross in search of a route that would bring the railroad to California. Old Bill Williams agreed to guide the expedition. They left Pueblo November 22<sup>nd</sup> while Auguste was on his honeymoon.

This 4<sup>th</sup> expedition was disastrous, with a total of ten men and one hundred twenty mules dead, twenty-three men crippled and ill...some never to completely recover. Nearly all the equipment and the men's personal possessions were lost. The controversy over the responsibility for the disaster was never resolved.

Howard Stansbury (1806-1863) was a captain in the Topographical Corps of the United States Army, sent to Utah on an exploring expedition in 1849-1850. His instructions were to surveying the Great Salt Lake

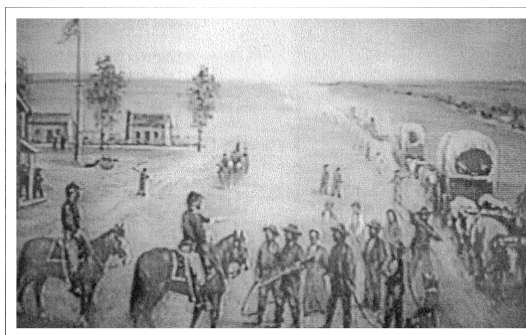
and its valley. Cholera was raging the day they left Fort Leavenworth. One member of the party collapsed and died within twenty-four hours.

Stansbury was educated as a civil engineer. He worked for several years on a variety of harbor, canal and railroad projects around the Great Lakes and in Virginia. In addition to surveying the Great Salt Lake and the region around it, he was to find a better wagon road between Fort Bridger in Wyoming and Salt Lake City and to look at the country in terms of a potential route for a transcontinental railroad.

Stansbury's guide was Auguste Archambault. The party consisted of eighteen men, five wagons and forty-six horses and mules. The men were mostly experienced voyageurs who had spent the best part of their lives among the wilds of the Rocky mountains.

On June 1, 1849 they passed a traveling train of gold-seekers, one of whose party had died of cholera and two more were stricken. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1849 they met a small party from St. Louis who were within sixty miles of Fort Kearney when they became disgusted with the trip and decided to return to St. Louis. They told of many deaths among the travelers.

While Stansbury's party was camped to enjoy the Sabbath, Pawnee Indians robbed the camp within a few feet of the tents. Archambault was in another party which was dispatched in pursuit. In a few hours Archambault returned without the animals. The Pawnees who robbed the camp had become troublesome to emigrants between the Little Blue and Fort Kearney.



Fort Kearney<sup>11</sup>

On Monday, June 18, 1849, Archambault told Stansbury that the last time he had passed this spot, the whole of the immense plain as far as the eye could see was black with herds of buffalo. Now, not so much as one could be seen. The buffalo were vanishing in the path of the emigrants.

On June 19, 1849 they had traveled up the Platte River fifteen miles and camped within two miles of Fort Kearney. After encamping they rode to the Fort and called upon the commanding officer, Colonel Bonneville whose adventures in the Rocky Mountains are well known. Stansbury remained at the Fort until June 21 gathering necessary supplies.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> the men killed a buffalo which was divided for roasting, boiling and making boudin which is a sausage boiled and eaten hot. The buffalo was a bull whose meat is eaten only when nothing else is available.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> Stansbury decided to spend the day with his men in celebration of the national festival. They fired a salute in the morning and again in the evening and had their fill of buffalo meat. They decided to

---

<sup>11</sup> Fort Kearney, builder in 1848 was the first Military Post on the Oregon Trail. He was erected to protect emigrants against the Indians. The Fort was abandoned in 1871. Every day, at the end of May, during the years of great migrations: 1849, 1850, 1852 and 1853, one could watch 2,000 peoples and around 10,000 cattle's and horses.

cross the river to explore five Indian lodges which had attracted their attention. They found the bodies of nine Sioux Indians, laid on the ground, wrapped in their robes of buffalo skin, with all their belongings piled around them, all dead of cholera.

On July 7 they were camped five miles from Chimney Rock, a landmark or beacon for the mountain men, visible for forty or fifty miles both up and down the river. Three miles from Chimney Rock is Scott's Bluff which is five hundred ninety-six miles from Fort Leavenworth, two hundred and eighty-five miles from Fort Kearney and fifty-one from Fort Laramie. Robidoux (Robdoux) had a trading post and blacksmith shop in Scott's Bluff.



Fort Laramie

They were in Fort Laramie on July 12<sup>th</sup> where they stayed five days before taking off for Fort Bridger, a distance of about four hundred miles. Auguste Tesson, one of Stansbury's best men, was taken ill with something like cholera. On the first day of the trek hunters brought in the choice parts of three fat buffalo cows, weighing the pack horses down with approximately one thousand pounds of meat.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> they traveled thirty-two miles crossing Ham's Fork and Black's Fork three times and arrived at Fort Bridger, an Indian trading post on Black's Fork which branches into three channels, forming several extensive islands upon which the fort is placed. Auguste Archambault had helped Jim Bridger build the Fort in the spring of the year 1843 before he became a guide with J. C. Frémont.

Stansbury was received by then Major James Bridger with great kindness and hospitality. Bridger welcomed his old friend Auguste Archambault whom he had not seen for a few years. Several of the wagons need repairing. Bridger put his blacksmith shop at the service of Stansbury's party and the repairs were made in five days. When the work was finished they left for Salt Lake on August 20<sup>th</sup>, camping the first night near Medicine Butte, a spot well known to Archambault for he had passed here many times. There were speckled trout in abundance and they found and shot a stray ox for food. They packed their animals with as much as they could carry and gave the rest to a small band of Shoshonee Indians camped on the opposite side of the stream. Stansbury noted how the Indian squaws acted as the butchers while the men looked on, leaning on their rifles.

On August 27 they found a pass about three miles long, with the height of the range through which it cut from eight hundred to a thousand feet above the valley of Ogden's Creek on either side.

The valley of Ogden's Creek, or Ogden's Hole, had long been the Rendezvous of the North-West Company, the scene of many a merry reunion of the hardy trappers and traders of the mountains.

During the ride through the valley, suddenly Stansbury and his men came on a party of eight or ten Indian women and girls gathering grass seeds for their winter's provision. They were entirely naked and fled as Auguste called to them in their own language. He informed Stansbury that they were of the class of "root-

diggers” or” snake diggers”. The “root-diggers” were composed of outcasts from their respective tribes. Various plants, lizards and crickets were included in their diets.

Descending the pass through the dense thickets of small oak trees, they caught a glimpse of the Great Salt Lake. Emerging from the pass, they entered the valley descending some moderately high table-land to strike the road to the Mormon settlement. Not being able to get food or lodging for the night, they went on to a neighbouring plantation whose owner they learned later has been in Colonel Cook’s Battalion. (While Auguste was with Stansbury, his son Auguste-Joseph was born September 2, 1849 in Florissant.)

Reaching Salt Lake City they made camp on the outskirts near Warm Springs. Rumors had spread about the exploration of the valley and it was believed that a survey would bring division of the land establishing and recording the claim of the government. If this happened then the Mormons would have no claim to the land where they had hoped to establish themselves in peace to enjoy undisturbed the religious liberty which they had been denied in Illinois and Missouri.



Auguste-Joseph Archambault  
oldest son of Auguste

They left the city on September 12 to explore the practicality of developing a good wagon road from Fort Hall to the Mormon settlement. As they resumed their journey, the animals soon developed a forlorn appearance as water and food were becoming scarce. On October 26<sup>th</sup> they found a small spring where they camped for the animals to regain their strength. As they continued across the plain the animals suffered and there was no food or water. By October 29<sup>th</sup> the animals were starving. The plain was salt, pure and white, equal to our finest table salt. After being with out sustenance for more than sixty hours, they found grass and water on the western edge of the plain and stayed there for three days. They still had a desert of seventy miles in front of them.

Auguste told Stansbury that when he had crossed it in 1845 with Frémont they lost ten mules and several horses. They were camped three miles below Pilot Peak where they cooked meat, baked bread and packed the mules with as much grass as they could carry. Their vessels only carried twenty gallons of water, a small supply for men and animals.

The route they had followed to this point was first taken by Frémont when he traveled it with Carson, Maxwell, Basile Lajeunesse and Auguste Archambault. A year later it was followed by a party of emigrants under a man by the name of Hastings and thereafter it was known as the Hasting’s cut-off.

On November 7 Stansbury wrote in his journal: “Followed the base of the mountain to it’s northern extremity, and reached the shores of the Great Salt Lake near Black Rock, where we crossed the Valley of the Jordan, and reached the City in the afternoon, being the first party of white men that ever succeeded in making the entire city of the lake by land.”

A survey was made of Utah Lake and the river connecting it with the lake. The winter season was long and severe, in some areas snow fell constantly. It accumulated to the depth of fifty feet filling up the passes so rapidly that emigrants were forced to abandon everything.



On September 5, 1850 the survey party reached Fort Bridger on Black's Fork of the Green River. This was the trading post much frequented by the Shoshonees, Utah and Unitah Indians. Here Jim Bridger offered his service as a guide. The route they were to take lay directly through the war ground of several powerful Indian tribes so care was taken to equip the party with arms and ammunition for their defense.

Major Bridger told Stansbury of a bed of bituminous coal thirteen miles from the mouth of Bitter Creek. He said he had been burning it for years. From Fort Bridger the trail took them east over Green River, up Bitter Creek, across the North Platte and Laramie River in the Laramie Plains to the south end of the Black Hills, then down Lodge Pole Creek to its mouth. This trail was to become the route of the Overland Stage, the Pony Express and the Union Pacific Railroad.

Early in the morning of September 24<sup>th</sup>, Auguste Archambault, approaching through a ravine and keeping himself concealed, shot four buffalo out of a large herd feeding on the side of a hill.

Stansbury rode to the scene of the butchery and witnessed the cutting up of a buffalo. The skinning commences by making an incision along the top of the back bone and separating the hide downward to get the choice parts of the animal. Next comes the hump ribs, and then the fleece. When buffalo is plentiful, only the hump, bass and tongue are taken, and occasionally a marrowbone for a tidbit. This is called butchering 'mountain-fashion', Auguste informed Stansbury. They continued their exploration of the country until October 6, 1850 when they followed the usual emigration road to Fort Leavenworth, arriving November 6, 1850.

Back home in Florissant Auguste and Amanda were building their first home which still stands at Rue St. Denis and Jefferson Street. In 1852 Auguste was back in Wyoming but this time Amanda was with him. That same year Alfrid (Alfred) a second son, born August 27, 1851.

A plan was in the making by Blodgett & Company who intended to build a freight line across the country to use Auguste's post at Devil's Gate as a station. In addition South Pass and Goose Creek 200 miles west of South Pass would be used.

Early in July of 1852 Enoch N. Conyers wrote in his diary that he had reached Independence Rock where the Sweetwater River tumbles through a 400 foot chasm in a granite ridge known as Devil's Gate. He goes on to say that the Oregon Trail detours round the chasm and that it was here that he met a Frenchman named Schambau (Archambault) who had been with Frémont's expedition. Schambau was building a trading post with timber hauled from the Sweetwater Mountains six miles away. Schambau took one look at Conyer's faltering old ox called Dick and asked "who does that ox belong to.

Well, had I been here twenty minutes sooner I would have saved that ox for you. He has been alkaloid. When I was with Fremont we lost quite a number of our oxen before we discovered a remedy". The remedy Schambau told Conyers was to take ½ pint each of lard and syrup and mix well. If the animal was bloated, then ½ of good vinegar was added.

Schambau sold liquor to Conyer's party who celebrated the Fourth of July and feasted on roast antelope, sage hen, rabbit stew, antelope pot pie, fried sage hens, fried rabbit, potatoes, baked beans, rice and pickles served on a table decorated with wild flowers. There was white bread, graham bread and warm rolls

fresh from the camp oven. Then there was pound cake, fruitcake, jelly cake, sweetwater mountain cake, and pies: peach, apple, strawberry and custard. To drink they were served coffee, tea, chocolate and cold mountain water.

Between 1841 and 1866 two hundred fifty thousand travelers took the Oregon Trail. A wagon train carried enough supplies to last six months, as they would plan to pick up things in small settlements along the way. They carried with them flour, pilot bread, bacon, rice, coffee, tea, sugar, dried beans, dried fruit, salt, cornmeal and a small keg of vinegar. They would have a sheet-iron stove, a dutch oven, cast-metal skillet, tin plates, cups and saucers, two churns, one for sweet and one for sour milk and a keg of water. Their tools included a handsaw, plowmolds, axe, shovel, rope and of course a rifle and a shotgun.

So many traveled the road that the Indians called it "the whitetop road". The high tide of emigration was reached in 1850. When officers at Fort Laramie counted 329,506 men, 2,421 women, 2,609 children and 9,927 wagons on the trail.

The Oregon Trail separated from the Santa Fe trail to follow the North Platte River to Fort McPherson and Fort Kearny in Nebraska and Fort Laramie in Wyoming.

Auguste and Amanda returned to St. Louis July 7, 1853. They wanted to have their daughter Mary baptized in St. Ferdinand's Church. Born October 3, 1852, at Devil's Gate, Wyoming she was the only one of their children born in the mountains on the Oregon Trail. He applied for citizenship in the St. Louis Courts and his petition was witnessed by Robert Campbell who was his friend in the mountains. Campbell had retired to St. Louis to become a director of the State Bank.



Mary Archambault  
on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday

1855, Auguste Archambault received a land warrant (No. 6497) for forty acres. He was entitled to bounty land under the March 3, 1855 Act of Congress for soldiers who served in the Mexican War. His declaration was signed by Robert Campbell and Henry Cabot.

On January 15, 1855 he bought six and one-half acres from his father-in-law Jacques Perras. That same year his son Napoleon was born, dying the following year.

Auguste was back in Wyoming in 1856. Harold Schindler wrote in his journal: "Mr. Archambeau (sic), owner of a wagon-train out of Green River, passed Ash Hollow and gathered up documents which had been scattered over the prairie, and delivered them to Captain Wharton. On July 18, 1856, J. Robert Brown stopped at the Sweetwater post which he said was run by Archambault and Julien. This Julien is believed to be Etienne, son of Denis who was drowned in 1836 with his Indian wife. Auguste told Brown that he had made much money in trading and that he had built two farms near Florissant, Mo. Brown writes: "He had a wickiup along the upper Sweetwater and was in partnership with a man named Julien". Brown goes on to say that "He (Archambault) had two places where he was trading,

Third child of Auguste and Amanda Archambault born October 3, 1852 at Devil's Gate, Wyoming on the Oregon Trail baptized 1853, St. Ferdinand's Church in Florissant married Joseph Stehle died in 1912, buried in St. Ferdinand's Cemetery.

one on each side of the pass.” He advised the travelers on what size caliber to use on buffalo, small caliber for deer and turkey. He sold corn meal, coffee beans, sugar, chewing tobacco, guns, gun-powder, ball flints, traps and blankets, all at an enormous profit.

By 1860 Auguste was a member of Bissonette and Simoneau Fur Co., competitors of the American Fur Co. He was in charge of their post at Devil’s Gate near the continental divide. Joseph Bissonette had been in the mountains earlier with Archambault. Charles Lajeunesse, called Simoneau, was a well-known mountain man as were his two brothers Basile and François. They were Canadian born. Basile was with Frémont’s 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> expedition. He lost his life in 1846 on the third expedition. Francis joined the second expedition in 1844. Simoneau was the trader.

In 1860 Auguste and Amanda had twin boys who were named for Auguste’s partners: Joseph and Charles. They were born in the new Archambault home on Rosary Road.

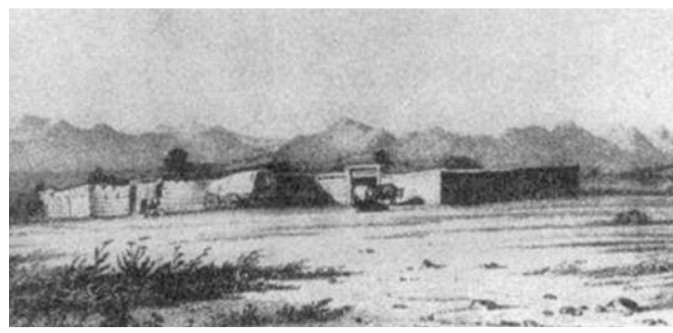
Auguste was in Florissant on February 12, 1862 when he, John Stephens, George Rinkel, Robert Timberlake, David Baber, George Grotzinger, James Belings, P. H. St. Cyr and Alexander J. Kienlen were floor managers for a cotillion hosted by Alexander J. Kienlen at the residence of James Castello on the Florissant Road, one mile east of Florissant. The invitation reads: “At the request of numerous friends that have attended my former parties, I will give one more”.

When John B. Myers died suddenly in Florissant 1869 at the age of 48, intestate, it was Auguste Archambault along with John Bar who posted a \$40,000 bond on behalf of the widow and her three children, the last born 16 days after her father’s death.

That same year Auguste and Amanda bought 36 acres at \$66 per acre through partition. (The County survey shows 44 5/100 acres.) The Sheriff’s deed was filed March 29, 1869 and recorded in Book 372, page 526, signed by Julien Conrad, Recorder. The partition suit was filed by Auguste Archambault vs. John Baptiste Tison, William Tison, Charles Tison, Louis Tison, Mary Jane Marechal, Jérôme Aubuchon, Sr., Jérôme Aubuchon, Jr., Baptiste Aubuchon, Paschal Dubray and his wife Cécile Dubray, Antoine Thibeau and his wife Sophraïne Thibeau, Louis Burke and his wife Louise Burke, Joseph Heber and George Weaver. The acreage was part of the common fields of St. Ferdinand described as bounded on the north by Charles Mercier and Dennis Courtois, east by the Florissant Road leading from the Village of Florissant to Fee Fee Church, on the south by Auguste Archambault and Stewart’s heirs and on the west by Serapi’s Branch. (The Mercier family was one of the first to settle in Fort Chartres. John Baptiste was living in Florissant as late as 1826. Joseph Hubert was a pew-holder in the new church of St. Ferdinand.)

On August 1, 1874 Auguste Archambault made a deed of land to Auguste-Joseph Archambault of 122 09/100 being a portion of Stuart Brown’s U. S. Survey One Hundred Fifty-one (151) with Amanda Archambault as trustee, filed August 31, 1874, Book 499, page 378.

In 1878 his old friend Jim Bridger asked Auguste to help him obtain compensation for the Fort the two had built on the Oregon Trail in 1843. Auguste appeared before a Notary Public, Julius Conrad, in St. Louis on April 27, 1878, stating that he was employed by the company in which Jim Bridger was a partner, as a hunter and trapper in the spring of 1843 at the site of the present Fort Bridger on Black Fork in the Green River Valley. He remained there while the fort was being constructed. He testified that Jim Bridger stayed there for a number of years and did general trading with Indians, trappers and emigrants to



Fort Bridger

Oregon and California. He swore that he was not related to Jim Bridger and had no interest in Jim Bridger's claim. Captain Albert Wachsman, Bridger's son-in-law assisted him in his final years in his claim under the army lease of Fort Bridger from 1857 to 1890. After thirty years of legal proceedings Bridger's heirs collected \$6,000 for the Fort Bridger.

The remaining years of Auguste's life were spent with his family in Florissant, giving attention to his thirteen-room

home, his farm and trading store which was on Rosary Road across the St. Stanislaus Seminary in Florissant.

He was ill with cancer of the stomach when he made his last will and testament November 3, 1880 leaving the sum of one dollar to each of his children: Auguste-Joseph, Mary, Leon, Joseph, Charles, George, Ellen, Lucien Ramey, Aloysius and Cornelia. To his daughter Cornelia he bequeathed his piano. The rest of his estate was given to his wife Amanda. Auguste died in his home on Rosary Road in Florissant, Missouri, December 15, 1880. His good friend of the mountains, Jim Bridger, followed him in death July 17, 1881.

Auguste Archambault was a person of consideration in his day. Trapper, hunter and guide, he was one of the last of the invincible, intrepid mountain men.

## **Plea for History**

### **Archambault Scion Deplores Loss of Heritage**

By Carol Rehg  
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer (1970)

A Hillsdale resident has expressed support for the preservation of the historic Archambault House in Florissant which was built by her grandfather.

Funds are currently being sought to restore the more than century-old two-story building at Rue St. Denis and Jefferson avenue in Florissant's Old Town district.

Miss Margaret Amanda Archambault, of 2117 Eric ave., Hillsdale, says her reasons for seeking to preserve the house are "strictly personal." Auguste Archambault, her grandfather, built the house in the 1850s.

Auguste's granddaughter is a chip off the pioneer block which produced hard-headed, two-fisted French explorers with special fur trapping skills and small regard for timid souls.

Outspoken herself in what she terms the “rape of the land,” Miss Archambault, a bus driver for the Normandy School District, deplores the changing scene in Florissant today.

“They are casting aside their French heritage and culture for dot dog stands and filling stations,” charges the descendant of a man whose place in history is linked with the famous exploits of Col. John Frémont and Howard Stansbury. The latter was commissioned by the government in 1849-1851 to survey the Salt Lake Basin of Utah.

Her grandfather accompanied both men on important exploring expeditions and served under Col. Frémont in the Mexican War.

Historic Florissant Inc., a citizen’s group headed by Mrs. Rosemary Davison, donated \$4,800 of the purchase price and is attempting to raise \$10,000 as its share of a matching grant being sought from the federal government.

Mrs. Davison, who also happens to be the city clerk of Florissant, is doing everything within her power to retain and restore the Archambault house for posterity.

“She’s handed the city of Florissant the ‘Hope Diamond’ and they don’t know it,” declares Miss Archambault, who is gradually fitting together the pieces of her grandfather’s life – for historical documentation – which may prove that his place in history is much more important than is currently recognized.

Miss Archambault, an “armchair historian,” has read every scrap of history related to her grandfather’s fur trapping exploits.

She has documented certificates to prove his services to Col. Frémont and his personal friendship for Robert Campbell, who became a wealthy fur trader and leading St. Louis citizen.

“Grandfather must have been a self-educated man, as well as a fur trader,” she reasons, “because we have evidences of his writings, dated April, 1855 when it was most unusual to find a mountain man who could write.

“A report by author J. Robert Brown in an historical journal, dated 1856, tells how ‘Archambault has made a fortune and bought two farms near Florissant’.”

The Archambault House was built on one of those farms, somewhere between 1850 and 1853, according to Miss Archambault estimate, based on personal records which are yet to be historically documented.

Working with “another armchair historian,” by the name of O. Dock Marston of Berkeley, Calif., she has been able to trace the early travels of her grandfather with a hunter and trapper by the name of Dennis Julian.

“When Hafen records it,” say Miss Archambault, “there’s no refuting the historical proof.”

The stories about her grandfather reveal a rugged breed of men, “who survived by eating dogs, shoe strings and cooked rattlesnakes and – under the most dire conditions – by drinking oxen blood.

“They carved out a heritage for us which is rapidly disappearing today because material pollution has taken over,” said Miss Archambault.

The Hillsdale resident doesn't want to see her grandfather's house sold to anyone, as was suggested in a recent city council meeting, when it was announced that George Bartko, art instructor at Florissant Valley Community College, wanted to buy the house.

Bartko later withdrew his offer after the city established restrictions on the restoration which he felt were too harsh.

“While historians are trying to fit together the pieces which built this great nation, land grabbers and radical roughnecks are tearing it down.

“Without the preservation of heritage and culture,” she warned, “crime and corruption takes its place.” She cited several current examples of criminal acts against society to prove her point.

Confident that Mrs. Davison was sincere in her efforts to preserve the Archambault house, Miss Margaret Amanda Archambault has given a portrait of her grandfather and grandmother to Historic Florissant Inc. to be hung in the home whenever it is restored.



Miss Margaret Amanda Archambault, left, presents a portrait of her grandfather, Auguste Archambault and his wife, to Mrs. Davison. The portrait is to be hung in Florissant city hall.

—Globe-Democrat Photo  
4-10-1970

**HISTORIC NAME:**           **AUGUSTE ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE, GROUNDS  
AND ACCESSORY BUILDINGS**

**LOCATION:**                   603 and 609, Florissant, Mo. 63031

**CURRENT OWNE:**           Historic Florissant, Inc.<sup>12</sup>.

**HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

Auguste Archambault, French Canadian, was guide and hunter for Frémont in his Third Expedition to California and as a member of Frémont's California Battalion during the Mexican War. He was guide to Stansbury in his exploration of the Great Salt Lake Basin. He came to Florissant with one of his-fellow guides, Antoine Tesson, where he met and married Amanda Perry (Perras), daughter of Jacques Perry (Perras) and Madame Thérèse Maréchal. Her ancestors one some of the first settlers in the Florissant area. Known as the last of the mountain men, he settled in Florissant having acquired numerous tracts of land and is believed to have built the house at 603 St. Denis about 1850. He died in Florissant in 1880.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, the house has a full complement of accessory buildings:

House: Over-all dimensions 55' by 25' – Four rooms main structure, two up – two down, with 1880s addition of one story ell for kitchen, with stone cellar, dirt floor, outside entrance, Hallway with open stairs along east wall. Unfinished attic with ladder access.

Chimneys: Two on wise side, parapet gable type linked at the base and constructed of brick.

Roof: Wood shingled gable roof, with ridge running parallel to east and west. Thin roof on kitchen addition.

Decorative details: Boxed cornice with brackets. Decorated eaves.

All rooms including kitchen have original fireplaces and mantels.

Restored original stenciling in two floor rooms.

Gables are parapeted reminiscent of German or Dutch work.

Federal in basic concept, has Victorian detailing particularly at the eaves cornice and arched recessed entrance.

Stone cellar under kitchen addition with exterior entrance, stone steps. Dirt floor.

All of the above features are part of landmark designation.

---

<sup>12</sup> Actual proprietor Edward Bennett, 2005.

Cellar has concrete pad for furnace.

Included in the landmark designation are these accessory buildings:

Three hole, plastered interior, brick privy with French provincial wood shingle roof:

Frame, board and batten, well house with French provincial wood shingle roof:

One room frame gabled summer kitchen with two windows, one chimney. One panel door. Wood shingle roof.

One frame gabled carriage house with large door on west side, single door on south side. One window on east side. Wood shingle roof.

One shed with two doors on east side. Wood shingle gabled roof.

Bricked sidewalks and court yard.

Excluded from designation: Playground equipment.

Submitted by

Historic Florissant, Inc

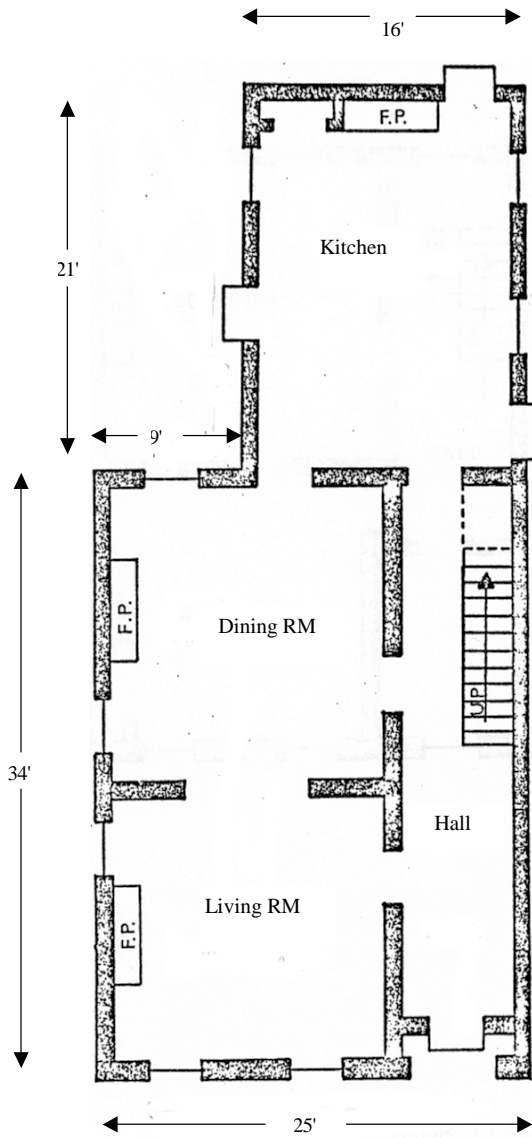
Rosemary Davison, President  
October 1, 2001



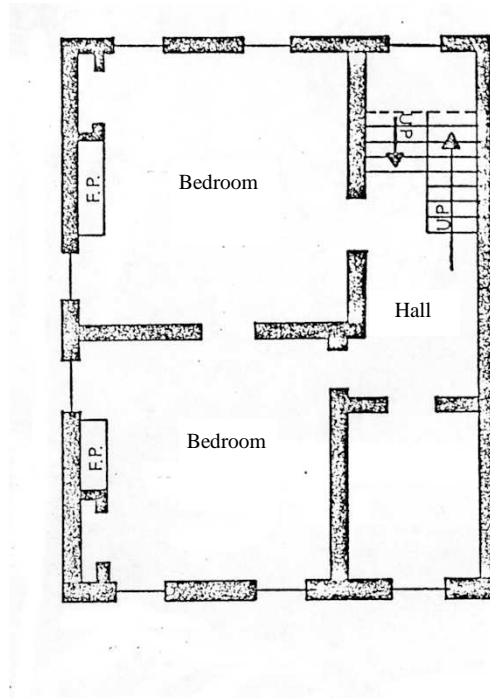


Auguste Archambault  
Historic house  
603, St. Denis Street  
Florissant, Missouri  
1850

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE  
603 ST. DENIS



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



### A few details on Archambault's House

The two-story red brick home, where Auguste Archambault, his wife and some of their 13 children lived, is today much as it was when it was built. On the inside the home is much like most homes of the mid 1800s. It has high ceilings, wooden floors and a fireplace in each room.

On aspect of the interior design, however, looks almost modern. The ceilings in the dining and living rooms are painted with concentric circles of green, gold, maroon and white, a modern artistic technique that looks oddly out of place in this otherwise traditional house. While restoring the house this pattern was found on the ceiling under several layers of paint, however, so it is apparent that this style was used in the home in years past.

The house is also unusual in that it is "pure." No changes have been made since a kitchen was added in 1880.

In addition, several outbuildings, including a privy, summer kitchen and well remain. A coal shed and surrey house have been rebuilt.

Rosemary Davison, president of Historic Florissant, estimates that about \$40,000 has been spent in purchasing and restoring the exterior of Archambault's house.

"I'd say another \$10,000 has been spent on interior work," she add, "and the balance of the work was done by volunteers, of course there's no way you can put a price tag on that."

In an attempt to make the structure a "living house," people live in the home and bring their own furnishings. The occupants were Tom and Cathy Tusenski. They have furnished the house with beautiful antiques that complement the historic home.

More recently the Archambault House was sold to Edward Bennett. Sufficient restrictions were placed in the deed to ensure that it will be properly cared for. Mr. Bennett will open the house for visitors whenever it is requested by Historic Florissant, Inc.

A few original Archambault pieces remain in the home, however. These include a piece of petit point in the dining room done by one of Archambault's daughters and a picture of his first grandchild.

Named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, the home is open to the public periodically throughout the year.

## The Archambault House

603, St. Denis Street  
Florissant (Missouri)

The house of the Archambault family presenting some old Victorian style was constructed about 1850 by Auguste Archambault, the son of Pierre and Josephe Foucher<sup>13</sup> of Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan. Married to Amanda Perry (Perras) in Florissant, he fathered 13 children whom were all born in this city.

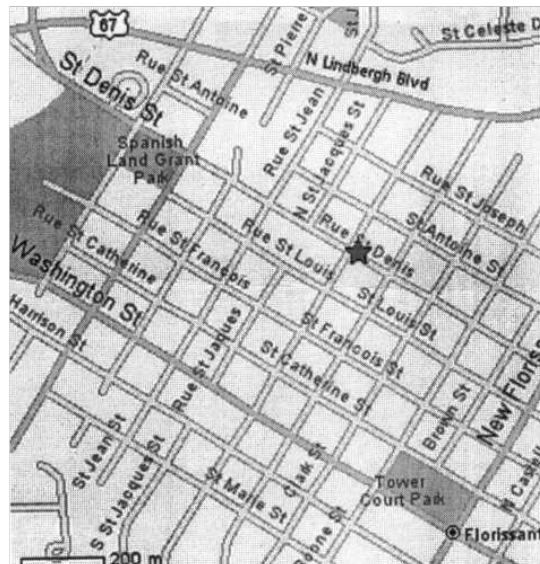


The Archambault House

Acquired in 1969 by the city of Florissant, the house was renovated by the local Historical Company in 1973. From then on it was opened to the public, and it is located in the urban environment<sup>14</sup>. It is one of the rarest houses of the city to have survived the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The inside decorations were reconstituted in a most authentic possible way certain pieces of the furniture belonged to the Archambault family.

One noticed that one gave French names to some streets in the district of Florissant. Still very numerous in the region in the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century, the French speaking people sold their lands to the Germans who arrived in majority before the French migrated further on.

An article “When the West was perilous, and Stories of living Pioneers” appeared in the Chicago Record-Herald on March 13, 1909. It said: « A Jesuit from Florissant at the time, recount: “On my arrival at the little town, I decided to walk the two miles and a half separating the station from the “priests’ farm” as the Jesuit establishment is called by the neighbors. The roads were firm and the snow-covered fields an agreeable change from the prospect of dirty city streets, but when a tall man 35 years old with a French accent courteously invited me to share the seat of his buggy I accepted, postponing my walk until the return trip. He talked of the changes in the neighborhood – the French were much reduced in numbers, the incoming Germans had bought their lands, and they had moved on. He himself had been born near the “priests’ farm”; his



<sup>13</sup> Pierre Archambault, *Dictionnaire généalogique des Archambault d'Amérique*, vol. 3, p. 233.

<sup>14</sup> The Archambault House was sold in 2005 to M. Edward Bennett.

father, who had died a few years before at 90 years of age, was born there also. And then he said: "My father, he was one of the guides for Frémont; go wit' him all over the West. The Indians, they think ever so much of scalp; put dry scalp on top of pole, and dance scalp-dance all day." His father had known all about these things and told many stories; but could neither read nor write and no one had over taken them down. But the big house on the hill had belonged to Auguste Archambault, who was also with Frémont; Mme Archambault was still living; and, though blind, liked to talk of her husband's experiences. I must go there.

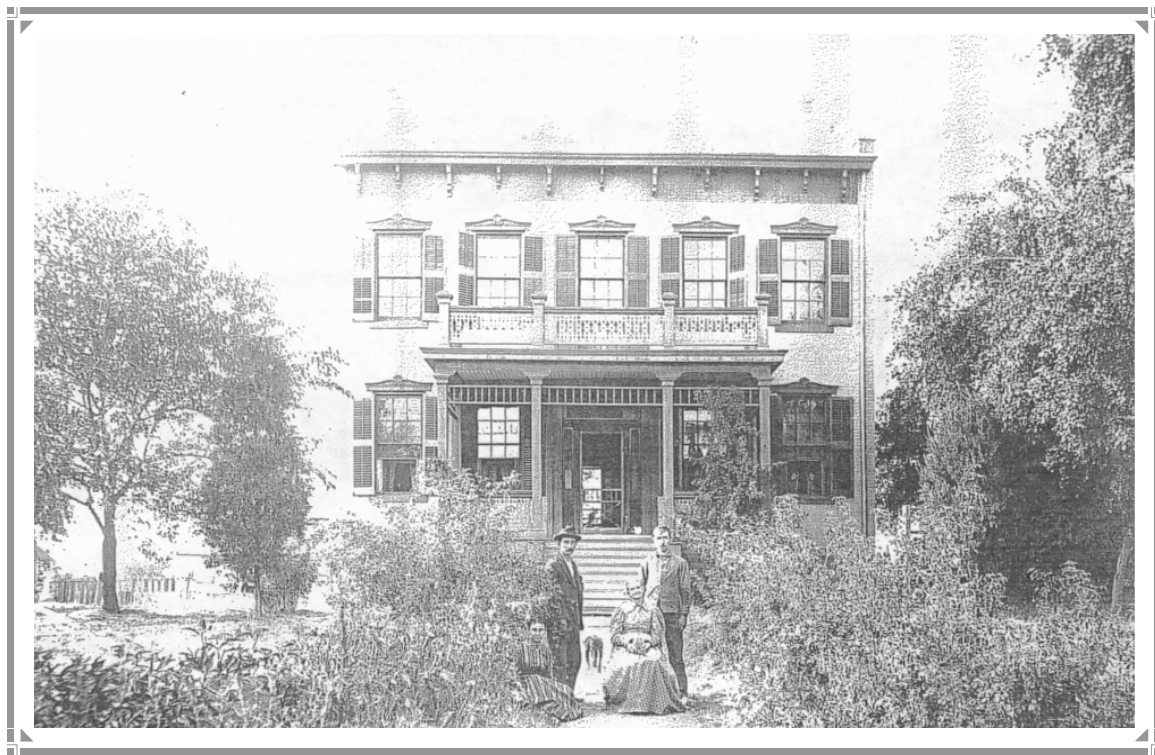
« Auguste Archambault, guide of Lieutenant Stansbury in his expedition for the survey of the Salt Lake Basin, and guide and butcher for John C. Frémont in his "pathfinding" traverse of the West, was a person of consideration in his day. He afterward became a member of the Bissonnette and Simonneau Fur Company, competitors of the American Fur Company, and was in charge of their trading post at Devil's Gate, by the Sweetwater River, near the Continental Divide in Western Wyoming on the old Oregon Trail. His farm on which his widow Amanda and ten surviving children now live, is a noble sweep of land in the Florissant Valley, rising to a gentle eminence on which stands the plaster-covered house with its green blinds. As I approached the home I noted the old world suggestion in its simple architecture and wondered when and why our American builders lost the art of composing plain walls, windows, gables and chimney to produce houses pleasing to the eye and restful to the spirit. I was received at the door with true Gallic hospitality, in a typical French Canadian home – bare floors, strong and serviceable furniture, plain walls bearing many lithographs of religious pictures, and comfortable warmth. Yes, they would be glad to tell me of their father but I must meet the mother and I must share the 11:30 o'clock dinner; one could talk so much better after one had eaten. Soon I found myself seated in the kitchen at the table. Before me were homegrown ham, delicious cornbread made of the white corn meal of Missouri, and home-canned peaches. Beside was the mother, a little woman who had a gentle face and a soft voice with a French accent that came and went, being at time almost imperceptible and then very marked.

« Half an hour later I was seated beside the little old lady in the sitting-room, under a picture of the Virgin in scarlet and blue, with the son, Aloysius Archambault opposite me. The Smithsonian reports of Stansbury's and Frémont's expeditions were on his knees, with the passages marked in them which referred to his father, Auguste<sup>15</sup>. »



---

<sup>15</sup> When the West was perilous stories of living pioneers. The Chicago Record-Herald, March 13, 1909.

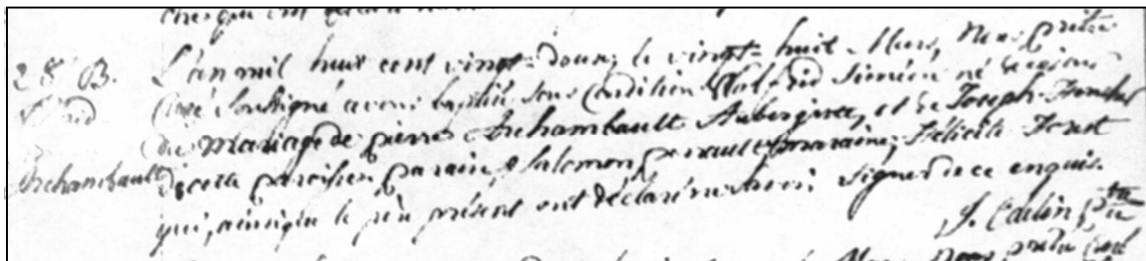


Archambault House on Rosary Road, Florissant  
Amanda, Auguste's wife  
Her sons Aloysius and Charles  
Her daughter Cora.  
Auguste Archambault died in this home December 15, 1880.

# Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) Archambault (1822-1879) Auguste's brother

Son of Pierre and Josephthe Foucher, Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) was born on March 28, 1822 in Saint-Esprit-de-Montcalm. He married Amanda Zereviah Shellinger on July 11, 1848 in Philadelphia she was born in 1823 in New Jersey, and raised in Philadelphia by Protestant parents that converted to catholicism.

Certificate from the register of Saint-Esprit-de-Montcalm – 1822



28 B Wilfrid Siméon Archambault	Year one thousand eight hundred and twenty two, the twenty eight of March, We parish priest undersigned have baptized under condition Wilfrid Siméon born today from the marriage of Pierre Archambault hotel-keeper and Joseph Foucher from this parish, godfather Philemon Perreault godmother Félicité Forest who as the father present declared not being able to sing from what we ask for
--	---

F. Odelin priest

Transcription in modern block capitals.

After having hunted and trapped with his brother Auguste in Wyoming and in the West mountains for approximately 15 years, Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) founded a trading post in 1853, on the Sweetwater River, in Wyoming. He traded with the Bannock (Bannacks), Sioux, Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Flatheads and Snake Indians. At Independant Rock, only 1.6 km away, he had already constructed some buildings of which one housed his family, a general trading post, a home for the Natives, and a building for the caretakers of his livestock. He also built a bridge on the Sweetwater River, which cost him several thousand dollars. It brought great services since instead of having to cross the river to go towards California and return from the West, the users were extremely happy for this convenience so it was for that reason they were willing to pay the fixed rate of \$3 per vehicle.

Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) had excellent relations with the Natives. He spoke their language, and friendships grew strongly to the point that they would called him in their language "fair trader," and he

felt no fear. It was why when the Declaration of War occurred with the Natives, Archambault had no worries. Since he had already exploited his trading post for three years now, and felt safe, he had hope that these troubles would not last, though.



Independence Rock

Nevertheless, the war worsen, and the Sioux of the Powder River, approximately one km away erupted one night, slaughtered a part of his livestock with poisoned arrows, took about fifty horses, and lancent an arrow at the foot of his door of which the signification was clear. Archambault had to leave the area. One rapidly assessed the inventory of Wilfrid Siméon's (Alfred) goods. Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) buried what goods he could. Watching from a distance, the Indians promptly dug up and carried the goods away. The bridge was worth \$3,000, the store and its' contents, the buildings, the

livestock, the merchandises, the total of all was valued at a few millions of dollars. On October 2, 1856, Archambault and his family left the trading post after having filled many carts with merchandises and livestock covering them with canvas. They left towards Nebraska City where they reached its' destiny on Thanksgiving eve (the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November), at the end of 40 days of inexpressible suffering and deprivations. As it was the starting of winter, and in the middle of snowy prairies they had to abandon carts on the spot except for one carrier and seven horses. The travelers were nearly frozen to death Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) took his wife Amanda and his three children to a post where he had already passed many years to built with the Natives, a prosperous trading business, and one must add that he could hope to be the bases of a solid fortune. When the spring emigration opened, one morning before breakfast he collected \$1,500 in gold in tolls over the bridge.

The following spring Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) tempted to return to his trading post in Wyoming, but the War with the Natives was still raging too strongly, therefore he was forced to stay in Nebraska City, where he had left his wife, his youngest son Alfred Alonzo, another son Edwin, and a daughter Sarah, whom later on became a nun using the name of Sister Aurélia.

When War broke out in 1861, Alfred enrolled in the Volunteered army in Iowa. He had gravely injured his left arm in the midst of an engagement in the Battle of Spanish Fort, so he was released and left for California with the company of his oldest son Edward to reestablish. Unfortunately, he never returned to Nebraske City, he died on August 15, 1879, in Oakland.

His spouse Amanda died on April 24, 1911 in St. Louis at the age of 88.

Here is the signature of Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) Archambault a the moment he was released from the Army of the United State. They called him Alfred.

---

Source: Missouri Historical Society.



## Survives horrible ordeal

In the year – I think it was 1855 – Mr. Kinkaid, while on his way to St. Louis, with the view of making purchases for his store (he had \$11,000 in silver in his possession), was attacked while a passenger on the Salt Lake City mail coach (“The Brigham Young”) between said fort of Alfred A. Archambault and Fort Laramie, by the Sioux Indians. All the passengers were killed (the coach was burned) and Mr. Kinkaid was left for dead, having been shot by seven poisoned arrows. But after the Indians left he regained consciousness, and crept over the prairie (being unable to walk) for several miles until he reached the cabin of “Old Drip,” a half breed, who did what he could to relieve Kinkaid’s sufferings. In the meanwhile a rescue party was sent out on hearing of the Indians’ depredation, and Mr. Kinkaid was taken to Fort Laramie for treatment and later to St. Louis.

A short time afterwards, a band of Indians came to the fort, desiring to make a trade for horses. The chief and “big men” of the tribe had strings of the American silver dollars (that had belonged to Mr. Kinkaid), through which they had made holes. One end of the string was attached to the headdress of feathers, etc., and the other swept the ground. Understanding from the reports that had been brought in from the “runners” and emigrants that this money had belonged to Mr. Kinkaid. Mrs. Archambault felt so indignant as the Indians proudly strutted about dragging their string of silver that she told her husband that she was going to tramp on the end and see if she could break it. But he cautioned her that it might result in the murdering of their family and the burning of the fort.

Over a year later Mr. Kinkaid stopped again at the fort on his way to Salt Lake City, having a wagon train of merchandise. Mrs. Archambault could hardly recognize him because he was so changed from the severe illness that resulted from the attack by the Indians. He had to have a silver tube in his throat to assist him in breathing – he had been shot through the front of his throat. He related in detail to Mr. and Mrs. Archambault the terrible ordeal through which he had gone when the coach was attacked by the Indians and his frightful suffering caused by the poison from the arrows permeating his entire system.”

Among the guests at the fort was Major Oldman (I am not sure about the spelling but that is the way it sounds), the Indian agent, who came directly from Washington, D.C. (when the trouble first began), and had his men with him. He had been among the Indians in the interest of the U.S. government and he strongly urged Mr. Archambault to leave for the States, as he advised that “there is trouble ahead” – referring to the Indians. As his carriage drove off, he called to Mrs. Archambault, who was standing in the doorway : “Take care of the top of your head !”

The first contention was brought about by the Indians killing a cow belonging to some emigrants. After a complaint was made, 36 soldiers were sent from Fort Laramie (the nearest military post). As a bluff they attempted to fire over the Indians’ lodge, but unfortunately their aim was too low and they shot dead the Indian chief in his tent. The fury of the Indians knew no bounds and only one soldier escaped. The Indians then pulled off the boots of all the soldiers and put them in the cannon, which they threw into the Platte River. All the soldiers were buried in one grave, on the top of which sat the baby daughter of Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) Archambault. Afterwards the family was on its way to the United States.

The Bannacks were the good Indians and did all they could to protect the fort of Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) Archambault. When they ran across them, they brought in cattle or horses that had strayed or had been stolen. All stock had its owner's initial burned on it. The Bannacks also acted as "runners," keeping the family informed as to the maneuvers of the other Indians.

Another tribe of Indians had all its arrows topped with gold when the braves would come to trade at the fort. They called Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) Archambault something that sounded like "Tchupechee" (Fair Trader) and told him in their dialect (he spoke the Indian languages) that because he was so just in his dealings with them, if he would come they would show him where they had a mountain of this gold, and he could have all he wanted. But his wife would not permit him to go<sup>16</sup>.

---

### **Sister Mary Aurelia Archambault (1855-1943)**

Born, Aloysius Sarah, in San Francisco on August 2, 1855, Sister Aurelia is the daughter of Wilfrid Siméon (Alfred) Archambault, born in Saint-Esprit-de-Montcalm, Québec, and Amanda Shellinger native of Pennsylvania of Protestant parents but convert to catholicism.

Her early childhood was spent on Sweetwater River, Wyoming, where her parents conducted an Indian Trading Center. She often recalled later how the traders filled her little apron with gold nuggets, which she used as toys. Indian troubles at the post caused the family to move East where her education took place.



She was educated in public schools in Nebraska and Saint-Louis and spent several years at Florissant Academy, Florissant, Missouri. She entered the Sister of Loretto at the age of 16 in 1870. After her novitiate, Sister Aurelia Archambault taught music in various Loretto schools. In the summer of 1930, she retired from active life and spent the rest of her life at Loretto Heights College, Denver, Colorado, where she died on March 2, 1943.

---

<sup>16</sup> Source: Missouri Historical Society.

## Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan establishment

At the door of the Regional County Municipality, Montcalm, the parish of Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan is situated 40 km north of Montréal, Québec, Canada. The municipality is part of the Basses-Laurentides, in the administrative region of Lanaudière.

It was first established along l'Achigan River on a territory separated from Saint-Pierre-du-Portage (today, the City of L'Assomption) in 1787. Since around two decades some settlers were already opening up different locations along the l'Achigan River. The first mill was erected around 1770 on a part of land situated into the limits of the village on the Masson's peninsula.



At first called “Roch-de-St-Ours-sur-l'Achigan” in honor of his founder Paul Roch de St-Ours the parish is established in 1832 on a canonical decree by Mgr Panet archbishop of Québec under the name of Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan.

A remarkable stoned church was erected in 1802-1803, one of the most beautiful in Québec. The distinctive parts of that church were the architecture and the paintings. Unfortunately that jewel was entirely burned down on the first of January 1958.

---

From Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan Web site: [www.strochlachigan.com](http://www.strochlachigan.com)

Certificate from the register of Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan

Marriage of Pierre Archambault and Josephe Foucher

l'N  
Archambault  
et Josephe  
le 18

Le vingt six mai l'an mil huit cent dix après la publica-  
tion de trois banns de mariage faite au presbytere de nosseigneurs  
paroissiaux pendant trois dimanches consécutifs entre Pierre  
Archambault cultivateur de cette paroisse et fils majeur de  
Pierre Archambault, et de Marie Magdeleine Lebeau ses  
pere et mere de cette paroisse d'une part, et Josephe Fou-  
cher fille majeure de feu Germain Foucher et de Therese  
Petit Glais ses pere et mere de la paroisse Saint Hyacinthe  
d'autre part, ne s'étant découvert aucun empêchement  
au dit mariage, du consentement des parents, nous soussigné  
curé de la paroisse Saint Roch, avons reçu leur mu-  
tuel consentement et leur avons donné la bénédiction nup-  
tiale selon la forme prescrite par notre mère la sainte  
Eglise Catholique, et ce en présence de Pierre Archambault  
pere de l'époux, et de Jacques Archambault son oncle,  
de Pierre Archambault, et de Pierre Martin dit Bernabé  
amis de l'épouse; Jacques Archambault seul témoin  
avoir signé

Jacq. Archambault Curé de la paroisse

Le vingt six mai l'an mil huit cent dix nous soussigné

Translation in modern block capitals

May 26, 1806 after the publication

*M*

Pierre  
Archambault  
Joseph  
Foucher

of three bans of marriage done in the parish during the mass' sermon  
for three consecutive Sundays between Pierre  
Archambault farmer from this parish son of age  
of Pierre Archambault and Marie Magdeleine Lebeau his  
father and mother on one part and Joseph foucher  
daughter of age of late Gervais Foucher and Thérèse  
petit Claire her father and mother from the parish of St. Hyacinthe  
on the other part as no impeachment were discovered  
for the said marriage and with the parents consent We undersigned  
parish priest from the St. Roch's parish have received their mutual consent  
and have given them the nuptial benediction  
as prescribe by our lady the Saint  
Catholic Church and this in presence of Pierre Archambault  
father of the husband of Jacques Archambault his uncle  
of Pierre Archambault and Pierre Martin said Barnabé  
friend of the bride; Jacques Archambault solely declared  
being able to sign

Jacques Archambault

J Raizenne priest

**FAMILY TREE  
OF AUGUSTE AND WILFRID SIMÉON (ALFRED)**

JACQUES FRANCE ABOUT 1629 FRANÇOISE TOUREAU

LAURENT MONTRÉAL 01/07/1660 CATHERINE MARCHAND

JACQUES MONTRÉAL 02/15/1694 FRANÇOISE AUBUCHON

JACQUES BOUCHERVILLE 03/12/1725 MARGUERITE LOISEAU

PIERRE REPENTIGNY 04/11/1763 JOSEPHTE GAUTHIER-LANDREVILLE

PIERRE REPENTIGNY 07/27/1782 MADELEINE LEBEAU

PIERRE SAINT-ROCH-DE-L'ACHIGAN 05/26/1806 JOSEPHE FOUCHER

AUGUSTE  
FLORISSANT (MISSOURI) 11/21/1848  
AMANDA PERRY (PERRAS)

WILFRID SIMÉON (ALFRED)  
PHILADELPHIA 07/11/1848  
AMANDA ZEREVIAH SHELLINGER

***Margaret Amanda Archambault, historian***

Granddaughter of Auguste Archambault and Amanda Perry, Margaret Amanda attended trade school, and Southeast Teachers 's College.

Her working career included positions with the Emerson Electric Co., the Record Centre of the U.S.. Army, the McDonnell - Douglas Co., at her own business, and also at the Hazelwood School District, and the Normandy High School from which she retired. During her working years, she was a member of the softball and or basketball teams for some of the companies she worked for.

Margaret Amanda worked with Rosemary Davison on the history of the Archambault Family. She signed the Florissant Valley Quarterly, on The History of Auguste Archambault.

Margaret Amanda and Rosemary were supporters for the preservation of the historic Archambault House in Florissant.

---




**TRANSLATEX +**  
Communications +  
RÉDACTION • RÉVISION • TRADUCTION

LONGUEUIL  
1669, rue Cartier  
Longueuil (Québec) J4H 4E2  
(450) 463-0204 / Téléc. (450) 463-0227  
Courriel : Translatex.com@sympati.co.ca

Claude Ghanimé

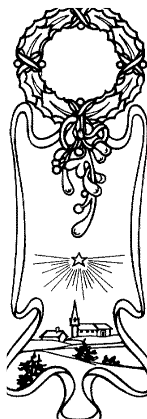
**Michel P. Archambault, BA., LL.L.**  
Avocat

315, boulevard René-Lévesque Est      Téléphone : (514) 526-0817  
Bureau 001      (514) 844-8804  
Montréal (Québec) H2X 3P3      Télécopieur : (514) 844-5927  
Courriel : archambaultmichelp@bellnet.ca



M<sup>e</sup> Denise Archambault

2100, rue Fleury Est, bureau 200  
Montréal (Québec) H2B 1J5  
Téléphone (514) 722-0084  
Télécopieur (514) 722-1093



The year 2005 has been celebrated with the General Assembly at l'Île-des-Moulins, Terrebonne, with the voyage in France for a group of thirty or so Archambault members and friends, and with the invitation from the History Society of Florissant, near St-Louis, Missouri, to assist with the inauguration of a monument in the memory of Auguste Archambault on 15 Dec 2005. Auguste Archambault who was originally from Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan was a notable guide of the trail to Oregon that opened the American West. Those who would like to participate at this event can contact Mrs. Rosemary Davison at 314-921-7055.

The year 2006 mark the anniversary of the second marriage of our ancestor Jacques with Marie Denot de la Martinière in 1666, the widow of Mathieu Labat.

With the time of rejoicing quickly approaching, all members of the Board of Directors, and me would like to wish you all a very "Merry Christmas", and we hope 2006 bring you all good health, happiness, and prosperity.

I hope that your best wishes for the New Year do come true; and you always remain faithful to the Archambault d'Amérique.

Your President  
Richard



*Welcome to new members*

Stéphane Archambault  
Jean-Paul Cornélis

Saint-Christophe, France  
Liège, Belgique



*Saviez-vous que...*

... Le film *Familia* de Louise Archambault projeté dans les cinémas du Québec depuis septembre dernier a été choisi le meilleur premier film canadien au Festival international de Toronto.

Louise est la fille de Roger le vérificateur comptable de notre association.

Nous vous donnerons plus de détails dans le prochain bulletin.