

**Enrolment Officer's Responding Submission in response to an Initial  
Submission by an Interested Party:**

**Report Regarding Ancestor  
Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean  
(RIN #11565)  
dated March 30, 2023**



**Joan Holmes, Enrolment Officer for AOO  
Prepared for the Algonquin Tribunal  
March 2023**

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## **1. Introduction**

The Tribunal received a responding submission from one individual in support of removing the ancestor Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (RIN #11565) from the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors. The submission is posted on the Tribunal's website at:

<https://www.tanakiwin.com/tribunal/thomas-lagarde-dit-st-jean/>

It appears on the website as:

- Document 4 – Submission by V. Coburn regarding Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean. It was dated February 22, 2023.

Dr. Coburn's submission is responding to the Enrolment Officer's Report which appears on the Tribunal website as:

- Document 1 – Enrolment Officer's Report Regarding Ancestor Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean. It was dated December 2022.

This reply report addresses the content of the responding submission that is relevant to the Tribunal's inquiry, which is to determine whether Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (RIN #11565) is identified in a historic record or document dated on or before December 31, 1921, in such a way that it would be reasonable to conclude that he was considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person. A "sibling of such a person" means a person with a common Algonquin parent.

Dr. Coburn's responding submission refers to some documents and facts that are contained in the Enrolment Officer's Report (posted as Document 1). As noted in the Enrolment Officer's Report, archival documents recording a family's life events have been assigned ALG document numbers; RIN numbers have been assigned to individuals discussed in the report to aid in identification. RIN numbers and/or page numbers of existing reports will be referenced in this report for ease of discussion. Additional documents supplied by the Respondent are attached to his submission.

## **2. Document #4 – Responding Submission by V. Coburn**

The Respondent V. Coburn submitted a report to the Tribunal in support of removing Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (RIN #11565) from the Schedule of Ancestors. The submission was sent under cover of a letter dated February 22, 2023 and comprised a 179-page report including genealogical charts, explanatory text, and supporting genealogical documents.

This reply report comments on the content of the submission that is within the purview of the Enrolment Officer to address and is germane to the issues before the Tribunal. The issues raised by the respondent are organized into sub-sections. Some individuals discussed by the respondent are identified by RIN numbers for ease of identification.

**2.1 Respondent's Introduction, Proposed Enrolment Criteria, History of Enrolment**

(Respondent's sections 01 – 06, pages 1 to 7)

This reply does not comment on sections of the submission that pertain to the history of enrolment, findings of previous hearings, research methodology, the application of oral history and circumstantial evidence, or the reliability of DNA analysis. Nor does it comment on information submitted or conclusions drawn by the Respondent regarding descendants of the subject ancestors or family lines intermarried with them as these are not issues before the Tribunal. Whether or not individuals can be properly enrolled under the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria (PBC) will be determined after the Tribunal has concluded their work and all protests and appeals have been adjudicated.

**2.2 Genealogical Chart for Thomas St. Jean dit Lagarde**

The Respondent provides a genealogical chart (family tree) for Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (1801-1853, RIN #11565) documenting six to seven generations of ancestors on both his maternal and paternal lines. The genealogical charts provided in the Enrolment Officer's Report (posted as Document 1) in Appendix 1b (paternal line) and Appendix 1c (maternal line) include some additional individuals. The findings depicted on these two charts are discussed in section E.2 on pages 7 to 8 of the Enrolment Officers Report. As indicated in the Enrolment Officer's Report, the Enrolment Officer was not able to identify any Algonquins as part of Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean's genealogy.

No Algonquin ancestors were identified in the genealogical charts provided by the Respondent.

**2.3 Genealogical Records for Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (Respondent's sections 06 to 08, pages 4 to 10)**

The documents cited by the Respondent to demonstrate the ancestors of the subject ancestor are consistent with the material provided with the Enrolment Officer's Report (posted as Document 1) and discussed in sections E.1 to E.3, pages 5 to 13.

The Respondent briefly addressed the issue of a document dating from 1845 and referencing Father Brunet on pages 3 and 10. On page 3, the Respondent characterized the document as the “purported correspondence between Father Brunet to the Bishop of Montreal in which he relates having secretly stayed in Allumette Island on 1845-06-23 in the home of a person named Thomas St-Jean dit Lagarde who self-identified to him no less as being of “Algonquin” descent and who further told him that he was a fugitive from the Law condemned to death under the authority of the English in Montréal.”

The Enrolment Officer's Report (posted as Document 1) discussed this document in section E.5 pages 14 to 17 and provided background on Father Brunet in section E.6. In summary, the Enrolment Officer states that despite contacting three different religious archives the source of the letter has not been verified. In the letter, Father Brunet described Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean as descended from Algonquins. It is unknown upon what basis he made that statement.

Detailed analysis of the content of the letter notes that, aside from legibility issues, much of the meaning is unclear and/or inconsistent with verifiable facts.

On page 10, the Respondent commented, "...his [Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean's] self-identity as an Algonquin in 1845 to Father Brunet, his descendants' oral family history and all the circumstantial evidence that they submitted...are simply not supported by his genealogy."

#### ***2.4 Citizenship Customs and UNDRIP (Respondent's section 9, pages 10 to 11)***

This reply report does not comment on this section as it is not directly germane to the issue before the Tribunal which is to determine whether Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (RIN #11565) is identified in a historic record or document dated on or before December 31, 1921, in such a way that it would be reasonable to conclude that he was considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person. A "sibling of such a person" means a person with a common Algonquin parent.

#### ***2.5 Conclusions (Respondent's section 10, pages 11 to 12)***

Based on evidence supplied in his submission, the Respondent concludes that Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (RIN #11565) is descended from Europeans and is not of Algonquin descent. The Enrolment Officer does not disagree with this conclusion.

#### ***2.6 Appendix A Clouthier and other related families (Respondent's pages 116 to 133)***

The Enrolment Officer does not comment on information submitted regarding a family line intermarried with the subject ancestor's descendants as this family line is not an issue before the Tribunal. Whether or not individuals can be properly enrolled under the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria (PBC) will be determined after the Tribunal has concluded their work and all protests and appeals have been adjudicated.

#### ***2.7 Appendix B Turcotte and other related families (Respondent's pages 134 to 153)***

The Enrolment Officer does not comment on information submitted regarding a family line intermarried with the subject ancestor's descendants as this family line is not an issue before the Tribunal. Whether or not individuals can be properly enrolled under the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria (PBC) will be determined after the Tribunal has concluded their work and all protests and appeals have been adjudicated.

#### ***2.8 Appendix C Mielke and other related families (Respondent's pages 154 to 160)***

The Enrolment Officer does not comment on information submitted regarding a family line intermarried with the subject ancestor's descendants as this family line is not an issue before the Tribunal. Whether or not individuals can be properly enrolled under the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria (PBC) will be determined after the Tribunal has concluded their work and all protests and appeals have been adjudicated.