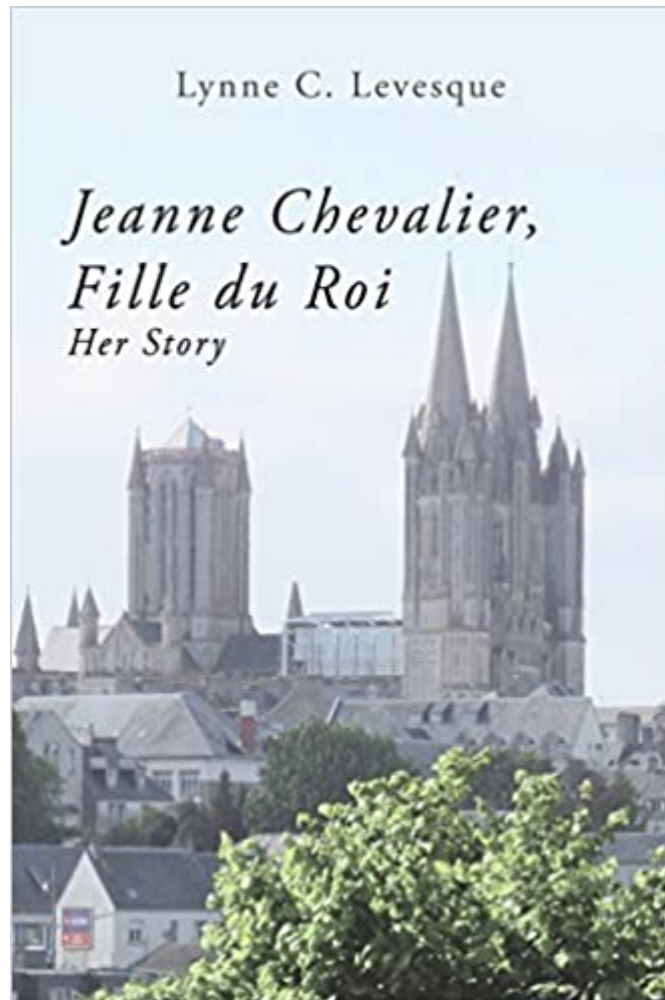




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# Jeanne Chevalier, Fille Du Roi: Her Story



## Synopsis

In June, 1671 Jeanne Marguerite Chevalier left France to find a new life in Quebec, as a Fille du Roi (King's Daughter) sent by Louis XIV to help settle the new colony. Arriving two months later, this remarkable woman went on to marry and then outlive three husbands and survive the births of nine children and the deaths of six of them. Impoverished by her first husband, she worked with the second to establish one of the largest landholdings in the region. Her marriage with the third one brought an almost fairy tale ending to her life. Despite an incredible number of challenges, dangers and sorrows, Jeanne was able to create a life for herself and her children that she could never have imagined if she had stayed in France. When she died at the age of 73 in 1716, she left a long line of descendants, including Rene Levesque, the 23rd Premier of Quebec, the American writer Jack Kerouac, and the author's father. Written by her eighth great grand-daughter 300 years after her death, Jeanne Chevalier Fille du Roi is an engaging story, full of facts, mysteries and unknowns. It's a story of endings and new beginnings. And it's a story of much courage, stamina, will and many choices. Factually and contextually based, it also provides glimpses into everyday life in 17th and early 18th century Quebec as well as many insights into the creation of the unique Quebecois heritage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lynne's life has been a constant process of embarking on new ventures and enjoying many learning experiences. Although half French Canadian by heritage, she was raised in a non-French speaking home. She went off to college with four years of high school French, but decided to start a new language. Her degree in Russian Studies from Mount Holyoke College led her into teaching

and then to graduate school at Rutgers University where she earned a Master's degree in Modern European History. Her love for history, particularly women in history, and for the French and Russian languages was, however, put on the back-burner by a 17-year business career (MBA from University of California at Berkeley) at two very large financial institutions. In the middle of that career, a curious chain of events significantly readjusted the course of her life for the next 20 years when she rather serendipitously fell into the study of creativity. After completing her Ed.D at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, she let her passion for the topics of creativity and leadership drive her departure from her banking career toward independent consulting and adjunct teaching positions in local colleges and universities. As part of that consulting practice, Lynne published *Breakthrough Creativity: Achieving Top Performance Using the Eight Creative Talents* (2001) and *The Breakthrough Creativity Profile and Facilitator's Guide* (2003, 2012), along with several articles on the topics of creativity and leadership. While still consulting, she spent 5-1/2 years as a senior researcher at Harvard Business School, where she co-authored multiple cases and articles on critical leadership challenges. Continuing to pursue more writing projects, she helped a dear friend write and publish his memoir *You Can't Win If You Don't Play* (2012). Another set of unexpected occurrences led her to start on a different path while still working as a consultant. For over a decade now, she has been researching the history of her eighth great grandmother. The journey to uncover her ancestor's story has caused Lynne to come almost full circle back to her French Canadian roots and her love of history, although now more enriched by life's twists and turns. And after teaching, writing and talking about creativity for so many years and urging others to unleash their creative talents, she has now begun to access in depth all of her own talents as a dedicated writer of non-fiction.

I was working on the genealogy for a client who was unaware of their family history in Canada. This client had no idea that their ancestors were among the very first settlers in Canada, as well as on the first three boats of "filles du roi", the soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment, and the Grand Recrue. I was looking for something relevant to this research, and found this book, and I had to comment on it because it is not only interesting, but also a great resource. Although it is essentially a family research book, it is also a really good contribution to the body of historical research in Québec of one of the earliest settlers. The author is very thorough and I was really impressed with the way the story flowed through different historical periods, pulling everything together with Jeanne's final marriage. There is an outstanding bibliography at the end of the book, as well, and lots of comments throughout. Only one point I might disagree with and that is the physical state of

the girls when they arrived in Quebec. In several contemporary accounts I read, the filles du roi were in terrible condition after their voyage, their clothes were a mess (moldy and ragged), and many of the girls suffered from scurvy and dysentery, and were essentially whisked away to a nearby convent to recover. I know that the popular version and one used for reenactors (and artists) of the landing is that the girls were tidy when presented to the Intendent and assembled powers, and I can only think it was after they'd recovered. A painting by Eleanor Fortescue-Brickdale is fanciful; the girls are wearing silk gowns and lace, the men in full wigs and justaucorps -- the reality is that the girls were dressed for the most part very modestly with doubled bonnets and taffeta neckerchiefs and the men were overall a pretty rough lot of coureurs des bois and voyageurs. According to historical records, the women from at least the first three boats that arrived needed time to recover before being presented. Several of the women were in such a bad way that they died after disembarking; several died during the voyage from disease. I hope that by 1671 when Jeanne arrived that traveling conditions were much improved, however with the terrible summer conditions the first groups traveled under, one can only hope that future groups traveled earlier than June and July. A well-written history of Jeanne Chevalier, interesting for the average reader and also a great adjunct for people interested in this era.

I just finished reading Lynne's book on Jeanne Chevalier. With minimal concrete resources, other than genealogical and transaction data for the most part, Lynne managed to build a story within the context of its time and make it a learning experience with a bit of conjecture about the personal nature of Jeanne's existence included. Weaving the history of France and New France into the details provided a plausible basis for Lynne's musings on the possibilities surrounding the life of her ancestor and the lives of her husbands. For my part, I do so wish that there were more pieces of a personal nature to uncover. Perhaps there are, but as Lynne notes in the Epilogue, they are hard to trace. The story does provide enough of a teaser to want to know more...and I'm not even related to Jeanne! I can now understand why Lynne was so determined to leave this legacy for her family for generations to come.

This is an interesting book. The format is unique. I thought of it as fiction based on fact. Sketches of background info was pulled together into a story format. I have an interest consider I have 3 family ancestors who were Fille du Roi.

I loved your book because I am 100 percent French Canadian although I was born in

Massachusetts. I started doing genealogy when a professor asked me in a class, "where did you come from". I had no idea until he told us to go to the family history library and do a report. I was hooked. That was in 1994 and I'm still interested in researching my roots and helping others find theirs. I'm descended from 29 filled during roi and can trace my lines back to Louis Hebert, Zacharie Cloutier and many others. Loved the book!!

great book

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