

SELF GUIDED TOUR OF THE LANDS OF NICOLAS LEROY AND HIS SONS

20th September 2025

(Thanks to Carole Corriveau, who knows almost all the pioneering families of Saint-Vallier, and to Paul St-Arnaud, who you will hear from, for whom Bellechasse has almost no more secrets.)

There was a time when land of the LeRoy family was found almost throughout what became Saint-Vallier. As these lands are, for the most part, still farmed today, we can get a good idea of the vast territories cultivated by our ancestors. A drive down road 132 between Saint-Michel and Berthier demonstrates that clearly.

First stop: the municipal viewpoint (at the west entrance of Saint-Vallier)

This viewpoint is located on part of the seigneurial estate granted to Olivier Morel de La Durantaye. A plaque installed in 2002 by the «Société historique de Bellechasse» confirms this to visitors.

The 18-arports (one arpent is equivalent to 0.4 hectare) wide domain on the river actually straddled the Boyer River. Most of it, 13.5 arpents, was located on the west side of the river. The four and half arpents east of the Boyer were not initially cleared.

These were the lands cultivated by Nicolas Leroy (father) for the Lord of La Durantaye. It was also on the Saint-Michel side that the farm was located, where he lived with his wife Jeanne Lelièvre and their children. The farm, which is just west of the river, is where the farmhouse-manor and its outbuildings were located.

You can park at the viewpoint and go down to the riverside. From there, you can see the mouth of the Boyer River. At high tide, Lord Olivier Morel would enter it with his sailboat. His domain extended to the west to Pointe Saint-Michel.

293, Route de Saint-Vallier - Museum of horse drawn carriages.

Back on 132 towards Saint-Vallier, a few kilometres down the road, we notice on the right, an old horse-drawn carriage museum that Mr. Onil Corriveau opened in 1984. It is now a flea market.

The property of Mr. Corriveau is located on a portion of land originally granted to Noël LeRoy by Lord Olivier Morel de La Durantaye on June 8, 1696. Noël was the third son of Nicolas and Jeanne and their first child born in New France. The land granted to Noël had three arpents of frontage and was 40 arpents in depth. It began from the St. Lawrence River and ended at the non-ceded properties of the Lord of Durantaye. The frontage of three arpents equaled 576 feet.

Noël LeRoy would not clear this land and resold it quickly to René Cauchon called Laverdière.

339, rue Principale (Main Street)

Entering the village as 132 becomes Main Street, we pass by a pretty house with skylights. It is located on a portion of land granted by the Lord of La Durantaye to Nicolas Leroy Jr. on June 5, 1696. The portion also extended from the river and was three arpents in frontage by 40 arpents in depth. It touched, on one side, the land granted to Nicolas Sr. by the lord, and which Nicolas Jr. inherited an eighth of upon the death of his father.

The neighbouring land belonged to his older brother Louis before he settled in Beaumont. He in turn sold it to his younger brother Guillaume in 1688. When the latter also leaves for Beaumont, he will sell it to Laurent Tarreau who in turn donates part of it for development. This is where the three churches of St-Vallier were erected: the first in 1716, the second in 1901, and the current one in 1932.

The house at 339 was inhabited by direct descendants of Nicolas Leroy Jr. until the end of the 1970s. It was constructed in the mid-1860s by Lucien Roy, grandfather of Léo-Juste Roy, who was the last owner.

Almost opposite, Roy Street descends down to the cemetery, where the first church was located. Here we find no shortage of tombstones bearing the surname Roy.

Crossing Avenue de l'Église, we find ourselves before six arpents and six rods of land granted by Lord Olivier Morel de La Durantaye to Adrien Blanquet on August 1, 1677. Blanquet, who had worked on the lord's mill, married the widow Anne Lemaître, mother of the ancestor Nicolas Leroy. The land extended to 386 Main Street, and south towards the river. It was later sold by Blanquet to Étienne Corriveau and then largely recovered by Lucien Roy in 1860.

Once again taking road 132, we drive directly in front of **714, Route de Saint-Vallier**. This farm, which belonged to Paul-Aimé Roy (died in 2018) and his son Alain, is located on the land where Noël LeRoy lived with his family until his death in 1731. Paul-Aimé was a direct descendant of Noël and Marguerite Rabouin.

The land of three arpents in frontage by 40 arpents in depth was inhabited and cleared by Noël for almost two decades and is mentioned in a 1691 notarial deed concerning his neighbour Jean Brochu. It is this land that we see on the Gideon de Catalonia map and that appears in the declarations and enumeration of 1725.

There is no doubt that we are in Roy family territory after passing by the business of **Teknion Roy and Breton**, the the **Ancestral Farm Les Filles du Roy**. We are not talking about the founding mothers of the Quebec nation, but about the three daughters of Céline Laflamme and Jocelyn Roy. They continue the mission of the family farm which includes a maple grove, blue berry field and vegetable crops. Andrée-Eve, Marie-Eve and Sophie Roy are direct 11th generation descendants of Nicolas and Jeanne by way of their son Noël and their grandson Noël.

As we continue to drive on 132, we find past the Domaine Pointe-de-Saint-Vallier, a farm framed by road 132, the chemin du Rocher and the chemin des Roy. At 571, chemin du Rocher we are in what we can call the Bazin-Roy fief. This farm owned by Stéphane Roy, is located on a part of the land once owned by Guillaume Leroy and his wife Angélique Bazin in 1689. This land was adjacent to that of Pierre Bazin, Angélique's father.

In 1698, it passed into the hands of Guillaume's younger brother, Jean-Baptiste, who married another Bazin daughter, Marguerite, on November 17 of that year. At the time, Guillaume already had land in Beaumont, where he finally settled with his family in 1700.

After the death of his father-in-law Pierre Bazin, on September 23, 1699, followed by the passing of his wife Marguerite on October 5, Jean-Baptiste became the owner of the land in question with his second wife, Claire Cadrin in 1701.

On January 25, 1725, Jean-Baptiste's nephew became his neighbour. Jean (Baptiste) LeRoy, son of his brother Noël and his second wife Marguerite Rabouin, married that day Angélique Cassé (Lacasse), daughter of Joseph Cassé, and another daughter of Pierre Bazin; Marie. The marriage contract stipulates that the father of the bride gives the young couple a parcel of land of two arpents by 40 in depth (Marie Bazin's share of the inheritance?) Furthermore, the bride's grandmother, Marguerite Leblanc, known as "the widow Bazin" gives them another arpent by 40 in depth that is attached to her own property.

To give you an idea of the close ties that united these families, I point out that Joseph Cassé is the brother-in-law of Noël LeRoy. Noël's first wife Jeanne-Thérèse was his sister.

At the end of the chemin des Roy, road 132 becomes Boulevard Blais Ouest and we arrive in Berthier.

