# Short history and genealogy of the des Ligneris family

- I. Pierre Hoguerel dit des Ligneris (1440-1494), knight, subsequently captain and bailiff of Châteauneuf-en-Thymerais following the recapture of the territory by Charles VII from the English (end of the Hundred Years War). Lord of Lachet (parish of Saulnières), marries Jeanne de Thornes, daughter of Jean de Thornes and Isabeau de Baudiment, in 1467. Pierre des Ligneris' suzerain ist Jean II d'Alençon (1409-1476), spouse of Marie d'Armagnac (1420-1473): As Duke of Alençon, Earl of Perche, he is direct and immediate Baron of Châteauneuf-en-Thymerais; he is succeeded by his son René d'Alençon in 1476 until 1492. Pierre des Ligneris names his two sons after his suzerains. He also possesses land in Anjou and Touraine. His offspring share the succession of their father via a notarial deed dated 22 June 1499.
- Jean des Ligneris (1468-1520), knight, marries Louise de Balu (1470-1537) between 1500 and 1505. She is the daughter of Jean de Balu, equerry, and Catherine des Ormes. Louise was married to Etienne de Prunelé, Lord of la Porte (near Etampes) in 1486, and widowed in 1500. Jean, initially a knight of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem (later the Order of Malta, then based in Rhodes) renounces his vows in order to marry Louise. She brings the domains in Gratteloup-en-Vichères as dowry. The couple live in Saint-Germain-en-Beauce. Louise outlives her second husband by seventeen years and decides to remain faithful to the memory of the two men in her life. She is buried in the chapel of Saint-Germain-le-Désiré, where she is depicted on the tombstone together with her two husbands, Etienne and Jean, in their armour on which their coats of arms are reproduced. Offspring:

**Jeanne des Ligneris** (1507-ca. 1550), marries her cousin **Urbain de Prunelé**, Lord of Guillerval, on 31 July 1555.

**Jacqueline des Ligneris**, marries **Jacques de Gauville**, Lord of Aunay, one of the Hundred Royal Gentlemen-in-Waiting, Grand Seneschal of Normandy, in the 1520s.

- René des Ligneris (1470-1527), see below.
- Marie des Ligneris, marries Hugues de Ternes, equerry, Lord of Hamel, one daughter:
  Jacqueline de Ternes.
- **Jeanne des Ligneris**, marries **Gilles d'Adonville**, equerry, Lord of Auvilliers, two offspring.
- II. René des Ligneris (1470-1527), knight, captain and bailiff of Châteauneuf-en-Thymerais, Lord des Ligneris and de Lachet, marries Jeanne de Champrond, daughter of Jean de Champrond, Lord of Morancez and la Motte d'Ormoy, and Jeanne Chevalier, in 1496 (deceased before 1511). His immediate suzerain is Charles IV, Duke of Alençon (1489-1525), peer of France, Lieutenant General of Normandy and Champagne, "first prince of the blood", i.e. presumptive heir to the throne between the accession of François I in 1515 and the birth of his first son in 1518. Charles of Alençon marries Marguerite, sister of François I. Charles appoints René des Ligneris as First Equerry, a position of officer in the prince's household, which opens the door for him to an extensive network of relationships. René

obtains a fief named *des Ligneris* by letters of patent dated 13 September 1517 (in the parish of Champrond-en-Gâtine, municipality of Favril), plus an advantageous position for his eldest son, and invests in prestigious international studies for his youngest son. Offspring:

- Anne des Ligneris (1499- ), marries Charles des Feugerets.
- Michel des Ligneris (1500-1529), captain and bailiff of Châteauneuf-en-Thymerais in 1527 after his father, First Equerry of the Duke of Alençon, Gentleman-in-Waiting to the Royal Household, marries Claude de Cardonne, daughter of Jean-François de Cardonne, knight, king's counsellor and chamberlain, and Françoise de la Boissière, in 1525. Claude is Lady of Augé and Azay-sur-Indre. Michel dies at the age of 29. Offspring:

René II des Ligneris (1527-1562), fatherless at the age of 18 months, placed with his guardians Guillaume des Feugerets and Jacques des Ligneris, assisted by the widow of Charles IV of Alençon, now Marguerite de Navarre, as cup-bearer in the court of Navarre where he is raised. Regains the duty of bailiff of Châteauneuf-en-Thymerais, which has been in the family since his great-grandfather. In 1554, he buys back from his uncles their share in the inheritance of Jean-François de Cardonne, and becomes sole proprietor of the fief of Azay-sur-Indre. Around 1560 he marries Antoinette Babou from the house of la Bourdaisière. The chateau of la Bourdaisière is located in Montlouis-sur-Loire, between Tour and Amboise, 25 kilometres from Azay-sur-Indre, which René des Ligneris sells around this time. Having become a Protestant, René is in the service of the king of Navarre and from 1560 he plays an active role in the uprising against the might of the Catholic church. He participates in the Amboise Conspiracy and goes into exile with the German Protestant princes in order to escape repression. After his return to France he commands the cavalry of the Protestant army of the Prince of Condé in December 1562 during the battle of Dreux. René is mortally wounded on the battlefield. He and his wife Antoinette have no offspring and the oldest branch of the des Ligneris family is extinguished.

- Jacques des Ligneris (1502-1556), see below.
- Jeanne des Ligneris (1506- ), marries Claude de Languedoue.
- Jean des Ligneris (1507-between 1544 and 1565), equerry, Lord of Arpentigny, Villette and Chesnay (near Châteauneuf-en-Thymerais), lawyer, counsellor at the Paris Supreme Court. He buys a mansion in Paris in 1542. In his will in 1544 he bequeathes 500 livres tournois (Tournois pounds) to his illegitimate daughter and his lands to his nephew and niece, Claude and Jeanne des Ligneris. He officially recognises his daughter, but is undoubtedly unable to marry her mother because of the difference in social status. All his family turn their backs on him, except his brother Jacques. Offspring:

**Marie des Ligneris**, born in Thymer-en-Thymerais, marries **Pierre Leclair**, equerry, in Paris in 1565.

- **Etienne des Ligneris (ca. 1512-1567)**, friar, Préy Abbey (in Berry), Prior of La Madeleine de Quin Quelavant (near Nantes), proprietor of the fief of Ormoy which he bequeaths to his nephew, Théodore des Ligneris.

III. Jacques des Ligneris (1502-1556), studies law in Paris, Louvain (Flanders) and Padua (Republic of Venice), qualifies as lawyer. In 1528 he marries Jeanne Chaligault ( - 1558), Lady of Crosne, Etioles (near the Seine in the south-west of Paris) and Bailly (near Versailles). Appointed Lieutenant General of the bailiwick of Amiens, subsequently joins the Paris Supreme Court as a counsellor. Completes the construction of Bailly chateau. In 1542, he donates a property located in Etioles to his servant. As President of the Third Chamber of Inquiries, in 1544 he has his own mansion constructed in Paris (now housing the Carnavalet Museum). He goes on to become French Ambassador to the Council of Trent, then President of the Supreme Court of Paris by letters of patent on 18 May 1554. Following his decease on 11 August 1556 in Paris, he is buried in the church of Sainte-Catherine-du-Val-des-Ecoliers. Jacques des Ligneris was Lord of Blanville and Morancez, near Chartres, proprietor together with his wife of the chateaus of Bailly and Crosnes, and of several rental properties in Paris and Sens. Offspring:

Claude des Ligneris (1535-1553), a pupil of Pierre de Ronsard at Coqueret College in Paris, governed by Jean Dorat, he participates in the beginnings of the Pléiade. Dispatched on a diplomatic mission to Rome to commence his career, he dies there just a few months later, without offspring and is buried in church of Saint-Louis-des-Français. Ronsard dedicates an ode to him, plus the following words addressed to their shared friend, Antoine Chasteigner, who also dies that year: "Dans les Champs Elysées / Souvienne toy de moy, et dans un pré fleury, / Te promenant avec mon Lignery / Parle toujours de moy."

(Unofficial translation: In the Champs Elysées / Remember me, and in a flowery meadow, / Strolling with my Lignery / Speak always of me.)

- Jeanne des Ligneris (ca. 1542-), Lady of Crosnes and Etioles, marries Claude du Puy, Baron of Bellefaye, Lord of Coudray en Berry, knight of the royal order, on 9 January 1561. He dies in Rome in 1576 and is buried in the church of Saint-Louis-des-Français. Offspring:

**Jeanne du Puy**, first marriage to **Saint-Gelais-Lusignan**, then second marriage to **Préjean de la Fin**, Vice-Lord of Chartres from 1602 to 1631.

- Théodore des Ligneris (1553-1634), see below.

IV. Théodore des Ligneris (1553-1634), baptised on 18 April 1553 in Chauvigny, fatherless at the age of 3 and motherless at the age of 5. His cousin and guardian René II des Ligneris obtains him the position of child of honour to the king of Navarre. Théodore spends three years with Henri, the future King Henri IV of France, who is of the same age. At the outbreak of war, he is sent to the home of his guardian in Azay-sur-Indre at the beginning of 1560. But René II des Ligneris is exiled following the Amboise Conspiracy in which he has participated, and serves in the armies of the German Protestant princes. Théodore is thus sent to Poitou but is arrested in Loches where he is interrogated despite the fact that he is only 7 years old. Jean Babou de la Bourdaisière comes to his rescue. The tutor of the fourth son of Queen Catherine de Medici places Théodore alongside the boy prince as a child of honour. At the age of fifteen, Théodore becomes gentleman-in-waiting at the chamber of François de Valois, a position of officer in the household which enables him to gravitate in the entourage of the prince. In 1571, with the agreement of his sister Jeanne he sells the Bailly chateau. On 16 February 1577 he marries Françoise de Billy, daughter of Louis de Billy and Félicie de Rosny, heiress of the Barony of Courville and the fiefs of Saint-Hilaire-des-Noyers and Saint-Jean-de-la-Forêt. Théodore buys lands around Chartres, a town he yearns to govern. He sells the property built by his father in Paris. He follows Prince François de Valois to Brabant in 1582 and participates in the battle of Anvers in 1583 where he is taken prisoner and freed upon payment of a ransom. Following the death of the prince in 1584 he becomes governor of the stronghold of Verneuil-sur-Avre, which controls access between Normandy and Beauce. Elected as deputy of the 1588 general assembly by the nobility of Chartres, but suspected by the king of having allowed the League to take the chateau of Verneuil, Théodore is threatened by Henri III who prefers another candidate. The chateau of Courville is besieged, Françoise des Ligneris is freed on payment of a ransom. Characterised by his contemporary the Count of Cheverny as a man of spirit and determination, Théodore des Ligneris rebels, and in 1589, benefiting from the civil unrest he captures the king's prosecutor in Chartres and only lets him go in return for payment of a ransom, then incites the population to rise up against the governor.

In 1590, he makes amends with Henri IV who appoints him captain of 50 men-at-arms and makes him a knight of the Order of Saint Michael. He becomes chamberlain of Charles de Bourbon, Earl of Soissons and Dreux, son of the Prince of Condé, and supports Henri IV, a duty he performs until 1607. He manages his domains by selling some lordships (Morancez, Villette) and buying others (notably, Fontaine-la-Guyon). Being well acquainted with the intricacies of procedural law, he initiates numerous legal proceedings in order to assert his rights. In 1614 he is still an influential figure and he receives the queen mother, Marie de Medici and the young king, Louis XIII, in Courville upon their return to a journey to Brittany. His wife, Françoise des Ligneris, dies on 3 November 1615. Théodore retires to Fontaine-la-Guyon, while his eldest son becomes Baron of Courville through inheritance from his mother. In the years that follow, he quarrels with his sons and disinherits them — perhaps because the two eldest, who have no direct male heirs, sell their lordships to the Duke of Sully. Théodore dies in 1634 at the age of 81. He was Lord des Ligneris, of Saint-Priest, Bailly, Chauvigny, Fontaine-la-Guyon, Morancez, La Motte, Beauvais and Ormoy. Offspring:

- Jean des Ligneris (ca. 1582-ca. 1602), dies young without offspring.
- Louis des Ligneris, Baron of Courville, marries Anne de Fromentières, daughter of Joachim, Lord of Montigny-en-Dunois and Marie de Courcillon, in 1616. He inherits the majority of the barony from his mother. Becomes chamberlain of Prince Henri II of Bourbon-Condé in 1623. In 1629 he sells the Barony of Courville to Maximilien de Béthune, Duke of Sully. Anne and Louis are officially separated in ca. 1630. Offspring:

Renée des Ligneris, marries Charles de Fresnois.

Anne des Ligneris, marries René de Douhaut, Lord of Bois du Maine. Offspring:

 Charlotte de Douhaut (1628-1700), marries Jean-François de Barville (1628-1684).

One son dies at the age of 2.

- Jacques II des Ligneris, marries Lucrèce de Fromentières ( - 1667), daughter of Joachim, Lord of Montigny-en-Dunois, in 1617. He inherits the castellanies of Chuisnes and Fontaine-la-Guyon, and part of Saint-Hilaire-des-Noyers. He sells Chuisnes in 1630 to Maximilien de Béthune, Duke of Sully. Offspring:

Marie des Ligneris, marries Charles de Molitard, Lord of Durbois (deceased before 1654) in 1637. Offspring:

 Louise de Molitard (1647- ), marries Jacques de Thiville, equerry, Lord of Ozoir-le-Marche.

Anne des Ligneris, baptised on 13 April 1620, marries Louis de Saly.

- Jeanne des Ligneris, marries François de Fontenay, Lord of Fresnaye and Saint Germain de la Coudre, officer in the gendarmerie of Marshall de Lavardin, in 1602. His dowry comprises part of the chateau and domain of Saint-Hilaire-des-Noyers. She is widowed in 1620 and sells Saint-Hilaire to Louis Petigars de la Guérinière on 31 October 1622.
- Marie des Ligneris ( 1658), marries Lancelot de Kaerbout, Lord of Gémassé-en-Saint-Ulphace, in 1601. As dowry she brings the domain of Ormoy and (part of) Saint-Hilaire-des-Noyers.
- Geoffroy des Ligneris, sent to Malta at the age of 13 to become a knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. Appointed a page of Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt on 11 July 1603, meets Le Caravage, who took refuge in Malta from 1607 to 1608 and painted the famous portrait of the Grand Master. Geoffroy confronts the Ottomans, who land in Malta in 1614.
- Albert des Ligneris (ca. 1596 1652), see below.
- Angélique des Ligneris ( -1615), marries Nicolas de Dangeul, knight, Lord of Sours and Arboulin, gentleman-in-waiting to the king's chamber, in 1611. No offspring.
- Jacqueline des Ligneris, marries Jacques Charpin, Lord of Gineprès.
- Lucrèce des Ligneris ( -1667), marries Joachim de la Cigoigne, Lord of Bois du Maine.
- Charles des Ligneris (ca. 1598-ca. 1600), dies very young.
- V. Albert des Ligneris (ca. 1596-1652), knight, marries Geneviève de Laurent, daughter of Jacques de Laurent, Viscount of Châteauneuf en Thymerais, Lord of Douceré, and Geneviève Langlois, on 31 May 1631. Albert inherits the castellanies of Saint-Jean-de-la-Forêt and Beauvais-en-Gâtine, as well as the chateau of Fontaine-la-Guyon. Dies on 12 January 1652 and is buried in the church of Fontaine-la-Guyon. Offspring:
  - François des Ligneris (1632 1656), dies without marrying.
  - Angélique des Ligneris (ca. 1634- ), marries René d'Ecauville, Lord of Lignerolle, in ca. 1650.
  - Louis des Ligneris (1636-1674), see below.
  - Françoise des Ligneris, nun in Courville.
  - Geneviève des Ligneris, nun in Courville.
- VI. Louis des Ligneris (1636-1674), knight, Lord of Beauvais-en-Gâtine, Fontaine-la-Guyon, Champrond, Saint-Jean-de-la-Forêt, officer in the royal guards, marries Louise de Gravelle (ca.1647-1708), daughter of Jean de Gravelle, Lord of Arpentigny-en-Thimert and Madeleine de Coutances de la Fressonnière, on 22 February 1667. Louis dies aged 37 on 6 January 1674 in Tarouvillier. Louise finds herself widowed, pregnant and with two children before she is thirty. Undoubtedly with limited resources she lives in the manor of Beauvais-en-Gâtine where she raises her children and where she is buried in 1708. Offspring:
  - **Philippe des Ligneris (1667-1751)**, friar, becomes Canon of the Chapter of the Cathedral of Chartres, and Archdeacon of Blois.

- Louis-François des Ligneris (1670-1743), knight, Lord of Saint-Jean-de-la-Forêt and Arpentigny, serves in the royal guards, an elite corps belonging to the royal household military. He participates in the battles of Osterht, Neerwinden (1693) and Malplaquet (1709), where his courageous action is recognised with the award the Cross of Saint Louis and promotion to the rank of brigadier. Late in life he marries Marie Garnier de Sainville on 15 October 1720. Dies in Chartres on 29 June 1743, no offspring.
- Jean-Baptiste des Ligneris (1674-1754), see below.

**VII.** Jean-Baptiste des Ligneris (1674-1754), knight, Lord of Beauvais-en-Gâtine and Fontaine-la-Guyon, joins the royal guards as a young officer with his brother. Marries **Marie-Anne Beurier**, daughter of Michel Beurier, Lord of Hauville, officer of the household of the Duke of Vendôme, and Barbe Cottereau, Lady of Chevillon, on 2 April 1707. Due to a lack of the necessary means to act at the court where positions are obtained, he occupies himself with his domains. Jean-Baptiste and Marie-Anne lose eight of their twelve children at a young age. Offspring:

- Marie-Barbe des Ligneris (1710-), marries Pierre-René de Thieslin, Lord of Lorrière and Boisginaut (or Bois-Hinoust) in Maine, on 30 July 1737 in Chartres. Offspring:

Marie-Anne de Thieslin, marries François-Victor des Feugerets, Earl of Feugerets (near Bellême in Perche), on 11 January 1754.

- Marie-Anne des Ligneris (1712-1803), received in Saint-Cyr in 1724, no offspring.
- Louis-François des Ligneris (1715-), see below.
- Catherine-Thérèse des Ligneris (1718- ), nun at the Order of the Carmelites in Chartres, of which she becomes Prioress in 1759.

VIII. Louis-François des Ligneris (1715-1780), knight, then first Marquis des Ligneris, Lord of Méréglise. Baptised by his great-uncle, Canon and Archdeacon Philippe des Ligneris. One-time musketeer in the royal guards, he marries Marie-Françoise Davignon (ca. 1724-1822), daughter of Claude Davignon, royal prosecutor in Chartres and later Mayor of Chartres, and Marie-Thérèse Bouvart, on 19 February 1740 in Chartres. Louis-François is Mayor of Chartres from 1766 to 1769, and again from 1776 to 1780. During the 1760s he buys a property in Chartres (currently the residence of the Prefect), where his wife Marie-Françoise des Ligneris, widowed in 1780, remains until her death in 1822. Around 1769 he sells the chateau of Fontaine-la-Guyon and buys the chateau of Méréglise (near Chartres), plus the surrounding lands, thereby securing sufficient collective revenue to establish a marquisate, which he succeeds in obtaining by letters of patent in November 1776. He thus becomes the first Marquis des Ligneris. Offspring:

Marie-Thérèse des Ligneris (1741-1832), marries René-César de Courtavel de Pezé (1728-1802), Marquis of Courtavel, infantry lieutenant, on 6 March 1759 in Fontaine-la-Guyon.
 Offspring:

**Louis-François de Courtavel (1759-1841)**, Earl then Marquis of Courtavel after his father, cavalry officer from 1776, Colonel Commandant in 1786, emigrant during the revolution, Field Marshall in 1795, Lieutenant General in 1814, Deputy of Loir-et-Cher from 1821 to 1827, general counsellor of Loir-et-Cher, Grand Cross of the Order of

Saint Louis, officer of the Legion of Honour, Peer of France, 1827-1830. Marries Marie-Louise de Lambert (-1837) in 1783. No offspring.

Claude de Courtavel (1761-1849), Earl then Marquis of Courtavel after his brother, emigrant during the revolution, cavalry colonel in 1815 and Order of Saint Louis, Deputy of Eure-et-Loire from 1816 to 1823, general counsellor of Eure-et-Loir, 1824 to 1830, Field Marshall, 1832, Peer of France, 1823 to 1848. Marries Françoise Chevalier in 1797, then Marguerite de Lubersac (- 1827) in 1804, and finally Aliénor de Becdelièvre (1807-1893). Offspring.

**Jean-Louis de Courtavel (1763-1846)**, Viscount of Courtavel, cavalry officer, emigrant during the revolution, squadron leader, 1814, Cross of Saint Louis, Deputy of Eure-et-Loir.

Jean-Baptiste des Ligneris (1743-1829), see below.

**IX. Jean-Baptiste II des Ligneris (1743-1829)**, second Marquis des Ligneris, king's musketeer during the 1760s, marries **Anne-Geneviève Pinon (1754-1783)**, daughter of Anne-Louis Pinon, President of the Paris Supreme Court, Viscount of Quincy, Lord of Grange-Batelière and Rebsechin, counsellor of the king, and Agnès Le Boullanger, on 8 April 1777 at the church of Saint Paul in Paris. Jean-Baptiste des Ligneris is widowed at the age of 40, with one son aged three and another still a baby. He does not remarry. At the outbreak of the revolution he initially remains in his chateau, then spends several months in Paris in 1792 before returning to Méréglise and adapting himself to the new situation by proactively participating in municipal life. He stays there through thick and thin, and retains all his assets and domains throughout the revolution. Remaining in Méréglise until his death while his sons are in Paris, in 1822 he sells his residence in Chartres, which becomes the Prefecture. Offspring:

- Anne-Louis des Ligneris (1778-1826), see below.
- Augustin des Ligneris (1782-1852), Viscount des Ligneris, born on 12 April 1782 in Paris, becomes a knight of the Order of Malta around 1797 until its dissolution by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798. Marries Agathe du Roux de Reveillon (1786-1837) in 1803. Offspring:

**Eudoxie des Ligneris (1807-1886)**, marries **Aimé de Vauguyon (1796-1887**), royal guards, on 8 March 1825. Offspring:

- Charles de Vauguyon (1826-1901), no offspring.
- Marie-Agathe de Vauguyon (1833-1905).

Claire-Armande des Ligneris (1818-1889), marries Jean-Marie Le Roy (1808-1870), Earl of Valanglart, on 19 June 1837. They live in their private property in rue de Varennes in Paris. As Lady of Gués (in Ouzouer-sur-Loire), she sells the domain on 1 July 1870. Offspring:

- Agathe Le Roy de Valanglart (1838-1886).
- Louise Le Roy de Valanglart (1840-1879), Marquise of Maupas.
- Vincent Le Roy de Valanglart (1843-1906), no offspring.
- Marie Le Roy de Valanglart (1853-after 1911).

X. Anne-Louis des Ligneris (1778-1826), Earl des Ligneris, born on 27 March 1778 in Paris. Joins the 2nd Regiment of Hussars on 23 October 1798, in which he serves until June 1800. His cavalry regiment fights within the Army of the Rhine. On 27 April 1807 he marries Antoinette Chastellier Dumesnil (1789-1850), sole daughter of Marquis François-Esprit Chastellier Dumesnil (1752-1790), cavalry camp master, commander and inspector of the Regiment of Hussars, knight of Saint Louis, and Elisabeth des Deux-Ponts (1766-), naturalised French citizen in 1783, herself the morganatic daughter of Christian IV of Wittelsbach, Duke of Bavaria, ruling Duke of Deux-Ponts, Prince of Birkenfeld and Bischweiler, Prince Palatine of the Rhine, Earl of Weldentz and Sponheim, and Marianne Camasse, Countess of Forbach. As captain of the National Guard, Anne-Louis des Ligneris occupies the position of adjutant at the headquarters during the battle of Paris on 30 March 1814. He subsequently joins the Company of the Guards of the Corps of Monsieur (brother of King Louis XVIII, the future Charles X) as sublieutenant. Knight of the Legion of Honour in 1815. Anne-Louis and Antoinette des Ligneris are separated around 1820. Antoinette is widowed in 1826 and marries her second husband, Viscount Joseph of Hervilly (1790-1850), with whom she does not have any children. They reside in the chateau of Brocourt (in the Somme). Offspring of Louis and Antoinette des Ligneris:

- Charlotte des Ligneris (1811-), founder of a boarding school for young girls in Brocourt. No spouse or offspring.
- Maximilien des Ligneris (1813-1894), see below.

XI. Maximilien des Ligneris (1813-1894), third Marquis des Ligneris (after his grandfather), born on 15 January 1813, godson of the king of Bavaria, page to King Charles X during the coronation ceremony on 9 May 1825. Marries Marie-Augusta Thourou de Bertinval (1828-1896), daughter of Charles Thourou de Bertinval, Baron of Bressolles, and Anne-Laurence d'Origny (1800-1868), on 27 October 1845 in Paris. Maximilien and Marie-Augusta initially live in Paris, then at the chateau of Méréglise from 1847. Maximilien is elected general counsellor of Eure-et-Loir for a period of fifteen years. The couple separate in 1868. A "Marquise des Ligneris" rose is created for Marie-Augusta in 1869. Maximilien then lives in Paris with Elisabeth Möller (born in Rensburg, Denmark, on 2 June 1844). Maximilien divorces Marie-Augusta in 1890 and marries Elisabeth Möller in 1891. They move to Bavaria, where Maximilien dies in 1894. Elisabeth and her son then move to Switzerland.

Offspring of Maximilien and Marie-Augusta:

Jacques des Ligneris (1846-1904), fourth Marquis des Ligneris (after his father). Born in Paris on 11 September 1846. Attends the Special Imperial Military College of Saint-Cyr from 1864 to 1867, Venice promotion, becomes a cavalry officer in the 8th Regiment of Cuirassiers. Fights in 1870 in Froeschwiller-Woerth, then Sedan, where he is taken prisoner and is liberated in April 1871. Marries Charlotte Tailhandier du Plaix on 20 December 1877. The couple divide their life between rue de Rivoli in Paris, chateau Méréglise (Eureet-Loir) and chateau Plaix à Lignières (Cher). Jacques leaves the army in 1891 in the rank of squadron leader. Legion of Honour, 1891. Charlotte quarrels with her entire family. Jacques participates in the development and modernisation of the town of Lignières, becomes president of the racing organisation, constructs a power plant that will continue to operate until 1934, and a mill for tanning hides. Following his death in 1904, the town names a street after him. In 1906, Charlotte unsuccessfully contests in the courts (including the appeals court) the inheritance by her brother-in-law of the title of marquis. In 1908

she donates the chateau of Méréglise to Father Bérard, priest at the Madeleine in Paris. Charlotte dilapidates all her assets and those of her husband, sinks into madness and dies on 11 February in a hospice. No offspring.

- Charles des Ligneris (1847-1910), see below.
- René des Ligneris (1850-1874), dies in Guyana without offspring.

Offspring of Maximilien and Elisabeth:

Maximilien II des Ligneris (1882-1952), originator of the South African branch of the family (see below).

XII. Charles des Ligneris (1847-1910), fifth Marquis des Ligneris (after his brother). Born in Méréglise on 2 November 1847. Attends the Special Imperial Military College of Saint-Cyr from 1865 to 1868, Sultan promotion. Becomes a cavalry officer in the 12th Dragons Regiment. Fights from September to December 1870, is taken prisoner by the Prussians and freed in March 1871. On 12 October 1874, marries Alexandrine Fréteau de Pény (1849-1927), daughter of Anne-Céline Petit (1818-1859) and Héracle Fréteau de Pény (1811-1885), public auditor at the court of state auditors (grandson of Emmanuel Fréteau of Saint Just, President of the Constituent Assembly in October and December 1789, guillotined in 1794). Charles leaves the army in 1892 in the rank of squadron leader. Legion of Honour, 1893. In 1877, he inherits the chateau of Bressolles (Allier) from his uncle, Adolphe Thourou de Bertinval, but his aunt continues to retain the right of use until 1908. He lives there with his family from 1892. Charles becomes Mayor of Bressolles. Alexandrine is said to be intelligent, cultured and pious. She translates the German work, *The Holy Mass*, into French, and her translation is republished a number of times. Offspring:

- **Etienne des Ligneris (1878-1945)**, originator of the <u>elder branch</u> (see below).
- Jean-Baptiste des Ligneris (1880-1933), originator of the younger branch (see below).
- Michel des Ligneris (1882-1967), originator of the Saint Emilion branch (see below).
- Marie des Ligneris (1883-1884), born on 27 September 1883 in Bressolles, dies at the age of fifteen months.

## **ELDER BRANCH**

XIII. Etienne des Ligneris (1878-1945), born on 7 August 1878 in Verdun, sixth Marquis des Ligneris after his father. Marries Madeleine Mourins d'Arfeuille (1887-), daughter of Jean Mourins d'Arfeuille and Gabrielle Brac de La Perrière, on 4 May 1908. Madeleine brings the chateau of Lonzat (Marcenat, Allier) as dowry, and this is where the couple reside. At the age of 36 in 1914, Etienne decides not to fight on the front during World War I. He is badly advised as an investor and loses his fortune when the stock market crashes in 1929. The chateau of Lonzat is sold in 1930, and the family moves into the chateau of Bressolles (Allier) where Alexandrine des Ligneris, Etienne's mother, had lived until 1927. Offspring:

- Françoise des Ligneris (1909-1998), see below.
- Maurice des Ligneris, died of peritonitis at the age of 6.
- Geneviève des Ligneris, see below.

- Xavier des Ligneris (1913-1979), seventh Marquis des Ligneris, see below.
- Gabriel des Ligneris (1917-2000), see below.
- Monique des Ligneris, no offspring.
- Jeanne des Ligneris, see below.
- Georges des Ligneris, see below.

XIV. Françoise des Ligneris (1909-1998), writer, marries René Sacaze (1900-1989), officer in the French navy (rear admiral), in Bressolles in 1930. Offspring:

- Gilberte Sacaze (1931), marries Michel Bourceret (1926-2017) in Paris in 1955. Offspring:
  - o **Lionel Bourceret**, marries **Marie Freneau**. Offspring:
    - Paul Bourceret
    - Erwann Bourceret
    - Guillaume Bourceret
  - o Jérôme Bourceret, marries Patricia Champy. Offspring:
    - Alphonsine Bourceret
    - Donatienne Bourceret
    - Melchior Bourceret
  - Haude Bourceret (1964), marries Thierry Lepercq (1962) in Chevreuse in 1990.
    Offspring:
    - Thibaut Lepercq (1991)
    - Xavier Lepercq (1993)
    - Marin Lepercq (1995)
    - Louise Lepercq (2001)
- Monique Sacaze (1941), marries Jean-Pierre Desthieux (1930) in Paris in 1969. (SWITZERLAND). Offspring:
  - o Pascal Desthieux (1970), ordained as a priest in Lausanne in 1997. (SWITZERLAND)
  - Marie-Noëlle Desthieux (1972), physician, marries Eric Bissel in Geneva in 2000.
    Divorced in 2016. (SWITZERLAND). Offspring:
    - Thibault Bissel (2002)
    - Jérémie Bissel (2004)
    - Thimothée Bissel (2006)
  - Gilles Desthieux (1976), marries Gloria Gosatti (1975) in Geneva in 2002. (SUISSE).
    Offspring:
    - Matteo Desthieux (2005)

- Luca Desthieux (2009)
- Samuel Desthieux (2011)

### XIV. Geneviève des Ligneris, marries Robert Minier. Offspring:

- Dominique Minier, first marriage to Micheline Lampin, second marriage to Simone Proux.
  Offspring of Dominique and Micheline:
  - o Stéphane Minier, marries Marie-Pierre Vincent. Offspring:
    - Pierre Minier
    - Louis Minier
  - Jean Minier, marries Véronique Atlan. Offspring:
    - Laëtitia Minier
    - Audrey Minier
    - Raphaël Minier
    - Margot Minier

Offspring of Dominique and Simone:

- o Jérôme Minier, marries Gaëlle Barreault
- Marie-Douce Minier, marries André Heim. Offspring:
  - o **Philippe Heim**, marries **Véronique Fontaine**. Offspring:
    - Anaïs Heim
    - Quentin Heim
    - Elise Heim
  - Charles Heim
  - o Marie Heim, marries Pantxua Ordoqui. Offspring:
    - Mayialen Ordoqui

XIV. Xavier des Ligneris (1913-1979), seventh Marquis des Ligneris after his father. Born on 1 November 1913, chateau Lonzat (Marcenat, Allier), mining engineer, geologist. Marries Suzanne Komarnicka (1908-1984), artist (painter), Nancy, daughter of Jan Komarnicki, Polish industrialist, and Mathilde Chevalier, on 27 September 1939 in Bressolles. Working in Tunisia in 1940 after demobilisation, Xavier des Ligneris joins General de Gaulle in London, participates in the Normandy landing and the liberation of Paris, and proceeds to Germany where he is injured by a shell. War Cross and Legion of Honour for military feats. Director of uranium mines in France and Gabon, Grand Cross of the Equatorial Order of Gabon. Divorced in 1961, remarries that year to Marie-Françoise du Courrech de Raquine (1921). Dies on 1 January 1979 in Ascain.

Offspring of Xavier and Suzanne:

- **Jean des Ligneris (1939-2021)**, eighth Marquis, see below.
- Nicolas des Ligneris (1942), ninth Marquis, see below.
- Thomas des Ligneris (1946), born on 27 June 1946 in Tunis (French Protectorate of Tunisia). Electrical engineer and industrial mechanic. Marries Catherine Bogaert (1945-1999), College of Decorative Art, Paris, in 1971 in Paris. Second marriage in Meulan in 2002 to Madeleine Belis-Mirales (1947), divorced in 2012.

Offspring of Thomas and Catherine:

Hugues des Ligneris (1973), public works engineer, marries Ingrid-Marie Marcelpoil (1973) in Saint-Denis-en-Bugey in 1996. Divorced in 2010. Second marriage in Chartres in 2020 to Frédérique Rougetet (1973), Conservatory of Classical Dance, Rouen.

Offspring of Hugues and Ingrid-Marie:

- Morgane des Ligneris (1998)
- Aliénor des Ligneris (2002)
- Théodore des Ligneris (2004)
- Agnès des Ligneris (1975), agricultural engineer, graduate of the Higher National College of Photography, Arles; graduate of Beaux Arts du Havre, marries Benjamin Déjardin (1974), agricultural engineer, company director, in Mantes-La-Jolie in 1998. Divorced in 2009. Offspring:
  - o Inès Déjardin (1998)
  - Louise Déjardin (2000)
  - o Samuel Déjardin (2003)
- Armelle des Ligneris (1977), mechanical engineer, marries Alexandre Lassalle (1981), optical science engineer in the field of telecommunications, in Berlin in 2012. (GERMANY). Offspring:
  - o Léandre Lassalle (2012)
  - o Camille Lassalle (2015)

XIV. Gabriel des Ligneris (1917 - 2000), marries Françoise de Ligny (1923), writer, in 1947. Offspring:

 Etienne des Ligneris (1948), first marriage in 1977 to Marie-Christine Bernardin de Montgolfier (1955-2018). Divorced in 1989. Second marriage in 1991 to Christine Virlojeux (1956).

Offspring of Etienne and Marie-Christine:

- o Jérôme des Ligneris (1978), marries Sélima N... . Offspring:
  - Noham des Ligneris

Ilian des Ligneris

# Offspring of Etienne:

- Pierre-Charles des Ligneris (1994)
- Patrice des Ligneris (1949), marries Cécile Maurel (1954) in 1979. Offspring:
  - o Marc des Ligneris (1980), marries Cécile Morier in 2012. Offspring:
    - Mayeul des Ligneris (2014)
    - Géraud des Ligneris (2015)
    - Lubin des Ligneris (2018)
  - o Anne-Laure des Ligneris (1982), marries Franck Fedrzel (1983) in 2009. Offspring:
    - Martin Fedrzel (2011)
    - Clémence Fedrzel (2015)
  - o Florence des Ligneris (1984), marries Alban Lemaître in 2012. Offspring:
    - Raphaël Lemaître (2014)
    - Xavier Lemaître (2016)
  - Elise des Ligneris (1991)
- **Serge des Ligneris (1956)**, marries **Béatrice Basseville (1961)** in 1981. Divorced in 2011. Offspring:
  - Charlotte des Ligneris (1984)
  - o Capucine des Ligneris (1986), marries Cyril Bourgeois (1984) in 2014. Offspring:
    - Octave Bourgeois (2016)
    - Pierre Bourgeois (2018)
  - Arthur des Ligneris (1991)

## XIV. Jeanne des Ligneris, marries Bernard de Ferrier. Offspring:

- Jean de Ferrier
- Michel de Ferrier
- Bruno de Ferrier, marries Paulette Saulnier. Offspring:
  - Nicolas de Ferrier
- Rémi de Ferrier, marries Christine Joubert. Offspring:
  - Arnaud de Ferrier
  - Orane de Ferrier
  - Charlotte de Ferrier

- Mireille de Ferrier, marries Philippe Mollard. Offspring:
  - o Frédéric Mollard
  - Claire Mollard
  - Michel Mollard
  - o Pierre Mollard
  - o Paulette Mollard
  - Laurent Mollard
  - Marie Mollard
- André de Ferrier, marries Patricial Masson
- Marguerite de Ferrier
- Bernadette de Ferrier, marries Thierry Millot. Offspring:
  - Thomas Millot
  - Arthur Millot

**XIV.** Georges des Ligneris, geologist, marries Colette Pottier, history teacher, Academic Palms. Offspring:

- Hélène des Ligneris. Offspring:
  - o Madeleine des Ligneris. Offspring:
    - Stéphane Zanocchio
    - Luca Sanchez
- **Laurent des Ligneris**, engineer, marries **Sylvie Thénot**, architect, expert at the Paris court of appeals. Offspring:
  - o Alexandre des Ligneris, physician
- Christiane des Ligneris
- **Jean des Ligneris**, computer specialist, marries **Solange Bonardi**. Offspring:
  - Armelle des Ligneris
  - Clément des Ligneris

**XV.** Jean des Ligneris (1939-2021), eighth Marquis des Ligneris (after his father), born on 14 January 1940 in Soulaucourt. Chemical engineer, marries **Christiane Allirol-Minet (1941)** in Thiers in 1960. Divorced in 1975. Second marriage in Kremenchug (Ukraine) in 1981 to **Tamara Glazyrina (1958)**. Divorced in 2005.

Offspring of Jean and Christiane:

- **Isabelle des Ligneris (1960)**, marries **Eric Billet (1957)** in Aix-en-Provence in 1988. Divorced in 2001. Offspring:

- Cyrielle Billet (1990). Of Jamel Chemirou (1990):
  - Imran Chemirou (2014)
  - Inaya Chemirou (2016)
  - Ismaïl Chemirou (2019)
- o Maïlys Billet (1991)
- Amaury Billet (1993)
- o Guilhem Billet (1995)
- Fabienne des Ligneris (1965).

Offspring of Jean and Tamara:

- (By adoption) Suzanne des Ligneris (1979)
- Charlotte des Ligneris (1987) (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)

Offspring of Jean (extramarital):

- Charles des Ligneris (2004) (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)
- Chrismel des Ligneris (2006) (DOMINICAIN REPUBLIC)

**XV. Nicolas des Ligneris (1942)**, ninth Marquis des Ligneris (after his brother), born on 22 November 1942 in Kairouan (French Protectorate of Tunisia), public works engineer. Marries **Josette Hugon (1943)**, child psychologist, in Lieutadès in 1966. Offspring:

- Laure des Ligneris (1968) agricultural engineer, marries Hervé Gorius (1969), agricultural engineer. Offspring:
  - Léa Gorius (2001)
  - Robin Gorius (2006)
  - Flora Gorius (2006)
- Benoît des Ligneris (1973), physicist, computer specialist. Marries Céline Carole (1972).
  (CANADA). Offspring:
  - Caroline des Ligneris (2000)
  - Aurélie des Ligneris (2003)
  - Arthur des Ligneris (2006)

## **YOUNGER BRANCH**

XIII. Jean des Ligneris (1880-), marries Marguerite La Codre de Montpensin. Offspring:

- Pierre des Ligneris, no offspring.
- Charles des Ligneris, no offspring.
- Renée des Ligneris, see below.

# XIV. Renée des Ligneris, marries Pierre d'Ussel. Offspring:

- Jean d'Ussel, marries Marie-Laure de Saint-Vincent. Offspring:
  - Amaury d'Ussel
  - Geoffroy d'Ussel
  - Marguerite d'Ussel
  - Jeanne d'Ussel
- François d'Ussel, marries Diane de Bazelaire de Lesseux. Offspring:
  - Christian d'Ussel
  - Charlotte d'Ussel, marries Thibault de Reals
  - o Ombeline d'Ussel
- Alain d'Ussel, marries Anne-Chantal de Zelicourt. Offspring:
  - Inès d'Ussel
  - Vianney d'Ussel
  - Louise d'Ussel
- Yves d'Ussel, marries Madeleine de Clermont-Tonnerre. Offspring:
  - Pierre d'Ussel
  - Hervé d'Ussel
  - o Anne-Laure d'Ussel
  - Olivier d'Ussel
- Bernadette d'Ussel, marries Jean de Clermont-Tonnerre
- **Bruno d'Ussel**, marries **Florence Tissot-Favre**. Offspring:
  - Martin d'Ussel
  - Philippine d'Ussel
  - Astrid d'Ussel
  - Isaure d'Ussel
  - Gonzague d'Ussel
- Claire d'Ussel
- Geneviève d'Ussel marries Jacques de Vilaines. Offspring:
  - Alix de Vilaines
  - Constance de Vilaines
  - o Matthieu de Vilaines
  - Adelaïde de Vilaines

### **SAINT EMILION BRANCH**

XIII. Michel des Ligneris (1882-1967), estate owner (domain of Château Soutard à Saint Emilion), marries Jeanne du Foussat de Bogeron. Offspring:

Jacques des Ligneris, see below.

**XIV. Jacques des Ligneris**, estate owner (domain of Château Soutard à Saint Emilion), marries **Monique Morin**. Offspring:

- François des Ligneris, estate owner, marries Isabelle Carille. Offspring:
  - Jeanne des Ligneris
  - Marie des Ligneris
  - Louise des Ligneris
- Hélène des Ligneris
- Isabelle des Ligneris, marries N... Jourdan. Offspring:
  - Edouard Jourdan
  - Nicolas Jourdan
  - Arnaud Jourdan
  - Clara Jourdan

# **SOUTH AFRICAN BRANCH**

XII. Maximilien II des Ligneris (1882-1952), born in Paris in 1882, raised in Bavaria then, following the death of his father, in Switzerland. Studies medicine at the University of Bern where he obtains his degree in 1907. Initially works as a surgeon in the team of Professor Kocher, who receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine. Through his parish he departs on the Swiss mission to Elim in South Africa, where he arrives in 1911. Maximilien marries Emilie Mingard. Following the outbreak of World War I he returns to Switzerland to serve as an officer in the army, and only returns to Elim in 1919. He and his wife settle in Johannesburg in 1926, where Maximilien works as a surgeon and soon joins the South African Institute of Medical Research. Here he initially focuses on cell cultivation before becoming a pioneer in the field of cancer research in South Africa. As an enthusiastic mountaineer, he is president of the Alpine Club of Johannesburg for many years. Offspring:

- Louise des Ligneris (1914-1999), see below.
- Charles des Ligneris (1919-1997), see below.
- Yvonne des Ligneris, see below.
- René des Ligneris, no offspring.

XIII. Louise des Ligneris (1914-1999), marries Frank Rosslee (1913-2005) in 1937. Offspring:

- **Norma Rosslee (1937)**, marries **Jan Vorster (1939-2002)** in 1961. Offspring:
  - Janet Vorster (1962), marries Adam Van Niekerk (1961-2019) in 1981. Divorced in 2014. Offspring:
    - Gavin Van Niekerk (1982), marries Juliana Strachan (1982) in 2007. Divorced in 2017. (SOUTH AFRICA). Offspring:
      - Joshua Van Niekerk (2008)
      - Juandré Van Niekerk (2010)
      - Mia Van Niekerk (2014)
    - Shantal Van Niekerk (1984-1985)
    - Lance Van Niekerk (1988) (SOUTH AFRICA)
    - Sasha Van Niekerk (1989), marries William Walden (1970) in 2015. (SOUTH AFRICA). Offspring:
      - Sebastien Walden (2011-2012)
      - Niquita Van Niekerk (2012-2012)
  - Wendy Vorster (1964) (SOUTH AFRICA)
  - Beverly Vorster (1967), marries Berend Venter (1969) in 1990. Divorced in 2006.
    (SOUTH AFRICA). Offspring:
    - Jessica Venter (1993). Offspring:
      - Jemma Rabie (2015)
    - Damian Venter (1999)
  - André Vorster (1970), marries Lydia Grobler (1973) in 2002. (SOUTH AFRICA).
    Offspring:
    - Shené Vorster (2001)
    - Dian Vorster (2009)
- Frank Rosslee, marries Jennifer N... (SOUTH AFRICA). Offspring:
  - Susan Rosslee
  - o Patrick Rosslee. Offspring:
    - Keagan Rosslee
- Meryl Rosslee (1943), marries Valentino Graham (1943) in 1964. Divorced in 1975. Offspring:
  - Wayne Graham (1965), MSc in economics, first marriage in 1988 to Delene Simpson (1964). Divorced in 2014. Second marriage in 2014 to Elise Gutfield (1963), BSc in comparative science. Offspring of Wayne and Delene:
    - Christopher Graham (1994), MSc in biostatistics, marries Jessica Dollard (1992), BSc in dietetics, in 2020.
    - Emma Graham (1997), MSc in nursing.

- o **Ryan Graham (1970)**, corporate promotions, marries **Sharon Biljon (1972)**, administrative assistant, in 1998. (SOUTH AFRICA). Offspring:
  - Liam Graham (2000)
  - Sarah Graham (2006)

# XIII. Charles des Ligneris (1919-1997), marries Molly Graves (1921-2016). Offspring:

- Michael des Ligneris (1946) marries Catherine Räutenbach. (SOUTH AFRICA). Offspring:
  - Pierre des Ligneris (1987)
  - Michelle des Ligneris (1987), marries Andrew Coates. Offspring:
    - Athena Coates (2016)
- John des Ligneris (SOUTH AFRICA) Offspring:
  - o Richard des Ligneris (1985) (SOUTH AFRICA)
- **Geoffrey des Ligneris (1950)**, IT analyst, marries **Satu Mäntynen**, technical ops assistant, in 1981. Divorced in 2003. (SWITZERLAND) Offspring:
  - Clifton des Ligneris (1982), product manager, marries Patrizia Spagnuolo (1984), physio and pilates, in 2016. (SWITZERLAND). Offspring:
    - Moa Linnea des Ligneris (2018)
  - Jacqueline des Ligneris (1984), teacher, marries Fabian Kurmann. (SWITZERLAND)
    Offspring:
    - Felix Kurmann (2012)
    - Luc Kurmann (2014)
- Kenneth des Ligneris (1953) (SOUTH AFRICA)

# XIII. Yvonne des Ligneris, marries Josias Schutte. (SOUTH AFRICA). Offspring:

- François Schutte. Offspring:
  - Kerryn Schutte
  - Tanya Schutte
- Etiene Schutte
- André Schutte. Offspring:
  - Cara Schutte
  - Evan Schutte
- Odette Schutte, marries John Paxton. Offspring:
  - Gemma Paxton

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