
Peter Anthony Kincaid

A prosperous early Kincaid line in France.

It appears that early in the history of the Kincaids of Scotland some of the family went to France to serve the French King. This history was lost simply because the Kincaids in France were not easily recognizable. While the pronunciation was similar, the spelling of the surname was rendered in the French tongue differently. The more common French spelling became Quinquet. The root of the line to be discussed here is that of the Quinquets of Montifaut or Montifault. From them came the Quinquets of Rideau, Vieille-Ferté, Chaisne, Choullot, and Belle-Fontaine.

The Quinquets of Montifaut are said to have started with James de Quinquet, who was an archer in the French Scots Guard (archer de la garde écossaise).¹ His reputed son, William, married into the nobility of France and held the estate of Montifaut near Gien, France. His title was Seigneur de Montifaut. A seigneur was the French equivalent to a lord or laird.

William de Quinquet, seigneur de Montifault, is said to have married firstly Madeleine Graffard and secondly Edmée Courtenay.² His marriage to Edmée de Courtenay, daughter of Pierre de Courtenay, Seigneur de Ferté-Loupiere and Perrine de la Roche, was sometime before 1514.³ Pierre de Courtenay was a descendant of Louis 'le Gros' King of the Franks.⁴ It was through Edmée de Courtenay that he acquired the château of Vieille-Ferté.⁵ William and Edmée had sons Georges and Charles.⁶ The latter is said to have carried the line of Seigneurs of Vieille-Ferté.⁷

We know that they were Kincaids because, in addition to the similar sounding surname, the coat of arms given for the family of this William de Quinquet, seigneur de Montifault, was 'De gueules à une Fasce d'Hermines, accompagnée d'un Chasteau d'Argent en pointe, & de deux Estoilles d'or en Chef'⁸ (Gules a fess ermine with a castle argent in base and two mullets in Chief). This is illustrated in the coat of arms of Charles Roger Quinguet, esquire, Seigneur de Choullot found in *Armorial Général du France* prepared for the King by Charles D'Hozier in 1696:

¹ de Villenaut, M. Adolphe. *Nobiliaire de Nivernois: Familles de gentilshommes fixées en nivernois et y étant possession de la noblessé avant 1560, avec notices nivernaises de leurs alliances.* Nevers, 1900. Volume 2, p. 610.

² Ibid.

³ *Annuaire Historique du Département de L'Yonne Recueil de Documents Authentiques Destinés a Former la Statistique Départementale.* 22e Année. Auxerre, 1858. p. 77-78, 84-85, 100.

⁴ *Annuaire Historique du Département de L'Yonne Recueil de Documents Authentiques Destinés a Former la Statistique Départementale.* 23e Année. Auxerre, 1859. p. 116-120.

⁵ *Annuaire Historique du Département de L'Yonne Recueil de Documents Authentiques Destinés a Former la Statistique Départementale.* 22e Année. Auxerre, 1858. p. 84-85, 100.

⁶ *Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F..* Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 36. *Sainte-Marie, Anselme & Ange de Sainte-Rosalie. Histoire Genealogique et Chronologique de la Maison Royale de France, des Pairs, Grand Officiers de la Couronne & de la Maison du Roy: & des anciens Barons du Royaume..* 3rd edition. Paris, 1726. Vol 1, p. 499. *du Bouchet, Monsieur. Histoire Genealogique de la Maison Royale de Courtenay: Iustifiée par plusieurs chartes de diverses eglises, arrests du parlement, titres du roy & de la chambre des comptes, histoires imprimées .* Paris, 1661. p. 273.

⁷ de Villenaut, M. Adolphe. *Nobiliaire de Nivernois: Familles de gentilshommes fixées en nivernois et y étant possession de la noblessé avant 1560, avec notices nivernaises de leurs alliances.* Nevers, 1900. Volume 2, p. 610.

⁸ *du Bouchet, Monsieur. Histoire Genealogique de la Maison Royale de Courtenay: Iustifiée par plusieurs chartes de diverses eglises, arrests du parlement, titres du roy & de la chambre des comptes, histoires imprimées .* Paris, 1661. p. 273.



Coat of arms of
Charles Roger de Quinquet, esquire, Seigneur de Choullot.⁹

The following church record shows that this Charles Roger de Quinquet was the son of Louis de Quinquet, Seigneur de La Vieille-Ferté.

- 1586-1793. - Commune de Sèpeaux. - Baptêmes, mariages et sépultures. - 27 avril 1689, mariage de **Charles Roger de Quinquet, chevalier, seigneur de Choulet, fils de feu Louis de Quinquet, seigneur de La Vieille-Ferté, et de Marie de Polliard**, avec demoiselle **Marie Collas**, veuve de messire Antoine de Montmessier, lieutenant du prévot de Montargis.¹⁰

Compare the above coat of arms with the Kincaid coat of arms found in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle.



Kincaid coat of arms in Edinburgh Castle

The Quinquet coat of arms closely match that of the following for Kincaids in early to mid 16th century records.

- George Kincaid, senior, baillie for the barony of Broughton, had for his seal appended to a document dated 10 January 1505/6: "*A fess ermine between two stars in chief and a castle triple towered in base.*"¹¹
- Edward Kincaid, sheriff-depute of Edinburgh, in 1521, appended to a sasine of lands at Ratho in favor of William Halton his seal bearing "*a fess ermine, between two mullets in chief and a castle*

⁹ Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France. Département des manuscrits, Mss. fr. 32232. Armorial général de France, dressé, en vertu de l'édit de 1696, par Charles D'Hozier. Volume 5 (Bourges): folio 237. Gallica.bnf.fr.

¹⁰ Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 258.

¹¹ Stevenson, John Horne and Marguerite Wood. *Scottish Heraldic Seals*. Glasgow, 1940. Volume II, p. 441.

triple-towered in base".¹²

- In 1542, the *Armorial of David Lindsey of the Mount* gives for **kyncaid of yat ilke**: “*Gules, a fess Ermine between two mullets Argent in chief and a castle triple-towered also Argent in base.*”
- In 1565, *Slains Armorial* for **Kincaid of yt ilk**: “*Gules, a fess Ermine between two mullets Argent in chief and a castle triple-towered Argent masoned Sable in base.*”

Clearly the latter two are basically like that of the Quinquets of France. These are the same families.

The line of Quinquets of Vieille-Ferté for many years continued service for their King in his bodyguard and would obtain prominent posts and honors. The following were some of the family that achieved significant honors.

- **Nicolas de Quinquet, esquire, seigneur de La Vieille-Ferté, was a captain of the regiment of Navarre** on 22 December 1669.¹³
- **Sir Joseph de Quinquet, seigneur de la Vieille-Ferté, was knighted** by 20 November 1694.¹⁴
- **Edme-Charles de Quinquet, seigneur de la Vieille-Ferté et de la Chaisne**, became a Brigadier of the Light Horse of the King's Guard (“ancien brigadier des cheveu-légers de la garde du Roi”) and was given the honour of a Knight of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis.¹⁵ He was the son of Sir Joseph de Quinquet.¹⁶
- **Louis-Joseph de Quinquet de La Vielle-Ferté** (brother of Edme-Charles de Quinquet, seigneur de la Vieille-Ferté et de la Chaisne) was also knighted.¹⁷ As a minor he had a church career planned for him and was made canon of Saint-Étienne d'Auxerre and titled Abbot de la Vieille-Ferté.¹⁸ Upon coming of age he cast this path aside and followed a secular career.
- **Pierre de Quinquet, Seigneur de Belle-Fontaine** (brother of Edme-Charles de Quinquet, seigneur de la Vieille-Ferté et de la Chaisne) was also knighted and became a member of the King's bodyguard (“garde du corps du Roi”).¹⁹ Before the age of majority he was made abbot of Bellefontaine.²⁰ However, upon coming of age, he abandoned this church career and pursued a military one. He was a captain of the King's infantry.²¹
- **Sir Pierre de Quinquet, Seigneur de Belle-Fontaine (son of the above Pierre de Quinquet,**

¹² Laing, Henry. *Supplemental Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals: royal, baronial, ecclesiastical, and municipal: embracing the period from A.D. 1150 to the eighteenth century: taken from original charters and other deeds preserved in public and private archives.* Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1866. p. 97.

¹³ Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 9-10.

¹⁴ Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 20.

¹⁵ Annuaire Historique du Département de L'Yonne Recueil de Documents Authentiques Destinés a Former la Statistique Départementale. 23e Année. Auxerre, 1859. p. 116-120. Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 213-215.

¹⁶ Annuaire Historique du Département de L'Yonne Recueil de Documents Authentiques Destinés a Former la Statistique Départementale. 23e Année. Auxerre, 1859. p. 116-120.

¹⁷ Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 47. Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 132.

¹⁸ Annuaire Historique du Département de L'Yonne Recueil de Documents Authentiques Destinés a Former la Statistique Départementale. 23e Année. Auxerre, 1859. p. 116-120.

¹⁹ Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 227-228.

²⁰ Annuaire Historique du Département de L'Yonne Recueil de Documents Authentiques Destinés a Former la Statistique Départementale. 23e Année. Auxerre, 1859. p. 116-120.

²¹ Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 232.

Seigneur de Belle-Fontaine), was also knighted, became a member of the King's bodyguard ('garde du corps du Roi'), and was made a knight of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis.²² He was a captain of the King's cavalry.²³

This revelation that the early Kincaids in Scotland had close relatives in France casts an interesting light on the history of Campsie Parish. For example, at the north-east end of the Kincaid lands was a mill called French Mill. John Cameron in his Parish of Campsie states the following about it:

The old Mill of Kyncade is, I presume, is what is now termed French Mill. This name is said to have been given to it, either from its having been reconstructed by French Huguenots or from the millstones there used having been brought from France. The French burr stones have a close grit, adapted for grinding, and the best quality is got at Andernack on the Rhine and in Auvergne in France.²⁴

It certainly now seems possible that it was constructed by French builders or modeled after a French style and materials introduced by the family of James de Quinquet. Furthermore, associated with the Kincaids of that ilk in 1480, was William Champnay of Balcorroch.²⁵ His is certainly a French surname. The lands of Champnestoun and Chapestoun seen in old records and on old maps originated with this family. One wonders if there was a family connection that originated in France.

The fact that there was a prominent Kincaid line in France adds a lot of interesting angles to further Kincaid research. There certainly is lots of new material to research which hopefully will shed new light on our Kincaid origins.

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70 Royal Road
Fredericton, NB
Canada
E3A 4V2
7kincaid@nb.sympatico.ca

25 October 2012.

²² Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 232.

²³ Inventaires-Sommaires des Archives Départementales Antérieures a 1790, rédigé par M. Quantin, Archiviste: Yonne.: Archives Civiles. - Séries A à F.. Auxerre, 1868. Vol. 1, p. 232. Roque, Louis de la and Édouard de Barthélemy. Catalogue des gentilshommes en 1789 et des familles anoblies ou titrées depuis le premier empire jusqu'à nos jours 1806-1866 publié d'après les documents officiels. Paris, 1866. Volume II, Orléanis, p. 33.

²⁴ Cameron, John. *The Parish of Campsie*. 1892. Glasgow: Strathkelvin District Libraries and Museums, 1985. p. 183-186.

²⁵ "Protocol Book of Nicol Thounis 1559-1564." Ed. James Beveridge and James Russell. Edinburgh: Printed for the Society by J. Skinner & Company, Ltd., 1927. *Scottish Record Society*. 57: 22.