

THE FRIGONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIGON, FRIGONE, FREGO, FREEGO, FREGOE, FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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SENLIS - COULD IT BE THE CRADLE OF THE FRIGONS ? I - Pierre Frigon, alderman in Senlis Pierre Frigon (4)

Research undertaken by Lucie Frigon (56) has shown that there were Frigons in France. Among the reports published in the newsletter The Frigons¹, one in particular has intrigued me for several years. It is the report of her research on Pierre Frigon, inhabitant of the town of Senlis, located in Picardy about sixty kilometers north west of Paris in the department of Oise.

This Pierre Frigon lived in the mythical Middle Ages. This is bound to arouse curiosity! Is Senlis the cradle of the Frigons? At the moment, there is no reason to believe this, but it is interesting to dwell on this part of the country that sheltered some members of the Frigon family. In pursuing Lucie's search, I hope to bring some useful elements.

Senlis, a royal city, has been famous since the Mid-

dle Ages. Jean de Jandun, master of Arts, wrote a description of the city in



language: « In the midst of tall trees that are sparse enough to reveal the sky and under which we gather strawberries, blackberries, filberts, rises the town; beautiful orchards loaded with fruits, meadows covered with flowers where runs the water of a limpid spring separate the houses from the forest; wines are exquisite, fish is abundant; the simple inhabitants feed on milk, butter and cheese, no spicy sauces. Houses are not of plaster, but of stone, a hard and resistant stone; cellars are deep and very fresh; the town is paved, clean and without mud and moderate winds prevail. Only one inconvenience: frogs make such noise that they prevent from sleeping the brave people who inhabit

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¹ Association of Frigon Families, *The Frigons*, vol. 21, no. 2, Spring-Summer 2014, p. 111.

2017- Family gathering and lunch at Ste-Geneviève de Batiscan Saturday, August 19 http://www.frigon.org List of activities and Registration form enclosed

SUMMARY

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IMPRIMÉ - PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

For the due date of your membership/subscription renewal, Please check the expiration date on the above mailing label. (Continued from page 57) the banks of the Nonette \gg^2 .



Six centuries later, during the 1920s, the ancient Gallo-Roman city was described with the same enthusiasm: "And since the 14th century, Senlis has not changed. It is always the same forest which encloses it on all sides, the same flowering orchards through which the Nonette passes, the same tortuous and deserted streets lined with old stone houses; the vine has disappeared, the great cellars no longer shelter these wines which the old chronicler declared exquisite" ³. In the 21st century, Senlis is still a country town in the heart of the regional natural park Oise-Pays de France.



Hugh Capet, king of France.

Source : https://fr.wikipedia.org/ wiki/Liste_des_ monarques_de_France#/ media/File: Hugues_Ier_Capet.jpg

« A rich and flourish-

ing city in the Gallo-Roman period, Senlis was one of the favorite places of kings and emperors under the Merovingians et the Carolingians⁴, for whom the great forests on the banks of the Oise became the center of their hunting grounds. It was at the royal castle that, following the death of the last Carolingian in the Chantilly forest, Archbishop Adalberon had Hugh Capet »⁵ elected king of France; Capet reigned between 987 and 996 and his lineage, the Capetians lasted until the 1330s. Capet is crowned king at the cathedral of Noyon located about sixty kilometers north of Senlis. The kings of France will stay at the Royal Castle of Senlis more or less assiduously for more than six hundred years, until Louis XIII (1610-1643)⁶. The lands of Senlis belonged to the king, who inherited them from the ancient counts.

This royal land will be coveted and will have to defend itself several times against attacks of pretenders to the throne or of English invaders. Thus the city, like all those of that period, was fortified. Inside the fortress, built on the site of an ancient Roman palace, is the Royal Castle. It will be completely rebuilt under Charles the Fat, around 1130. At the French Revolution, it falls into ruins. The surviving buildings are mostly demolished in 1812 and 1861. Nowadays, only the ruins illustrated by the attached photos remain.





https:// commons.wikimedia.org/ wiki/File:Senlis_general_view_003.jpg



View of the castle from the other side. Source :

http://maintenanceet-

batiment.blogspot. ca/2015/05/fichehistorique-leschateaux-le.html

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²Marcel Aubert, *Senlis*, Paris, 1922, Henri Laurens editor, p. 5-6. <u>https://archive.org/details/senlisau00aube</u>.
See also Jean Babelon, *Senlis-Le Valois Chantilly*, Paris, 1949, Éditions Alpina, p. 13. Available at the BAnQ, Montréal.
See also a more detailed description of Senlis in M. C. Vatin, *Senlis, récits historiques*, Senlis, 1876, Ernest Payen, Printer. p. 121 - 126. <u>http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k852336m</u>
³Aubert, p. 6.

⁴See the list of the kings of France, <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_French_monarchs</u>
⁵ Aubert, p. 6. See also Jean Babelon, *Senlis-Le Valois Chantilly*, Paris, 1949, Éditions Alpina, p. 8.
⁶Babelon, p. 19

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT Gérald Frigon (116)



Wink to our ancestors...

As he proceeded up the St. Lawrence River in 1611, Champlain wrote in front

of Mount Royal: "This place is one of the most beautiful on this river." At the junction of two rivers frequented by the fur traders, what is now called "Old Montreal" was the cradle of the city.

Louis Frigon (04111) lived here in 1747 and until his death in 1761, he owned a fur trade business "dealing with both the French and the Indians" as written by the notary Adhémar in a notarial act dated June 8, 1748. Louis made his first excursion as a *voyageur* (fur trader) in 1738. After the opening of his business, he hired, over a 9 year period, up to 6 *voyageurs* for trading in the *Pays d' En-Haut.* We do not know the cause of his death at the age of 44. This sector of Old Montreal (Pointe-à-Callière) was surrounded by fortifications until 1804 and some of the streets, such as Notre-Dame and Saint-Sulpice, have not changed route since the first plans of the village in 1672. This sector makes the link between the old and the modern era following the program of restoration undertaken in 1962. This year, the Musée Pointe-à-Callière gives public access to the vestiges of the old fort and to the first collector sewer built after the cholera epidemic in 1849.

It is always moving to stroll through Old Montreal, where some of our ancestors set foot. There will be lots of opportunities to enjoy Old Montreal this year with the celebrations of the 375th anniversary of the city.

SENLIS - COULD IT BE THE CRADLE OF THE FRIGONS ?

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Among the inhabitants of the city, one person interests us to the highest point. It is **Pierre Frigon** who was elected alderman in 1388-1389, in 1398, in 1401-1402-1403 and in 1407-1408⁷. But before being alderman of Senlis, he has been elected to the position of Watch of the "Chatel" (castle of the king) in1384.

"The Watch service was not strictly speaking the municipal police, but its role was rather military. On several occasions, however, the watchmen assisted in internal security: warnings in case of fire, arrest of vagabonds or thieves. As early as 1384, we witness an election for the various watches of the city which gives us an insight into their structure and location. It seems that the watch was not only a surveillance post, but that at the same time the various watch services constituted districts for tax collection purposes ". Thus, the minutes of the Municipal Assembly of December 11, 1384, read as follows: "Assembly made in the house of the town of Senlis, on the 11th day of December, 1384, where it was said and declared that it was necessary to revise the *taille* for the fortress [tax for the repair of the fortress] and that officers were to be elected from each watch to ensure the revision; the following were elected:[...] Guillaume Buffet, **Pierre Frigon** for the "Chatel" [...]⁸.». " Thus, Pierre Frigon was entrusted with the collection of taxes for the "watch" of the royal castle. This text also tells us that he lived near the castle. More about the tax later.

Coat of arms of Senlis.

Source : http://www.bmsenlis.com/ sitebmsenlis/galerie/ picture.php?/1099/category/202



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⁷Comité archéologique de Senlis, *Comptes rendus et mémoires, 4^e série, tome 5, années 1879*, Senlis, Imprimerie Ernest Payen, 1880. p. 88 à 92. <u>http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k486449d</u>

⁸Comité archéologique de Senlis, *Comptes rendus et mémoires, 4^e série, tome 4, années 1900-1901*, Senlis, Imprimerie Eugène Dufresne, 1902. p. 117-118. <u>http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k486467b</u>

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The town was governed by the inhabitants assembled in general or special meetings and by officers appointed at these assemblies. In 1388, the assembly elected as alderman Pierre Frigon, Guillaume le Chaussier and Pierre Normant, the elder. The fourth alderman is not indicated in our source. This function "was a very important position, which gave great consideration to those who were appointed. When they were in office, they were called Messeigneurs; when they left, they had a place of honour in the general assemblies, and they were all their lives exempt from onerous duties, such as land allocation, tax collection, etc. "[...] The election of the *attournés* [aldermen] was held in a general assembly every year on the Sunday following the Saint-Jean-Baptiste ..."⁹. They could be re-elected indefinitely at the will of the inhabitants of Senlis. They were bound to accept when they were elected. In the time of Pierre Frigon, there were four aldermen who took the oath to effectively fulfill their task for a meager remuneration. These public assemblies attracted no more than 400 to 500 people despite being compulsory for all.

Being an alderman was not without risk. Charged with raising taxes [taille] for the king, they were sometimes at the mercy of the powerful. "In April 1385, aldermen were put in prison for futile reasons. An assembly had refused to exempt from the payment of taxes Guillaume Queraille, financial officer in Senlis; to retaliate, the following year, the officer imprisoned alderman for a sum of fiftyseven pounds and eight sols, due to him on the payment of a thousand francs imposed by the king on the town of Senlis. This is why the alderman insisted with the greatest energy that the assemblies approve the subsidies necessary to the service of the king »¹⁰.

ways, on the agenda and on February 28 "at the order of the bailiff¹¹, a general assembly ordered the repair of the fortress and voted the raising of a tax to cover the expense". In order to assist the aldermen in this task, four people were elected to manage the renovation: Guiot Thiboust, Pierre Frigon, Simon Courtin and Oudart Choron. Seven people were also elected to collect the tax (taille): Pierre Sorin for the Saint-Vincent district, Jehab de Roissy for the market, Arnaut du Mouton for the Château, Oudin Le Borgne for the Place aux Charrons, Robin the Marie for the Parisie street, Guiot le Convers for Bellon street and Pierre Truppel for Vitel "¹². The latter are under the jurisdiction of the four aldermen and the four persons responsible for repairing the fortress.



A sergeant watches the locals who come to pay the taille. We see that the scene is non realistic and serves mainly to highlight the wealth and power of the lord, and the submission of the peasants

Source : Maxime Valère, Faits et dits mémorables, France, XVe siècle, Paris, BnF, département des Manuscrits Français, 6182 fol. 89v. http://classes.bnf.fr/ema/audio/grands/c013.htm

In 1400, the repair of the fortifications was, as al-

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⁹Jules Flammermont, Histoire des institutions municipales de Senlis, Paris, 1881, F. Vieweg, libraire-éditeur, p. 66-67. http:// gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k209266t.r=.langFR

Idem, p. 72, 219-220.

¹¹Bailli : Representative of the king or of a lord, in a district where he exercises by delegation an administrative and military power, and especially judicial powers, either in first instance or as judge of appeal of the provosts or the high-justiciers. Baillis and seneschals; Bailli of village.

Prévôt : In the Middle Ages, domanial agent of the king or a lord, exercising financial, judicial, administrative and military powers. (It was in the 11th century that the royal domain was divided into prévôtés.)

Sénéchal : Grand officer of the royal palace at the time of the Merovingians, the Carolingians and the first Capetians. (This position was abolished in 1191). ¹²Flammermont, p. 225-226.

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On June 26, 1401, Pierre Frigon was re-elected. And again in 1402, 1403 and 1407. This last year, the other aldermen are Alain Joncourt, Guiart Thobout, as well as Guillaume Quiéraille, the same one who imprisoned the aldermen in 1385. It should be noted that for the year 1407, King Charles VI "invalidates an appeal from the inhabitants of Senlis about the suppression of the salt granary. On February 3, 1408, the granary is restored; Charles VI accepts to supply Senlis [in salt]. On May 21, 1413, the salt loft was transferred to Creil¹³, a town some fifteen kilometers north-west of Senlis. We will have more on the salt loft later.

In June 1408, Pierre Frigon was elected along with Guiart Thibout, Master Jehan de Beaufort and Jehan le Charon, the young. At the meeting of the following December 9, a coup d'éclat! The assembly refuses to vote the tax for the repairs of the fortifications if not given a detailed account of the expenses of the financial officers « dépensiers »¹⁴ of the city that had been late for several years. "Jean de Beaufort, a man of great merit, who was later advocate of the king at the *bailliage* of Senlis, and, at the siege of 1418, was one of the six hostages handed over by the city to the constable D'Armagnac, insisted for a long time and energetically on getting the money to repair the fortifications. As the inhabitants of the city refused to vote in favour of the raising of a tax, Jean de Beaufort resigned and his colleagues imitated him. In the presence of all the inhabitants attending the assembly, they dismissed their charges and declared that they would no longer deal with the affairs of the town; they put the keys of the city on the desk "¹⁵. It is the last year that the name of Pierre Frigon is mentioned in relation with the management of the city.

Thus, over a period of almost twenty-five years (1384-1408), at one time or another, Pierre Frigon is active in the service of the community. It is difficult to estimate precisely the average life expectancy in the Middle Ages, but 25 to 30 years seems to be a consensus. Given what we know of Pierre Frigon, he was probably "very old" when he was

last elected in 1408 which may explain why he will no longer be elected.

The outgoing aldermen were to be accountable to the inhabitants who had elected them. "Upon exiting the charge, the alderman gave a written account to the assembled inhabitants, on the state in which they left the city and handed this document to their successors. The most complete reports included a list of the assets of the city, the progress made, the inventory of arms and supplies, the state of pensions and wages of municipal officers, the declaration of the all of the city income, finally the state of the debts owed by the city and the account of the clergy for the fortifications"¹⁶.

In Senlis, as in other cities of the Middle Ages, over the years, administrative posts have been created that have continued to this day. There is an officer (*dépensier*) who is responsible for managing the city's expenses, accounting for taxes, expenses, etc. (Finance Department). There is a "Clerk of the city" charged with the paperwork of the aldermen, the minutes, and so on (Clerk of the City). In the 15th century, "we often see in the assemblies honorable men, called councilors of the city. They were lawyers chosen in general assembly and charged with directing the contentious affairs of the city "¹⁷ (Litigation Department), the "Sergeant of the aldermen", also elected at a general assembly, is responsible for maintaining order in the city and performing the function of bailiff (police service). There is also a "Sergeant of the *fiens*" responsible for the cleanliness of the city (road service). And so on.

In the next issue : The salt loft, the Watch and war.

¹³Comité archéologique de Senlis, *Comptes rendus et mémoires, 4^e série, tome 5, années 1879*, Senlis, Imprimerie Ernest Payen, 1880. p. 390

¹⁴Dépensier : person responsible for the expenditure of the city.

¹⁵*Flammermont*, p. 72-73.

¹⁶*Idem*, p. 73-74.

¹⁷*Idem*, *p*. 76.

SHIPS BOUND FOR QUEBEC IN 1665

Pierre Frigon (4)



Source : <u>http://racinesrochelaises.free.fr/cat.html</u>

Editor's note: A detailed document on this research can be found on the website of the Association des familles Frigon under the heading "Archives et Recherches", sub-heading "Archives", section "Documents de Pierre Frigon".

1665 was an important year because it marked the arrival of the Carignan-Salières regiment whose mission was to subdue the Iroquois. The fleet was commanded by Alexandre de Prouville de Tracy, representative of the Viceroy of New France, Godefroy d'Estrades.

The fleet consists of 12 ships. Six of them carry troops: L'Aigle d'Or, Le Brézé, La Justice, La Paix, Le Saint-Sébastien, Le Vieux Siméon. One ship transports the supplies of the army: Le Jardin de Hollande. Three transport civilians and supplies for the colony: Le Cat de Hollande, La Marie-Thérèse, Le Saint-Jean-Baptiste. We have no information on the last two ships, L'Orange and Le Saint-Philippe, but presumably they had to be responsible for supplying the colony.

G. Debien¹² identifies 73 *engagés* (hired labourers) who had signed, in La Rochelle, a three year contract, and who made the crossing aboard Le Cat de Hollande. Guy Perron¹⁹ identifies 71 such labourers and specifies that 68 were enlisted by Pierre Gaigneur, a merchant from La Rochelle. It is the only ship that came in 1665 for which we have the passengers list. The name of François Frigon does

not appear in the list of entries drawn up by Debien and reviewed by Perron. He also mentions that there would have been 180 passengers on Le Cat, including the crew, the *engagés*, and other passengers. Is the list complete? The future may say so. At least one other ship brought in labourers, Le Saint-Jean-Baptiste from Dieppe with 130 "thirtysix months" *engagés* on board.

The crossing was a long and difficult one that year. Marie de l'Incarnation declares in her letter of October 29 to her son, p. 7581: "The twelve ships which have arrived thought they were to perish. " Jean-Talon mentions that there were up to 80 sick passengers on the vessel that transported him (Le Saint-Sébastien) from Dieppe on May 24 and arrived in Quebec City on September 12 or 19. A journey of 117 days according to Jean Talon. La Justice arrives in Quebec City with more than 100 sick people, many of whom will die in the hospital or in the church². These two warships were carrying soldiers. For their part, the engagés transported on Le Cat de Hollande and Le Saint-Jean-Baptiste do not seem to have suffered too much from the ocean crossing. Two passengers died on Le Cat and on Le Saint-Jean-Baptiste, all passengers are declared healthy upon their arrival.

The return to France was very costly for the king. La Paix, the flagship of the fleet, left again on September 19 or 20 with L'Aigle D'Or. On the 26th, La Paix was wrecked near Matane, in front of the Pelée mountains (former name of the Laurentians which rise on the north shore of the St. Lawrence in front of Matane). At least one sailor drowns. Lieutenant Ethier Guillon and seven sailors embarked on the ship's rowboat to seek help in Quebec City. The crew arrived on October 11. Tracy ordered the unfortunate survivors to be brought back to France or at least be provided with livehood assets. Le Jardin de Hollande, La Justice and Le Saint-Sébastien leave on October 14. The Saint-Sébastien rescues the crew of La Paix and takes them back to France. During the summer of 1666,

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¹Oury, Dom Guy, monk in Solesmes, *Marie de l'Incarnation, ursuline (1599-1672), Correspondance*, Abbaye Saint-Pierre, Solesmes, 1971, p. 758.

² Journal des Jésuites, published according the original manuscript kept in the archives of the Séminaire de Québec, by MM les abbés Laverdière et Casgrain, Québec, Léger Rousseau, Imprimeur, Éditeur, 7 rue Buade, 1871, 438 pages, p. . <u>https://</u> archive.org/details/lejournaldesjsu00canagoog

Note from the editor: In the Winter 2012 bulletin LES FRIGON (volume 19-number 1 pages 54 and 55), the Did you know that? section includes an article on Master Corporal Simon R. Frigon. At the time, we ignored his ancestral lineage. You can now find it in our website frigon.org under the search tab (Simon R. Frigon). Here is a summary of the article and the lineage of Simon R. Frigon with the collaboration of Suzanne and Céline Frigon of Mont-Joli.

Medal of military Valour



Master Corporal Simon Frigon and David Lloyd Johnston, Lieutenant Governor of Canada

As a section commander in Afghanistan, Master Corporal Frigon distinguished himself during two separate enemy engagements on May 7 and 20, 2009. In both instances his section was trapped and isolated during an ambush. Yet his unwavering composure and willingness to expose himself to enemy fire inspired his soldiers and instilled them with confidence. With little regard for his personal safety, he was able to precisely define the enemy location, defeat the initial attack and lead his section's fighting withdrawal. Master Corporal Frigon's courageous front line leadership and tactical acumen were critical to repelling the enemy without taking casualties.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES François and Marie-Claude Chamois Jean-François and Gertrude Peros Antoine and Marie-Anne Trottier Augustin and Marie Lefebvre Mugustin and Marie Trudel Joseph and Aurélie Vallée Onésime and Jeanne Benoit Wilfrid and Lucina Brulé Aristide and Cécile Lepage René and Désirée Bernadette Morin Simon and Sonia Ducharme

Simon Frigon (BK05123) is from the lineage Louis-Augustin, branch of Joseph.

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THE NEWSLETTER TEAM <u>bulletin@frigon.org</u> Legal deposit - 2nd Newsletter2017 Library and Archives Canada

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The texts published in the newsletter are the sole responsibility of the authors

SHIPS BOUND FOR QUEBEC IN 1665

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Talon sent a small boat to recover "some riggings³ and a fair amount of pelts".

To make matters worse, Le Brézé, the flagship of

the expedition, a large warship of 800 to 900 tons, 54 guns and 350 crewmen, sinks in turn when arriving in France at the entrance of the river Charente. In 1677, it was still on the spot and served as a beacon⁴.

³Agrès : voiles, cordages et toutes choses nécessaires pour les manœuvres d'un vaisseau pour le mettre en état d'aller en mer, dictionnaire Furetière, 1684.

⁴- Demerliac, Alain, La marine de Louis XIV, nomenclature des vaisseaux du Roi-Soleil de 1661 à 1715, Éditions Omega, Nice, 1992, 292 p., Section « État de la Marine... », p. 5.



2017 ACTIVITIES

May 20, 21, 22: Encounters in NewFrance produced by the Musée Pointe-à-Callières. Kiosk, cultural entertainment by the King's daughters (Les Filles du Roy) and concert by the choir Chœur des Filles du Roy. For more information: pacmusee.gc.ca/en/

May 20: The King's daughters (Les Filles du Roy) will be present at the popular celebration to be held at the Pointede-L'Ile. For more information, contact: jpemond@sympatico.ca

June 11: The King's daughters (Les Filles du Roy) will participate in the celebrations of the 375^eth anniversary in Sorel-Tracy; General Assembly of the SHFR.

June 17-18: Festivities at the Camp des Argoulets in conjunction with the borough of Verdun.

June 24: Festivities with the Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough for the Quebec National Holiday under the responsibility of Société d'animation de la promenade Bellerive. Historical celebration, arrival of the King's daughters (Les Filles du Roy) in Montreal and re-enactment of the wedding ceremony of the Filles du Roy. For more information: promenade-bellerive.squarespace.com and Facebook page of the Working Group of the Société d'histoire des Filles du Roy-375th Montréal.

July 14-5: Festival of the Coureurs des bois; the Filles du Roywill be in Tadoussac.

August 9-13: New France Festival, kiosk, entertainment, performance by the choir Chœur des Filles du Roy August 12: Let's celebrate Montreal together! Activities at the maison Beaudry presented by the Centre de Femmes de Pointe-aux-Trembles, East Montréal.

In September: Conference on les Filles du Roy by Yves Landry, historian and demographer. Date and place to be determined.

INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS, DESCENDANTS AND FRIENDS OF FRIGON FAMI-LIES TO ATTEND A GRAND GATHERING TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2017 AT THE CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE J.-A.-LESIEUR IN SAINTE-GENEVIÈVE-DE-BATISCAN

- Registration in June and July 2017 at a cost of \$20.00 \$ per person aged 12 or more;
- Theme : «country ». Costumes are optional;
- Those who will not be attending the General Meeting at 9:30am can arrive around 11:00 am;
- Diner will be served around noon (sandwiches, salads, coffee, soft drinks);
- Activities for teens Games will be available:
- Musicians, 2 series of charades in the afternoon;

Bring your own alcoolic beverage

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