

**John MENTEITH**  
**(alias Jean DE MONTETH)**

? – c1606  
*Ecuyer, Seigneur d'Argentenay*

AND HIS WIFE  
**Susanne HOTMAN**

? – 1635

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**THE EARLY LIFE OF JOHN MENTEITH:** He was born during the mid-Sixteenth Century in the province of Stirlingshire in the kingdom of Scotland (“en escosse en la province de Sterlincher”). Although descended from a famous and ancient Scottish baronial family his origins and parentage are uncertain, beyond the fact that:

- In 1582 a Jean MENTEITH wrote a letter from Strasbourg referring to the Baron de Cars (Sir William MENTEITH) as his “nephew” [this needs to be verified]; and
- In a contrat de mariage, passed in 1594, Jean MENTEITH described himself as being from the house of the “Comtes de monteth & Barons de carsa”. The same document implies that he was also the great-grandson of a “Comte de Montrosse” through (one of his grandmothers) as well as being a second cousin of John GORDON.

By the time of his marriage in July 1594 he was already well established in France and had added “de” to his surname in the French fashion to indicate his noble status. By 1594 he had acquired a fief at Argentenay, becoming known as the ‘sieur d’Argentenay’. Argentenay was in the Tonnerrois region of Burgundy (today in the département de l’Yonne). On 10 January 1601 Charles THIERRY, notaire royal, made a collation of the documents relating to the fief (*Terrier censier d’Argentenay contenant l’état des droits seigneuriaux et les declarations des biens et des droits de la communauté et de chacun des habitats*). This was prepared at the request of Jean DE MENTIETH (“*ce requerant noble seigneur Jean de Montets, a present seigneur d’argentenay*”).<sup>1</sup>

### **Marriage in 1594**

In July 1594, less than four months after Henri IV’s triumphal entry into Paris, Jean was himself in Paris and lodging at the ‘maison du chapeau rouge’. This was an inn in the parish of Saint-Jean-en-Grève, near to the Hôtel de Ville. The Protestant faith was now tolerated which meant that Protestants were able to safely stay in Paris without fearing of their lives for the first time in decades.

Jean was in Paris in order to make arrangements for his marriage. The conclusion of the Wars of Religion and return of peace just few months earlier was probably the spur for him to settle down, find a wife and start a family of his own.

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<sup>1</sup> Roland-Yves Gagné, article entitled ‘Qui était Jehan de Monteth, écuyer, seigneur d’Argentenay, ancêtre des d’Ailleboust ?’ in *Memoires de la Societe genealogique canadienne-francaise*, volume 51, no 1, printemps 2000 (No 223), page 74, whose source was: Archives departementales de l’Yonne, Serie E, 173.

His bride was a young Protestant lady named Susanne HOTMAN. Jean may have known Susanne's recently deceased father and undoubtedly would have known Susanne's brother, Jean HOTMAN, who was well known within political and diplomatic circles.

On 18 July 1594 Jean signed a contract of marriage before maître Hugues BABYNET, notaire of the parish of Saint-Séverin in Paris.<sup>2</sup> The contract was signed in the residence of Antoine HOTMAN, a Catholic uncle of the bride. The contract included the following details:

Furent presens en leurs personnes Jehan de Monteth esquier sr dargentenay natif en escosse en la province de Sterlincher de la maison des Comtes de monteth & Barons de carsa estans en ceste ville de paris loge en la maison du chapeau Rouge paroisse de St Jehan en greve ..... Assiste de Jehan de gourdon Gentilhomme de la chambre du Roy sr de boullaytiery son cousin remué de germain a cause de leurs grandes mères filles du comte de montrosse en escosse..."	Were present in their persons John de Monteth, ecuyer. Sieur of Argentenay born in Scotland in the province of Sterlingshire of the house of the Earls of Monteith and Barons of Kerse being in this city of Paris lodged in the house of the red hat, parish of St Jean en Grève ..... assisted by John Gordon Gentleman of the King's bedchamber, Sieur of Boullay-Thierry his second cousin by virtue of their grandmothers daughters of the Earl of Montrose in Scotland...
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The contract was passed in the presence of a fellow Scot, John GORDON (1544-1616), Sieur de Boullay-Thierry, a Protestant courtier in royal service as Gentleman of the French King's bedchamber, and formerly the Bishop of Galloway.<sup>3</sup>

The wording in the marriage contract states that Jean MENTEITH was from the family of the Earls of Monteith and Barons de Kerse. It also implies that two Scotsmen (John MENTEITH and John GORDON) were blood relatives by virtue of their grandmothers, who were both daughters of an Earl of Montrose. Despite extensive research by a number of genealogists it has proved impossible to corroborate their precise familial relationship.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Early Life of Susanne HOTMAN**

Susanne was the daughter of Francois HOTMAN and his wife Claude AUBELIN. Her father was a renowned Protestant humanist scholar who played a leading role in the legal, political, and religious controversies of the time, and an advisor to King Henri IV. Throughout her childhood her lived the life of Protestant refugees, and Susanne probably spent most of her

<sup>2</sup> Contrat de mariage, Archives nationale, Paris, reference Y 134 (Châtelet de Paris), folio 43.

<sup>3</sup> John Gordon (1544–1619) was a son of the Bishop of Galloway. He entered royal service in Scotland and France, as a courtier to Mary Queen of Scots and as gentleman ordinary of the privy chamber to the French Kings Charles IX, Henri III, and Henri IV. He was prominent in politics and religion. He succeeded his father as Bishop of Galloway, but his connection with the see of Galloway was never more than nominal, and he resigned it around 1586. He later settled in England, becoming rector of Upton Lovell in Wiltshire and Dean of Salisbury cathedral, where he was buried in 1619. He had no known descent from the Earls of Montrose.

<sup>4</sup> Roland-Yves Gagné, article entitled 'Qui était Jehan de Monteth, écuyer, seigneur d'Argentenay, ancêtre des d'Ailleboust ?' in Memoires de la Societe genealogique canadienne-francaise, volume 51, no 1, printemps 2000 (No 223), pages 71-85.

childhood in the Swiss and German cities of Bâle and Geneva, before returning to France in the early 1590s following her father's death.

### **The Married Life of Jean and Susanne**

Jean and Susanne probably married soon after the marriage contract was signed in Paris, but the place and date of the Protestant marriage ceremony is not known.

Jean and Susanne had only one known child:

1. **Dorothée DE MENTET:** It is not known exactly where or when she was born, but probably between 1595 and 1600 and possibly at Argentenay. She enjoyed the patronage, of two of the most powerful ladies in France, as a maid of honour (lady-in-waiting) to the Duchesse de Vendôme and to the Duchesse de Mercoeur ('une des fille d'honneur de Mesdames les duchesses de Vendôme et de Mercoeur'). She married her step-brother Nicolas D'AILLEBOUST, Écuyer, Sieur de Colonges. Ancestors of the AUDCENT family.

Jean died sometime around 1606, after around 12 years of marriage, although it is not known where he died or was buried. He left behind a widow and daughter.

### **Susanne's later years and second marriage**

Susanne married for a second time following a contract of marriage signed on 8 October 1606.<sup>5</sup> Her second husband was a widower named Antoine D'AILLEBOUST, ecuyer, seigneur de Colonges la Magdeleine (avocat au Baillage d'Autun, Juge au Baillage d'Auxois, Conseiller ordinaire au Conseil de Monsieur le Prince de Condé). The D'AILLEBOUST family were a Catholic noble family that resided at Argenteuil, just six kilometres from Argentenay, also with links to the royal court of Henri IV.

At some point following her first husband's death Susanne converted to Roman Catholicism.

Susanne had two further children by her second husband:

- **Catherine D'AILLEBOUST.** She became a nun at the Abbaye de St-Pierre-les-Dames at Reims, and in 1656 she sent holy relics to Canada.
- **Louis D'AILLEBOUST DE COULONGE ET D'ARGENTENAY.** Born c1612 at Ancy-le-Franc. He was married by contracted signed at Paris in 1638, to Marie Barbe De Boullonge (a native of Ravière). He emigrated to New France (Canada) in 1642. In 1648 King Louis XIV named him as the Governor of New France and he ruled New France (Canada) in the name of the King from 1648 until 1651. He had no children.

It seems that Susanne continued to reside in the Tonnerrois with her second husband, on family properties at Argenteuil or Argentenay. She remained in the Tonnerrois after being

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<sup>5</sup> Thierry Wanegffelen, ed. De Michel de l'Hospital à l'édit de Nantes: Politique et religion face aux églises (2003), page ?. This gives its source as (Minutier Central) Ét. XCI, 229, 9 février 1635, inventaire après décès de Susanne Hotman, titre 2.

widowed for a second time, as she signed the parish register at Ancy-le-Franc on 28 July 1622 on becoming godmother to her granddaughter Susanne D'AILLEBOUST.

In 1620 Susanne advanced a loan to the widow of her nephew Robert HOTMAN, a Huguenot captain who died at Dordrecht in the service of the Dutch.<sup>6</sup>

Susanne died in 1635, between 26 January and 9 February.<sup>7</sup> She died a Catholic, invoking the “glorieuse vierge Marie” and “tous les saintz et saintes de paradis” in her testament.<sup>8</sup> She was perhaps buried at Argentenay or nearby Ravières (she is not mentioned in the burial register but it contains gaps after 1622). An inventory of her possessions (inventaire après décès) including deeds, chattels, land, property, investments and debts was prepared and dated 9 February 1635. A copy of the inventory is preserved in the minutes of Pierre MURET, notaire de rue Neuve-Saint-Lambert, paroisse Saint-Sulpice, Paris (which form part of the Minutier Central in the National Archives).<sup>9</sup>

### **Jean's Early Life before his Marriage**

Various documentary sources make reference to a John MENTEITH who was active within scholarly, diplomatic and political Protestant circles in Germany and France between 1568 and 1590. All the evidence points to this being the same John MENTEITH who married Susanne HOTMAN in 1594. (Nb. The genealogist Roland-Yves GAGNÉ comments “I respectfully submit that there is no reason to disregard the possibility of more than one John Monteith”. It is impossible to categorically rule out the theoretical possibility that there were two men with the same name on the European Continent at the same time, but the strong circumstantial evidence makes this highly unlikely).

John MENTEITH is mentioned in many documents between 1568 and 1590, with his surname was spent in various ways - MENTEITH, MANTHET, MENTETH, MANTETES, DEMONT, MENTEY<sup>T</sup> and MONTET. His name was often Latinised to, and he sometimes signed himself as, Joannes MENTETHEUS.

Jean was clearly a well-educated and cultured man, able to write in Latin and Greek. He commenced study at the University of Heidelberg in Germany after matriculating on 15 March 1568. The average age of matriculation at this date was fifteen-years-old, which would suggest he was born around 1552.<sup>10</sup> The University of Heidelberg was one of the most cosmopolitan institutions in Europe, attracting an average of 150 students per year, of whom a third were foreigners.

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<sup>6</sup> Thierry Wanegffelen, ed. *De Michel de l'Hospital à l'édit de Nantes: Politique et religion face aux églises* (2003), page 557. This gives its source as (Minutier Central) Ét. XCI, 229, 9 février 1635, inventaire après décès de Susanne Hotman, titre 15, et déclaration de Louis Dailleboust du 18 février.

<sup>7</sup> Details of her death from *Bulletin de la Société de l'histoire du protestantisme*, volume 142 (1981), page 413.

<sup>8</sup> Thierry Wanegffelen, ed. *De Michel de l'Hospital à l'édit de Nantes: Politique et religion face aux églises* (2003), page 556.

<sup>9</sup> Minutier Central, National Archives - Pierre MURET (1631-67): ET/XCI/219 to ET/XCI/356, notes complémentaires: sous la cote ET/XCI/346 : en déficit (janvier à juin 1665), sous la cote RE/VI/7 (de 1631 à 1633), on trouvera l'enregistrement des minutes de Pierre Muret qui sont conservées dans l'étude XCI.

<sup>10</sup> Toepke, Gustav, *Die Matrikel der Universität Heidelberg* (2. Teil): Von 1554 - 1662 ; nebst einem Anh. enth.: 1. *Matricula univ. (Heidelberg, 1886)*, page 45:- “Rector Bertholdus Redlich Westualus, iuris doctor ac professor codicis ordinarius, in vigilia Thomae anno LXVII omnium suffragijs designatus, sequentia scholasticorum aliorumque, qui more solito in scholae vniuersalis fidem et tutelam tempore officij sui recepti sunt, nomina consignauit:..... 28. Johannes Mentey<sup>t</sup>, Scotus,.....15 Martij [1568]”

Less than two years later Agnes MASTERTON (alias MASTERTOUNE) died in December 1570. She was the widow of John MENTEITH in Alveth, and she had made a will and testament. In addition to bequests to her daughters and her son Robert MENTEITH of West Quarter, she named “Maistr. Johne Menteith” as an executor, as well as an alternative executor “in absence of the said Maistr. Johne furth of the countrie”. It seems this was a reference to the John MENTEITH who was studying in Heidelberg around this date.

John may have returned to live in Scotland for a while or he may have remained in Germany. However, from at least 1575 he was firmly established on the continent, where he became well known within scholarly, diplomatic and political circles. He cultivated links with some of the most prominent French and English figures of the age, including Sir Philip SIDNEY (1554-86, one of the most prominent figures in Elizabethan England), Sir Amias PAULET (English diplomat and anti-Catholic) and Daniel ROGERS (Anglo-Flemish diplomat and politician, known as a well-connected humanist poet and historian), as well as members of the COLIGNY family (leaders of French Protestantism) and the HOTMAN family.

It is possible that Jean was involved in a plan in 1573 to raise 300 soldiers in Scotland for an expedition against the “persecutors of God's religion” (Catholic forces) in the Low Countries. The MENTEITH family were involved with this military expedition and Jean's relative (and namesake) - Sir John MENTEITH of Kerse - was named as cautioner (guarantor), and therefore liable to pay a fine of 5,000 marks should the licence conditions be breached.<sup>11</sup> There is no direct evidence to link John to the expedition, but it is possible he was involved, perhaps organising things at the Dutch end, because he was known to be an ardent supporter of the Protestant cause, as made evident a few years later when (in 1577) he wrote: <sup>12</sup>

“the zeal which I bear to the true religion and to our country makes me dedicate my service to Her Majesty [Queen Elizabeth of England] more than to any princess in the world, and in contrast, to detest that Queen who bears the title of Scotland [Mary Queen of Scots], because she is an enemy to my religion and my country.”

Jean next appears in the written record, as “monsieur Mentetheus”, in correspondence dated 6 April 1575 from Jean LOBBET to the Englishman, Sir Philip SIDNEY.<sup>13</sup> This reveals that Jean had been travelling through Germany, visiting Heidelberg as well as Frankfurt. In the later city he made the acquaintance of the young Sir Philip SIDNEY. Sir Philip was twenty-years-old and probably of a similar age to Jean.

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<sup>11</sup> Calendar of State Papers Foreign, Elizabeth, Volume 10: 1572-1574 (1876): June 6, 1573 (1036) - Troops for the Low Countries - Captain Thomas Robson having obtained licence to levy three hundred waged men of war to depart to the Low Countries for serving against the persecutors of God's religion, has obliged himself as principal and Sir John Menteith as cautioner, that he shall not levy or transport soldiers without the Regent's licence, that the like number of culverins, hand guns, corslets, and morions taken with him shall be brought again to the realm before the 1st of February next, that he shall cause his men to live upon their own charges till they be transported, that they shall be no partakers with any subject of Scotland against one another, that they shall not trouble, pillage, or take gear from the subjects of Scotland or their friends, that they shall not serve with the Papists against the Protestants, and that musters shall not be held within sixteen miles of the Castle of Stirling, under pain of five thousand marks. Copy. Endd. Broadside. Enclosure

<sup>12</sup> Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 12: 1577-78: 181 Menteth to D Rogers, 3 September 1577.

<sup>13</sup> The Correspondence of Sir Philip Sidney, Oxford University Press (2012) pages 420-422: Letter from Jean Lobbet to Sir Philip Sidney, Strasburg, 6 April 1575. See documentation.

Jean continued his journey onto Strasbourg, arriving there on 5 April 1575. He immediately made his arrival known to Jean LOBBET, the distinguished law professor in the Strasbourg Academy, who in turn described Jean as a learned man ("homme scavant").

Later in the same year of 1575, Jean added a sentence and signed his name as "Jo. Mentetheus" in Jeremiae BASTINGII's album amicorum.<sup>14</sup> An 'album amicorum' ('book of friends') was a type of autograph book popular in the Sixteenth Century amongst German scholars. The owner of an album amicorum would invite acquaintances and visitors to contribute greeting, messages or verse to the book, often in Latin or Greek, as a token of friendship.

Jean appears to have resided in Strasbourg for at least the next eight years, being recorded in the city numerous times between 1575 and 1583. Strasbourg was a free city within the Holy Roman Empire, with a large community of exiled French Protestants. It was an important centre of humanist scholarship, and its intellectual and political elite contributed to the strength of the Protestant cause in both Germany and France.

### **Tutor to the sons of the late François DE COLIGNY D'ANDELOT**

At Strasbourg Jean was appointed tutor to the younger sons of the late François DE COLIGNY D'ANDELOT (who at the time of his death in 1569 had been a French Protestant military leader, and previously commander of the French troops sent to Scotland to defend the rights of Mary Queen of Scots in 1560). The boys - François (known as le sieur d'Andelot) and Benjamin (le sieur de Tanlay) - were thus members of the aristocratic CHÂTILLON-COLIGNY family, and nephews of the great French Protestant hero Admiral Gaspard DE COLIGNY (who died in 1572). Jean was employed as tutor by their elder half-brother, the Comte de Laval (Guy-Paul DE COLIGNY, who at the time was a Protestant military commander and advisor to the Prince de Condé).

Jean's wards thus came from one of the most prominent of French Protestant families, and Jean had been entrusted with the education of two young nobles destined to become future leaders of the Huguenot cause. Unfortunately their potential was never realised, because the Comte de Laval and his younger brothers all perished in 1586 - one died of plague and the other two died from wounds received in battle. Having dedicated five years of his life to bringing up the younger COLIGNY brothers Jean must surely have been devastated when he heard news of their demise.

In May 1578 Jean added some text (in Greek and Latin) and signed his name as "Joannes Mentetheus scotus" in another album amicorum, this time the album belonged to Nicolas ENGELHARDI ARGENTIN of Strasbourg.<sup>15</sup> Alongside Jean's entry appear those of his charges, François and Benjamin DE COLIGNY (their contributions are on the facing page, and

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<sup>14</sup> See Catalogue of an Invaluable and Highly Interesting Collection of Unpublished Manuscript Historical Documents (The Entire Property of a Gentleman of the Highest Consideration in Holland which Will be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Sotheby, at His House, No. 3, Wellington Street, Strand, on Monday, May 30, 1825), Volume 9, page 128 - "520 Album Amicorum Jeremiae Bastingii". The present day location of the album is not known.

<sup>15</sup> Album amicorum de Nic. Engelhardi Argentin, preserved in the Bibliothèque nationale de France (département des manuscrits), cote 18597, identifiant : [ark:/12148/btv1b8585594v](https://ark:/12148/btv1b8585594v). Jean's signature is on the reverse of folio 110. See also reference by Émile-G. Leonard in *Le Liber amicorum du Strasbourgeois Nicolas Engelhardt*, Bibliothèque de l'école des chartes, 1935, volume 96, page 105. The later includes the follow footnote against Jean's name: Inventaire des archives communal de strasbourg, AA, articles 736 and 1856.

following page, indicating they were added at the same time as Jean's entry). It is not known when Jean was first appointed as tutor to these young men, but it is evident that he had taken up the appointment by September 1577 when he mentions being in the "employ of my master, the Comte de Laval".<sup>16</sup>

Children of high noble birth were invariably taught by tutors with a curriculum consisting of theology, history, rhetoric, philosophy, arithmetic, literature, geometry and music with great attention given to the study of languages. The aim was to provide the sons of the aristocracy with the sophistication required of a Renaissance gentleman. When young aristocrats went on to university they were often accompanied by a tutor, whose role was to superintend the undergraduate's expenses, purchase the necessary apparel, bed-linen and books, teach them privately and ensure their moral and religious welfare.

On 4 May 1579 Jean was referred to in disparaging terms by Hubert LANGUET (a French diplomat and Protestant reformer) in a letter to Sir Philip SIDNEY. LANGUET wrote that he was pleased there were so few Englishmen in Strasbourg, and added the aside:<sup>17</sup>

"... although there is a certain Scot here, into whose care have been entrusted the sons of Master Andelot from his second marriage. I should not be greatly upset if he left."

Jean was still engaged as tutor to the COLIGNY brothers in 1582, when in May that year a letter arrived from King James VI of Scotland and the Duke of Lennox, recalling Jean from Strasbourg back to his native Scotland. The letter reached him via his friend and correspondent Captain Georges FREMYN, who was resident at Antwerp at the time. The royal letter arrived at Antwerp in May, and on 12 May 1582 FREMYN forwarded it onto Jean at Strasbourg. At the same time he reported this to Sir Francis WALSINGHAM (spymaster to Queen Elizabeth of England), in the following terms:<sup>18</sup>

"..... A letter has been sent me from Scotland, from the King and the Duke of Lennox, to put safely into the hands of Mr Menteith, a Scotch gentleman who is governor to M. de Laval's brothers; he is an important (? sufficient) personage. I sent it this morning; and he will send me the answer, and at the same time tell me what they have written to him."

The royal letter safely reached Jean in Strasbourg, and on 4 June 1582 he wrote back to FREMYN saying:<sup>19</sup>

"I received yours of May 12 with the enclosed packet, thanking you for the trouble you took to let me have it speedily. I see that those who have written to me, and chiefly the king my sovereign require for answer that I should go in my own person to satisfy them by my presence of what they ask; which I

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<sup>16</sup> Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 12: 1577-78: 181 Menteth to D Rogers, 3 September 1577.

<sup>17</sup> The Correspondence of Sir Philip Sidney, Oxford University Press (2012) – page 907 – letter from Hubert Languet to Sir Philip Sidney, dated Starsbourg 4 May 1579.

<sup>18</sup> Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 16: 31. Fremyn to Walsingham 12 May 1582.

<sup>19</sup> Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 16: 71. Monteith to Fremyn, 4 June 1582.

will willingly do, provided I can obtain leave from my master M. de Laval, for I perceive that my relations desire to see me, and especially the Baron of Cars my nephew, who has caused me to be summoned by the king. I am not answering them this time, not having yet been able to decide what I ought to do; but within a fortnight I hope to be at the end of my plans.”

### **Jean’s activities as a spy for Sir Francis Walsingham**

Jean was not solely occupied by his duties as tutor during this period but was also an active spy for the English. The long and successful reign of the English Queen Elizabeth owed much to the efficient international spy network supervised by her spymaster and most loyal minister, Sir Francis WALSINGHAM. WALSINGHAM was driven by a Protestant zeal to uncover and disrupt the work of discontented English Catholics and foreign Catholic powers, who were intent on overthrowing Queen Elizabeth and replacing her with the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots.

During the 1570s and 1580s WALSINGHAM managed a vast network of spies and informants across Europe, which included Jean in Strasbourg and his friend Georges FREMYN in Holland. It was the most advanced and efficient secret service of its day and enabled WALSINGHAM to piece together the policies of foreign powers and to keep track of emerging plots. It is a testament to the success of this secret network that Queen Elizabeth died peacefully of old age rather than at the hands of an assassin.

In 1577, anxious “to let her Majesty know as soon as possible”, Jean despatched urgent letters to Sir Amias PAULET (the English ambassador to the French court) and to Daniel ROGERS, to pass on news of rumours that the Kings of France, Spain and Portugal were assembling a fleet in Italy for an invasion of England to release Mary Queen of Scots from her imprisonment. The rumours turned out to be false, but the Spanish Armada eleven years later showed that this was a credible threat.

Jean’s letters to Sir Amias PAULET are lost but his letter to Daniel ROGERS, dated 3 September 1577, survives in the State Papers and has been translated from Latin into English as follows: <sup>20</sup>

“Knowing that you are coming to this country on her Majesty's service, I make bold to write and send you what I saw written from Rome on Aug. 7 last by a [?] German gentleman staying there, namely, that the kings of Spain and Portugal are equipping all the ships and galleys they can get in Italy and collecting men at arms to put in them, at the instigation of the King of France, to send them to England, in order to set the Queen of Scots at liberty, although it is reputed in Italy that they are to be sent to Africa. But he who writes from the Court of Rome says that, according to information which he has, it is to send against her Majesty, for it is not likely that the King of Spain would send an army into Africa, having, as he has, five years' truce with the Turk. Her Majesty has probably heard of this otherwise; yet I think if you were to inform her or the Treasurer of what I send you, it would give opportunity to find out by more certain means to what end the said Kings are

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<sup>20</sup> Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 12: 1577-78: 181 Menteth to D Rogers, 3 September 1577.



amassing so many men. The zeal which I bear to the true religion and to our country makes me dedicate my service to her Majesty more than to any princess in the world, and, on the contrary, hate [au contrer hayer] that Queen who bears the title of Scotland, because she is an enemy to my religion and my country. Since I have been in these parts in the employ of my master, the Count of Laval, I have written several times to Sir “Amiens” Paulet, whom I know intimately, and have sent him what I could; but knowing that he is now far from here in Poitou, and that you were near, and wishing to let her Majesty know as soon as possible, I write to you.

Strasburg, 3 Sept. 1577.

P.S.—Please commend me to MM. de Clervant and Beutrich.”

In August or September 1580 Jean wrote directly to Lord Cobham in England passing on news that the Calvinist German prince, John CASIMIR, had a mercenary army in readiness, consisting of 10,000 horse and 8,000 foot, who were ready to march. It seems that Lord Cobham passed this news on to Sir Francis WALSINGHAM, but had doubts as to the accuracy of Jean’s information, commenting “but I do not hear this confirmed by other means.”<sup>21</sup>

In his letter to Georges FREMYN of 4 June 1582 Jean also relayed news of various enemy intrigues and military operations, including those being conducted by the Pope, the King of Spain and the Duke of Savoy. This intelligence was also sent to England.

Jean was an active spy, or “intelligencer”, for the English between 1577 and 1582, passing on information about international affairs and military manoeuvres. His residence in Strasbourg placed him in the perfect location for gleaning intelligence from passing travellers. Known as “the crossroads of Europe” Strasbourg sat at the centre of the major European trade routes and its autonomy as a free city had created a religious, political and intellectual enlightenment that attracted scholars, rebels and refugees from across the Continent. Most of Jean’s letters have undoubtedly been lost, but the English State Papers include four separate references to him during this period, starting with the text of the letter he wrote in 1577. His motivation for co-operating with the English was primarily religious: his self-declared loyalty to the English Queen reflected their shared Protestant faith and mutual opposition to Roman Catholicism.

It is not known whether Jean loyally obeyed his Sovereign’s command to return to Scotland in 1582 or whether he stayed in Strasbourg - he was certainly in two minds on whether to make the journey. However, any stay in Scotland was brief because by May the following year he was again mentioned at Strasbourg.

In May 1583 “Le Sr de Mantetes” was mentioned as having delivered a letter from Jean STURM (recteur of Strasbourg Academy - académie de Strasbourg) to the Prince de Condé, this being referred to in the prince’s reply to STURM, sent from Saint-Jean-d’Angély on 20 May 1583. Also in 1583, Jean was mentioned (by his latinised surname “Mentetheus”) in correspondence between STURM and Théodore DE BÈZE (a French Protestant theologian who played an important role in the Reformation, resident in Switzerland), and also between

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<sup>21</sup> Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 14: 1579-1580 (published 1904) - 418. Cobham to (?) Walsingham, 9 September 1580

STURM and the sieur de Clervant (Claude Antoine DE VIENNE, an agent of the Prince de Condé).<sup>22</sup>

In 1589 the Protestant Henri DE BOURBON, King of Navarre, ascended the French throne, as King Henri IV of France, but it would be another five years (following the King's pragmatic conversion to Catholicism) before the gates of Paris were thrown open to the King of France, thereby bringing an end to the French Wars of Religion. Jean's activities between 1583 and 1594 are unclear although he continued to play a part in the political and religious intrigues of the day. In 1590 it seems he was present at Melun having gone there to meet King Henri IV and Philips VAN MARNIX, Sieur de Saint Aldegonde. The latter was an eminent Dutch patriot and Protestant theologian, with a reputation as a skilful code breaker. In 1590 MARNIX deciphered the so-called 'Escovedo letters' (a number of captured letters from the Catholic King of Spain containing information on plots to assassinate the Protestant monarchs of England and France). MARNIX travelled to France and England to relay this information to the French and English courts, and it was whilst MARNIX was on this mission in France that he met Jean.<sup>23</sup>

In July 1594, with the French Wars of Religion finally over, Jean was referred to as the "Sieur d'Argentenay", signifying that at some point during the previous decade, he had acquired land at Argentenay in the Tonnerrois, Burgundy (today in the département de l'Yonne). In fact, he was the seigneur d'Argentenay with the feudal rights attaching to the fief.

Argentenay was 280 kilometres from Strasbourg, but within a six kilometre radius of Argentenay were located two of the finest chateaux in France: Tanlay and Ancy-le-Franc. Argentenay was just four kilometres from the Château de Tanlay which belonged to the CHÂTILLON-COLIGNY family, whom Jean had served for at least five years.<sup>24</sup> He must surely have left Strasbourg and moved to Argentenay in connection with his loyal service to this family. Following the premature deaths of the COLIGNY brothers in 1586, the Château de Tanlay passed to their younger sister, mademoiselle Anne DE COLIGNY D'ANDELOT. A Protestant, she was married on 9 October 1594 to Jacques CHABOT, Marquis de Mirebeau.

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<sup>22</sup> Correspondance de Théodore de Bèze, volume 25 (1584), recueillie par Hippolyte Aubert, publiée par Alain Dufour, Beatrice Nicollier et Herve Genton (2003):- No. 1682, Sturm à Beze, Northeim – 30 juin 1584..... Inédite. Sturm a consacré sa lettre de la veille aux imprudences qu'il a commises en prêtant tant d'argent au parti protestant français. .... Sturm a déjà cité cette lettre de « Mentetheus » (non identifié) à Clervant, le 23 septembre 1583 (supra t. XXIV, p. 255 et n. 5). Ce personnage est probablement le même que « le sr de Mantetes » qui a apporté une lettre de Sturm au prince de Condé, mentionné dans la réponse de ce dernier à Sturm en date de Saint-Jean-d'Angély, le 20 mai 1583 (dont la copie est à Gotha, Forschungsbibliothek, Cod; No. 1625, Sturm à Beze, Northeim – 23 septembre 1583.....Nous avons déjà rencontré ce « Mentetheus » non identifié, n° 1605 et n. 6. Notons que « Methoneus » était un pseudonyme de Languet (Nicollier, p. 129-130); No. 1605, Sturm à Beze, Northeim – 30 juin 1583.

<sup>23</sup> In an email of 11 April 2014 to David Audcent, Luc Chaput wrote "a few years back, I emailed professor Roderick Lyall in the Netherlands who's a specialist of English poetry of the time and asked about his article on Alexander Montgomerie .... he answered that he was researching the Gordon-Petau family. He found in the Elizabeth papers Europe mention of a Menteith going near Paris in 1590 to meet Philip MARNIX de Ste-Aldegonde and Henri king of Navarre. Henry IV was trying to take Paris at the time, he was near Melun."

List and analysis of state papers, foreign series, Elizabeth I. Vol.1, August 1589-June 1590, Auteur : R B Wernham; Great Britain. Public Record Office. Éditeur : London : H.M.S.O., 1964.

Shelfmark HLR 941 (RS 152 \*) Open Access

Shelfmark MSX 941 (PR33 ) Open Access

<sup>24</sup> With thanks to Luc Chaput for pointing out the proximity of the Château de Tanlay to Argentenay.

The wedding was celebrated in the royal apartments of Catherine DE NAVARRE at the Louvre, causing an uproar amongst the Catholic clergy of Paris.

Perhaps Jean served as a tutor, guardian and counsellor to the young Anne DE COLIGNY prior to her marriage, managing her finances and property. As an old and trusted friend of the family it is also likely he would have attended her wedding in the Louvre palace in Paris.

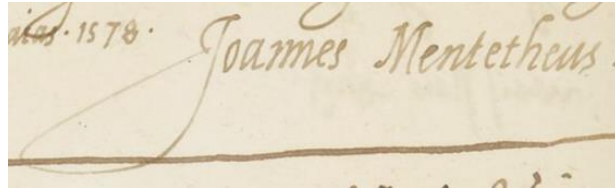
### **Possible appointment as tutor to the Comte DE CLERMONT-TONNERRE**

Jean's fief at Argentenay was also just six kilometres from the Château d'Ancy-le-Franc, a fine Renaissance palace belonging to the young Charles-Henri DE CLERMONT-TONNERRE, Comte de Clermont et de Tonnerre, et Marquis de Cruzy (1571-1640). This young aristocrat also had the misfortune to have lost his father and was around fourteen-years-old when Jean's appointment as tutor to the COLIGNY brothers came to an end. Perhaps Jean became a tutor this young nobleman. There is no direct evidence of this but the families certainly developed a close bond, evidenced by the fact in 1621 the Comte de Clermont et de Tonnerre became godfather to one of Jean's grandsons.<sup>25</sup>

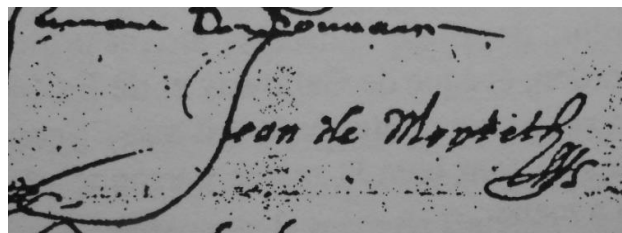
Roland-Yves Gagné, 'Qui était Jehan de Monteth, écuyer, seigneur d'Argentenay, ancêtre des d'Ailleboust?', which appeared in the *Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne-française*, vol. 51, no. 1, printemps 2000 (No 223), pages 71-85

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<sup>25</sup> Charles-Henri D'Ailleboust, baptised in June 1621 at Ancy-le-Franc, the son of Noble Nicolas D'Ailleboust and Damoiselle Dorothee De Mentet. Godparents were named as Charles Henri, Comte de Clermont de Tonnerre, capitaine de 100 hommes d'armes, and Anne Le Foul

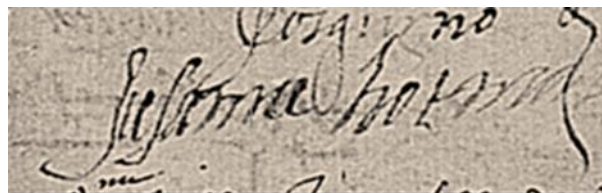
A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in brown ink on aged paper. The signature reads "Joannes Mentetheus" in a cursive script. Above the signature, the year "1578" is written in a smaller, less cursive hand.

Signature of Jean DE MENTEITH in 1578  
(in the Album amicorum de Nic. Engelhardi Argentin,  
preserved in the Bibliothèque nationale de France)

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured paper. The signature reads "Jean de Menteith" in a cursive script. Above it, the name "Jean de Menteith" is written in a different, more formal script.

Signature of Jean DE MENTEITH in 1594  
(in his marriage contract)

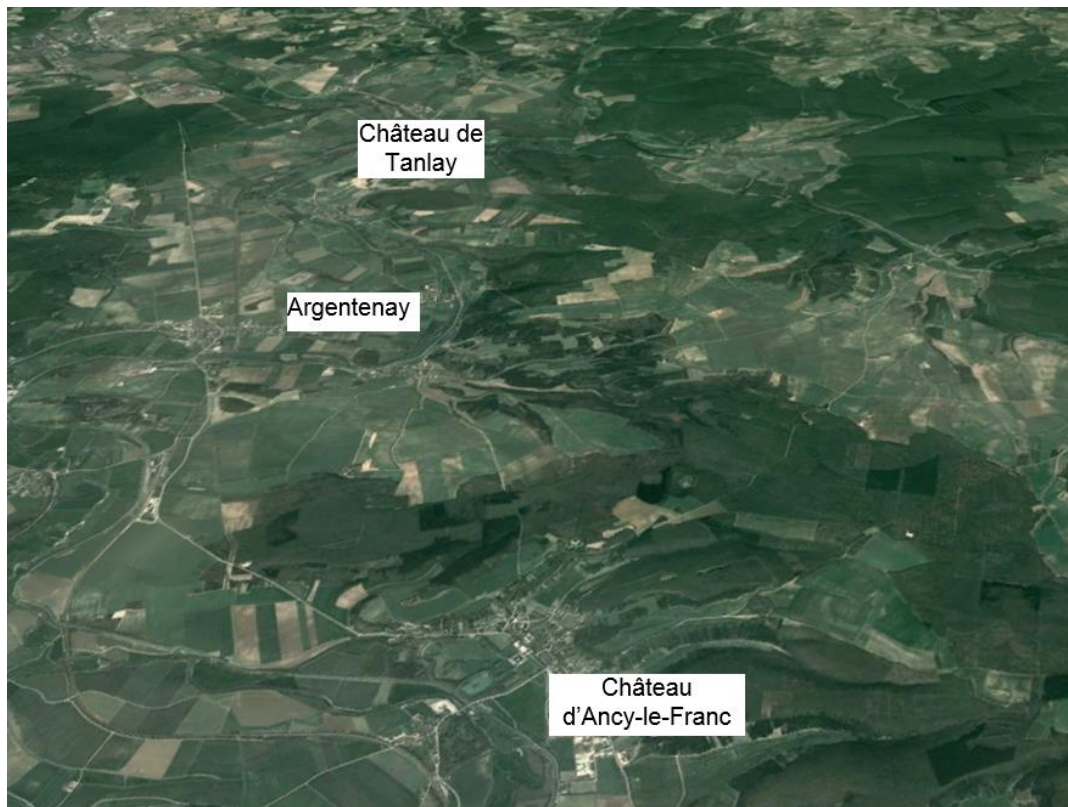
Note the signatures are not identical, but they were written fourteen years apart,  
in different languages and for different purposes. There does appear to be a  
similarity in the flow of the letter 'J'.

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured paper. The signature reads "Susanne Hotman" in a cursive script. Above it, the name "Susanne Hotman" is written in a different, more formal script.

Signature of Susanne HOTMAN in 1622  
(in the parish register of Ancy-le-Franc, at the  
baptism of granddaughter Susanne D'AILLEBOUST, 28 July 1622)



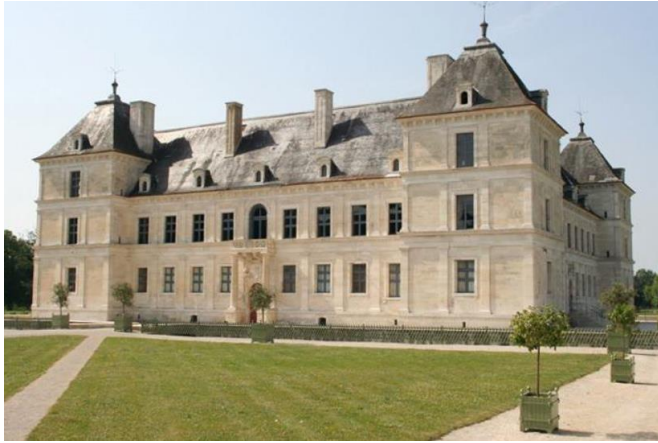




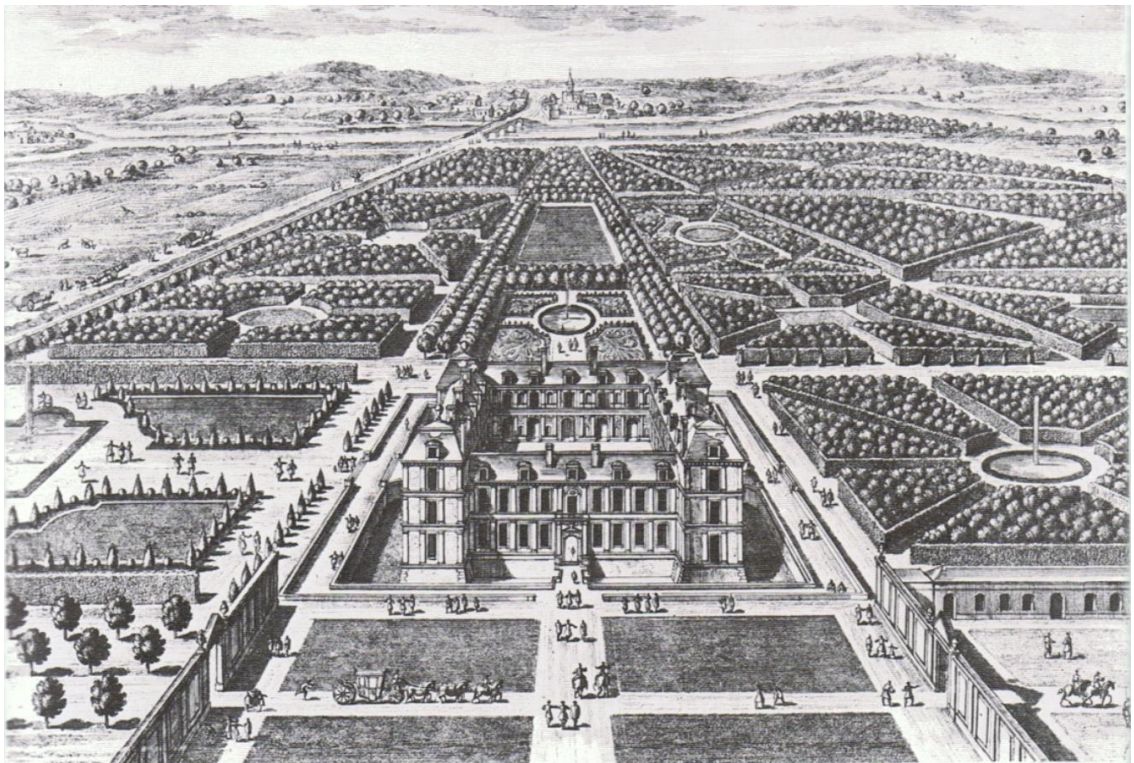
The Château de Tanlay







The Château d'Ancy-le-Franc,  
near Argenteau



The village of  
Argenteau  
in 2013

## **Who was Jehan de Monteth – the evidence reviewed**

The origins of Jean DE MENTEITH, sieur de Argentenay, were considered by Roland-Yves GAGNÉ in an article entitled ‘Qui était Jehan de Monteth, écuyer, seigneur d’Argentenay, ancêtre des d’Ailleboust ?’, which was published in the *Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne-française*, in 2000.<sup>26</sup> GAGNÉ found the evidence to be inconclusive.

Since then further information has become available on the internet, which enables Jean DE MENTEITH’s biography to be more fully constructed. John MENTEITH, otherwise known as Jean DE MENTEITH in French, and as Joannes MENTETHEUS in Latin, appears in numerous documents between 1568 and 1594. These include a letter written at Strasbourg in 1582 in which Jean describes “the Baron of Cars” as his nephew<sup>27</sup> and his contract of marriage in 1594 as passed concerning “Jehan de Monteth, Sieur d’Argentenay” who was from “Comtes de monteth & Barons de Carsa”.

### **The Origins and Parentage of John MENTEITH**

The genealogy of the Earls of Monteith and the Lairds of Kerse (two branches of the same baronial family) is documented in a number of works - in particular see ‘The Red Book of Monteith’ (published in 1880) by William FRASER and ‘The Sheriffdom of Clackmannan’ by James WALLACE.

The first consideration is how to interpret the reference (in 1594) to him being from “the house of the Earls of Monteith and Barons of Carsa”, and more specifically his description (in 1582) of the “Baron of Cars” as his nephew. Cars and Carsa are corruptions of Kerse or Carse in Stirlingshire, Scotland, where the MENTEITH family held property. It is well attested that Sir William MENTEITH was the holder of the title “Baron” or “Laird” of Kerse in 1583.

Sir William MENTEITH was, according to ‘The Sheriffdom of Clackmannan’ (published in 1890), the son of Sir John MENTEITH and grandson of Sir Robert MENTEITH, both of them Lairds of Kerse and Alva, and Sheriffs of Clackmannan. If taken at face value the reference to the Baron of Kerse being his nephew in 1582 would make him the uncle of Sir William MENTEITH and it follows that Jean DE MENTEITH would be a younger brother of Sir John MENTEITH (who died on 28 August 1576 with will verified on 21 May 1577), and the son of Sir Robert MENTEITH (Nb. it also means Sir Robert must have had two sons named John). However, it would be risky to take the reference at face value - the word “nephew” may have been used loosely, or John MENTEITH might even have been uncle by virtue of illegitimate birth. The original letter also needs to be checked to verify there was no mis-transcription.

All that can be said is that John MENTEITH could be a younger son of Sir Robert MENTEITH of Kerse, but on the basis of currently availability evidence such a descent cannot be claimed with any degree of certainty.

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<sup>26</sup> Roland-Yves Gagné, ‘Qui était Jehan de Monteth, écuyer, seigneur d’Argentenay, ancêtre des d’Ailleboust ?’, which appeared in the *Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne-française*, vol. 51, no. 1, printemps 2000 (No 223), pages 71-85.

<sup>27</sup> Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 16: 71. Monteith to Fremyn, 4 June 1582.



## The life John MENTEITH

The second question that requires careful evaluation of the evidence whether the John MONTEITH who married Suzanne HOTMAN in 1594 was the same man who is documented in Germany and France between 1568 and 1590 ? All the evidence points to there being one man in Germany and France called John MONTEITH, and when the totality of the evidence is considered together it is considered sufficient to conclude that the John MONTEITH who married Suzanne HOTMAN in 1594 was the same man who is documented in Germany and France between 1568 and 1590.

Whilst it is impossible to categorically rule out the theoretical possibility that there were two men with the same name on the European Continent at the same time (the genealogist Roland-Yves GAGNÉ cautions “I respectfully submit that there is no reason to disregard the possibility of more than one John Monteith”), the strong circumstantial evidence makes this highly unlikely. The contrary would require there to have been two men with the same first name and surname, living at the same time, who were both born in Scotland and who both emigrated to France, who both claimed to be related to the Barons of Kerse, and who were both well regarded within the highest French Protestant and aristocratic circles.

In support of this hypothesis the following should be noted:

- (a) **Statistical probability** - Both men had the same name. In statistical terms it should be noted that although MONTEITH is a famous and ancient Scottish name it is not a common name, and there would be even fewer men with the first name “John Menteith”. Of those named “John Menteth” I think even fewer must have lived or travelled outside Scotland in the 1560s-1600, with the same class and rank as our ancestor. The statistics alone makes it highly improbable that there would have been two such men living in France during this period.
- (b) **Association in common 1** - the location of the land at Argentenay owned by John MENTIETH in 1594 was just 4 km from the Château de Tanlay, the home of the COLIGNY family to whom John MENTIETH was tutor at Strasbourg between 1577 and 1582. It seems probably that he acquired the land at Argentenay in the course of - or as a result of - his loyal service to the COLIGNY family - supporting the hypothesis that they were the same man.
- (c) **Association in common 2** - In 1582 John MONTEITH states that he is related to the Barons of Kerse and in 1594 John MONTEITH states that he is related to the Barons of Kerse. The link to the Barons of Kerse was considered significant on both occasions, and supports the hypothesis that they were the same man.
- (d) **Association in common 3** - During the 1570s and 1580s John MONTEITH was active in diplomatic and political circles, and was a tutor to an eminent aristocratic family. The fact that John MONTEITH was contracted in marriage to Suzanne HOTMAN demonstrates that he mixed in the same social circles during the 1590s as in the 1570s and 80s (since he would not have been contracted in marriage unless known to, and trusted by, the HOTMAN family).
- (e) **Association in common 4** - the marriage in 1594 was arranged by Susanne’s brother Jean HOTMAN. There was much in common between Jean HOTMAN and John

MENTEITH and there paths must have crossed frequently. Jean Hotman had been tutor to the children of Sir Amias PAULET, who in turn was an acquaintance of John MENTEITH. John MENTEITH on the other hand had been tutor to members of the COLIGNY family, whilst Jean and Susanne HOTMAN's father was a friend of the COLIGNY family and author of a biography on the Protestant hero Gaspard DE COLIGNY.<sup>28</sup> Another acquaintance who John MENTEITH and Jean HOTMAN had in common was Sir Philip SIDNEY (English poet, courtier and soldier, who is remembered as one of the most prominent figures of the Elizabethan age).

- (f) **Chronological fact 1** - the chronology is consistent with there being just one man named John MENTEITH in France during this period - if there were two men of the same name it means the first man disappears without trace after 1590 whilst the second man suddenly appears from nowhere in 1594.
- (g) **Chronological fact 2** - the fact that John MENTEITH had only one known child and died 12 years into the marriage is also consistent with the hypothesis that they were the same man and that he had married at a late age in life (= if he matriculated in 1568, he would be around 42 years at the time of marriage, and around 54 years at time of death).

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<sup>28</sup> See for example, Léon Marlet, *Correspondance de Louise de Coligny, Princesse d'Orange: (1555 - 1620)* (1970), which includes letters from Louise de Coligny to Monsieur Hotman in 1585 and 1586.

## Chronology

c1552	Born in Stirlingshire in the kingdom of Scotland
1568	Commenced study at the University of Heidelberg in Germany
1570	? Named as executor in the testament of Agnes MASTERTON, the widow of John MENTEITH in Alveth.
1573	? Perhaps involved in organising a military expedition to defend the Protestants in Holland
1575	Travelled through Germany, visiting Heidelberg and Frankfurt, and meeting Sir Philip SIDNEY
1575	Arrival in Strasbourg, where he lived until the mid 1580s
1577	Passes information to the English concerning a rumoured invasion of England with the aim of releasing Mary Queen of Scots from her imprisonment
1577-1582	Tutor to the younger sons of the late-François DE COLIGNY D'ANDELOT
1580	Passes information to the English concerning the German prince, John CASIMIR, who was reputed to have a mercenary army, consisting of 10,000 horse and 8,000 foot, ready to march
1582	Passes information to the English concerning enemy military operations conducted by the Pope, the King of Spain, and the Duke of Savoy.
1582	Summoned to return to Scotland by King James VI and the Duke of Lennox
1583	Carried correspondence from Jean STURM (recteur of the académie de Strasbourg) to the Prince de Condé
1580s	Acquires land at Argentenay in Burgundy, and possibly counsellor or tutor to Anne DE COLIGNY and/or the Comte de Clermont et de Tonnerre
1594	Marriage contract signed in Paris, followed by marriage to Susanne HOTMAN
c1606	Died, probably aged around 54 years

## Documentation

### **(A) The Correspondence of Sir Philip Sidney, Oxford University Press, 2012, pages 420-422.**

Letter from Jean Lobbet to Sir Philip Sidney, Strasburg, 6 April 1575

Text: Yale MS Osborn fa. 14, fol. 61. Single sheet, 186 x 280 mm, cut for tab at bottom edge, normal folding, vertical slits, tab with faint paper seal impression. %Vim gothic t surmounted by trilobium, Go mm H x a mm W, between chainlines 4 and 5 (?orig. 5 and 6). (Similar to Briquet 8641.)  
[6iv]

A Monsieur  
Monsieur le baron de Sidney etc. la part ou il sera.

[endorsed:] Mr Lobetius to you

Sir,

I wrote you my last on the 17th of last month, which I addressed to Frankfurt. I hope you received it. Since then I have been in the continual hope that you would come to visit this town, both because of what you had written to me and because of what Master Languet said. And I was even strengthened in that hope by Master Hubert de la Rose, who is back here now. However, Master Menteith ("monsieur Mentetheus"),\* a learned man who spoke to you recently at Frankfurt and arrived here yesterday, has put me in some doubt regarding your coming. For even though he admits he found you quite in the mood to come here, he also told me that in passing through Heidelberg he talked to an English gentleman, a Secretary, who told him he had orders from the Earl of Leicester to bring you straight back to England and that as quickly as possible, even without going through France. This, Sir, is the reason why I am writing you this letter, taking the opportunity of a servant of yours who is on his way to you: to beg you (in case you did not want to see us) to take the trouble to write me a brief letter to inform me of your departure, and also what is to be done with the young son of Master Thaddeus, who has been and still is waiting for you, with all reverence and great devotion. As for me, Sir, you may make use of me as of one much devoted to your service: I assure you that your absence has in no way diminished my humble good will toward you, but on the contrary has incomparably increased it. I humbly commend myself to your good graces, and pray God,

Sir, to keep you in His own. From Strasbourg, this 6th of the month of April 1575.

Your humble servant, J. Lobbetius

\* Footnote in the 2012 publication - John Menteith (c.1550—c1610), a Scot who was in the service of the Count of Laval. He was tutor to the Count's brothers, and a friend of Daniel Rogers and of Jean Hotman, whose sister Susanne he married in 1594.

### **(B) Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 16:**

31. Fremyn to Walsingham 1582, May 12

I received yours of the 28th ult. on the 8th inst Yesterday our companies arrived off this town, where they are now at anchor, awaiting his Highness's orders as to the place whither we are to march. The regiment came from Bergen-op-Zoom, into which have entered 5 companies, 3 of Flemings, two of Scots. I presume that we shall be marched into Flanders, to

join the small camp that is near Ghent, and wait for Norris's and Count William's regiments, then to try if it is possible to relieve Oudenarde, which the enemy began to batter in the outworks last Friday, and will today or tomorrow be able to batter regularly (*en batterie*). The place is tenable provided those within have courage to defend themselves well. The mischief is that there are few soldiers and many burghers. Nevertheless the long delay which the enemy has made in front of the town before opening his battery will have given them good assurance, and afforded time for the most necessary provisions. Meanwhile the preparation of the army which is being raised in France gets along slowly, as does also the succouring of Don Antonio, which alarms the people of Rochelle, who have miraculously escaped the danger prepared for them last month, as you will have heard at large. In sum, the Roman Catholics have some great plan in hand to win and exterminate those who are opposed to their designs if God do not shortly restrain them, inasmuch as He sends the ill disposed cow short horns. Those of the Religion, besides, are much too simple; which has pretty well overwhelmed them in France, through letting themselves be led like sheep, and especially our nobles, who were the leaders in it and have suffered for it; which should serve for an example to those who are left.

His Excellency is fairly well. His Highness goes to see him at the castle, where the Council is held sometimes, since his Excellency does not yet go out. Matters are not yet well settled here. A letter has been sent me from Scotland, from the king and the Duke of Lennox, to put safely into the hands of Mr Menteith, a Scotch gentleman who is governor to M. de Laval's brothers; he is an important (? *suffiant*) personage. I sent it this morning; and he will send me the answer, and at the same time tell me what they have written to him.

The Princess was buried on Wednesday, in Our Lady's church, with the ceremonies and very honourably.— Antwerp, 13 May 1582.

PS—The Duke of Lennox is in undisturbed power in Scotland, and he and the Earl of Arran are very well reconciled. Stewart is still under arrest in his house. Next Tuesday is to be decided what to do with him.

*Add. Endd. Fr. 1 p. [ibid. XVI. 16.]*

#### 71. Monteith to Fremyn. 1582, 4 June

I received yours of May 12 with the enclosed packet, thanking you for the trouble you took to let me have it speedily. I see that those who have written to me, and chiefly the king my sovereign require for answer that I should go in my own person to satisfy them by my presence of what they ask; which I will willingly do, provided I can obtain leave from my master M. de Laval, for I perceive that my relations desire to see me, and especially the Baron of Cars(?) my nephew, who has caused me to be summoned by the king. I am not answering them this time, not having yet been able to decide what I ought to do; but within a fortnight I hope to be at the end of my plans.

Duke Casimir ought to be at this town tomorrow, passing towards Montbeiard, to stand godfather to the Count's son. Spaniards and others are often passing through Lorraine to reinforce your enemy's camp; and I have heard today that a great army from Italy, up to 26,000, is coming to assail you. If it should please God to touch the heart of his Highness, to give him true knowledge of His word and to profess it publicly, I am sure that God will assist him in all his good enterprises, maugre the Pope, the Spaniards and all their adherents.

The Swiss assembled their Diet 15 days ago at Baden, to consult on the enterprise of the Duke of Savoy, who had sent some bands of armed men to the country round about Geneva, thinking to surprise the city by treason, as some of the citizens who had intelligence with the duke have since confessed, and have been executed. The Swiss have sent four ambassadors to

the duke to tell him to withdraw those troops from the country, assuring him that otherwise they will make them withdraw by force. I have heard that this was an enterprise got up by the Pope, the King of Spain, and the Duke of Savoy; and it seems manifestly that God watches over that city of Geneva, for if He had not by His mercy discovered that enterprise by the confession of the traitors, inhabitants of the town, to the number of five (?), it was in danger of being surprised.

I have presented your recommendations to M. Lobetius.—Strasburg, 4 June 1582.  
Add. Endd. in England. Fr. 1 p. [Hoff and FL XVL 30]

**(C) Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 12: 1577-78**

181 Menteth to D Rogers, 1577, Sept. 3

Knowing that you are come to this country on her Majesty's service, I make bold to write and send you what I saw written from Rome on Aug. 7 last by a [?] German gentleman staying there, namely, that the kings of Spain and Portugal are equipping all the ships and galleys they can get in Italy and collecting men at arms to put in them, at the instigation of the King of France, to send them to England, in order to set the Queen of Scots at liberty, although it is reputed in Italy that they are to be sent to Africa. But he who writes from the Court of Rome says that, according to information which he has, it is to send against her Majesty, for it is not likely that the King of Spain would send an army into Africa, having, as he has, five years' truce with the Turk. Her Majesty has probably heard of this otherwise; yet I think if you were to inform her or the Treasurer of what I send you, it would give opportunity to find out by more certain means to what end the said Kings are amassing so many men. The zeal which I bear to the true religion and to our country makes me dedicate my service to her Majesty more than to any princess in the world, and, on the contrary, hate [au contrer hayer] that Queen who bears the title of Scotland, because she is an enemy to my religion and my country. Since I have been in these parts in the employ of my master, the Count of Laval, I have written several times to Sir "Amiens" Paulet, whom I know intimately, and have sent him what I could ; but knowing that he is now far from here in Poitou, and that you were near, and wishing to let her Majesty know as soon as possible, I write to you.—Strasburg, 3 Sept. 1577. P.S—Please commend me to MM. de Clervant and Beutrich. *Add. (Seal.) Endd., in Latin, by Rogers : Frankfort, Sept. 10, and again by Walsingham. Fr. 1 p. [Germ. States I. 17.]*

**(D) Calendar of state papers (foreign series) of the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the state paper department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, Volume 14: 1579-1580 (published 1904)**

418. Cobham to (?) Walsingham, 1580, Sept. 9

I trust I have in all points satisfied her Majesty's commands signified to me by your last dispatch : but the gentlemen I sent sevendights past to his Highness is not yet returned. I received a letter today from Mr Menteth that Casimir has his army in readiness, consisting of 10,000 horse and 8,000 foot, who were ready to march, having their 'handrechtghelt' paid them. But I do not hear this confirmed by other means. The King of Navarre has written to

M. Chassin-court that there is 'means to grow to a peace,' and to have an interview with Monsieur ; but many doubt whether the King of Navarre will like this, or find it convenient for him. The packet which I received by the last, directed to M. Chassin-court or M. Montigny, is safely delivered. I found M. Lansac very courteous to me at my coming to the Court upon any occasion ; and it seems he could be willing to be employed for the advancement of good intelligence between these two realms. I have surely not forgotten to certify any matter which her Majesty committed to me, but have written it in clear sort with such truth as it has been delivered to me. Howbeit, the framing of matters to be better or worse belongs only to the Almighty and to those to whom power and authority is given. I wrote to you in a former letter the cause of M. Simier's disgrace, or at least the means whereby it has been wrought, as it is conceived here. Also I sent by Henry Adams, since his parting with Monsieur, a letter of his Highness, in which I suppose he signified the cause to her Majesty, 'or I wish he had done it.' I do not perceive that the King means to pass much further as yet. In my last dispatch I wrote to her Majesty of an Italian woman who is famous, and would repair into England to show her cunning for the preservation of beauty ; but I could be glad her Majesty would command her, and all such, further off.—Melun, 9 Sept. 1580. P.S.—M. Pinart, upon the making-up of this letter, has sent me this packet, directed to Mme de Mauvissière, requesting me earnestly to see it safely delivered and commending it to you. If I thought ear would be given or consideration had, I might write something of my charges ; but I fear there is neither remembrance of my days and years spent, nor yet feeling of my case. "Frugality ; else I may die, or some quarrel picked to my service, and so the reward, wittily" [remainder missing]. Add. & endt. gone. 1 p. [France IV. 146.]